



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 22, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 22, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ACA IS WORKING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask you to consider where we were before the Affordable Care Act: premiums were rising three times faster than wages, eating up much more of Americans' hard-earned paychecks; millions more families were drowning in medical debt; Americans had to pay for critical preventive services like flu shots, yearly checkups, and birth control; many young 20-somethings went without insurance; your suffering child could be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition; the so-called "doughnut hole," or gap in Medicare part D coverage, was forcing many sen-

iors to choose between buying food to put on the table or lifesaving prescription pills; women were charged more than men for coverage simply for being women; insurance companies could set annual or lifetime dollar caps on benefits, sticking American families with the remainder of the bill.

Thankfully, in the 6 years since the ACA was enacted, 20 million Americans have insurance for the first time in their lives, and the uninsured rate is the lowest it has been in American history, currently at 8.6 percent. The ACA has helped 105 million Americans, including 39.5 million women and nearly 28 million children, by preventing healthcare plans from capping benefits.

We have also seen that the marketplace is working better in States where elected officials collaborated to implement the ACA rather than trying to undermine it. In States that chose to expand Medicaid, insurance rates are an estimated 7 percent lower. In contrast, Governors and legislatures in 19 States have blocked Medicaid expansion, even as millions of their lowest income residents go without insurance coverage.

Unfortunately, over the past few years, it has been popular around here to say that the ACA is a failure, that it has socialized medicine, it is driving down the quality of American health care, and that we need to "repeal and replace" it because ObamaCare isn't working. This mindset is all wrong because, I am happy to report, the ACA is working. However, faster progress has been prevented due to obstruction and politics.

Since being signed into law in 2010, my colleagues across the aisle have voted to repeal all or parts of the ACA over 60 times. This has prevented funding needed for implementation and necessary fixes to the law. It is time, once and for all, for Congress to accept the ACA as the law of the land and begin working to improve the law, not repeal it.

Now, I understand there are challenges as the law continues to take deeper roots throughout the healthcare

industry. As they prepared for ACA, some insurance companies set prices too low, and they are now adjusting them in response; but I want to remind everyone that the insurance marketplace was dynamic before the ACA and will continue to be dynamic.

The ACA calls for a more innovative approach to health care, and many insurance companies have adapted so that they can focus on coordinated care and care management, for example. When insurance companies were still able to discriminate based on pre-existing conditions, they excluded or undervalued expensive patients—the same people who had the most healthcare needs. Now that actual data is available, the market is undergoing a natural correction to bring prices in line with costs.

It is important to note that shopping on the marketplace has proven to help all consumers find the best price for coverage. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, almost half of returning healthcare.gov consumers switched plans and saved an average of \$42 per month.

I understand that challenges with the ACA remain. That is why HHS is taking steps to address these problems. Congress has a duty to look for policy solutions that improve everyone's access to the best care available and to make that care affordable. There are real ways that Congress can provide stability to the healthcare marketplace, and I urge my colleagues to bring some of these solutions to the floor.

I was proud to vote for the ACA, and when the majority is ready to get serious, I will be proud to vote for commonsense improvements and reforms to the law. The American public have spoken, and they will not return to the days before healthcare reform. It is time for Congress to listen to the American people.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the fact that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. This gives all of us a chance to come together to promote awareness about the issue of suicide prevention and how we can all help others talk about suicide. For many families in communities across the country, loved ones are gone far too soon because of suicide.

Suicidal thoughts and action certainly know no bounds. They affect people of all ages, races, sexes, and religions. The statistics are startling. Suicide has become the third leading cause of death among young people and is the 10th leading cause of death here in the U.S. Each year, more than 40,000 Americans die by suicide—more than 100 per day, on average.

A week and a half ago, I was in Kalamazoo's Bronson Park for the Gryphon Place Suicide Prevention Walk. A beautiful young woman by the name of Kait stood before a crowd of more than 100 and read a stirring poem about being bullied and, as a result, how she harbored thoughts of suicide.

Hearing her deeply personal story certainly broke everyone's heart. It really did. As a father of two young adults, my thoughts quickly turned to them and their school experiences. Bullying is a very serious problem in our schools and can lead to depression, psychological issues, and, of course, suicide.

When she finished, I followed up with her and told her that she is not alone. Anyone considering suicide or having suicidal thoughts should know the same. You are not alone, and there are always help and options available.

In our communities, we have got to do more to stop bullying the minute it rears its ugly head. We should do more to reach out to those vulnerable to suicidal thoughts and tendencies, particularly young people, as they grapple with the pressures of growing up. We should also do more to treat mental health issues that can lead to suicide.

Here in the House, we recently were able to pass a very strong bipartisan piece of legislation sponsored by Dr. TIM MURPHY, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, to do just that. We voted to give a much-needed upgrade to our mental health system and deliver real reforms that are going to make a difference for folks suffering with mental health illnesses.

In July, it was advanced through our committee 53-0, and then on the House floor by a 422-2 vote. This landmark vote marks the most significant reform to our Nation's mental health programs in decades, and I was proud to shepherd this important piece of legis-

lation and now work with the Senate to get it done.

Suicide prevention is deeply personal to me. I don't talk about it often, but my uncle, my daughter's college roommate, and my son's dear girlfriend's sister all committed suicide. Those losses have left an indelible impression on my life.

Suicide is not an issue that can linger in the shadows. We have got to confront it and the underlying issues behind it together.

I include in the RECORD Kait's message of hope and inspiration. It can also be found on my Web site, upton.house.gov.

MY (SURVIVAL) STORY

I tried to start writing my story, but all that became of it was complicated comparisons and meaningless metaphors.

I thought that's just what I had to do, to connect with people.

Tell some confusing story about a lion and a lamb, or a turtle and a hare with some hidden cliché reworded moral of a story, explaining how the inferior character always wins in the end, and people would just get what I was trying to say.

But, you see, in reality, I didn't know which character I was supposed to play and so I played someone different every single day.

You see it's hard to stand up for yourself, when you don't even know who you are, and in school, if you didn't define yourself, others had no problem doing it for you.

So my name tag read Kait, but the names people called me sounded nothing like that.

slut, queer, trash, worthless, nothing. I call them names, because that's what I became. At least in my mind, so it kept me in line.

for seven years in the hall I looked at the ground, I thought people wouldn't kick me if I was already down.

And if I didn't look up, I couldn't see the mirror, that way you and I could both pretend I wasn't even there.

And they decided that popcorn looked even better in my hair, but when I hid in the bathroom stall during lunch, they said I was throwing up my food.

Which, I was. because I was too big, too small, too short, too tall, too skinny, and too fat.

I was big foot and man hands, with gorilla arm hair.

I took up other people's air and might as well go die in a hole because no one even wants me here.

But that was okay, I didn't want to be here either.

My mom still thinks I fractured my hand from catching it in the door, but I had the locker slammed on it because if you cry, that means you're asking for more.

And I didn't know how to face her, or the fact that I was a failure.

And even though I just graduated, I still feel I owe her apologies.

for the messages everyday the principal left on her phone, for the days she had to get me, because I couldn't drive myself home, for the permanent art work on my arms that wouldn't ever be hung on fridge, for always playing too close to the ledge.

Because I couldn't pass math, but I could calculate just how many pills it took me to get sick without passing out so I didn't have to go to school the next day.

42.
I'm sorry.

Even once they were done with me, I felt like I owed them an apology.

Like they could hit me in the face, and I would apologize for standing in the way of their hand.

There were times I didn't believe I would be here today.

But look at me now, look where I stand, Never did I realize that my own two hands had to the power to control my life. or end it.

My own principal, looked at me and said there was nothing he could do, unless I was seriously hurt.

Like to actually be noticed, I'd have to be dead in the dirt.

Because he thought that even if I walked away crying, as long as I was still alive and walking, it wasn't his problem.

His position of power told him he could decide when I was in pain, but he wasn't the one who had to stand in the rain.

Look in my eyes, look at my arms, read my poetry, can you still see me?

I lost myself halfway between my current normalcy and my makeshift reality.

Drowning in a sea of ideas that unless I became just another number in data about bullying, that I wouldn't actually make a difference.

because in a world where we focus on problems like gun control, we over look the fact that people can cause just as much damage with their words.

An issue is defined as a topic that can be debated or discussed, Like the "issue" I had with bullying was something that could be compromised.

Like my own life, was a thing that could be compromised.

It's like if you see a lamb being slaughtered, you just let it continue, because you too are a lamb, and it very well could be you.

I think in a way that's kind of the worlds view, like if i don't change a number or a statistic. There's nothing I actually went through.

Tell me why no stories ever make the news, about being a survivor of bullying.

but if my story was told, after I was six feet under, it would actually mean something.

It doesn't take 50 cents a day, it literally costs nothing to be a decent human being, or to simply treat each person like they have some meaning.

they say charity begins at home, but I think that's where the love should start too because those that know hurt are the ones that hurt you and my brothers and sisters who have walked in my shoes, i'm sorry if it gave you blisters for the longest time I tried to wear a pair that didn't fit, when I tried to be a she, that wasn't me.

Bullying is not just a consequence, the effects I still live with are alive and real, sometimes they are more real than I feel.

You can not push me under the rug because I am still here.

I am not just another bullying story.

And I am not just my bullying story.

Put a name to my face and call me, survivor.

END HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to visit and volunteer at the Philadelphia region's largest hunger relief center, Philabundance.

Philabundance, a member of the Feeding America network of food banks, aims to drive hunger out of local communities with an eye toward eradicating hunger altogether. Each week, Philabundance serves 90,000 people in the Philadelphia area through partnerships with 350 agencies and food distribution programs. Incredibly, last year alone, they distributed almost 30 million pounds of food to neighbors suffering from hunger and food insecurity in nine counties.

I was impressed by the innovative strategies Philabundance employs to feed hungry people in its region. The Philabundance Community Kitchen equips those looking to reenter the workforce with valuable life and kitchen skills, while also providing meals to those in need.

Philabundance also opened the Nation's first nonprofit grocery store called Fare & Square in Chester, a city that faced a serious economic downturn due to the loss of manufacturing jobs. Fare & Square provides affordable and healthy food to the community, as well as discounts to those who qualify.

Food banks across our country like Philabundance and places like the Worcester County Food Bank and Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, which are both in my congressional district, do incredible work to reduce hunger in surrounding communities. They employ innovative strategies to fight hunger and increase access to nutritious food for our most vulnerable neighbors.

But the truth of the matter is we know that food banks and our charitable organizations can't do it alone. Some in Congress have proposed cuts and other restrictions to our Federal antihunger and nutrition programs. We often hear from them that charities, not the government, should be responsible for eradicating hunger.

Mr. Speaker, I agree that food banks and food pantries and other charitable organizations are incredible on-the-ground partners in our effort to end hunger. They are often the first line of defense in emergency situations. But charities cannot do everything. That is just a fact.

Charities do face limitations. Many are small and only open on limited schedules. Most are run with the support of dedicated volunteers, some of whom have other full-time jobs. Often, these charities operate out of small places like basements or closets at houses of worship. Importantly, they rely on donations from members of the

community as a primary source of food to distribute.

Our charities are doing an incredible job on the front lines, but ending hunger will take a strong partnership between these organizations and Federal, State, and local governments. For our part, the Federal Government must continue to invest in our preeminent food and nutrition programs like SNAP, WIC, and The Emergency Food Assistance Program, known as TEFAP, just to name a few, and fight any attempts to cut or weaken them. TEFAP is especially important to our food banks, as they rely on this Federal funding to serve those in need.

We know that strong Federal investments in these critical safety net programs reduce hunger, improve the diets of low-income households, and save billions of dollars in healthcare costs. So the next time any of my colleagues try to score political points by demonizing Federal hunger programs, I ask you to think of these programs and the impacts they are having on constituents in each of our districts. I urge you to visit local food banks and charities and see all the incredible work they are doing to reduce hunger in our communities. Ask these organizations how the Federal antipoverty programs support their efforts to bring food to those most in need.

I urge all my colleagues to remember this fact:

Today, in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, over 42 million of our fellow citizens are hungry. They are kids, senior citizens, people who can't find work, and many people who are, in fact, working. They defy stereotypes. But all of them are our brothers and sisters, and we should care. We should absolutely do more than we are doing right now to end hunger in America.

The Federal Government, working with charities and local partners, has, within its grasp, the power to end hunger now; what we lack is the political will. Let's at long last create the political will and guarantee that, in our country, no one ever has to struggle with food insecurity or hunger. We can end hunger now.

□ 1015

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN BILL BARRETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of former Congressman Bill Barrett. He passed away earlier this week in his hometown of Lexington, Nebraska.

Mr. Barrett devoted his life to service. From his speakership in the State legislature to the years he spent in

Congress, he was known for being true to his word and bringing people together to get things done. Serving Nebraskans was his top priority, and his dedication to the Third District and our State set a lasting example for me and all who have sought to fill his shoes.

Mr. Barrett was an influential conservative leader and a champion of agriculture. The Third District is now the top-producing agriculture district in the country, and we owe much of that to Mr. Barrett's tireless work.

His former staff have recounted how he would always ask: "Does this help the Third District?"

He was a true statesman who sought to serve others rather than himself. He worked so hard representing the 60-plus counties of the Third District for the 10 years that he served.

I extend my condolences to Mr. Barrett's wife and tremendous teammate, Elsie, and their family.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request a moment of silence.

CONGRESSIONAL INABILITY TO PASS THE NDAA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, this is a sage-grouse. I found out that the sage-grouse have poor eyesight, so they often collide with barbed wire fences and other obstructions that are difficult to see. And these collisions are often fatal.

But the sage-grouse looks like a keen-eyed hawk compared to Congress. That is because the sage-grouse recently collided with the National Defense Authorization Act, and the near-sighted bird won. Hopefully this time it won't be fatal.

We were supposed to vote to send the NDAA to the President this week, but a disagreement between the House and the Senate Republicans about the sage-grouse got egg all over the deal. That is right, a bill that authorizes over \$600 billion in spending on wartime operations, weapons acquisition, service-member benefits, and many other provisions critical to the defense of our country was taken down by a bird. But unlike the plane that landed in the Hudson River, Congress doesn't seem to have a Captain Sully to rescue it from bird-induced mayhem.

Don't get me wrong. The NDAA has many problems. It redirects billions in critical funding towards a program the Defense Department does not want. It sidesteps the Bipartisan Budget Act compromise by requiring supplemental funding just to keep the Pentagon running. It contains a myriad of poison pill riders, from allowing contractors to engage in discrimination against the LGBTQ employees, to releasing tens of thousands of handguns into our communities with no background checks.

All of these reasons are why I voted against the bill in committee and on the House floor. Nonetheless, the conference report is a compromise between the Senate and the House on complex issues ranging from funding operations against ISIS to military healthcare reform, a compromise on everything but this pesky bird.

House Republicans stubbornly refuse to remove language that would prohibit the sage-grouse from being placed on the Endangered Species List, despite the fact that no one is trying to list it. Placing an animal on the Endangered Species List is a scientific decision not within the purview of Congress, and the administration has promised not to list the bird anyway, thanks to a compromise conservation plan. So the provision that is holding up the entire bill not only blatantly prioritizes politics over national security policy, it is legally meaningless.

I think Speaker RYAN put it best earlier this month when he said that playing politics over the NDAA is “shameless, and it threatens more than five decades of bipartisan cooperation to enact a national defense bill for our troops. The men and women who defend our country deserve better.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, then your party is chicken for prioritizing talking points over national security.

The sage-grouse is such an important issue to House Republicans that it makes you wonder what they will do next to contain the serious national security threat. Perhaps we will soon hear calls to build a wall on the Canadian border to prevent sage-grouse from sending their chicks across the border, even though some, I assume, are good hatchlings.

We may then hear about a plan to prevent sage-grouse from entering the country altogether until we find out what is going on. Maybe the Republicans will ban sage-grouse mating dances as breeding grounds for—well, if not terrorism, then, at least more sage-grouse.

But, seriously, colleagues, is this really what our constituents are most concerned about?

It is time to focus on passing a bill that provides accountability on defense spending to taxpayers and is in line with the Bipartisan Budget Act. Our inability to overcome this pointless provision is just further evidence that this Congress is for or, in this case, against the birds.

UNHCR'S BASH ISRAEL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, world leaders are gathering in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, and throughout this

whole process we are reminded yet again of just how broken the U.N. system really is.

Nowhere is this more evident than at the U.N. Human Rights Council. What a misnomer. This body that is supposed to promote and defend human rights worldwide has become a tool used by human rights abusers. And the office that provides support to the Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR, is no better, as it is overrun with an anti-Israel bias and an anti-Israel agenda.

We see this play out each time the Council meets for its Bash Israel Day—yippee—a day dedicated to permanent Agenda Item 7, the only agenda item of the Council devoted to a single country, Israel.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Council. In those 10 years, Mr. Speaker, there have been over 70 resolutions condemning Israel and about 65 resolutions for all of the other countries combined. Seventy on Israel, 65 for every other country. Countries like China, Russia, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Cuba use the Council as a way to detract attention from their abuses and play upon the natural anti-Israel bias at the Council and the OHCHR.

So tomorrow, when the Council meets to discuss Agenda Item 7, it will be another Bash Israel Day that the administration failed to prevent. It will be another example of how this administration's influence fails to protect our friend and ally, the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

Instead of continuing to legitimize this sham of a body, Congress must withhold all contributions and participation at the Council and to the OHCHR, and call for the dissolution of the Council. The administration must press the High Commissioner to denounce Agenda Item 7 and work against the inherent anti-Israel bias of the Council and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights.

Earlier this year, Canadian Professor Michael Lynk was appointed as the Special Rapporteur for the Palestinian territories, despite his obvious bias and conflicts of interest, which we now know he lied about in his paperwork. This selection was so egregious that Canada's Foreign Minister from Professor Lynk's home country urged the U.N. to reconsider his appointment. The administration should echo those calls, but, instead, it has been silent.

The administration should also lead an opposition to the upcoming reelection next week of Jean Ziegler as an adviser to the Council. Ziegler is a notorious puppet of the Castro regime and an avowed defender of dictators and apologists for Islamic extremist groups and had no business being elected the first time around, let alone being reelected.

The Obama administration had an opportunity to block his candidacy

while serving as the coordinator for the Western European and Others Group this year at the Council, but failed to do so; and now it looks as if Ziegler's reelection is a done deal, thanks to the administration's failure to act.

The administration, Mr. Speaker, continues to argue that only by being engaged and only by being full members of the U.N. can it advance our interests and protect Israel. Yet, next month, UNESCO is set to adopt a resolution that seeks to whitewash the Jewish and Christian religious and historical ties to Jerusalem. And while we might not be voting members of the full UNESCO body, this administration is an active member of UNESCO's executive committee, where this resolution was first approved.

Where was our influence then?

We can't even prevent a resolution that wipes away Jewish and Christian ties to Jerusalem, despite these being historical facts. It is very apparent that either the administration has no influence at the U.N. or the administration has no desire to upset the entrenched and damaged status quo.

That is why it is up to Congress, Mr. Speaker, to force the change at the U.N. I urge all of my colleagues to take a long, hard look at the Human Rights Council as a representation of all that is wrong and bad with the U.N., and to make reforming the U.N. a priority going forward. It will be up to us.

COMMEMORATING THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to engage in a colloquy with my very able colleague from Florida, Congressman DENNIS ROSS. And perhaps as we begin, we can welcome into our midst the very able Ambassador from Hungary to the United States, Ms. Reka Szemerkenyi.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ROSS).

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for yielding. And I do wish to say hello to our good friend from Hungary, Ambassador Szemerkenyi.

I am grateful, quite frankly, to have this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight.

Sixty years ago this October, Hungary stood tall in the shadows of communism and said: Enough is enough—eleg volt. Hungarian schoolchildren and college students took up arms against the totalitarian government and its Soviet policies.

On October 23, 1956, approximately 20,000 protesters convened next to the statue of General Jozef Bem, a national

hero of Hungary. Despite orders to disband, protestors tore down a 30-foot bronze statue of Stalin near the city's Heroes' Square.

The following morning, power was consolidated and a new multiparty government was formed. The Hungarian Revolution spread like wildfire throughout the countryside.

On November 1, Prime Minister Imre Nagy announced Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact and a declaration of neutrality. Embarrassed by the uprising, the USSR sent Soviet tanks and troops across the Hungarian border. Unfortunately, thousands of Hungarian civilians were killed, and the communist-backed government in Budapest was reinstalled.

In the months that followed the Hungarian Revolution, more than 20,000 Hungarians were imprisoned, 229 were executed, and more than 200,000 were forced to flee across the world.

Many of the Hungarians, named "56ers" because of the year that this happened, sought new lives in the United States with the help of Hungarian Americans, many of whom live in my good friend, Ms. KAPTUR's district.

My own parents were married in the Hungarian Catholic Church, St. Emeric, also located in Ms. KAPTUR's district. And as a child and grandchild of Hungarian Americans who helped 56ers, I am honored to sponsor this resolution with my good friend from Ohio in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

I would like to thank my Hungarian American Caucus co-chairs: Ms. KAPTUR, ANDY HARRIS, and DAVID JOYCE.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for organizing this event this morning, and I wish to also say that the 1956 Hungarian Revolution was a breakpoint historical event that marked a turning point in the cold war.

It took great courage by those who participated during that unforgettable period as freedom fighters in Budapest and across that country stood tall in opposition to the communist-installed Hungarian people's false government and its Soviet-imposed repression.

□ 1030

You can travel to Budapest, Hungary, today, and you can see the bullet holes and the tank markings in some of the old, old buildings in that country. We know over 2,500 Hungarians died, 20,000 were imprisoned, and over 200,000 more fled as refugees.

Congressman ROSS has referenced certain individuals in my own region. Some of those refugees came to Ohio, including men like Reverend Martin Hernady, who ministered his entire life in Ohio serving the Hungarian diaspora, and the Ujvagi family of Toledo, whose compassion, patriotism, and genius have meant so much to our community and to me, personally.

In October and November of 1956, the country at the heart of the European Continent underwent 3 weeks of political turmoil that shook the region and exposed the ideological fissures behind the Iron Curtain.

The movie, "Torn From the Flag," I recommend to all of our colleagues. It gives people living today a sense of what happened during that fateful period.

During the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and its freedom fight, we commemorate tens of thousands of Hungarians who took to the streets to protest the heavyhanded invasion by the Soviet Union. Their heroism is legendary, and it has made a difference in world history. They showed a united front and one that called upon their government to promote democratic ideals and unification.

This moment in time was encapsulated in a statement by the then-director of the Hungarian News Agency just before his untimely death in the revolution. He said: "We are going to die for Hungary and for Europe."

In the years since the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, Hungary has made progress toward democratic reform and has since become a member of the European Union and NATO. Its award of Nobel Prizes in every single scientific and cultural field is a testimony to the talent and to the abilities of the people of that country.

So like Congressman ROSS, as co-chair of the Congressional Hungarian Caucus, I remain dedicated to continuing channels of cooperation to further these efforts and to ensure that the principles of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution are fully realized.

I think the Partnership for Peace initiative between our respective militaries is a foundation stone to build our continuing relationship forward and support the revolution recognizing this important moment in world history in the 20th century.

May I say, long live liberty and long live Hungary.

I thank the gentleman, all the members of our Congressional Hungarian Caucus, and, again, I thank the Ambassador from Hungary for being here with us today and all of our colleagues for listening.

FATHER PATRICK RYAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and work of Father Patrick Ryan.

Father Ryan, the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul's parish in Chattanooga from 1872 to 1878, was a shepherd who gave his life in ministering to his flock. He died a martyr's death in the

yellow fever epidemic of 1878 when he was only 33 years old.

Perhaps his most notable accomplishment in the Chattanooga community was the opening of Notre Dame Academy, under the direction of the Dominican Sisters, which is the oldest private school in the city. The school had been in operation for little more than 2 years when it had to be converted into a hospital and orphanage because of the terrible yellow fever scourge in the city.

Although many people left the city as the disease spread, Father Ryan and Jonathan W. Bachman, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, were among the 1,800 people remaining in the city. They were good friends, and when Father Ryan was stricken, he was visited by Dr. Bachman.

Father Ryan is described by an eyewitness as "going from house to house in the worst infected section of the city to find what he could do for the sick and needy." He continued ministering to his flock, after he himself had contracted the dreaded disease, to within 48 hours of his death.

In 1901, when the Chattanooga Council of the Knights of Columbus was organized, it was named the Father Patrick Ryan Council in honor of the priest who, by his high ideals, his devotion to duty, his spirit of sacrifice for his congregation and his city, seemed to exemplify the aims and purposes of the new order.

Several letters have been written in support of the cause of beatification and canonization of Father Patrick Ryan, including the Notarial Act of the Bishop of Knoxville, the Most Reverend Richard Stika; the letter naming Reverend J. David Carter as Episcopal Delegate and Promoter of Justice for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization; and a letter naming Deacon Gaspar DeGaetano as Vice Postulator for the Cause of Beatification and Canonization.

I believe it is most appropriate to honor a man who sacrificed himself to provide comfort to the people in Chattanooga who were afflicted with yellow fever so long ago.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a crisis in our communities and our country. I have watched in horror, day after day, as people of color are shot by the police officers sworn to protect them.

Now, we all know that the vast majority of law enforcement officers are committed to serving their communities, and many do incredible work despite dangerous and sometimes life-threatening conditions. I commend all of those speaking out and working

against the injustices of some. Tragically, as we have witnessed in Dallas and Baton Rouge, innocent police officers have been the victims of violence as well. However, these tragedies do not change the underlying reality that our criminal justice system is broken.

Since Michael Brown was shot in Ferguson 2 years ago, 2,195 people have been killed by police in our Nation. As a mother of two Black men and the grandmother of five Black grandchildren, I worry that someone I love could become number 2,196.

Each time we lose a precious life to fear, distrust, and prejudice, the list of things that will get you killed as a Black person in America gets a little longer. Today I want to spend a little time going through that list.

Now you can get killed for going to buy a bag of Skittles, like Trayvon Martin; or even get killed for riding on New Year's Day, for instance, in the subway in the Bay Area like Oscar Grant. This is a subway card. Or maybe you can get killed for selling cigarettes, like Eric Garner. Or you can get killed for selling CDs, like Alton Sterling. This is a CD. You can also be killed reaching for your wallet, like Philando Castile.

It doesn't matter if you are a child. If you are a Black boy, you can be killed playing with a toy gun. That is a toy gun. Now, that was what happened to Tamir Rice; he was 12. That is what happened to Tyre King last week; he was 13.

Or you can be killed for a missing front license plate like Samuel DuBose.

Heaven help you if you are driving a car. You can be killed for not signaling a lane change, like Sandra Bland, or for having a broken brake light, like Walter Scott, or for breaking down on a highway, like Terrence Crutcher.

Now, should any of this warrant a death sentence? Is this the America you want to live in? In 2016, when you are Black, too often you are seen as a threat first and a person second.

When my boys were young, I had some tough conversations with them about how to interact with police. I taught them that Black boys don't get the benefit of the doubt. I told them, to some, it doesn't matter who you are—it just matters what you look like.

I shouldn't have had to have these conversations with them. This is America. Parents shouldn't have to live in fear that one day they will have the same call that Michael Brown's mother got, that Sandra Bland's mother got, that Dontre Hamilton's mother got, or that Oscar Grant's mother got.

We need action here on the floor of Congress and in communities across the country. Enough is enough. We cannot stay silent while these murders continue unchecked. We must act now. That is why, today, members of the Congressional Black Caucus will march

to the Department of Justice to demand action—because Black lives do matter.

OPIOID ADDICTION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, opioid and drug addiction are wreaking havoc in communities and States across the Nation. Hospitals and first responders are stretched to the limit. Families and friends are trying to get their loved ones the help they so desperately need.

The disease of addiction has become all too common in our States and in our neighborhoods, but it is still hidden behind a stigma, a fear of asking for help. That is why we are marking this week as Prescription Drug and Opioid Epidemic Awareness Week, to spread the word and to encourage those struggling with addiction to get the help that they need. My district in West Virginia has some of the highest drug overdose rates in the Nation, but I want to highlight how our cities and counties are fighting back.

On August 15, my hometown of Huntington faced a true crisis as call after call came in of people who had overdosed on heroin. It has become far too common in Huntington for first responders to go out on a few calls a day for people who have overdosed, but this August day was unlike any other. Within a few hours, 28 people overdosed, likely from just one batch of heroin—28 people in 5 hours in a city of less than 50,000 people.

Our first responders—EMTs and police—carry an opioid-reversing drug and rushed to their aid. Time and time again, they brought people back from the brink of death. Without the tireless work of the first responders and our healthcare workers, Huntington would have lost many more lives.

Possibly the most victimized of all the victims of the drug crisis is a newborn baby having to suffer through withdrawal after birth from exposure to drugs during pregnancy. Along with a group of passionate healthcare professionals and community leaders, a facility called Lily's Place was opened. For more than a year now, over 100 newborn babies have received the care they need to get through the effects of withdrawal.

Another story of a community coming together to combat the drug crisis is from Mercer County. Mercer County Fellowship Home focuses on treating men suffering from substance abuse, working to make them productive members of society again. A current resident said that, thanks to the help he received there, he now has the confidence to stay employed and to further his education.

The director of Mercer County Fellowship, Jim McClanahan, said it best when he told me:

Opiates are ruining and taking lives. We are giving them opportunities so that no one person or family has to continue living life scared and feeling as if they don't count or matter.

Centers like the Mercer County Fellowship Home offer those addicted to drugs and opioids a chance to change their lives and their communities.

These are just three examples of how our cities and towns are making a difference. Sometimes it is our first responders saving lives of those who have overdosed, giving them an opportunity to get the help they need, or a caring group of healthcare professionals and community leaders developing a new model of care so drug-exposed babies can have the best chance at a healthy start in life. Other times the help comes in the form of a welcoming group of people who are committed to recovery.

We can stop the opioid epidemic and heal our cities, our towns, and our States. In these tough times, we must come together and find solutions. Here in the House, we have shown what we can do working together. We passed CARA with overwhelming bipartisan support.

There is hope in West Virginia, and there is hope in the United States. There is help available for those in need. Together, we can make a difference.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING MAINE-ENDWELL LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. HANNA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young men of the Maine-Endwell Little League team on their outstanding victory at the Little League World Series championship game.

With an ending score of 2-1, the Maine-Endwell Little League team triumphed over South Korea to become the first American team to win the overall title since 2011, and the first New York team to win the title since 1964. The game was played in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, with a reported 23,211 people in attendance. It was a perfect ending to Maine-Endwell's undefeated season of 24-0.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the Maine-Endwell team today, the 2016 Little League World Series champions. On behalf of the United States Congress, and the 22nd Congressional District of New York, I congratulate each of you for a job well done.

To the team members—Jude Abbadessa, Billy Dundon, Jayden

Fanara, James Fellows, Ryan Harlost, Jack Hopko, Michael Mancini, Jordan Owens, Brody Raleigh, Conner Rush, and Justin Ryan—congratulations to each and every one of you. To the coaches—Scott Rush, Joe Hopko, and Joe Mancini—congratulations, again, from a grateful community and a grateful country.

LET'S SEE TO IT THAT JUSTICE IS COLORBLIND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this is a historic week in the United States as we dedicate and open the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

It starts with a story of African Americans being brought to this country as slaves from Africa, not citizens but property, and considered such until they were freed, some through the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and others through an amendment to the Constitution. Even after that, they weren't really considered full citizens, as there was Jim Crow segregation, and that continued for over 100 years.

Today, we see African Americans are still threatened. I woke up Tuesday morning to the shocking video of Mr. Crutcher being shot while his hands were up and on a car, following apparent instructions from police, and was shot to death. It is one of the most shocking videos I have seen. There is no way to defend what happened. At best, it was gross negligence; at worst, it was murder.

This has been happening too often in the United States. I support police. My first job out of law school was an attorney for the police department. I worked 3½ years for the police. I understand their importance, and I support them. But police who are not well trained are doing a disservice to their profession and to the United States.

This morning on "Morning Joe," former Congressman Joe Scarborough, a Republican Member of this House, said two things are necessary in light of the shootings, and particularly the Crutcher shooting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. One is body cameras and cameras on all police vehicles so we can see, as we did in Oklahoma, exactly what occurred. And, secondly, independent prosecutors, prosecutors from outside the jurisdiction to see to it that justice is served.

There is a bill in this Congress that LACY CLAY, myself, every member of the Congressional Black Caucus, and nearly 90 Members of this House are cosponsors of. That is a bill that will require police training towards racial sensitivity and understanding of different cultures, independent prosecutors for States to determine how they would set it up, and a requirement for

States to have independent prosecutors in law enforcement killings of American citizens. This is necessary for people to believe and to know that justice is, indeed, blind and justice is being meted out.

There is no way to look at Tulsa, but to see there was either inadequate training or there was racial profiling and insensitivity that ended in the death of Mr. Crutcher.

It is so sad as we open the National Museum of African American History and Culture to see that African Americans still are not being treated the same as others in our Nation.

It is not a mere coincidence that every shooting by a police person videoed has an African American victim. Nobody can say that Mr. Crutcher was resisting arrest or possibly had a gun or brandished a pistol. None of those things occurred. He was following instructions.

I ask my Republican colleagues, none of whom are sponsors of my bill, to consider coming on to the bill. The bill is important for justice in America. It is important for people to know there is justice. And in this week, as we look to the National Museum of African American History and Culture opening and the recognition of rights that people have, and the understanding that they are human beings and part of America, who built America, literally built America as slaves and built this building, we need to go forward and see to it that justice is colorblind and justice is meted out.

CHANGING OUR BROKEN SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about embarrassment.

Next week, the Congress of the United States will once again have to refer on and go back to funding our Federal Government with an ad hoc continuing resolution. Federal law requires the Congress of the United States to pass a budget each year. It requires the Congress of the United States to pass 12 appropriations bills each year by September 30, which is coming up next week.

I came to Congress in 2011, Mr. Speaker. Since then, we have passed zero regular order appropriations out of the 72 required by law—zero. And yet, we have been able to find some way to pass 20 short-term continuing resolution appropriations bills that have no reforms to spending, they have no reforms to policy, and we have passed five 2,000-page omnibus spending bills. Somehow we were able to do those two things, but we weren't able to pass 12 simple appropriations bills to properly manage the taxpayers' money.

I have heard it said that Americans are disappointed with Congress. In fact,

I am a little surprised that we have an 18 percent approval rating right now. Maybe we have a lot of family members or some folks back home who aren't paying attention to what is going on here.

We wonder why out of the \$3.8 trillion of taxpayer dollars that we have received here in the Congress of the United States each year are not being managed correctly by the only body that can actually manage it. Why in the world aren't they fixing this problem and passing their spending bills in regular order in front of the American people where they can see it and do it instead of these ad hoc spending bills?

Mr. Speaker, each year that I have been in Congress, I have authored a bill that would change our broken system and begin to fix this system that doesn't work. I would propose to you that 0 out of 72 is not a very good batting record. It is called the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act. In fact, today, it has 237 cosponsors of the majority in this House. When I introduced the bill last year, I introduced it with 108 original cosponsors that signed on with me when we introduced it.

That represents, by the way, Mr. Speaker, 50 percent of the whole House of Representatives. It represents 63 percent of the elected Republican leadership in this House. It represents 29 percent of the minority party. Fifty Democrats have joined with Republicans and said: we need to fix this broken system.

Seventy-two percent of the majority party support this reform. Sixty-eight percent of committee chairmen support this reform. Sixty-seven percent of subcommittee chairmen support this reform. Sixty-five percent of the Republican Steering Committee, the leadership of this House of Representatives, support this reform.

It was referred to the Budget Committee where 56 percent support this reform. It was also referred to the Rules Committee where 54 percent support this reform. And yet, there has been no vote on this in the House. 237 cosponsors represent 168 million American people whose voices have been squashed and been silenced by our lack of inaction.

Mr. Speaker, I started by saying I want to talk about embarrassment. I am embarrassed for the Congress of the United States. I am proud of the effort that has been done here, and I am proud of the people and Members of Congress who have stood up to finally fix this broken system and said: enough is enough.

I am proud of Senator ENZI and Senator INHOFE over in the U.S. Senate trying to advance the same types of reforms there. But I am embarrassed for the Congress of the United States. I am embarrassed for our leadership. I am embarrassed because we haven't been

able to do what is right, even though the majority of us agree that this is better than what we have, that this is a step forward.

But I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, what I am more than embarrassed about. I am disappointed. Because the only people in the country that can fix this is the Congress of the United States.

Since 1974, when the Budget Act was put in place, the Congress of the United States has failed to pass its budget and its appropriations bills required by law every single year for 42 years. They have not been able to do it on time even once. Some people will argue that this isn't the best fix and may not be the perfect fix, but I will tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, it is better than 0 out of 72 for sure.

I call on the Speaker of the House to bring this bill to the floor and let 168 million Americans finally be heard.

COLOMBIA-FARC PEACE DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, the sovereign people of Colombia will decide, in a historic referendum, whether to approve or reject the agreement reached between the Colombian Government and the terrorist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, commonly known as FARC.

I have made it a priority to hear from stakeholders on either side of this issue, and I remain concerned about the impact the deal could have on Colombia, as well as its broader effects on the region, especially given the drastic increase in coca production in recent years. My concerns are shared by many Americans of Colombian descent who call south Florida home, and who I am proud to represent in this body.

Throughout the process, the FARC has demanded immunity, impunity, and political legitimacy, but we cannot ignore the thousands viciously murdered by this terrorist organization—people who were innocent victims and who demand justice that goes beyond special tribunals that offer relatively mild punishments.

Throughout the decades, the FARC recruited children to serve its corrupt cause. American citizens were kidnapped and victimized by them. It is hard to believe that the FARC was an honest partner in the peace process, and allowing them to participate in the political process has been viewed as a generous and perhaps dangerous concession.

The Colombian people will be voting on the deal next month after more than half a century of war. This is a decision exclusively for the Colombian people to make. However, those of us who cherish the U.S.-Colombia rela-

tionship, who care deeply for Colombia and its future, and who are privileged to represent many in our country's Colombian-American community must be sincere and, with respect, express our concerns, while at the same time renewing our commitment to the strong partnership between our two nations.

ADDRESSING THE FEDERAL DEFICIT

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss one of the most serious issues facing the United States—the staggering Federal deficit, which is expected to be one-third larger this year. According to the Congressional Budget Office, our Federal budget deficit will be \$590 billion, compared with a \$438 billion deficit last year.

Future projections don't appear to be optimistic either, with OMB reports stating that the deficit will rise to 4.6 percent of GDP by 2026. For comparison, the average deficit as a share of GDP from 1966 to 2015 was 2.8 percent. These figures make it abundantly clear that Congress must work toward solutions that will address our Nation's deficit and get our fiscal house back in order.

Every day, families in south Florida sit around the dinner table and make tough decisions on how they will spend their money. They stick to their budgets, and their government should be no different.

Last October, I was proud to support a 2-year bipartisan budget agreement that implemented new caps on discretionary spending for both fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

□ 1100

Too often, enormous sums are wasted due to unpredictable budget cycles and government shutdown threats. With the adoption of this 2-year budget, Congress was able to reduce wasteful government spending by providing certainty to agencies as they plan for the future. The budget also contains real reforms to entitlement programs, which is the largest percentage of national debt. It is important that we protect programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—the invaluable safety net for those who need the help—while working to implement reforms to make these programs solvent for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance solutions that will reduce our Federal deficit. It is our duty as elected officials to leave our children and grandchildren with the same economic opportunities as my generation, and that is my main priority in Congress.

A "BETTER WAY" AGENDA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the House Republicans' Better Way agenda to reform the way Congress does business by promoting solutions that will benefit Americans across the country. I am

proud to have supported numerous bills within the Better Way agenda, including two education bills that are expected to pass the House this week.

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, of which I am an original cosponsor, provides students with the tools to succeed in a variety of fields, including the technology and healthcare sectors, by simplifying the process of applying for Federal funds. This legislation also increases transparency, ensuring effective programs that allow students, teachers, and parents to attain their goals.

This year, I had the opportunity to serve on the Poverty, Opportunity, and Upward Mobility Task Force and suggested that we focus on the most vulnerable in our communities—at-risk youth. I am proud the Better Way agenda included a plan to reduce poverty for children and was proud to introduce the bipartisan Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act. This legislation sets kids up for long-term success by giving State and local leaders the flexibility to better meet the specific needs of at-risk children in their communities.

ADDRESSING THE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from which I am going to read some excerpts. This includes a letter that we are sending to Majority Leader McCONNELL and Minority Leader REID in the Senate. Let me read a few excerpts from this.

We are asking the Senate to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act before the district work period break. Delays in enacting this into law will contribute to more crime, violence, homelessness, and the daily deaths of 959 Americans as a result of mental illness.

We know that there is a critical shortage of qualified providers. There are only 9,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists for 17 million children, and we need 30,000. African Americans are half as likely to receive psychiatric care, and for Hispanics with a mental disorder, fewer than 1 in 11 sees a mental health specialist. Fifty-five percent of counties in America do not have a practicing psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker.

The average time between the onset of the first symptoms of psychosis and the first treatment is 80 weeks. There is a nationwide shortage of 100,000 psychiatric beds, which means people are often diverted to jails, are boarded in emergency rooms, or are released without treatment. There is no oversight,

monitoring, or enforcement of the 10-year-old parity law, and persons with eating disorders still cannot get coverage for their treatment.

The Federal Government spends about \$130 billion annually by 112 agencies across eight separate departments, but the GAO exposed that these have nearly no coordination and do not require evidence-based practices.

In terms of violence, those with untreated psychosis are 15 times more likely to be violent or not in treatment. With regard to jail, over 50 percent of those in jail have a mental illness. Mentally ill inmates cost taxpayers three times more than those without a mental illness, and individuals with a mental illness are four to six times more likely to be victims of sexual violence.

With regard to homelessness, over one-third of homeless Americans have a serious mental illness, and people with serious mental illness are three times more likely to be in poverty.

Having a serious mental illness is worse for someone's health than is chronic heavy smoking, and those with serious mental illness tend to die 10 to 25 years prematurely, meaning over 350,000 Americans will die this year as a direct or indirect result of mental illness. So far this year, over 255,000 have died.

H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, is the most transformational crisis mental health reform bill in 50 years. It passed the House with near unanimous support on July 16, 2016, with a vote of 422–2.

It reforms the Federal Government approach to mental health by establishing the critically important leadership position of Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, who must be a doctor and who will bring accountability, effectiveness, and coordination to the Federal Government's programs and will develop a national strategy to increase the mental health workforce.

It increases the number of psychiatrists, psychologists, and psychiatric nurses to treat serious mental illness. It provides funding for tele-mental health to increase access in underserved areas. It provides additional psychiatric beds. It requires the oversight and enforcement of parity laws and extends coverage to people with eating disorders.

The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act has been endorsed by more than 40 professional organizations, by 77 newspapers, and has 207 bipartisan cosponsors.

We write with the vital request that the Senate take up and pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act in order to fix our Nation's mental health system. It must take priority over any partisan divide. We, respectfully, ask that the Senate advance this bill to provide treatment before trag-

edy and to provide desperately needed and fully deserved help.

Along these lines, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to also contact my office to cosign this letter that pleads with the Senate to please move this bill quickly so that we don't have to see more tragedy, so that we can provide treatment, so that we can relieve Americans of this terrible scourge of mental illness without treatment, and so that we may provide quick and life-saving action because, where there is no help, there is no hope.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2016.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER REID: We are in the midst of a mental health crisis in America. One in five Americans will experience mental illness this year. There are 10 million adults with a serious mental illness (SMI), but nearly 40% do not receive treatment. The reasons for this are a critical shortage of qualified providers, a dearth of crisis psychiatric beds, failed mental health parity implementation, and most importantly the absence of strong federal leadership. We are asking the Senate to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act before their district work period break. Delays in enacting this into law will contribute to more crime, violence, homelessness, and the daily deaths of 959 Americans as a result of a mental illness. The level of this crisis was learned during the 4 year long House investigation, the major findings of which are listed below.

CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF QUALIFIED PROVIDERS

There are 9,000 Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists for 17 million children with a mental health condition, but there is a need for 30,000;

African Americans are half as likely to receive psychiatric treatment;

For Hispanics with a mental disorder, fewer than 1 in 11 see a mental health specialist;

55% of counties do not have a practicing psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker;

72% of states have a shortage of psychiatric nurses;

Over the last decade the total number of physicians has increased by 45% but the number of psychiatrists has only increased 12%;

The average time between onset of first symptoms of psychosis and first treatment is 80 weeks.

DEARTH OF PSYCHIATRIC CRISIS BEDS

There is a nation-wide shortage of 100,000 crisis psychiatric beds;

In 1955 there were 550,000 psychiatric beds, but today there are only 40,000;

Only one state (Mississippi) has enough beds to meet the minimum standard;

When patients are in crisis they are often diverted to jails, boarded in Emergency Rooms, or released without treatment.

PARITY

It has been nearly a decade since parity became law, yet there is no oversight, monitoring or enforcement;

Americans with eating disorders still cannot get coverage of their treatment.

FAILED FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

In the area of mental health, the federal government spends \$130 billion annually by 112 agencies across 8 separate departments;

In a stunning and groundbreaking report the GAO exposed that federal mental health programs have nearly no coordination, few evaluations, and four out of five do not require evidence-based practices;

55% of Medicaid funding goes to 5% of the Medicaid population and nearly all of those patients have a mental health condition.

VIOLENCE

While individuals with a mental health condition are NOT more violent than the general public, those with untreated psychosis are 15 times more likely to be violent when not in treatment;

80 percent of violent acts committed by those with untreated psychosis are attributable directly to their illness.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Of those Americans in local jails 64% have mental illness, 56% in state prison, and 45% in federal prison;

Mentally ill inmates cost taxpayers three times more than those without a mental illness;

Incarcerating someone with a mental illness is 20 times more expensive than community treatment;

Over 70% of people in jails with serious mental illness also have a substance use disorder;

Individuals with a mental illness are 4 to 6 times more likely to be the victim of sexual violence.

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

Over one-third of Americans experiencing homelessness have a serious mental illness.

People with serious mental illness are three times more likely to be in poverty.

PREVENTABLE DEATHS

Having a serious mental illness is worse for someone's health than chronic heavy smoking;

Those with a serious mental illness die 10–25 years prematurely;

There are 43,000 suicides, and 90% of those suicides have mental illness as a contributing factor;

350,000 Americans die each year as a direct or indirect result of a mental illness.

H.R. 2646

The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, the most transformational crisis mental health reform bill in 50 years, passed the House with near unanimous support on July 16, 2016 by a vote of 422–2. Our legislation delivers treatment before tragedy and fixes the problems above identified by the House investigations. The legislation:

Reforms the federal government approach to mental health by establishing the critically important leadership position of Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders (who must be a doctor) to replace the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration;

The Assistant Secretary will bring accountability, effectiveness, and coordination to the federal government's 112 mental health programs, and develop a national strategy for increasing the mental health workforce;

Increases the number of providers for SMI by supporting postdoctoral psychologists, authorizing minority fellowships, allowing doctors to volunteer at federally qualified community health centers, and provides funding for tele-mental health to increase access in underserved areas;

Provides additional psychiatric hospital beds for those experiencing an acute mental health crisis and in need of short term immediate inpatient care for stabilization;

Requires oversight and enforcement of parity and extends parity coverage to eating disorders;

Establishes a National Mental Health Policy Laboratory to set objective and scientific outcome measures for mental health spending;

Authorizes the Suicide Prevention Hotline; Incentivizes states to provide community-based alternatives to jails, prisons, and institutionalization.

The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act is the product of years of collaboration between dedicated members of Congress, as well as numerous organizations, who came together to offer feedback and suggestions. The bill has also been endorsed by more than 40 professional organizations, 77 editorial boards and newspapers, 207 bipartisan Members of Congress, and hundreds of individual physicians, patients, and families.

Given the urgency of the mental health crisis in America, we write with the vital request that the Senate take up and pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act before you break for district work period. We understand the nature of the short schedule during the month of September, but we maintain that fixing our nation's mental health system must take priority over scheduling or any partisan divide. We know that every day more than 900 lives are lost in our nation due—directly or indirectly—to mental health. That translates to over 70,000 preventable deaths since the House passed H.R. 2646 in July.

At a time when thousands of lives are on the line, delays and politics cannot overrule compassion and common sense. We respectfully ask you to advance this bill to provide treatment before tragedy, and H.R. 2646 will provide desperately needed, and fully deserved, help. We call on you to pass H.R. 2646 because where there is help, there is hope.

Sincerely,

TIM MURPHY, PHD.
EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON,
RN.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of a simple yet important piece of border security legislation that I hope to see signed into law shortly. This legislation will help to secure our borders, save taxpayer dollars, and help the men and women who have served our Nation honorably to continue to serve and protect America in much-needed, technologically advanced positions.

My legislation makes a simple fix that would allow the Customs and Border Patrol Commissioner to waive the polygraph requirement for soon-to-be veterans who seek employment as UAV pilots within the Department of Homeland Security who come from the Department of Defense with current security clearances. The DOD typically invests a significant amount of training and career development resources in these men and women, and to lose their

talent due to a lapse in interdepartmental communication is a detriment to our country.

Under the current system, when soon-to-be veterans who are unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV, pilots wish to apply for a UAV position at the DHS, they are placed on a wait list until more money and time is used to determine if these veterans meet DHS security guidelines despite having already passed similar security background checks performed by the Department of Defense. This creates a near impossible bottleneck where veterans can be stuck for months or years in waiting on redundant procedures, forcing most to drop their applications and go elsewhere to find employment.

The result of this bureaucratic inefficiency is that veterans who have valuable skills that can help protect our Nation and in whom we have invested millions of dollars in training are lost to other jobs. This leaves DHS Border Protection positions unfilled and our borders more vulnerable. The country's security, veterans, and taxpayers all lose in this equation.

This legislation works to solve three key problems by creating job opportunities for veterans, securing the borders, and saving taxpayer dollars. It is just plain common sense, and I urge the full consideration and adoption of this measure.

A GREAT MINNESOTA LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Hormel Foods CEO Jeffrey Ettinger on his upcoming retirement.

Hormel is a recognized Minnesota leader in food processing. The company started in Austin, Minnesota, in 1891 and is best known for giving us the famous canned ham—Spam.

Jeffrey's career at Hormel Foods has now spanned nearly three decades. From starting out as a corporate attorney in 1989 to eventually becoming the CEO in 2005, Jeffrey has played a crucial role in Hormel's success. Jeffrey encouraged a focus on new product innovation, and under his leadership, Hormel has continued to grow and thrive. During his time with Hormel, Jeffrey has even been recognized as one of the world's best CEOs by Barron's—a true tribute to his work ethic and excellence. While he is retiring as CEO, Jeffrey's leadership at Hormel will go on, as he will continue to serve as chairman of the board.

Congratulations on your retirement, Jeffrey, and thank you for all of the work you have done for Hormel Foods so that it remains a leading company in the food industry both in Minnesota and in our great country.

TOP HONORS FOR ANOKA-RAMSEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Minnesota's very own Anoka-Ramsey Community College, which has recently been named one of the top 10 community colleges in the United States. This placement has made Anoka-Ramsey Community College a contender for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

It is no surprise to me that Anoka-Ramsey, the sole Minnesota contender to be recognized, has been chosen for this prestigious award given its stellar reputation throughout our community. This fine higher learning institution is well-known for affordable tuition, a high success rate of students who graduate, as well as high achievement rates for students of every ethnicity and background. A good education can open doors in life.

Thank you, Anoka-Ramsey, for handing our students the key. Good luck in the competition, and congratulations on your success.

A PARENT'S LOVE

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Joy and Matthew Molitor, from Minnesota's Sixth District, who received an Angels in Adoption Award this year.

The Molitors' adoption story began in 2011. While on a trip to Haiti, they decided to adopt two young children, Wilson and Catherine. For the next 3½ years, the Molitors visited Haiti 15 times while patiently waiting to take their children home.

In 2015, the Molitors received the devastating news that their paperwork was no longer valid and that the Haitian Government was no longer allowing simple adoptions. This did not stop them.

For the next 4 months, Joy walked from one government agency to the next, despite the unstable political environment in the country. She was determined not to leave Haiti without her children. As a result of Joy's resolve, she eventually retained the visas for her children, and they were able to go home to Minnesota together.

Joy and Matthew Molitor are the perfect example of the lengths one will go because of a parent's love. I am proud to recognize them today.

Thank you, Joy and Matthew, and congratulations on your Angels in Adoption Award.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. It is time to bring awareness to this heartless disease and to the demands and challenges of the families affected.

Childhood cancer is an especially important topic in our office. My deputy chief of staff, Robert Boland's daughter, Abigail, was diagnosed with retinoblastoma, which is a rare cancer

that affects the eyes, when she was only 2 months old. Thankfully, Abigail survived her cancer and is a happy, growing little girl. Abigail and her parents are fortunate, but they, like all families who deal with childhood cancer, had many a sleepless night.

No parent should ever have to watch a child fight a life-threatening disease. Unfortunately, that is not the case for many. Every year in the United States, there are more than 15,000 children who are diagnosed with cancer. Statistics show that 80 percent of childhood cancer cases are diagnosed only after the disease has already metastasized and spread. This makes research absolutely necessary. That is why we must spread the word and raise awareness.

All children deserve a future, and it is vital that we do everything in our power to help give them that chance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD K. "DICK" BLAKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, an honor and a pleasure to recognize the lifetime achievements of Richard K. "Dick" Blake, who is retiring after 40 years of service on the Rockledge City Council. He is the longest serving elected official on Florida's east coast and is a true servant heart leader.

The grandson of freed slaves, Dick Blake was one of 10 children growing up in Rockledge, Florida. He attended Cocoa's African American Monroe High School, where he became an all-star athlete and model student.

After graduating from Florida A&M University, Dick returned to Monroe High School to coach basketball and football and also to teach biology and math. While coaching during the era of segregated education, he gained statewide notoriety as his basketball teams dominated the Florida Interscholastic Athletic Association.

□ 1115

In fact, Dick helped pave the way for integration in Brevard County by arranging exhibition basketball games, which helped to foster race relations by bringing children, families, and communities together under the spirit of sports competition. In so doing, he touched the lives of so many talented players and students.

In 1966, Dick became the first Black assistant principal at Cocoa High School, and later became the principal, serving in that position for 22 years.

A staunch believer in the power of education, Dick earned a bachelor of science degree from Claflin University,

a master of science degree from Columbia University, and a master of science degree from Florida A&M University.

In July 2011, the city of Rockledge named a park in honor of Dick's legendary accomplishments as an athlete and sports official, educator, school administrator, elected community servant, and leader in civil rights and racial equality issues.

I have served with Dick in local government and in many volunteer efforts over the years, and he is someone I and literally thousands and thousands of others greatly admire.

Over the course of his life, he has witnessed injustice, but Dick has always remained positive. Dick is the type of person that if he encountered lemons, he made lemonade.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Dick Blake's achievements and his service to our community and our country.

May God continue to bless Dick Blake and the United States of America.

AMERICAN PHARMACISTS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 2016 as American Pharmacists Month. During the month of October, we recognize the pharmacists across America who work each day to guarantee that Americans have access to important and often lifesaving medications.

As the only pharmacist in Congress, I am proud to recognize the work that pharmacists across America are doing to ensure our Nation's health. Every day, pharmacists counsel patients on prescriptions and over-the-counter medications, helping to relieve patients' pain, and provide vaccines for a number of illnesses. Further, pharmacists are considered one of the top three most trusted professionals in America.

During this month, as well as throughout the year, I encourage everyone to visit your pharmacist, ask questions about your prescriptions, receive advice about preventative care, and simply get to know the person who provides your medicine and helps to keep you healthy.

To my fellow pharmacists, thank you for what you do. Please know your work is appreciated and you are an important part of keeping our Nation healthy. It is an honor to be your voice in the United States Congress.

REMEMBERING JACK DAVIS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable life of Jack Davis, a beloved and brilliant cartoonist from St. Simons Island.

Mr. Davis' passion for cartoons began at the age of 12 when he read his first

cartoon magazine. As his talent in drawing cartoons flourished, he created astonishing artwork for the University of Georgia, depicting action-packed football scenes in a very unique style.

Nationally, he may have been best known for his work with MAD magazine and his artwork of the magazine's star character, Alfred E. Neuman. Executives at MAD magazine say there wasn't anything that Jack couldn't do.

In addition, Mr. Davis designed for other companies, including DreamWorks, ESPN, Paramount Pictures, Indianapolis Speedway, and The Varsity drive-in in Atlanta.

It is an honor to recognize Mr. Jack Davis, and I could not speak more highly of his talents. He will truly be missed by the First District of Georgia, the Bulldog Nation, and everyone who knew of him and his artistic gift.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Georgia as well as its impressive students, faculty, and staff.

On September 12, the U.S. News and World Report ranked UGA the eighteenth best university in America. This is clearly not an easy feat. UGA continues to work tirelessly to provide the best education for its undergraduate students, and its hard work is being noticed.

One example of UGA's commitment to its students involves its emphasis on experienced-based learning. UGA is the Nation's largest public university to include this type of learning in its overall curriculum. From internships and study-abroad options to research projects, the opportunities at this great university are endless.

In addition to these possibilities, UGA has also strengthened its faculty and course options by adding 50 new faculty members and expanding the course selection by 300 classes in high-demand subjects. UGA has truly created a small-class experience in a very large university.

Congratulations to the University of Georgia on these accomplishments, and Go Dawgs.

CONGRATULATING MATT KUCHAR

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Matt Kuchar of St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Mr. Kuchar competed in the 2016 Rio Olympics and won a bronze medal in the men's individual golf competition. He completed his fantastic Olympic week at 13 under par with a final round of 63, describing it as the round of his life.

This great week does not come simply by chance for Mr. Kuchar. He has worked tirelessly over the past years to improve his game and has consistently been near the lead in many important tournaments.

In 1997, he began his stellar career as an All-American at Georgia Tech. Then

in 2000, he turned to the professional ranks.

In his 16 years as a pro, he has had 12 professional wins, including important tournaments such as the 2012 Players Championship, the 2013 Memorial Tournament, and the 2014 RBC Heritage.

Mr. Kuchar's smile and personality is an inspiration to all golfers. He is notoriously one of the nicest players on the professional circuit. It is an honor to recognize him today.

Mr. Kuchar, you made Georgia's First Congressional District very, very proud.

FIDELITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO LAUNCH VC FINTECH ACCELERATOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important collaboration that is taking place in central Arkansas.

The Venture Center in downtown Little Rock has been working with the publicly traded financial services company, Fidelity Information Systems, or FIS, to launch the VC FinTech Accelerator, a program that will bring innovators and entrepreneurs from across the world to Little Rock, where they will have formation opportunities for their early-stage organizations. They will work through a curriculum designed to engender creativity, development, and potential.

Through this program, we are able to invest in the future of our State and ensure that our economy and our business environment in central Arkansas will continue to thrive and expand.

I recently had the opportunity to visit The Venture Center with the gentlewoman from Missouri, Representative ANN WAGNER, and was impressed with the success of the center's accelerator program. It is providing a 12-week rigorous program to assist FinTech startups, providing them with quality business development services. Ten FinTech companies were chosen to participate in this first accelerator program, and it will relaunch in 2017.

This FinTech sandbox is producing transformational opportunities for both FIS, the innovative entrepreneurs in Little Rock, and for future consumers of these services. While this exciting program has only been active for a short time, it is already proving that it has the ability to assist in our efforts to grow the technology economy across our region.

Little Rock's storied history and the evolution of FIS makes it a perfect site for this accelerator. I greatly appreciate the choice of Little Rock as the location to implement this source of future economic growth.

I am grateful for the farsighted leadership at FIS, our chamber of com-

merce leadership team, and all those involved in making this program a success for central Arkansas.

THOUSAND-YEAR FLOOD IN LOUISIANA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, August 20th of this year was a Saturday, and I was in Denham Springs, Louisiana. I was gutting a home, ripping out Sheetrock, tearing out floors, throwing out furniture, throwing out photo albums, appliances, and family heirlooms. Mr. Speaker, I did it in a home and literally stripped out every foot of Sheetrock in the house, from the floor to the ceiling and ripped out all the floors. Everything in the house was gutted down to the studs.

This was a house where a woman, who recently retired in June or July of this year, was living. She has been living there since the early 1970s. Never has she had even a single foot of water in her house or a single inch of water in her house. Yet, on the floods that we had in south Louisiana around August 11th, this home received over 6 feet of water in the entire home, everything.

Outside the house, we stacked up piles of debris from 6 to 8 feet high. I call it debris, but in reality it was memories. It was that woman's life that was piled up in the street. Everything that she owned was thrown out.

Mr. Speaker, we had a storm that was a 1,000-year event. We experienced over 31 inches of rain in some of the peak areas in 36 hours. To translate that to snow, you are talking about 25 feet of snow. To my friends from the North, that is what we experienced the equivalent of in just 36 hours. This is on track to be the fourth most costly flood disaster in United States history, and, again, it was a 1,000-year storm.

Now, this happened in south Louisiana last month, but this could happen anywhere. Whether it is a snowstorm, it is a blizzard, it is a tsunami, it is an earthquake, it is a tornado or it is a terrorist attack, it could happen anywhere in this country.

Now, historically when these catastrophic events have happened, the country has stepped up to provide assistance. Whether it is September the 11th, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Katrina or other disasters, the Nation has stepped up whenever these disasters have crossed over into catastrophic territory.

In this instance, we have had over 100,000 homes and businesses flooded. So that story I told about the home that we went in and stripped and gutted—one of many homes that we worked in—you can multiply that same exact scenario tens of thousands of times over.

Now, in this particular case, this house is probably worth \$150,000, maybe. It is probably going to cost them \$80,000 to rebuild the house to get it back. It is going to cost them \$30,000 to replace the car that they lost. It is going to cost them \$20,000 to replace their clothes and contents of the house.

Because this home is in a floodplain—at the time when it was built, it was not, but now it is—it is going to probably cost them \$100,000 to elevate that concrete slab and lift it up to the higher-base foot elevation. You can do the math. You are talking about over \$200,000 just to get themselves back to where they were the day before this storm.

I am going to say it again, Mr. Speaker, this is happening in south Louisiana. While the water has receded, their lives remain upside down, and it is hundreds of thousands of households.

This is a parochial issue to me. It is my hometown. It is my community. It is my neighbors. It is my relatives. But the next disaster, whether it is next week, next year, next month, next decade, it is going to be in your town. It is going at your home. It is going to be your relatives, your neighbors.

The American people need to know that when we have a catastrophic disaster like this, that the country is there to offer a hand up. Let me lay out this financial scenario. I talked about the \$200,00 for this one homeowner, not including the other businessowners and others that are affected by this disaster. Because of HUD rules and some of the rules put in place by the mortgage companies, folks are going to have to make a decision on whether they are going to have their home foreclosed upon or they are going to try to get out of this financial predicament that they are in by the beginning of November.

A \$2.6 billion budget request has been made to offer a hand up to these people that rescued themselves, sheltered themselves, cooked for themselves, and gutted their own homes. Now is the time for America to offer a hand up, just like we have done in the past and just like we need to let other Americans know we are going to do for them in the event of a crisis like this.

Mr. Speaker, lastly I want to say this: This was somewhat unique in that the Federal interstate held 6 feet of water back, therefore, further inundating people. The Comite River project and other flood control projects, which the Federal Government failed to construct after 30 years, and coastal land loss also contributed to this flood disaster.

Now is the time for us to act. November, December timeframes are too late. This needs to be part of our negotiations right now to offer certainty and to assure Americans in the future that we are going to be there to offer them a hand up.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You fulfill Your promises day by day and lead Your people to greatness. You are the One who asks each of us to live a life worthy of our calling.

By embracing the responsibilities of our station in life, each of us is to perform our duties with humility, meekness, and patience with the help of Your grace. By bearing with one another with understanding, we are to make every effort to preserve the unity we have been given by Your Divine Providence and seek peace at every turn of events.

On this day, bless the Members of this people's House with a surfeit of grace, that good policy might emerge to the benefit of our Nation. Also, on this day, comfort all who mourn the passing of one of our most beloved House staffers, Jacqui Ellis. May she rest in peace.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ASHFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 25th anniversary of one of Florida's most beautiful communities, the Village of Key Biscayne.

Incorporated in 1991, this majestic barrier island paradise is located between the Atlantic Ocean and Biscayne Bay and is centered between two beautiful parks to the north and the south.

Although small in size, the Village of Key Biscayne is a proud, tight-knit community of islanders filled with a mix of longtime locals, business leaders, professionals, as well as international visitors and residents.

In celebration of its founding, the city and its residents, or key rats as they like to call themselves, will join together this Saturday, September 24, for the anniversary gala.

I am truly honored to represent this south Florida treasure, and ask my congressional colleagues to join me in congratulating the Village of Key Biscayne residents on this momentous occasion. The Village of Key Biscayne, island paradise, indeed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN SODORO

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of John Sodoro, a lifelong resident of my hometown, Omaha, Nebraska.

John was a respected lawyer and a loving father, grandfather, and husband. Many in the community knew him for his congenial personality and compassion for his clients.

Before following his father's footsteps in the legal profession, John graduated from Creighton Prep, and later, in true Omaha fashion, he earned his undergraduate and law degree from Creighton University.

Over the course of his career, John made a difference in the lives of many, successfully helping his clients through a wide variety of difficult times. The Omaha community has lost a great man and true public servant. May his work be remembered and his life always celebrated.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Sodoro family.

OUR NATION FACES AN INCREASING THREAT OF TERRORISM

(Mr. HOLDING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, the recent attacks in New York, New Jersey, and Minnesota all underscore the increasing threat our Nation faces from terrorism.

The House Homeland Security Committee just reported that already this year, individuals have been arrested in 13 different States for some connection to terrorism, and there have already been 30 ISIS-linked plots in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as events in Paris and Brussels demonstrate, this is not a challenge we face alone. Across the world, terrorism is on the rise.

Just this past weekend, an Indian Army base near Pakistan was attacked by heavily armed militants who killed 18 soldiers. Our two nations, the United States and India, have worked closely to combat terrorism, and, more than ever, we must increase those counterterrorism efforts with our partners in India and elsewhere.

Mr. Speaker, we must be honest about the evolving terror threat in front of us and confront this challenge with strong leadership and unwavering resolve.

DEMS ARE THE FACTS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, most modern businesses today use metrics to help them establish best practices.

So I offer this chart based on the published, peer-reviewed research of two respected Princeton economists, Dr. Blinder and Dr. Watson, that reveal some very important metrics and measures. It shows the annual growth of the U.S. economy for each Presidential term going all the way back to World War II.

Democratic Presidents are in blue, and Republicans are in red. So whether it is 7½ years where President Obama outperforms the economy of his predecessor or 70 years, as you can see, there is a huge difference between how the economy performs between a Republican v. a Democratic President.

In fact, going back 16 Presidential terms, the economy does significantly better by almost every measure under Democratic administrations.

So, as President John Adams famously said: "Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our . . . inclinations . . . they cannot alter the . . . facts. . . ."

And the fact is, the blue, the Democrats, do better than the Republicans on the economy when a Democrat is President.

CHAIRMAN RANDY FORBES HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that, in my service, I began as a member of the unique class of 2001. These were Members elected in special elections that year, including now-U.S. Senator JOHN BOOZMAN, along with chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, RANDY FORBES, and chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, JEFF MILLER, both of whom are completing their House service this year.

Since being elected to the House, Chairman RANDY FORBES has been a crucial member on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Armed Services Committee, where he serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces. He also founded the Congressional Prayer Caucus, promoting religious freedom worldwide.

I have been privileged to work along with Chairman RANDY FORBES during our service in Congress. He is a true advocate for peace through strength and has been a leading voice on defense and national security issues. A Trump administration would have a dynamic Secretary of the Navy.

I am grateful for the successful service of Chairman FORBES. He and his wife, Shirley, have served the citizens of Virginia's Fourth Congressional District with honor, making a difference for American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September 11 in the global war on terrorism.

Our sympathy to the people of India.

CONGRATULATING THE BUFFALO NIAGARA RIVERKEEPER

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, and its executive director, Jill Jedlicka, winner of the Thiess International Riverprize awarded by the International River Foundation.

As Buffalo's industrial economy faded, we were left with a river so polluted that the Environmental Protection Agency declared that the Buffalo River was biologically dead and ecologically destroyed.

So western New Yorkers decided to do something about it. They formed the Friends of the Buffalo River, which became the first organization to receive Federal authority and funding to manage a remediation project in the Great Lakes.

Now, thanks to the Riverkeeper, the Buffalo River has come back to life,

with over \$80 million in private investment as Buffalonians reclaim their land at the water's edge.

I congratulate the Riverkeeper on this recognition, and I thank it for the legacy it has left to our community, one of the greatest environmental success stories in Western New York's history.

NOT ANOTHER DOLLAR TO IRAN

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act, the House's legislative response to the administration's shady cash transfer to the Iranian regime; a cash transfer resulting in the release of American hostages, which the administration denies was a ransom but acknowledges the cash was used as leverage. The American people are much smarter than that.

Either way the administration or media try to spin it, a ransom was paid. For years and years, the United States Government has held a long-standing policy of not paying ransom for prisoners, but our legacy has quickly diminished.

The President continues to invest our trust and money into Iran, a country that is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Why in the world is our President rewarding Iran for its bad behavior?

This cash transaction sets a dangerous precedent for Americans abroad and our national security. I won't stand for this type of deceit by our Commander-in-Chief. That is why I urge my colleagues to support and pass the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act. The name of the bill says it all.

COMMEMORATING THE HISTORIC SEASON OF THE BALTIMORE ORACLES

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historic season of the Baltimore Oracles, my staff's congressional softball team and the victors of the 2016 Congressional Softball League championship. I was going to bring the trophy down, but it is much too big and much too heavy to carry.

Mr. Speaker, the Oracles vanquished their opponents this season, achieving an astounding 19-1 record. Led by co-captains Peter Gelman and Katie Teleky, and shadow-captain Raymond O'Mara, the team was a perfect blend of stout defense and potent offense.

Mike Pulver, Anna Killius, Paul Kincaid, and Lucinda Lessley held down the infield, while Andy Allen, Max Frankel, Brian Kaissi, and Zach Weber roamed the outfield. Big bats littered the lineup, but the batters were always ready to oblige the team's heart and soul, Tim O'Neil, and hit just a single.

Other contributors integral to the team's success include Kate and Adrienne Star, Evan Horn, Jake Barr, Will Pisano, Julia Kandel-Krieger, James Howard, Becky O'Mara, Alex Bond, and Winston, the team's ever-chipper mascot.

Mr. Speaker, the Baltimore Oracles are champions, and that is truly world class.

IMPLEMENTING THE VETERANS CHOICE PROGRAM

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, more than a year ago, Congress passed and the President signed into law an overhaul of veterans' health care. The Veterans Choice Program nominally gave our Nation's veterans more health provider and service options. However, despite having more than a year to implement it, local VA facilities are refusing to work with new providers to get veterans the care they need. The VA claims its hands are tied, but by what?

Through the Veterans Choice Program, the men and women who have served our country are entitled to vital home care services that are critical to follow-up care and medication adherence assistance, especially for disabled veterans and those without access to transportation.

My conversations with the VA have yielded only excuses. Our vets deserve results.

I ask again, how many veterans are waiting for physician visits? How can the VA sit on its hands while our Nation's veterans wait and suffer?

I ask my colleagues to join me. Let's be a voice for our veterans and demand the VA give these heroes access to and reimbursement for the care they need and deserve.

□ 1215

PRESERVING CASTNER RANGE

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 110th anniversary of the Antiquities Act, 100 years of our National Park Service, and to thank our current President and administration for doing more than any administration before them to

strengthen these two assets that we have in our country.

But I also ask this administration to set the standard for the next 100 years to ensure that public places like Castner Range in El Paso, Texas, fully tell the national story of the first Americans who were here more than 8,000 years ago who left their impressions of this great land and to ensure that every American has the chance to enter our public lands like the fourth and fifth graders at Collins Elementary who, under the direction of Mrs. Guay, left their impressions of Castner Range. This is a class that is 93 percent Mexican American, 75 percent below the poverty line, and precisely the population that we want to see in our national lands and public parks going forward.

Preserving Castner Range forever is a means to set the stage for the next 100 years of success for our national parks and our national lands.

CELEBRATING UNC CHARLOTTE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. HUDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as we commemorate its 70th anniversary.

I am proud to be among the 122,000 living alumni of UNC Charlotte and to be the first elected to Congress, though I am sure I won't be the last.

My alma mater was founded by the visionary Bonnie Cone in the wake of the Second World War as a service to returning veterans pursuing higher education. The lasting legacy that continues to guide the university is best expressed in one word, "opportunity."

Opportunity characterizes the futures being built each day on campus. Opportunity describes the powerful economic impact this university has on one of the Nation's fastest growing regions. UNC Charlotte has grown into its distinctive role as a research university in areas like big data, energy, and cancer prevention, focused clearly on the opportunities and needs of the future.

Mr. Speaker, while still a relatively young university, UNC Charlotte is one of the leading American universities of the 21st century. I am pleased on behalf of the university family and all of Niner Nation to say the future is ours. Go Niners.

REMEMBERING JACQUI ELLIS

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the members of the Ninth Congress-

sional District are in mourning this morning. We are saddened by the passing of our Chief of Staff, Ms. Jacqui Ellis. Mr. Speaker, she was more than a Chief of Staff. She was one of my dearest and closest friends. She was a mentor to many of the people on the Hill and especially those who worked with her in my congressional office.

She made a difference in the lives of people. She was there to be of assistance to those who needed help. And 1 minute will never give me enough time to express the love, the affection, and to thank all of the many people who have given their condolences and their sympathies, so we will have a Special Order next week at which Members of the House will be permitted to come to the floor, and we will make our comments then.

But I do want to say this: she met the measure of life that Ruth Smeltzer called to our attention:

Some measure their lives by days and years,
Others by heartthrobs, passions, and tears.
But the surest measure under God's sun
Is what in your lifetime for others you've done.

Jacqui, we love you, and we thank you for what you have done for others in your lifetime. We know that while physically you are not with us, spiritually you will always be with us. God bless you.

HELP PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, Colorado is home to over 400,000 of our Nation's veterans—men and women who have fought to protect our freedom in conflicts around the world. These men and women are often some of the most respected individuals in our communities, which makes it easy to overlook that they may be struggling to transition back into civilian life at the end of their service.

A study from the Department of Veterans Affairs found that 22 veterans tragically end their lives by suicide each day. This is a shocking and heart-breaking statistic.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and a time when everyone can learn about helping to prevent veteran suicide. In our communities, we can all work to make sure that no veteran ever feels like suicide is their only option. I am honored to represent a district that works so hard to make sure our veterans are taken care of when they return home, and I am committed to advancing policies to ensure that we honor and serve the men and women who have so honorably served our country.

The next time you run into a veteran in the community, take a minute to let them know that you appreciate their

service. None of us may ever know how far a thank-you may go in a person's life and what a big difference that could mean.

NATIONAL SECURITY, HEALTH, AND SAFETY

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the last few months have been a rather frustrating time for many of us in Congress as well as the American people.

We first broke for some 7 weeks—the longest break from Congress in the modern era. We left without doing anything on Zika, without addressing our opioid epidemic in this country, and without doing anything for the families of Flint who have been suffering with their water for many years now.

Probably one of the most striking moments I have had as a Member here for the last year and a half was when the families from Flint came in front of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee—the committee on which I serve—and talked about how they have been affected by this water crisis.

What response have they gotten so far from Congress, from the people's House?

Nothing. Zero. Instead, we went off for 7 weeks.

Now here we are about to break again without addressing Flint, without doing anything about the Zika crisis and the other challenges we are facing, not to mention our gun violence problem that many of us gathered right here on the House floor to address. It is time that we act now, and we should not break until we have addressed these problems.

TRUST IN MEDIA FALLS TO HISTORIC LOWS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' trust in the media has hit a historic low, according to a recent Gallup poll. Gallup found that only 32 percent of Americans have a great deal or even fair amount of confidence in the media to present the news fully, accurately, and fairly. This represents an 8 point drop from just a year ago. It also is the lowest level of trust in the media that Gallup has ever recorded since it first asked the question 46 years ago.

Republicans' trust in media has dropped from 32 percent a year ago to 14 percent today. This is "easily the lowest confidence among Republicans in 20 years," says Gallup. Trust in the media among Democrats and Independents fell as well.

The historic distrust of the media will continue until the media stops telling Americans what to think.

ERADICATING BREAST CANCER

(Mr. BLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act.

I lost my father to cancer when he was just 52 years old, so finding cures for all types of cancer is personal for me. In Iowa alone, there will be approximately 2,200 new cases of breast cancer this year, resulting in about 400 unnecessary deaths. We must do more to cure this disease.

By passing this bill and setting a goal of eradicating breast cancer by 2020, we have a chance to make a real difference for women and their families.

I would also like to recognize my constituents, Christine Carpenter and Lori Seawel, for their selfless volunteer efforts to support this issue.

I encourage my colleagues in the House to support and pass this bipartisan legislation.

PEDIATRIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of September as Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month.

Pediatric cancer is the leading cause of disease-related deaths for children in the United States—43 are diagnosed with cancer every day.

While many adult cancers can be diagnosed early, pediatric cancers are more difficult to detect. In 80 percent of children, the cancer will have already spread to other parts of the body by the time of diagnosis.

For the children who do survive, their battle doesn't end. Ninety-five percent of childhood cancer survivors will develop chronic health conditions. Despite these facts, only 4 percent of the National Cancer Institute's funding goes toward pediatric cancer. Since 1990, only 10 drugs have been developed to treat pediatric cancer, compared to over 200 for adults.

My friend, Jonny Wade, is one of the many faces of pediatric cancer. Last Christmas Eve, his year-long battle with brain cancer tragically ended, but our fight to eradicate this disease has only begun.

Mr. Speaker, his parents, John and Kimberly Wade, sat in the gallery right in front of me when the President talked about his moonshot to eradicate cancer.

Mr. Speaker, 4 percent is not enough. I will continue to fight to get more than 4 percent, not for Jonny, but for his wish that no other kid should have cancer.

MATT AND SHERYL MOHR: ANGELS IN ADOPTION

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a remarkable couple, Matt and Sheryl Mohr from Hudson, as Angels in Adoption from Michigan's Seventh Congressional District.

I had the privilege of visiting with Matt and Sheryl yesterday, and their love and compassion for vulnerable children is truly moving. In the past 6 years, the Mohrs have opened their hearts and home to 26 foster children. Along with their five biological children, they have also adopted five children and are in the process of adopting two more. That will make a total of 12 children.

When asked what led them to begin fostering and adopting, Sheryl said: "I felt that I had a lot more love to give away."

Wow. Through their big hearts and unconditional love, Matt and Sheryl have forever changed the lives of so many children in Lenawee County. They are angels to the children they parent and incredibly deserving of this award.

PROHIBITING RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5931, legislation prohibiting future ransom payments to Iran.

In the midst of a global war on terror, it should be common sense that the United States of America should not be sending untraceable pallets of cash on an airplane to the leading state sponsor of terrorism. Apparently it isn't, though, because that is exactly what happened and what this administration engaged in.

We know now that \$1.7 billion in cash was given to Iran in exchange for the release of prisoners, violating America's longstanding policy against ransom payments.

Predictably, this administration has admitted that it cannot guarantee that this money did not go to fund current or future terrorism by Iran. In addition, all of this was done in secret, lacking transparency with the American people.

Today the House is taking action to end this practice. H.R. 5931 prohibits any cash payments to Iran regardless

of the rationale or reasoning behind it. It also ensures the American people will be notified if a President ever attempts this sort of deal again.

America cannot be a country that sends cash to countries that fund terrorism. Period.

RECOGNIZING LOWE'S HEROES IN SYKESVILLE, JEFFERSON COUNTY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a group of men and women from the Fifth Congressional District of Pennsylvania who recently volunteered their time and talents to help improve their community.

Lowe's Heroes is a companywide volunteer program for Lowe's that gives employees a chance to volunteer for local community improvement projects. In return, Lowe's provides the material and manpower to make those projects happen.

Just last week, men and women from the DuBois Lowe's store volunteered to help build a centerpiece for a town square project in Sykesville, a community only a handful of miles away from the store's location.

This is a long-awaited project in the community to transform a vacant lot into a beautiful park for community events and a place for people from across the community to gather.

In addition to the contributions of the Lowe's Heroes, the store is also donating the decorative and structural blocks for the town square's centerpiece, along with lighting for the area.

These men and women represent the best of what small towns across the United States represent. I commend them for their selfless efforts.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5931, PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT, AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 879 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 879

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5931) to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to

the Government of Iran, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-64. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of September 27, 2016, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The gentleman from Alabama is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 879 allows for the consideration

of H.R. 5931, the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act. The rule makes in order all five amendments submitted to the Rules Committee. The rule also provides authority for the House to expeditiously consider a continuing resolution.

On June 24, 2015, President Obama stood in the Roosevelt Room of the White House and said: "I am reaffirming that the United States Government will not make concessions, such as paying ransom, to terrorist groups holding American hostages."

This position shouldn't have been surprising. It has long been the position of the U.S. Government to not pay ransoms to terrorist organizations, for doing so only encourages further kidnappings and puts more American lives at risk.

Despite this reassurance from President Obama, on January 17, 2016, an unmarked cargo plane landed at a European airport. On this plane were wooden pallets stacked with unmarked foreign currency—\$400 million worth, to be exact.

Who was waiting at the airport to accept this money? The Islamic Republic of Iran.

On that exact same day, several Americans who had been held prisoner in Iran were released. That, Mr. Speaker, is a ransom payment.

Since then, we have learned that the full U.S. payment to Iran totaled \$1.7 billion. The money was related to a decades-old dispute about an Iranian arms sale. There are a lot of concerning issues at play here.

First, by giving money to Iran, the United States is supporting the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Iran uses their money and resources to support groups like Hezbollah, Hamas, and other radical terrorist groups in Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. Iran is no friend of the United States, and their efforts have resulted in the deaths of U.S. citizens and servicemembers. So why in the world is the United States sending them cash payments in the first place?

Second, the United States should never pay a ransom. I know they claim that the \$1.7 billion payment was a "settlement," but let's get real here for a minute. The payment was made on the exact same day the Americans were released.

Let's look in the dictionary for just a moment. "Ransom" is defined as "a sum of money or other payment demanded or paid for the release of a prisoner." That is exactly what happened here.

Iran knows it was a ransom payment. An Iranian general was quoted as saying that, "the money was returned for the freedom of the U.S. spy, and it was not related to the nuclear negotiations."

So Iran knows it was a ransom. The American people know it was a ran-

som. Well, how about the State Department? When pushed on this topic by the media, a State Department spokesman said that it wasn't ransom but, rather, "leverage." What is the difference? The American prisoners in Iran were not released until the cash payments occurred. You could try to hide the truth by calling it "leverage" or a "coincidence," but the fact is this payment was a ransom.

Just ask the Obama Justice Department. Press reports indicate that Assistant Attorney General John Carlin raised the concern that the cash payment to Iran would send a signal to Iran and the world that the U.S. had changed its ransom policy. This isn't some radical conspiracy theory we are talking about here. This is the exact same concern raised by the Justice Department under President Obama—the people he appointed.

Since this ransom payment occurred, Iran has detained several more foreign citizens, including Americans, French, British, and Canadians. Sadly, I expect our Iranian friends are already making their ransom demands.

The third major concern I have is that the payments were clearly done in a way to hide them from the American public. The payments were made in cash. According to an international body responsible for combating money laundering, known as the Financial Action Task Force, the "physical transportation of currency" is "one of the main methods used to move criminal assets, launder money, and finance terrorism."

If this whole ordeal was public and on the up-and-up, then why did the U.S. make this payment in cash?

The Obama administration originally said that the payment had to be in cash because financial sanctions prevent us from engaging in wire transfers with Iranian banks. Well, it turns out that isn't true. In fact, on at least two occasions, the U.S. has made wire transfers to the Iranian Government.

According to Politico, in July 2015, the U.S. sent Iran approximately \$848,000 to settle a claim over architectural drawings. The wire transfers didn't stop there though. The U.S. wired Iran almost \$10 million in April of this year to pay for 32 metric tons of heavy water.

Here is another issue with the cash payments. Iran has a track record of money laundering, and making cash payments will result in it being even harder to track their illicit activity. Cash does not have an electronic signature, so the money could eventually become untraceable. This will make it almost impossible for law enforcement and intelligence agencies to track where the money is going. In other words, the cash could be transferred to a group like Hamas or Hezbollah and the United States may never know. This is deeply troubling.

So, Mr. Speaker, this legislation makes one thing crystal clear. The United States Government is not in the business of paying ransom. Specific to Iran, the legislation will prohibit future cash payments to Iran until the nation stops sponsoring terrorism and is no longer involved in money laundering.

To boost transparency and accountability, the legislation also requires 30-day congressional notification and review of any future settlements related to the U.S.-Iran Claims Tribunal. This way Congress will have an opportunity to review any future payments instead of them being secretly executed in the dark of night.

Ultimately, the United States cannot continue to give in to Iran. Whether it is their nuclear program or their kidnapping of U.S. citizens, we simply cannot keep making deals with Iran in which the Ayatollah benefits and the American people suffer.

We need to stop empowering Iran and, instead, start weakening them. We must stop giving in to Iran and start standing up to Iran. By putting our foot down, the American people and our allies in the Middle East will be safer and stronger.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 879, so we can move forward with consideration of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes for debate.

I rise today in opposition to the rule.

Let's not parse words. This bill is a Republican attempt to politicize the recent payment by the United States to the Government of Iran.

The legislation equates the payment, which was made as part of a settlement of a 35-year-old dispute before the United States-Iran Claims Tribunal, as ransom. It prohibits any future payments. And I might add, Iran has 200 claims before the tribunal at this time, and all of the American claims have been settled before the same Algiers Accords tribunal. It prohibits any future payments to the Iranian Government and requires the President to submit to Congress a report listing and evaluating outstanding claims before the tribunal.

Mr. Speaker, let's get something straight. The payment to Iran was not ransom, and anyone who suggests it was is just trying to score some political points in the limited time we have left in Washington. The payment was part of a legal settlement to a long-standing 35-year dispute. It was money owed to the Iranian Government by the American Government, and the transfer was simply our government meeting its obligations.

As I indicated earlier, it may surprise those watching at home to learn that

the tribunal has awarded roughly \$2.5 billion to American citizens in the past.

I understand that there are many in Congress concerned by the loosening of sanctions on Iran. I am one of them. As one of the few Democrats to publicly oppose the Iran deal, I know that Iran is, without question, not our friend, a state sponsor of terrorism, and I don't think you will find anyone in this body who denies this.

But I am concerned by the trend we are seeing with individuals actively trying to undermine the deal rather than working to ensure it is made stronger and enact it with intended effect. It is similar to the actions—I forget the number, up in the sixties—that my Republican friends have attempted to do something about the Affordable Care Act. It has problems. The question is what are we going to do about it, because the American people need to have health care.

□ 1245

What we would rather do is repeal what exists. Don't replace it with anything, but make political arguments that it needs to be replaced.

We are doing something very similar here. Rather than making this Iran deal stronger, we are continuing to do what we can to undermine it. The bill we are discussing today is a stark example of this and is an attempt to undermine the deal rather than to strengthen it.

The bill, if enacted, would hamstring us in the future as more than 1,000 Iranian claims before the tribunal have yet to be resolved. Prohibiting any type of future payment to the Iranian Government—and sort of as an aside, it is unfortunate, in this world that we live in, that we have to do business with bad people. I served on the Intelligence Committee when \$2 billion walked off in Iraq, and we still haven't had accountability about that, but let's don't get too far off the track. The fact of the matter is, the bill does all of these things in order to prop up the false premise that the United States paid Iran ransom. This is just plain wrong, and it is a waste of our time.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned, as I have often been throughout this Congress, that partisan measures such as this one are distracting our attention from measures that we absolutely must pass, including today. There are just 7 legislative days left until we break for another 44-day recess, and that is after the Republicans shut down Congress for the longest summer recess in modern history. It gives the term “do-nothing Congress” a whole new meaning.

Once we recess next week, unless we do something different, we will leave Washington until after the election. Yet, as of today, despite considerable bipartisan concern, we haven't gotten a clean Zika research funding bill, and

we haven't gotten a bill on gun violence—not a word on the subject except to threaten Democrats with punishment for protesting this body's unconscionable inaction on the subject. We haven't talked about flood relief for Louisiana. We haven't gotten a bill on the water crisis in Flint, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) will address that in a few minutes. We are still dealing with an opioid epidemic. Let me underscore that again. We are dealing with an opioid epidemic in this country that is killing our children all over this Nation, and we have not done anything about it.

The appropriations process has come to a complete standstill. That is why we are out of here tonight. We are going to try to figure out what we are going to do to discharge our responsibilities that are scheduled for October 1; so we will be here next week. All of those out there in Congress who don't know it, we will be here. We will be fiddling around. We will be doing suspensions. We will be doing one-House measures until the thing comes together, and it will. We will be threatened with “we will keep you here until Saturday, or we will keep you here until Christmas.” It goes on and on, kicking the can down the road.

House Republicans continue to ignore their responsibilities to the American people and waste time on partisan, go-nowhere bills—just like the one we have here today—while Americans are forced to face critical public health emergencies alone. In fact, in each public health crisis before America, House Republicans have chosen to obstruct the meaningful action and resources that are needed to save lives.

On the subject of Zika, this month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will run out of resources to fight the virus. More than 21,000 Americans have confirmed cases of Zika; yet Republican inaction has forced the CDC to divert research funding away from other diseases. They have had to take money out of the Ebola account, and Ebola has not gone away. They are taking money out of the flu account and out of the tuberculosis account, and those are not going away at any point in time. They are taking cancer research money in order to keep its Zika research program going, which is an immediate crisis. It is not just a Florida thing or a Central America or a South America thing. There are 22,000 Americans who have this virus, and the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is not the only one that is carrying this virus. This has been researched since 2009. It didn't just start yesterday, and it is not going to end tomorrow, but something needs to be done today about this particular crisis.

I quote CDC Director Tom Frieden. The Republican co-chair of the Florida delegation and I had a hearing of our Florida delegation, and Mr. Frieden

came to testify before us. He said: "We are out of money, and we need Congress to act."

I am not sure how much more plainly it can be said. We need a clean bill that provides adequate funding. Let's stop playing games with the lives of women and infants and of the people in general who have contracted this virus. It has now shown that it can affect the mental stability of adults.

Mr. Speaker, we have some serious issues to tackle; so I am dismayed to be on the floor today focusing on yet another messaging bill. There will be headlines tomorrow. Members will go back home to their districts and will talk about "we stopped Obama and any future President from paying ransom money." It was not ransom in the first place—it was Iran's money. The prisoners who were released would have been released. Had we done it a month earlier, I wonder if they would have called it a ransom. Had we done it a month later, I wonder if they would have called it a ransom. Yet this messaging bill comes here.

I hope that my colleagues across the aisle, in the final week before we leave Washington, will let us address just some of the things that I mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, the Obama administration admitted to transferring \$1.3 billion in cash to Iran after delivering a \$400 million cash payment on the same day that Iran released American prisoners. The Obama administration tried to walk back its actions by calling the first cash payment leverage, but the American people, frankly, know better. The cash payment to Iran was a ransom payment—I repeat, a ransom payment to Iran—plain and simple.

Let's get one thing straight here: Iran is our enemy. It is not our friend. Iran is the enemy of our most important allies in the region and not their friend. Iran's leadership has publicly promised to wipe out America and to wipe out Israel—right off the map. Those are not the words of a friend. Iran imprisons American citizens and taunts our Navy every single day. That is not a friend. Iran is one of only three nations our Department of State classifies as a "state sponsor of terrorism."

Whether it is the Obama administration's refusal to utter the phrase "radical Islam" or the word "ransom," it has tried time and again to deceive the American people with its policies that have ultimately made America less safe. As the increasingly popular saying goes: our friends no longer trust us, and our enemies no longer fear us.

It is time for Congress to step in and block future cash payments to Iran. As an original cosponsor of this bill, I urge

my colleagues to support the Prohibiting Future Payments to Iran Act.

In God we trust.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If this had been ransom, there is a person whom Iran has held prisoner and about whom Iran has denied a lack of information to the family—Robert Levinson, who has been in Iran for 9 years. I just can't imagine that a ransom agreement or the meeting of a demand would not have included information about Robert Levinson. That would be, in my considered opinion, the height of ridiculousness; therefore, the obviousness of leaving Mr. Levinson out of what would be a proposed ransom strikes me as being strange.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up comprehensive legislation that provides the resources that are needed to help the families of Flint, Michigan, recover from the lead drinking water crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the children and families of Flint are facing lifelong damage as a result of lead exposure. It is long past time that this Congress acted. We have an opportunity right now to bring up legislation that would ensure the people of Flint will receive clean drinking water and to provide health and educational support for the children who are affected by the crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, a champion, among the champions of people who are here in Congress, is DAN KILDEE. I had the privilege of serving with his uncle for a substantial portion of my career. I had the privilege—and I have spoken with DAN about this—to visit with his uncle before this particular crisis of Flint's and to discuss the plight of the people in Flint and Pontiac and that general area.

In this particular instance, I hope we don't hear from people that this isn't germane. This is the Democrats' motion to recommit, and Republicans who care about the lead exposure that these children and families have been exposed to in Flint can simply vote for the motion to recommit, and we will be able to address this subject.

I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Flint, Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) to discuss our proposal.

Mr. KILDEE. I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding and for all of his advocacy on behalf of the people of my community and, also, of the many forgotten people across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the previous question in order to bring up a vote to finally help the people of my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

In 2 days, it will have been 1 year since Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha released the results of her research that showed that blood levels of the children in Flint showed significantly elevated levels of lead—that the water that they had been drinking had poisoned them.

A year later, here we stand. This Congress has not yet acted to provide any relief to a community that is facing the greatest crisis—the greatest disaster—of its history. It has been a year since it was known that that water was too dangerous to drink. Members in this body have heard me speak about this before. It has been 2 years since, actually, the water contained lead. It took that long for the information, finally, to come to light; yet Congress has continuously failed to act.

We have a way to get this done. I just ask my Republican colleagues in the House to step out of the way and allow the bipartisan legislation that has passed the Senate to have a vote so that it may be included in the legislation that this body is considering. The House can do so by following the Senate's lead, which passed legislation to provide relief to Flint by a vote of 95-3. Let me just make this clear: the United States Senate voted 95-3 to provide support for the people of Flint—and yet nothing here in this House.

□ 1300

We have an opportunity with the continuing resolution to include that language in the continuing resolution and help the people of my hometown, again, people who yet today cannot drink their water without fear that it will poison them.

This is a fully paid-for provision. There was always debate about whether we should be able to spend in case of emergency without having an offset. In this case, we have an offset. So the argument has to be that the people of Flint simply don't deserve to have their Federal Government act in their moment of greatest need. I know from conversations that I have had with Members on both sides of the aisle that that cannot be the case.

I have had all sorts of expressions of sympathy. Many Members of Congress have traveled to Flint, Democrats and Republicans, and have expressed to me on an almost daily basis that they wish there was something they could do to help those poor folks. Well, you know what? Sympathy expresses sentiment, but it doesn't provide clean drinking water for the people of my hometown. We have a chance to act.

Now, when this came before this body, this Congress, in the form of hearings in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the

Committee on Energy and Commerce, many of my Republican colleagues—virtually every member of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee—spoke up and said what a shame it was that the Federal Government played a role in the crisis that Flint is facing, that the Federal Government bore some responsibility.

Now, we can argue about how much responsibility lands at the State. I think the majority of the responsibility is the State's, but I would agree that this is failure at every level of government. My Republican colleagues went so far as to call for a Cabinet member of the President to resign because the Federal responsibility was so great that a member of the President's Cabinet should step down because it was the Federal Government who bore responsibility, in part.

Suddenly, when it is time to actually do something to help the people of Flint, what do we have? All of a sudden, the narrative changes. All of a sudden, what was a Federal problem with clear Federal accountability and responsibility, universally demonstrated by my friends on the other side of the aisle, when it comes time to take up a paid-for piece of legislation that will not increase the deficit but will help these poor folks who cannot drink their water, what do we get? Shuffling of their feet. Stunned silence. Nothing. Nothing. Shame. Shame.

What would you do if it was your hometown? What would you do if it was your community?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, you know what you would do. You would step to the floor of this House and you would make sure every single day you fought to get help for your community.

One of the first votes I cast when I came here was to help the victims of a storm that was nowhere near my home, and I was proud to do it because they were Americans who happened to be in need.

What is it about Flint? What is it about the people of Flint? Answer me. What is it that separates them, that has them in a position where their Federal Government can't come to their aid? When they can't drink the water, when the water that comes from their tap is poison and we have a chance to do something about it without increasing the Federal deficit with an offset that is already identified, I hear nothing. I hear nothing from the leadership of this House that gives any indication that the people of Flint matter at all. Shame. Shame.

We ought to act, and we ought to do it now—not maybe 3 months from now, not, “Oh, Flint, maybe we will get you in the next bill or maybe the next piece

of legislation.” Shame. We should bring it up now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are here today to talk about a bill that would address yet another foreign policy and national security failure by the Obama administration. The other issues that have been brought up are important issues, but that is not what we are talking about today in this rule.

The gentleman from Michigan knows probably far better than I do that there are a number of people around here working on the Flint issue. We could have a bill on the floor of this House as early as next week. That is certainly my hope and the hope of a lot of other people. I am not privy to all of what is going on there, but I understand that may be coming. That is not what we are here about today.

It is not unusual for me to stand up here when I am managing one of these rules and hear our friends on the other side want to bring up everything other than the topic of what is in the rule because they don't want to talk about the foreign policy and national security failures of the Obama administration. Well, the American people want us to do something about that. They are worried when they see somebody put bombs in trash cans in New York, when somebody stabs people to death in Minnesota. They want to see us doing something. We are trying to do something about that with numerous pieces of legislation that we bring forward in this House; and whenever we bring them up, we hear from the other side about everything else.

Well, today we are here to talk about stopping this President and future Presidents from sending pallets of cash to Iran. That is what we are talking about. So I want us to get back to that debate because that is an important debate for the American people.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Earlier, I misspoke when I said that we could vote for the motion to recommend. I should have said—and I correct the RECORD now—the previous question was what I was speaking of. The simple fact of the matter is we can vote in support of the previous question, and then we would be able to address the Flint crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate that this bill is nothing more than an attempt by the majority to make political hay of the recent payment to the Government of Iran, a payment that was a legal settlement. It seems to get ignored by my friends that the United States and Iran are participants in a claims tribunal that was established 35 years ago under the Algiers Accords because Iran had held our hostages, and

we needed a methodology to be able to pay and have those hostages remunerated appropriately. That said, \$2.5 billion has been paid to American claims rightly. This framework is being followed, and what this legislation that is going nowhere would do, if it went somewhere, would be to fly in the face of that framework that was established.

By prohibiting any future payments to Iran, this bill could put us in the position of violating the Algiers Accords and owing even more money. It comes at the expense of addressing issues that really matter, like Flint, like Zika, like the opioid epidemic, like gun violence, like the Louisiana floods and the crumbling infrastructure of this Nation. The list goes on and on.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule and the underlying measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

The gentleman said earlier in his remarks that there are times when the United States has to have interactions with bad people. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I understand that. We do. But we should be wise in doing so. He and I completely agreed about the ill wisdom of the deal that President Obama struck with Iran; nonetheless, he struck the deal.

He said that there are 200 Iranian claims pending. I have no idea if any of those claims are meritorious. But if even one of them is meritorious, I don't think he would agree—and I know I don't agree, and the vast majority of people in America don't agree—that you pay such a claim by sending pallets of cash. Why would they do that? Why would any President of the United States send pallets of cash to the leading state sponsor of terrorism? It is to hide what they were doing, and they have been found out. We should never do that with anyone, but particularly not with an enemy.

The other thing that this bill provides, besides a prohibition on that—and that is so common sense that I don't know how we could disagree about it—is it requires congressional notification. Don't we want the Congress, as a coequal branch of government, to know before we pay money to the leading state sponsor of terrorism? Don't we want to let the American people know what is going on?

This is a very commonsense bill. The people of the United States expect us to do nothing less than this. So while I appreciate some of the other things we heard about it, some of the other issues they mentioned, let's focus on this. Let's at least get this done so that this President and no President can ever, ever again pay ransom to Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 879 and the underlying legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 879 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4479) to provide emergency assistance related to the Flint water crisis, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 4479.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Rep-

resentatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

EMPOWERING EMPLOYEES THROUGH STOCK OWNERSHIP ACT

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 875, I call up the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax treatment of certain equity grants, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 875, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5719

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act".

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED EQUITY GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ELECTION TO DEFER INCOME.—Section 83 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) QUALIFIED EQUITY GRANTS.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subtitle, if qualified stock is transferred to a qualified employee who makes an election with respect to such stock under this subsection—

"(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), no amount shall be included in income under subsection (a) for the first taxable year in which the rights of the employee in such stock are transferable or are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, whichever is applicable, and

"(B) an amount equal to the amount which would be included in income of the employee under subsection (a) (determined without regard to this subsection) shall be included in income for the taxable year of the employee which includes the earliest of—

"(i) the first date such qualified stock becomes transferable (including transferable to the employer),

"(ii) the date the employee first becomes an excluded employee,

"(iii) the first date on which any stock of the corporation which issued the qualified stock becomes readily tradable on an established securities market (as determined by the Secretary, but not including any market unless such market is recognized as an established securities market by the Secretary for purposes of a provision of this title other than this subsection),

"(iv) the date that is 7 years after the first date the rights of the employee in such stock are transferable or are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, whichever occurs earlier, or

"(v) the date on which the employee revokes (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) the election under this subsection with respect to such stock.

"(2) QUALIFIED STOCK.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified stock' means, with respect to any qualified employee, any stock in a corporation which is the employer of such employee, if—

"(i) such stock is received—

"(I) in connection with the exercise of an option, or

"(II) in settlement of a restricted stock unit, and

"(ii) such option or restricted stock unit was provided by the corporation—

"(I) in connection with the performance of services as an employee, and

"(II) during a calendar year in which such corporation was an eligible corporation.

"(B) LIMITATION.—The term 'qualified stock' shall not include any stock if the employee may sell such stock to, or otherwise receive cash in lieu of stock from, the corporation at the time that the rights of the employee in such stock first become transferable or not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture.

"(C) ELIGIBLE CORPORATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii)(I)—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible corporation' means, with respect to any calendar year, any corporation if—

"(I) no stock of such corporation (or any predecessor of such corporation) is readily tradable on an established securities market (as determined under paragraph (1)(B)(iii)) during any preceding calendar year, and

"(II) such corporation has a written plan under which, in such calendar year, not less

than 80 percent of all employees who provide services to such corporation in the United States (or any possession of the United States) are granted stock options, or restricted stock units, with the same rights and privileges to receive qualified stock.

“(ii) SAME RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.—For purposes of clause (i)(II)—

“(I) except as provided in subclauses (II) and (III), the determination of rights and privileges with respect to stock shall be determined in a similar manner as provided under section 423(b)(5),

“(II) employees shall not fail to be treated as having the same rights and privileges to receive qualified stock solely because the number of shares available to all employees is not equal in amount, so long as the number of shares available to each employee is more than a de minimis amount, and

“(III) rights and privileges with respect to the exercise of an option shall not be treated as the same as rights and privileges with respect to the settlement of a restricted stock unit.

“(iii) EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of clause (i)(II), the term ‘employee’ shall not include any employee described in section 4980E(d)(4) or any excluded employee.

“(iv) SPECIAL RULE FOR CALENDAR YEARS BEFORE 2017.—In the case of any calendar year beginning before January 1, 2017, clause (i)(II) shall be applied without regard to whether the rights and privileges with respect to the qualified stock are the same.

“(3) QUALIFIED EMPLOYEE; EXCLUDED EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of this subsection—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified employee’ means any individual who—

“(i) is not an excluded employee, and

“(ii) agrees in the election made under this subsection to meet such requirements as determined by the Secretary to be necessary to ensure that the withholding requirements of the corporation under chapter 24 with respect to the qualified stock are met.

“(B) EXCLUDED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘excluded employee’ means, with respect to any corporation, any individual—

“(i) who was a 1-percent owner (within the meaning of section 416(i)(1)(B)(ii)) at any time during the 10 preceding calendar years,

“(ii) who is or has been at any prior time—

“(I) the chief executive officer of such corporation or an individual acting in such a capacity, or

“(II) the chief financial officer of such corporation or an individual acting in such a capacity,

“(iii) who bears a relationship described in section 318(a)(1) to any individual described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (ii), or

“(iv) who has been for any of the 10 preceding taxable years one of the 4 highest compensated officers of such corporation determined with respect to each such taxable year on the basis of the shareholder disclosure rules for compensation under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (as if such rules applied to such corporation).

“(4) ELECTION.—

“(A) TIME FOR MAKING ELECTION.—An election with respect to qualified stock shall be made under this subsection no later than 30 days after the first time the rights of the employee in such stock are transferable or are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, whichever occurs earlier, and shall be made in a manner similar to the manner in which an election is made under subsection (b).

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—No election may be made under this section with respect to any qualified stock if—

“(i) the qualified employee has made an election under subsection (b) with respect to such qualified stock,

“(ii) any stock of the corporation which issued the qualified stock is readily tradable on an established securities market (as determined under paragraph (1)(B)(iii)) at any time before the election is made, or

“(iii) such corporation purchased any of its outstanding stock in the calendar year preceding the calendar year which includes the first time the rights of the employee in such stock are transferable or are not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture, unless—

“(I) not less than 25 percent of the total dollar amount of the stock so purchased is deferral stock, and

“(II) the determination of which individuals from whom deferral stock is purchased is made on a reasonable basis.

“(C) DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES RELATED TO LIMITATION ON STOCK REDEMPTIONS.—

“(i) DEFERRAL STOCK.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘deferral stock’ means stock with respect to which an election is in effect under this subsection

“(ii) DEFERRAL STOCK WITH RESPECT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IF INDIVIDUAL HOLDS DEFERRAL STOCK WITH LONGER DEFERRAL PERIOD.—Stock purchased by a corporation from any individual shall not be treated as deferral stock for purposes of clause (iii) if such individual (immediately after such purchase) holds any deferral stock with respect to which an election has been in effect under this subsection for a longer period than the election with respect to the stock so purchased.

“(iii) PURCHASE OF ALL OUTSTANDING DEFERRAL STOCK.—The requirements of subclauses (I) and (II) of subparagraph (B)(iii) shall be treated as met if the stock so purchased includes all of the corporation’s outstanding deferral stock.

“(iv) REPORTING.—Any corporation which has outstanding deferral stock as of the beginning of any calendar year and which purchases any of its outstanding stock during such calendar year shall include on its return of tax for the taxable year in which, or with which, such calendar year ends the total dollar amount of its outstanding stock so purchased during such calendar year and such other information as the Secretary may require for purposes of administering this paragraph.

“(5) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—For purposes of this subsection, all corporations which are members of the same controlled group of corporations (as defined in section 1563(a)) shall be treated as one corporation.

“(6) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—Any corporation that transfers qualified stock to a qualified employee shall, at the time that (or a reasonable period before) an amount attributable to such stock would (but for this subsection) first be includible in the gross income of such employee—

“(A) certify to such employee that such stock is qualified stock, and

“(B) notify such employee—

“(i) that the employee may elect to defer income on such stock under this subsection, and

“(ii) that, if the employee makes such an election—

“(I) the amount of income recognized at the end of the deferral period will be based on the value of the stock at the time at which the rights of the employee in such stock first become transferable or not subject to substantial risk of forfeiture, notwithstanding whether the value of the stock has declined during the deferral period,

“(II) the amount of such income recognized at the end of the deferral period will be subject to withholding under section 3401(i) at the rate determined under section 3402(t), and

“(III) the responsibilities of the employee (as determined by the Secretary under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)) with respect to such withholding.”.

(2) DEDUCTION BY EMPLOYER.—Subsection (h) of section 83 of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 is amended by striking “or (d)(2)” and inserting “(d)(2), or (i)”.

(b) WITHHOLDING.—

(1) TIME OF WITHHOLDING.—Section 3401 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) QUALIFIED STOCK FOR WHICH AN ELECTION IS IN EFFECT UNDER SECTION 83(i).—For purposes of subsection (a), qualified stock (as defined in section 83(i)) with respect to which an election is made under section 83(i) shall be treated as wages—

“(1) received on the earliest date described in section 83(i)(1)(B), and

“(2) in an amount equal to the amount included in income under section 83 for the taxable year which includes such date.”.

(2) AMOUNT OF WITHHOLDING.—Section 3402 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(t) RATE OF WITHHOLDING FOR CERTAIN STOCK.—In the case of any qualified stock (as defined in section 83(i)) with respect to which an election is made under section 83(i)—

“(1) the rate of tax under subsection (a) shall not be less than the maximum rate of tax in effect under section 1, and

“(2) such stock shall be treated for purposes of section 3501(b) in the same manner as a non-cash fringe benefit.”.

(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER DEFERRED COMPENSATION RULES.—

(1) ELECTION TO APPLY DEFERRAL TO STATUTORY OPTIONS.—

(A) INCENTIVE STOCK OPTIONS.—Section 422(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such term shall not include any option if an election is made under section 83(i) with respect to the stock received in connection with the exercise of such option.”.

(B) EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLANS.—Section 423(a) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following flush sentence:

“The preceding sentence shall not apply to any share of stock with respect to which an election is made under section 83(i).”.

(2) EXCLUSION FROM DEFINITION OF NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN.—Subsection (d) of section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) TREATMENT OF QUALIFIED STOCK.—An arrangement under which an employee may receive qualified stock (as defined in section 83(i)(2)) shall not be treated as a nonqualified deferred compensation plan solely because of an employee’s ability to defer recognition of income pursuant to an election under section 83(i).”.

(d) INFORMATION REPORTING.—Section 6051(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (13), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (14) and inserting a comma, and by inserting after paragraph (14) the following new paragraphs:

“(15) the amount excludable from gross income under subparagraph (A) of section 83(i)(1),

“(16) the amount includible in gross income under subparagraph (B) of section 83(i)(1) with respect to an event described in such subparagraph which occurs in such calendar year, and

“(17) the aggregate amount of income which is being deferred pursuant to elections under section 83(i), determined as of the close of the calendar year.”.

(e) PENALTY FOR FAILURE OF EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF TAX CONSEQUENCES.—Section 6652 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(o) FAILURE TO PROVIDE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 83(i).—In the case of each failure to provide a notice as required by section 83(i)(6), at

the time prescribed therefor, unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect, there shall be paid, on notice and demand of the Secretary and in the same manner as tax, by the person failing to provide such notice, an amount equal to \$100 for each such failure, but the total amount imposed on such person for all such failures during any calendar year shall not exceed \$50,000.”

(f) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to stock attributable to options exercised, or restricted stock units settled, after December 31, 2016.

(2) REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NOTICE.—The amendments made by subsection (e) shall apply to failures after December 31, 2016.

(g) TRANSITION RULE.—Until such time as the Secretary (or the Secretary's delegate) issue regulations or other guidance for purposes of implementing the requirements of paragraph (2)(C)(i)(II) of section 83(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section), or the requirements of paragraph (6) of such section, a corporation shall be treated as being in compliance with such requirements (respectively) if such corporation complies with a reasonable good faith interpretation of such requirements.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 5719, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

America's startup companies are a driving force behind our Nation's dynamic and prosperous free enterprise system. Over the past century, bold, innovative Americans have taken risks and started businesses of all sizes that deliver opportunity for millions of middle class families and workers.

We should do everything we can to help America's startups attract the talented, hardworking employees they need to put their breakthrough ideas into motion. One of the best things we can do is ensure that our Tax Code supports American innovators. Our Tax Code must support—not suppress—innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic freedom.

Today, I am honored to speak in support of legislation to do just that, Congressman ERIK PAULSEN's Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act.

□ 1315

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation takes action to keep America at the forefront of innovation by supporting startups and the workers who help them thrive.

Right now many startup companies offer their workers stock options as a portion of their compensation. This helps startups attract top talent because they may not have the money to pay high salaries offered by larger businesses.

The problem is, many startup workers can't exercise their stock options because they don't make enough to afford the associated tax payment. In addition, many startups are privately held, so there may not be an available market for these workers to sell some of the stocks so they can pay the tax.

Ultimately, this means a portion of a startup worker's compensation—sometimes a significant portion—can be essentially out of reach. So when a worker is considering whether to take a job at an exciting new small business, this issue can make the opportunity in that company a lot less attractive.

Congressman PAULSEN's common-sense legislation fixes the problem. It allows startup workers to defer the tax payment on their stock options for 7 years or until there is an ability to sell the stock, whichever comes first. Importantly, the bill includes provisions to ensure this tax relief can only be utilized by workers who need it. Those who hold large equity stakes in a startup or highly paid positions at the company won't be eligible.

The bottom line is that by facilitating employee ownership, this bill will not only help startups attract talent, it will allow their workers to own a stake in that next breakthrough product or service.

Congressman PAULSEN is a long-time champion of employee ownership, free enterprise, and economic freedom—pillars of a strong American economy. I want to thank him for his leadership on this important bipartisan legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

The Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act is a smart, bipartisan solution to help ensure that American startups will continue to be a driving force behind American innovation, job growth, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) be permitted to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill addresses an issue that is worthy of being addressed. It surely would be taken up as part of overall

tax reform. But this bill surely is not an emergency; and costing over \$1 billion, it is not paid for.

Today, as this House leaves, there has been no action on Flint. That is an emergency—poisoned water, children at risk—and it is being required that emergency funding for Flint be paid for. In contrast, action on this bill is in no way an emergency, and it is not being required to be paid for.

And still no attention to Zika. That is an emergency. It is spreading while some here in D.C. are stalling. I quote Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. This is what he told one writer:

“First, we took money from other infections. We borrowed money from ourselves from malaria and TB.

“When we ran out of that money, we started tapping into the Ebola funds that we really should not be tapping into because we still need them to keep the lid on Ebola.”

“When we ran out of that . . . Secretary . . . Burwell had to do something she really did not want to do. She had to take money using her transfer authority from cancer, diabetes, heart disease and mental health and give it to us to be able to continue to prepare the sites for the Zika vaccine trials that we will be performing.”

So Zika, that is an emergency. It is spreading here while we, as I said, in D.C. are stalling. Here we go once again on this legislation, not an emergency, not being paid for. I think the way the House majority is handling this legislation and other legislation, or the lack of it, is inexcusable and in some respects is immoral.

Let me read from the Statement of Administration Policy: “The Administration is committed to helping startups, boosting innovation, and growing the economy, and is willing to work with the Congress on fiscally responsible measures to achieve those goals. However, the Administration strongly opposes H.R. 5719 because it would increase the Federal deficit by \$1 billion over the next ten years. Failing to pay for new tax cuts is fiscally irresponsible.”

Mr. Speaker, working on stock options and the tax treatment of it is one thing. Zika and Flint are orders of a different magnitude. For these reasons and others, I urge a “no” vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when you ask a small-business owner or an entrepreneur about the challenge of starting a new business, they will often tell you that the key to their success is keeping talented employees and recruiting talented employees to keep their company moving forward.

Today we have an opportunity to help startup companies. The Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act is a bipartisan initiative that

focuses on two simple but very important concepts: keeping the United States on the forefront of innovation and promoting employee ownership. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for his bipartisan leadership on this issue as well.

Mr. Speaker, today our Tax Code is forcing many mid- and lower-level employees at startup companies and businesses around the country to let a very promising investment opportunity pass them by. Unlike employees at larger, more established companies, startup employees are often offered compensation in the form of stock options, a significant part of their compensation. And it is a common practice for a business that is developing a new and promising technology but is not yet profitable.

More and more employees of startups these days aren't exercising their stock options, and that is because if they do, they get hit with a tax bill from the IRS, a tax bill that can be unaffordable because they don't have the cash available to make the tax payment which is due immediately. As a result, employees are letting their stock options expire, missing out on thousands and thousands of dollars that could help them send their kids to college or plan for their retirement.

So here is a simple solution today, Mr. Speaker. The Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act will let an employee defer their tax payment for a reasonable period—7 years—or until there is a market for their stock, which they could then sell to get the money needed to pay the tax bill.

Many employees are drawn to startup businesses these days for the opportunity to work on shaping the future, the next innovative solution that can improve the lives of millions of people. It might be in health care, it might be treating cancer, or it could be in developing new mobile computer technology.

They are also drawn, though, to the chance and the opportunity to have some ownership over this new idea. However, some are now choosing to instead stay at or go to a larger, established company because they know at a startup business they could face a very unfortunate tax situation.

So to put it simply, Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code should not stand in the way of developing new, life-changing technologies. We should help these startups attract new employees and new talent and help those employees chase their dreams to seek new, creative environments that could lead to the next breakthrough innovation.

The legislation is also designed to promote employee ownership. Only those individuals at startup businesses where similar stock options are offered to 80 percent of their employees or more will be eligible for the tax deferral provided in the bill. This will en-

courage businesses to offer more of their employees an ownership stake, as well as serve as a very important guardrail to prevent companies that only offer stock options to a select few high-level employees from taking advantage of any provisions in the legislation.

Importantly, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act also contains several provisions to ensure that only those employees who truly need tax deferral are actually able to obtain it. Individuals that own more than 1 percent of a business, the CEO, the CFO, and the four highest paid employees at a business are not eligible for deferral.

Mr. Speaker, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act is part of Leader McCARTHY's Innovation Initiative here in the House. It is endorsed by the Venture Capital Association, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council, and dozens of businesses around the country.

I include in the RECORD their three letters of support.

NATIONAL VENTURE CAPITAL
ASSOCIATION,
September 7, 2016.

Hon. ERIK PAULSEN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOSEPH CROWLEY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PAULSEN AND CROWLEY: On behalf of our nation's venture capital investors and the entrepreneurs they support, I write to express our support for H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, and to thank you for your leadership on this important issue. This legislation would allow startup employees to defer tax liability on income arising from exercised but illiquid stock options.

As you know, stock options are a critical tool for attracting talented individuals to work at our nation's startups. Employees are often compensated with stock options as a promise that if the startup succeeds, everybody shares in the gain. And, stock options are particularly important for startups who are often cash strapped and using all resources available to develop and build a novel product. But as the U.S. capital markets have become more hostile to small capitalization companies, increasingly startups are opting to stay private longer rather than pursue an initial public offering (IPO). This has given rise to challenges for employees at our nation's startups when their stock options vest without a liquid market to sell their shares in order to pay the taxes that are due.

Your legislation to allow an additional period of time for employees to defer taxes on exercised stock options is a common sense solution to this challenge that will encourage more talented Americans to help build today's startups into tomorrow's Fortune 500 success stories. We must make new company creation a national priority to compete in the 21st century economy. Your bill will help us avoid a startup brain drain by preserving the value of stock options for employees. NVCA and its member firms look forward to working with you to pass this legislation into law and protect the value of stock op-

tions for startup employees. Again, thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

BOBBY FRANKLIN,
President and CEO.

SMALL BUSINESS &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COUNCIL,
September 19, 2016.

Hon. ERIK PAULSEN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOE CROWLEY,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES PAULSEN AND CROWLEY: The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) and its 100,000 members nationwide strongly support H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees Through Stock Ownership Act.

Startup companies face many obstacles, including the recruitment and retention of skilled employees. Employees at startup companies often do not enjoy the higher salaries offered at established companies, but are drawn to the idea of helping to build an enterprise that is at the forefront of the next innovation. At many startup companies, employees are offered stock options or equity ownership to compensate for lower compensation and to share ownership in the company. Currently, if employees exercise these options, they are required to pay taxes immediately but sometimes lack the resources to do so. That means they may miss out on a potential financial opportunity. This is a barrier for some individuals to join a start-up, which means both the company and individual lose, and so does our economy.

H.R. 5719 resolves this barrier by allowing employees seven years or before the stock becomes tradeable on an established market to pay the taxes when they exercise options. H.R. 5719 will help startup companies attract and keep talented employees, and provide skilled individuals another key incentive to join these promising businesses.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. SBE Council looks forward to working with you to advance H.R. 5719 into law.

Sincerely,

KAREN KERRIGAN,
President & CEO.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2016.

Hon. ERIK PAULSEN,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOSEPH CROWLEY,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PAULSEN AND REPRESENTATIVE CROWLEY: We write you to express our support for H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act (EESO). This bipartisan initiative, led by your efforts, will make it possible for more employees to obtain an ownership stake in the companies they help build and make it easier for startups and private companies to attract the talent necessary to grow the economy.

Part of the lure of startups and many private companies is the ability for virtually all employees to own a piece of their company. Unfortunately, it is difficult for many private company employees to realize the value of their equity (either through exercise or vesting) because of the unique way tax rules apply to employee grants at private

companies. Under current law, employees are often required to pay taxes on the value of their shares long before they are able to sell and realize the economic value of those shares. This is due to the fact that, unlike public company employees who are able to sell shares in the public markets to offset the tax consequences of exercised or vested equity grants, private company employees do not have the ability to sell their shares since no public market (or liquid secondary market) exists. This means that many private company employees cannot cover the cost of taxes at the time of exercise/vesting through the sale of shares, but, instead, must pay those costs out of pocket.

This situation is exacerbated for employees who have seen their options or shares grow significantly in value since their date of grant. In this case, taxes due on the difference between grant price and fair market value on the exercise or vesting date will be significant, meaning that many employees will never be able to afford to exercise their options and hold shares. As a result, many private company employees allow their equity grants to expire and lose a significant component of their compensation and potential future growth through the ownership stake.

Your legislation would help solve this problem for many employees by providing them with the ability to choose to defer the payment of the income tax due upon exercise (or vesting in the case of restricted stock units) until the underlying stock is sold. This legislation is structured to minimize the revenue impact to all stakeholders by simply changing the timing of when income taxes are payable.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to working with you to help enact this common sense modification to our country's tax laws so that employees of innovative American companies are able to acquire and retain more of their ownership interests in the businesses they help build.

Sincerely,

Palantir Technologies; Avalara, Inc.; AppNexus Inc; Bloom Energy; Sonos; Space Exploration Technologies Corp.; Return Path; Stripe; NASDAQ Private Market; Acquia Inc.; Addepar; Sailpoint Technologies Inc.; Casper; Meetup; Betterment; Squarespace; Bromium; Engine; TechNet; The Voice of the Innovation Economy; Kleiner Perkins Caulfield Byer.

Angel Capital Association; Techstars; Hackers/Founders; Kansas City Startup Foundation; KC Tech Council; Y Combinator; GitHub Inc.; 23andMe, Inc.; Gusto; TechNexus; Accel; The Branderly; duolingo; Kabbage Inc.; Able Lending, Inc.; Garmentory; hobbyDB; Foot Cardigan; Equityzen Inc.; Foursquare.

2nd MD; Zaarly; Wealthfront Inc.; Hyperloop One; Medici.md; Automattic; Decibly; Medium; ClipMine, Inc.; whiteLabelLabs; Red & Blue Ventures; Global Accelerator Network; AIRMIKA, INC.; Innovation State; Hacom LLC; Village Capital; Help Scout; Filament; 60secondz; GeekGirlWeb, LLC.

Virtkick, Inc.; Speed & Function; 804RVA; Wefunder; Neighborland; Goalbook; Bristlecone Holdings; Blue Startups; Seed Philly; Lighthouse Labs; Hangar; Carao Ventures; Pick1; Alpha Prime Ventures; eShares, Inc.; CrowdCheck Inc.; Lean Team Tuning LLC.

Mr. PAULSEN. I urge all my colleagues in supporting this very commonsense, bipartisan, and bicameral

legislation to increase employee ownership and accelerate American innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), someone who has been a sponsor of this bill, and I ask unanimous consent that he be allowed to control the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding me the time.

I first want to recognize Congressman ERIK PAULSEN, my colead in drafting the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act that we are debating today here on the floor. I appreciate his work in helping to draft this and our offices working together to do that.

We have drafted up a bipartisan bill that, on the merits, should be able to pass the House with an overwhelming majority—overwhelming majority. But I must state my disappointment with the majority—and not necessarily with the sponsor of this bill, but the leadership of the majority—for refusing to allow a simple up-or-down vote on my amendment, joined by the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO), to offset the \$1 billion cost of this bill over 10 years, so that we could empower workers without saddling our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren with more debt.

Now that, in and of itself, is problematic in terms of hoisting additional debt on our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, if it weren't for the fact that we also have crises facing America, including the Zika virus.

I wonder how the women who today are pregnant and have the virus in them feel about the fact that we are doing a tax bill today, unpaid for, and yet are requiring an offset or a pay-for for money to go towards Zika virus, or the fact that we have been here for over a year and have not yet found the wherewithal to help the good people of Flint, Michigan, unless we find a way to pay for that assistance and that help; but somehow we are able to do this worthy bill on its face without a pay-for.

With respect to the underlying bill, I think all of us are growing increasingly concerned that far too many American workers have not been sharing in the success of the companies that they helped make successful. This bill aims to address that issue by promoting employee ownership, very egalitarian, something I know many on my side of the aisle are very excited about.

The Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act would allow

workers at privately held firms and startups to defer the income taxes on their stock options up to 7 years or until a triggering event occurs that allows the stock to be sold, whichever occurs sooner.

The proposed legislation is needed to address real-world situations where employees of privately held firms, who are provided the opportunity to become part owners of the company they helped build through the granting of stock options and shares, cannot exercise that stock without paying taxes on them as income, even though the options cannot be readily sold. For example, there is no market for them to be sold on.

Businesses often offer stock to employees to share the value of their companies, recruit and maintain talented workers, and offer compensation in addition to a salary that they receive. Stock options also provide smaller startup companies the ability to compete with larger, more established companies in attracting top talent.

□ 1330

Currently, when an employee exercises their right to obtain stock in their company, it is a taxable event and taxed in the same way as any other form of compensation they receive.

In publicly traded companies, when employees exercise their stock options or shares vest, the employee is able to turn around and sell a small portion of that stock that is on the public market to pay the tax they owe, while at the same time continuing to retain shares and partial ownership of the company they work for.

Unfortunately, for employees of private companies and startups, there is no market for employees to sell their shares to cover the tax liability that they are exposed to in the same way that a publicly traded company employee has those liabilities.

This tax burden prevents employees of privately held companies from exercising their stock in the first place. That means they lose out on a share of their income, they lose out on the ability to become an owner in their company, and they lose out on part of their investment in their employer's long-term goals.

This bill defers the taxes owed for employees of privately held companies for 7 years or until there is what is known as a "triggering event," which occurs when a stock is sold. Examples of triggering events are stock buybacks, acquisitions, or the company itself going public.

Besides making it easier for lower-wage workers to become owners in their company, this bill encourages companies to offer more stock to more workers. We do this by stating that, to obtain these important recruitment and retention benefits, a company must offer at least 80 percent of their

full-time workforce the option to own stock. This 80 percent employee participation number excludes those who own 1 percent or more of the company as well as the CEO and CFO and the four highest-paid officers.

In small startups, excluding senior management and mandating an 80 percent employee coverage test ensures that more employees and those further down the chain of command will be offered to share in the success of the company. It is a good policy and, as I said before, it enjoys bipartisan support.

Because the bill is a tax expenditure, the Joint Committee on Taxation states that it would cost the Treasury and the American taxpayers \$1 billion over 10 years.

Unfortunately, as I stated earlier, an effort that was led by my colleague from California (Ms. ESHOO) and myself to ensure this good policy was enacted without further adding to the debt and the deficit and by adding debt to future generations, unfortunately, was rejected by the majority. It is unfortunate.

While the Republicans in the Congress refuse to fund a billion dollars to help pregnant women in Florida, as I said before, fight off the Zika virus or provide clean drinking water to the people of Flint, Michigan, they are continuing their dangerous path of passing tax cuts that will explode the deficit.

Indeed, just in 2016, Ways and Means Committee Republicans have passed almost \$55 billion in tax cuts out of the committee, all of which, if enacted, would blow up the deficit.

Let's be clear: Who will pay for this tab? Will it be us?

No. We will pass the tab on to our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren to pay for our excesses. It all boils down to values, my friends.

So while I oppose this legislation today—a bill that I am a cosponsor of—I am heartened by the fact that the Senate Finance Committee passed a companion bill to this bill just yesterday on a bipartisan basis. I don't know how they did it, but somehow they found an offset, Democrats and Republicans working together, which I attempted to do with my colleagues on the Republican side. They found an offset. It is remarkable the Republicans in the Senate thought it was important enough to pay for this and not add further debt to our future generations.

I look forward to supporting this bill when it comes back to the House, fully paid for, when we take up the Senate bill. We know that is what is going to happen. I look forward to working with the Senate to enact this good policy into law, but without saddling our children, our grandchildren, and our great-grandchildren with the cost of this benefit.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader, who has moved forward and focused attention on a number of different innovation initiatives. These initiatives have come from listening to entrepreneurs.

Mr. MCCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding and, most importantly, for his work. It is not just the work today, but it is the work every day for almost all Americans.

When we talk about medical devices, they are so important to keep people alive. Well, there is one person in this House who led the charge to make sure that tax was repealed so that more medical devices and more jobs could be created, and that is the author of this bill. This bill is giving more Americans the opportunity for ownership. Isn't that the American Dream?

It is interesting, Mr. Speaker. I hear a lot of words on this floor. I heard just recently words about values. You know what is interesting? The record doesn't lie. I hear on this floor about values and I hear on this floor about Zika.

Do you know what?

That is one of the greatest threats to the citizens of America. That is why this House did not delay in acting. We passed not once, but twice, funding for \$1.7 billion. But, Mr. Speaker, the sad part was that one side of the aisle got into another fight and tried to punish Americans, so they all voted "no." And then it goes back, but it passes—thank God—because the majority took it up and sent it to the Senate.

Do you know what happened over in the Senate?

The minority party has voted not once, not twice, but three times, not against the bill, but even allowing the bill to be brought up.

While those Americans sit back and are very fearful about Zika, it was one party denying the bill to even come up in the Senate to get to the President.

So, yes, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about values, values matter. That is what we are talking about today. The House is considering two important pieces of innovation initiatives. The values. The values of creating jobs. The first is by Representative WILL HURD to improve government IT systems. The second is by Representative ERIK PAULSEN to help startups attract and retain the best employees they can.

These bills go right to the heart of the innovation initiative's two goals: to bring innovation into government and enable innovation in the private sector.

Now, I am not breaking any news here, but too many of our technology systems in government are increasingly outdated. So here are the facts. Last year alone, the Federal Government spent 80 percent—get this right—80 percent of the \$80 billion directed to IT just maintaining old legacy systems. That is 80 percent of \$80 billion.

Representative WILL HURD's bipartisan legislation will help bring government technology systems into the modern age, allowing the government to do its job more effectively, save taxpayers money, and keep public information secure. However, even as we use innovation to improve the way government functions, we can't ignore the importance of innovation in the private sector. You see, an innovation economy is a fundamental part of the American success story.

Today we have these businesses we call gazelles. Gazelles are small startups that grow 20 percent every year or double every 2 years. Gazelles make up 4 percent of all new startups. But do you know what? They make up 70 percent of all new jobs.

We have not reached America's full potential. Not even close. We need to update our laws to enable further innovation so that those with good ideas can create even more opportunity for Americans.

The idea of innovation producing growth is why we are voting today on Representative ERIK PAULSEN's Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act. The truth is, when the startups are funded and founded, they can't offer potential employees the same salaries and benefits of those companies that have already become household names, but they can offer partial ownership. That is the American Dream.

Offering stock options not only allows startups to attract the workers they need, it also gives employees a greater stake in the success of the company. But, unfortunately, the current Tax Code punishes many employees who own stock, taxing them before they even have the opportunity to sell the stock to pay the bill.

Representative PAULSEN's bill allows workers to actually own a piece of the company that they work for. It defers the tax they owe on the stocks for a time so that they have the opportunity to work for a young company that may not have the most resources, but does have a vision of a future that they can believe in.

By giving companies the chance to hire and retain the best employees, do you know what happens?

We will have more innovation, more growth, and more success for the American people.

As you grow in America and get older and have children, you no longer worry about what you will do. You worry about what opportunities your children will have.

Don't you dream that one day maybe your children can even own a piece of their company? But don't you hate to wake up and have the government punish you so that you can't be that owner? Why wouldn't you want government to work for you? Why wouldn't you want government to enhance? Why wouldn't you want innovation?

You want a government that is more effective, more efficient, and more accountable. You want a private sector that is able to spur growth and create more jobs. And you want a country that can protect you from the Zika virus.

Well, you know what? This Congress has acted on all of those and will act on the rest of them today. I hope that it is a bipartisan vote to represent all Americans.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), my good friend and colleague.

Ms. ESHOO. I thank the gentleman from New York, my good friend, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition not to the legislation—because I am a cosponsor of it and I think it is a very good bill and I think it is an important bill—Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act.

The underlying policy of this bill—it is bipartisan, as has been stated—is to allow employees of privately owned companies to be able to defer taxes owed on exercised stock options for up to 7 years.

I think that there is unanimity on this. I know something about stock options. I have represented Silicon Valley for 24 years. I led the House in a battle many, many years ago on stock options. And I won that, by the way. So I know how stock options work, and I think that it is very important for non-public entities—the startups, first of all—to be able to attract people. When they attract these talented employees, the option of stock options with a deferred tax status would be very, very important. It is a magnet.

We always want new businesses to be born. We want them to grow. We want them to go public. We want them to employ more people. That is the way our economy works. I think that it is a very, very important policy to support. But I also think that—as we recognize the responsibility to take a step to help to expand our economy, I also think it is responsible to think about how we conduct our finances. I wish I had a dime or a nickel for every time someone has come to the floor, especially from the other side, pounding their chest about the national debt.

So here we have a combination of good policy and irresponsible fiscal policy.

□ 1345

Now, Mr. CROWLEY and I went to—I couldn't make it, but it was our amendment at the Rules Committee to pay for this. The Joint Committee on Taxation says it is going to cost over \$1 billion over 10 years.

Now, when first responders who got sick after the dollars were expended and we wanted them covered because they were, essentially, dying, they

were over at the Energy and Commerce Committee, the majority said we are not doing this bill unless it is paid for. That was a national emergency, but you couldn't find the time or the way to take care of that.

When are we going to stop charging things to the national debt? Why do you think it is all right to do it this way? I really wonder if you want bipartisan support.

The American people want bipartisanship. They want it done responsibly. But they also want us—don't your constituents ask you how you are going to bring the debt down? Come on. This is like political cross-dressing here.

Why wouldn't the Rules Committee say: You know what? These Members are right, and they are offering a very sensible way to pay for this bill.

We gave you the pathway for it. We give you the answer for it. We say we will support the policy. We want it paid for. Why do you turn that down?

So I think it is sad, I really do. And all of this happy talk that comes to the floor about innovation, and we know and we are doing and whatever, I have represented it for 24 years, and I think one of the values of my constituents is fiscal responsibility as well as good policy, and that is what we offered.

So I urge my colleagues to examine the two prongs, not just the one. This could have been bipartisan and you could have passed it on a voice vote, for heaven's sake, if you had it paid for. And that is why I am on the floor to object to the way this is done, not to the policy, but that it isn't paid for.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to please address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER), who has been a passionate advocate for entrepreneurship.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, entrepreneurship and employee ownership as well.

I rise in support of H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, a bill that will allow certain employee recipients of employer stock to defer paying income tax on the stock until they are able to liquidate a portion of the stock to pay those taxes or once 7 years have passed, whichever comes first.

This is a modest but meaningful step in the right direction. It is a modest and meaningful step toward transforming our economy into an ownership society where employees are empowered with a direct and enduring stake in the well-being of their company.

I applaud Representative PAULSEN for offering this legislation and Chairman BRADY for shepherding it through his committee and onto the floor.

As you may know, Mr. Speaker, I have a bill that was crafted in the same

spirit as this bill that we are considering today. It is a bill that, in my view, should be this body's next step, after this step forward, toward creating an ownership society.

My bill, the Expanding Employee Ownership Act of 2016, which is H.R. 4577, would permanently exempt from income tax liability any stock that was received by employees as part of a broad-based distribution to all employees, so long as the employees held on to the stock for 5 years. If the employee holds the stock for 10 years or more, after that, a mechanism is triggered that allows the employees to sell their stock free of capital gains tax. So by giving the employee a pass on income tax for their stock or capital gains tax for their stock, we will greatly expand the number of working people in our country who own part of the company and maybe own a majority of the companies owned by employees throughout this country.

As we know, employee ownership has many positive attributes, and this bill takes us a step toward that. Studies show that employees who own a share in their company are more productive and prudent. Studies further show that employee-owned companies are generally more profitable and have a lower turnover rate. You have a solidarity between management and labor when the people working for a company own part of the company that they work for. It is more of a partnership.

Free enterprise doesn't just mean profit motive for the capitalists. It means profit motive—not only just profit motive, but it means freedom for everyone to participate in a system where ownership is so important to standard of living.

What has been really very disturbing in our society for these last 30, 40 years is we see the income disparity that exists in our society. Much of it is because working class people have been kept out of capital ownership, and that small, small number of Americans who own the capital have now vast amounts of wealth.

Well, I am not against people being wealthy, but I think that we should make sure our system is designed as our Founding Fathers meant it to be, where you have a maximum amount of people enjoying the freedom and liberty and rights of all the rest of the citizens.

This bill today and my proposal would just take us down a path in which employees and ordinary working people would not only have a stake in their own company, but probably would have a stake in owning capital, which would bring down this disparity between working people and people of wealth. So today I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to reiterate, I do appreciate working with Mr. PAULSEN on this issue, and there is really no opposition from me in terms of the policy that we are attempting to put forward here on the floor today. We all agree on the merits of the bill. It is a good bill. I think you have heard that from the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and you also heard it from the gentlewoman on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ms. ESHOO.

Obviously, Mr. PAULSEN and I both agree that this bill has merit. It is a good bill. But I don't believe this will become law today. This bill, the one we are actually debating and we will have a vote on today, in and of itself, will not be enacted in its form today.

We need to enact good policies but not punish our next generation with new debt. That is something I have been reiterating over and over again. So I will vote "no" today on this bill, even though I am the cosponsor of the bill.

That is not the only reason why I will not support the underlying bill today, not just because of placing the debt and the burden of that debt on my children, our children, your grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but because of the fact that there are a number of crises going on in our country today that the Congress, the Republican Congress, simply can't get their hands around, and some are questioning whether they want to get their hands around them at all.

Here is a shocking statistic. Back in June of this year, it was reported by the CDC that 234 women in the 48 States, the continental United States, 234 women had contracted the Zika virus—pregnant women. I am sorry, pregnant women, 234 pregnant women.

While we were here in Congress in the month of June and July and then we broke for 7 weeks in August, and there was no work here done on the floor to address the issue of the Zika virus, as of the middle of September, of this month, in the U.S., 48 continental U.S. States, 749 pregnant women now have the Zika virus. That is three times as many people in a 3-month period.

Now, I don't suggest that possibly it would be, in 3 months from now, three times higher than it is today. In fact, I would argue it is probably a lot higher if we continue down this road of not addressing this issue at all.

But I would have to be one of the 515 women who contracted the Zika virus at the end of June and—why were we here in Congress and did not enact Zika legislation all through July, all through the month of August into September? If I am one of those 515 women who is now pregnant, I have got to wonder: What is my government doing? They may have gotten it anyway, but at least the government may have been

making an attempt to prevent them from contracting the virus.

If I am one of those women, I am saying: The government didn't do anything. The Republican Congress, who controls the House of Representatives and controls the Senate, didn't do anything and, instead, forced the President to move money around the NIH, taking from cancer research, taking from the Ebola issue, taking those resources to try to stop the water from coming out of the dam, putting a finger in the hole. And that is a euphemism.

I mean, at the end of the day, if you are one of the 515 women, there is no answer for it. There is no agreeable answer to them. They are living a nightmare.

And let's think about the thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of children under the age of 9 in Flint, Michigan, who have been exposed to horrific levels of lead poisoning in their drinking water, unbeknownst to them and their families.

Imagine you are the mother of that child or the father of that child, and you were giving them that drinking water, the guilt you must feel because you didn't know that there was lead in that water. You didn't know that your local government, your State government had let you down, and now your Federal Government is letting you down because we are not doing anything for them.

When the call is to do something and there are negotiations going on, we are not going to have to pay for the tax cuts; but folks in Michigan and Flint and folks in Florida—and now Texas has to be concerned, the southern tier of the United States—we are going to have to find an offset to address your emergent issues.

A tax cut for a bill that I think is worthy, we don't need a tax cut for it. We don't need a pay-for for the tax cut. But for an emergent crisis like Zika, like what happened in Flint, we have to find an offset.

How would you feel? How would you feel, America, if that happened to you? How would you feel about the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate if that happened to you?

I know how I would feel. I know how I feel. I feel disappointed. I feel let down. I feel like the Republican leadership and caucus in the House and the Senate doesn't have your back, doesn't have my back. That is how I feel about it. That is how Americans feel.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we close, let me just start by thanking my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that have spoken in favor of the merits of the bill and in support for the bill. We all know that startups fuel innovation.

□ 1400

It is the entrepreneurial spirit and American ingenuity and know-how that has produced new technologies and has produced new breakthroughs and new inventions to improve health care, to improve society, and to create more jobs and economic growth. It is part of our DNA.

Startups don't have the ability to offer potential employees and new talent the same benefits or same salaries that can be more valuable in the long run than larger institutions can offer to certain employees. So, instead, these startups have to go forward and offer their employees something that could be more valuable—a chance to be a part of the company, a chance to own a piece of the rock.

A lot of startups offer stock options to recruit top talent. It is an incentive for an employee to work hard for the company they believe in or in the idea that they believe in. But more and more often, employees at these startups are missing out. They are missing out on the opportunity because they are not exercising their stock options to have the equity in the company that they believe in. They are not exercising them because if they do, they have to immediately pay the taxes on the income associated with the stock even though they may not be able to afford the cash payment to do so.

A big number of these startups, Mr. Speaker, are privately held with no market for the employees to sell a portion of their stock to pay their taxes. The IRS demands the tax payment immediately, and so those employees let their options expire. They never have the chance to get the investment at a job they believe in and a job they enjoy.

But, today, Mr. Speaker, we are fixing that. We have a solution. We are giving these startup employees a reasonable time period to pay the tax, allowing them to wait until their stock becomes tradeable on a public market so they can sell it to pay the bill.

Helping the innovation economy is a key and important way to promote new products, to promote new services, and to promote new ideas from the dreamers, the inventors, and entrepreneurs we have in America. Letting those innovators attract the brightest and best talent is going to keep America out front, always innovating, always creating, and always inspiring American leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana). All time for debate has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Rep. PAULSEN and Rep. CROWLEY for bringing H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, to the floor. This is important legislation that will help start-

ups attract and retain employees by allowing employees to obtain an ownership stake in those companies without facing cost-prohibitive tax bills.

Often, privately held start-ups provide employees stock ownership options as part of their compensation package. Under current law, employees that receive company shares as part of their compensation package must pay the taxes on the value of those shares taxes immediately, long before the employees realize the economic benefit of those shares.

This bill would allow employees to defer the tax on stock shares that companies provide employees as part of their compensation package for seven years or until the company can sell their stock on publicly traded exchanges. Additionally, it would increase access to company equity for lower-wage earners.

Studies have shown that closely held companies that combine employee ownership with employee workplace participation programs have a positive impact on employee productivity and improve overall company performance.

Employees working for businesses in my district such as Neighborland and hobbyDB—both located in Boulder—have expressed their support for this bill and will be able to take advantage of its tax benefits.

Other types of employee-ownership models have helped businesses have a higher growth rate and stay in business. Employee-ownership models are good for the company, the employees, and the community.

In Colorado, there are approximately 118 businesses that use employee-owned businesses that promote employee ownership through stock option plans or ESOPs.

A good example of a successful ESOP is Fire Safety Services. The owner, Jeff wanted to be able to offer his employees a stake in the business and converted his business to an ESOP. This allowed him to create a succession plan so the business can remain locally owned. Jeff noted that after the conversion, employee morale was up and sales were up.

The New Belgium Brewery, located in Ft. Collins is also an ESOP. From the perspective of the employees, New Belgium has a culture of personal and collective growth—the employees are concerned about the professional growth of their colleagues and also have a vested stake in the management and economic health of the company.

The bill before us will make it easier for employees in other privately-held companies to participate in the growth of their company.

Pursuant to House Resolution 875, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MODERNIZING GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2016

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6004) to modernize Government information technology, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6004

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2016” or the “MGT Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The Federal Government spends nearly 75 percent of its annual information technology funding on operating and maintaining existing, legacy information technology systems. These systems can pose operational risks, including rising costs and inability to meet mission requirements. These systems also pose security risks, including the inability to use current security best practices, such as data encryption and multi-factor authentication, making these systems particularly vulnerable to malicious cyber activity.

(2) In 2015, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated Improving the Management of IT Acquisitions and Operations to its biannual High Risk List and identified as a particular concern the increasing level of information technology spending on Operations and Maintenance making less funding available for development or modernization. The GAO also found the Government has spent billions on failed and poorly performing IT investments due to a lack of effective oversight.

(3) The Federal Government must modernize Federal IT systems to mitigate existing operational and security risks.

(4) The efficiencies, cost savings, and greater computing power, offered by modernized solutions, such as cloud computing, have the potential to—

(A) eliminate inappropriate duplication and reduce costs;

(B) address the critical need for cyber security by design; and

(C) move the Federal Government into a broad, digital-services delivery model that will transform the Federal Government’s ability to meet mission requirements and deliver services to the American people.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the following:

(1) Assist the Federal Government in modernized Federal information technology to mitigate current operational and security risks.

(2) Incentivize cost savings in Federal information technology through modernization.

(3) Accelerate the acquisition and deployment of modernized information technology solutions, such as cloud computing, by addressing impediments in the areas of funding, development, and acquisition practices.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.

(a) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM MODERNIZATION AND WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in each covered agency an information technology system modernization and working capital fund (in this section referred to as the “IT working capital fund”) for necessary expenses for the agency described in paragraph (3).

(2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Amounts may be deposited into an IT working capital fund as follows:

(A) Reprogramming of funds, including reprogramming of any funds available on the date of the enactment of this Act for the operation and maintenance of legacy information technology systems, in compliance with any applicable reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(B) Transfer of funds, including transfer of any funds available on the date of the enactment of this Act for the operation and maintenance of legacy information technology systems, but only if transfer authority is specifically provided for by law.

(C) Amounts made available through discretionary appropriations.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An IT working capital fund established under paragraph (1) may be used, subject to the availability of appropriations, only for the following:

(A) To improve, retire, or replace existing information technology systems to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

(B) To transition to cloud computing and innovative platforms and technologies.

(C) To assist and support covered agency efforts to provide adequate, risk-based, and cost-effective information technology capabilities that address evolving threats to information security.

(D) Reimbursement of funds transferred from the Information Technology Modernization Fund established under section 4, with the approval of the agency Chief Information Officer.

(4) EXISTING FUNDS.—An IT working capital fund may not be used to supplant funds provided for the operation and maintenance of any system already within an appropriation for the covered agency at the time of establishment of the IT working capital fund.

(5) REPROGRAMMING AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—The head of each covered agency shall prioritize funds within the IT working capital fund to be used initially for cost savings activities approved by the covered agency Chief Information Officer, in consultation with the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government. The head of each covered agency may—

(A) reprogram any amounts saved as a direct result of such activities for deposit into the applicable IT working capital fund, consistent with paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) transfer any amounts saved as a direct result of such activities for deposit into the applicable IT working capital fund, consistent with paragraph (2)(B).

(6) RETURN OF FUNDS.—Any funds deposited into an IT working capital fund shall be available for obligation for 3 years after the date of such deposit.

(7) AGENCY CIO RESPONSIBILITIES.—In evaluating projects to be funded from the IT working capital fund, the covered agency Chief Information Officer shall consider, to the extent applicable, guidance established pursuant to section 4(a)(1) to evaluate applications for funding from the Information Technology Modernization Fund that include factors such as a strong business case, technical design, procurement strategy (including adequate use of incremental software development practices), and program management.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 6 months thereafter, the head of each covered agency shall submit to the Director the following, with respect to the IT working capital fund for that covered agency:

(A) A list of each information technology investment funded with estimated cost and completion date for each such investment.

(B) A summary by fiscal year of the obligations, expenditures, and unused balances.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make the information required pursuant to paragraph (1) publicly available on a website.

(c) COVERED AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered agency” means each agency listed in section 901(b) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND AND BOARD.

(a) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury an Information Technology Modernization Fund (in this section referred to as the “Fund”) for technology related activities, to improve information technology, to enhance cybersecurity across the Federal Government, and to be administered in accordance with guidance established by the Director of the Office of Management of Budget.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF FUND.—The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Chief Information Officers Council and with the concurrence of the Director, shall administer the Fund in accordance with this subsection.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Administrator of General Services shall, in accordance with the recommendations of the Information Technology Modernization Board established under subsection (b), use amounts in the Fund for the following purposes:

(A) To transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency to improve, retire, or replace existing information technology systems to enhance cybersecurity and improve efficiency and effectiveness.

(B) For the development, operation, and procurement of information technology products, services, and acquisition vehicles for use by agencies to improve Government-wide efficiency and cybersecurity in accordance with the requirements of the agencies.

(C) To provide services or work performed in support of the activities described under subparagraph (A) or (B).

(4) CREDITS; AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

(A) CREDITS.—In addition to any funds otherwise appropriated, the Fund shall be credited with all reimbursements, advances, or refunds or recoveries relating to information technology or services provided through the Fund.

(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited, credited, or otherwise made available to the Fund shall be available, as provided in appropriations Acts, until expended for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

(5) REIMBURSEMENT.—

(A) PAYMENT BY AGENCY.—For a product or service developed under paragraph (3), the head of an agency that uses such product or service shall pay an amount fixed by the Administrator of General Services in accordance with this subsection.

(B) REIMBURSEMENT BY AGENCY.—The head of an agency shall reimburse the Fund for any transfer made under paragraph (3)(A) in accordance with the terms established in the written agreement described in paragraph (6). Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agency may make a reimbursement required by this subparagraph from any appropriation available for information technology activities. An obligation to make a payment under an agreement described in paragraph (6) in a future fiscal year shall be recorded pursuant to section 1501 of title 31, United States Code, in the fiscal year in which the payment is due.

(C) PRICES FIXED BY ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.—The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Director, shall establish amounts to be paid by an agency and terms of repayment for use of a product or service developed under paragraph (3) at levels sufficient to ensure the solvency of the Fund, including operating expenses. Before making any changes to the established amounts and terms of repayment, the Administrator of General Services shall conduct a review and obtain approval from the Director.

(D) FAILURE TO MAKE TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT.—The Administrator of General Services may obtain reimbursement by the issuance of transfer and counterwarrants, or other lawful transfer documents, supported by itemized bills, if payment is not made by an agency—

(i) within 90 days after the expiration of a repayment period described in the written agreement described in paragraph (6)(A); or

(ii) within 45 days after the expiration of the time period to make a payment under a payment schedule for a product or service developed under paragraph (3).

(6) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before the transfer of funds to an agency under paragraph (3)(A), the Administrator of General Services (in consultation with the Director) and the head of the requisitioning agency shall enter into a written agreement documenting the purpose for which the funds will be used and the terms of repayment. An agreement made pursuant to this subparagraph shall be recorded as an obligation as provided in paragraph (5)(B).

(B) REQUIREMENT FOR USE OF INCREMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES.—For any funds transferred to an agency under paragraph (3)(A), in the absence of compelling circumstances documented by the Administrator of General Services at the time of transfer, such funds shall be transferred only on an incremental basis, tied to metric-based development milestones achieved by the agency, to be described in the written agreement required pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(7) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall publish and maintain a list of each project funded by the Fund on a public website to be updated not less than quarterly, that includes a description of the project, project status (including any schedule delay and cost overruns), and financial expenditure data related to the project.

(b) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION BOARD.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an Information Technology Modernization Board (in this section referred to as the “Board”) which shall evaluate proposals submitted by agencies for funding authorized under the Fund.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Board are the following:

(A) Provide input to the Director for the development of processes for agencies to submit modernization proposals to the Board and to establish the criteria by which such proposals are evaluated, which shall include addressing the greatest security and operational risks, having the greatest Governmentwide impact, and having a high probability of success based on factors such as a strong business case, technical design, procurement strategy (including adequate use of incremental software development practices), and program management.

(B) Make recommendations to the Administrator of General Services to assist agencies in the further development and refinement of select submitted modernization proposals, based on an initial evaluation performed with the assistance of the Administrator of General Services.

(C) review and prioritize, with the assistance of the Administrator of General Services and the Director, modernization proposals based on criteria established pursuant to subparagraph (A).

(D) Identify, with the assistance of the Administrator of General Services, opportunities to improve or replace multiple information technology systems with a smaller number of information technology systems common to multiple agencies.

(E) Recommend the funding of modernization projects, in accordance with the uses described in subsection (a)(3), to the Administrator of General Services.

(F) Monitor, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, progress and performance in executing approved projects and, if necessary, recommend the suspension or termination of funding for projects based on factors such as failure to meet the terms of the written agreement described in subsection (a)(6).

(G) Monitor operating costs of the Fund.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall consist of 8 voting members.

(4) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Board shall be the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.

(5) PERMANENT MEMBERS.—The permanent members of the Board shall be the following:

(A) The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.

(B) A senior official from the General Services Administration, who shall be appointed by the Administrator of General Services.

(6) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.—

(A) APPOINTMENT.—The other members of the Board shall be appointed as follows:

(i) One employee of the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Department of Commerce, appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.

(ii) One employee of the National Protection and Programs Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(iii) One employee of the Department of Defense, appointed by the Secretary of Defense.

(iv) Three Federal employees primarily having technical expertise in information technology development, financial management, cybersecurity and privacy, and acquisition, appointed by the Director.

(B) TERM.—Each member of the Board described in paragraph (A) shall serve a term of one year, which shall be renewable up to three times, at the discretion of the appointing Secretary or Director, as applicable.

(7) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—Members of the Board may not receive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason of their service on the Board.

(8) STAFF.—Upon request of the Chair of the Board, the Director and the Administrator of General Services may detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the Office of Management and Budget or the General Services Administration (as the case may be) to the Board to assist it in carrying out its functions under this Act.

(C) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the responsibilities described in subsection (a), the Administrator of General Services shall support the activities of the Board and provide technical support to, and, with the concurrence of the Director, oversight of, agencies that receive transfers from the Fund.

(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Administrator of General Services are to—

(A) provide direct technical support in the form of personnel services or otherwise to agencies transferred amounts under subsection (a)(3)(A) and for products, services, and acquisition vehicles funded under subsection (a)(3)(B);

(B) assist the Board with the evaluation, prioritization, and development of agency modernization proposals;

(C) perform regular project oversight and monitoring of approved agency modernization projects, in consultation with the Board and the Director, to increase the likelihood of successful implementation and reduce waste; and

(D) provide the Director with information necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(7).

(d) AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CLOUD COMPUTING.—The term “cloud computing” has the meaning given that term by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in NIST Special Publication 800-145 and any amendatory or superseding document thereto.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(3) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term “information technology” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(4) LEGACY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM.—The term “legacy information technology system” means an outdated or obsolete system of information technology.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Texas (Mr. HURD) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 6004, the Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2016. At the beginning of this month, we released an extensive report detailing how the Office of Personnel Management allowed the sensitive and personal information of over 22 million Americans to be stolen, thereby jeopardizing our national security for more than a generation of people.

The yearlong investigation produced many findings, including the identification of a pressing need for Federal agencies to modernize legacy IT in order to mitigate the cybersecurity threat inherent in unsupported end-of-life IT systems and application. We had too many old things on our network. In other words, a reliance on legacy IT can result in security vulnerabilities where old software or operating systems are no longer supported by vendors, and aging IT infrastructure becomes difficult and expensive to secure.

We saw this firsthand with the OPM data breach where sensitive information was stored on technology so old it was difficult, and in some cases impossible, to implement security best practices like data encryption.

OPM is not alone. It is common throughout the Federal Government for agencies to struggle with legacy IT. For example, the Department of Labor had to buy spare parts on eBay because they were no longer available from the original vendor. Consider another example that our committee learned about during a hearing that highlighted a GAO report on legacy IT.

We learned DOD's Strategic Automated Command and Control System is 50 years ago old and runs on a 1970s IBM Series One computer that uses an 8-inch floppy disk. By comparison, it would take 3.2 million floppy disks to equal the memory of one flash drive.

Numerous other agencies still use Windows 3.0, which was last supported by the vendor in 2001; Windows NT, which last supported in 2004; and Windows 95, which was last supported by the vendor in 2001. The recently issued OPM report demonstrates the security

risk of such legacy IT and recommends Congress consider new tools to incentivize the transition from legacy to modernized IT solutions across the Federal Government.

I am happy to say this bipartisan bill follows up on that recommendation. The MGT Act builds on bills introduced by myself and Minority Whip STENY HOYER and ideas from Federal CIO Tony Scott based on his experience in the private sector.

Mr. Speaker, the MGT Act is a key first step in beginning to modernize the Federal Government's outdated and insecure IT infrastructure. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6004.

I would like to thank a number of folks that worked hard for the past few months to bring the best ideas forward in this one bill. I want to thank Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS for their leadership on this issue. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CONNOLLY, who was the lead Democratic cosponsor.

As I said before, key portions of Mr. HOYER's bill on the ITMF legislation were included into the MGT Act. Of course, I would like to thank my dear friend and ranking member of my subcommittee, Ms. ROBIN KELLY of Illinois, along with Mr. TED LIEU of California, and especially Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY. His Innovation Initiative is a key reason that we are able to talk about this significant piece of legislation today.

Again, I would like to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6004.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6004, the Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2016.

Let me also thank my good friend and coauthor of this bill, Mr. HURD of Texas, for his leadership in shepherding this bill through our committee and now on to the floor. Sometimes, deservedly, Congress gets dinged on for not being able to get anything done. But the fact of the matter is that, below the surface, lots of things can and do get done with leadership, collaboration, and partnership. Mr. HURD of Texas epitomizes that, and my hat is off to him for his contribution on this whole front of IT modernization and helping to bring the Federal Government into the 21st century when it comes to the use of technology.

Every day Federal agencies endure cyber attacks that have the potential to cause incalculable damage to national security and the privacy of all Americans. While the Federal Government does its best to protect our critical computer networks, our efforts are often stymied by the outdated legacy information technologies in Federal agencies. Agencies spend nearly 75 percent of their IT budgets simply trying

to maintain these outdated systems. Let me repeat that: in an \$82 billion program for IT acquisition procurement and management, 75 percent of that budget is not spent in updating the Federal Government in cutting-edge technologies. It is spent maintaining what we have got, and in some cases, those legacy systems go back 40 and 50 years.

I am proud to lead the Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2016 with Mr. HURD of Texas to help our cyber defenders protect our most important digital resources. When you are dealing with outmoded technology, legacy systems oftentimes can't be protected. They can't be encrypted, and that makes them terribly vulnerable—low hanging fruit to those who would do harm to our country and would compromise the data of millions of Americans.

This bill in front of us marries the IT Modernization Act and the MOVE IT Act by establishing a clear role for both of these pieces of legislation in this improvement process for Federal IT systems.

The MGT Act lays the foundation for the future of IT modernization funding in the Federal Government. This bipartisan legislation will provide a mechanism for agencies to get ahead of the curve and help reduce the fiscal challenges facing every agency chief information officer, or CIO. The MGT Act will authorize a significant upfront investment to retire those vulnerable large-scale legacy systems affecting multiple agencies.

Under the guidance of an Information Technology Modernization Board, agencies will be able now to request funds to facilitate those modernization efforts—something that would absolutely be the practice in the private sector, as I know my friend, Mr. HURD of Texas, knows. If approved, those funds will be repaid through savings realized by the implementation of the more modern IT systems. The bill places an emphasis on following the practice of private industry and moving toward cloud computing solutions.

The MGT Act will allow agencies to invest savings generated through the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act, or FITARA for short, and other reforms to make investments in cloud transition.

I was delighted to be a coauthor of the FITARA Act along with DARRELL ISSA of California.

The MGT Act will establish working capital funds that will allow those agencies to use savings from new, secure systems and to reinvest in themselves, including in the movement toward the cloud. This creates incentives for agencies to find those savings and reinvest internally in themselves, creating a virtuous cycle.

The Modernizing Government Technology Act is supported by industry ex-

perts and incorporates the same sort of mechanisms the private sector often uses to secure its networks.

It is important for agencies to know that Congress not only expects agencies to implement robust, modern cyber safeguards, but that it is here to help them confront these challenges. This reform has the potential to significantly speed up the Federal Government's move to the 21st century technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), my friend, pointed out, the GAO has identified that millions of taxpayer dollars can be saved through consolidating data centers and modernizing IT systems.

□ 1415

To date, agencies have closed over 3,000 data centers out of over 10,000, resulting in a savings of \$2.8 billion.

This bill authorizes agency-level working capital funds, as well as a centralized IT modernization fund within Treasury and overseen by OMB. These funds will accelerate our transition to modernize IT systems and will save American taxpayers millions of dollars. In other words, welcome to the 21st century, Federal Government. It is about time you got here.

The Modernizing Government Technology Act does not appropriate any new money, but, instead, builds on the successes of FITARA, which Mr. CONNOLLY was instrumental in making happen. It also invests savings in retiring these data systems and accelerating our transition to the cloud.

Folks recognize that sometimes up here in Washington, D.C., it can be a circus, but there are times when folks working together can actually solve major problems. This is one example of being in a partisan part of our election cycle where people working together can solve a big problem and do it to make sure that we are using American taxpayer dollars wisely and eventually, hopefully, making sure they keep some of that at home.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my good friend from Texas. He is always gracious and has always been a wonderful partner in this enterprise.

In closing, the United States Government must come into the 21st century. We owe it to the people we serve to protect the systems that operate within the 24 Federal agencies we are particularly concerned about.

We need to streamline management of IT assets; we need to make strategic and wise investments; we need to have a schedule of replacement for most of

those legacy systems; and we need to encrypt and protect against cyber attacks for the sake of the American people. I think Mr. HURD and I share that as a critical mission not only for this Congress, but for the United States Government as a whole.

I am proud, again, to be an original coauthor and cosponsor of this legislation, working with Mr. HURD. I know we have other initiatives we are going to be working on as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6004, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGE ON H.R. 1777, PRESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the order of the House of July 25, 2016, I ask unanimous consent that further consideration of the veto message and the bill, H.R. 1777, be postponed until the legislative day of December 9, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1625

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia) at 4 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 879, by the yeas and nays;

Adoption of House Resolution 879, if ordered;

Passage of H.R. 5719, by the yeas and nays; and

Motions to suspend the rules on: H.R. 5320, H.R. 5946, H.R. 2285, H.R. 5523, H.R. 5625, S. 1550, H.R. 4419, and H.R. 5963, each by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5931, PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 879) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5931) to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 175, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 542]

YEAS—236

Abraham	Davis, Rodney	Hill
Aderholt	Denham	Holding
Allen	Dent	Hudson
Amash	DeSantis	Huelskamp
Amodei	DesJarlais	Huelskamp (MI)
Babin	Diaz-Balart	Hultgren
Barletta	Dold	Hunter
Barr	Donovan	Hurd (TX)
Barton	Duffy	Hurt (VA)
Benishek	Duncan (SC)	Issa
Bilirakis	Duncan (TN)	Jenkins (KS)
Bishop (MI)	Ellmers (NC)	Jenkins (WV)
Bishop (UT)	Emmer (MN)	Johnson (OH)
Black	Farenthold	Johnson, Sam
Blackburn	Fitzpatrick	Jolly
Blum	Fleischmann	Jones
Bost	Fleming	Jordan
Boustany	Flores	Joyce
Brady (TX)	Forbes	Katko
Brat	Fortenberry	Kelly (MS)
Bridenstine	Fox	Kelly (PA)
Brooks (AL)	Franks (AZ)	King (IA)
Brooks (IN)	Frelinghuysen	King (NY)
Buchanan	Garrett	Kinzing (IL)
Buck	Gibbs	Kline
Bucshon	Gibson	Knight
Burgess	Gohmert	Labrador
Byrne	Goodlatte	LaHood
Calvert	Gosar	LaMalfa
Carter (TX)	Gowdy	Lamborn
Chabot	Granger	Lance
Chaffetz	Graves (GA)	Latta
Clawson (FL)	Graves (LA)	LoBiondo
Coffman	Graves (MO)	Long
Cole	Griffith	Loudermilk
Collins (GA)	Grothman	Love
Collins (NY)	Guinta	Lucas
Comstock	Guthrie	Luetkemeyer
Conaway	Hanna	Lummis
Cook	Hardy	MacArthur
Costello (PA)	Harper	Marchant
Cramer	Harris	Marino
Crawford	Hartzler	McCarthy
Crenshaw	Heck (NV)	McCaul
Culberson	Hensarling	McClintock
Curbelo (FL)	Herrera Beutler	McHenry
Davidson	Hice, Jody B.	

McKinley	Reed	Stefanik
McMorris	Reichert	Stewart
Rodgers	Renacci	Stivers
McSally	Ribble	Stutzman
Meadows	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)
Meehan	Rigell	Thornberry
Messer	Roby	Trott
Mica	Roe (TN)	Turner
Miller (FL)	Rogers (AL)	Upton
Miller (MI)	Rogers (KY)	Valadao
Moolenaar	Rohrabacher	Wagner
Mooney (WV)	Rokita	Walberg
Mullin	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden
Murphy (PA)	Roskam	Walker
Neugebauer	Ross	Walorski
Newhouse	Rothfus	Weber (TX)
Noem	Rouzer	Webster (FL)
Nugent	Royce	Wenstrup
Nunes	Russell	Westerman
Olson	Sanford	Westmoreland
Palazzo	Scalise	Williams
Palmer	Schweikert	Wilson (SC)
Paulsen	Scott, Austin	Wittman
Pearce	Sensenbrenner	Womack
Perry	Sessions	Woodall
Pittenger	Shimkus	Yoder
Pitts	Shuster	Yoho
Poliquin	Simpson	Young (AK)
Pompeo	Smith (MO)	Young (IA)
Posey	Smith (NE)	Young (IN)
Price, Tom	Smith (NJ)	Zeldin
Ratcliffe	Smith (TX)	Zinke

NAYS—175

Adams	Fudge	Neal
Aguilar	Gabbard	Nolan
Ashford	Gallego	Norcross
Beatty	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Becerra	Graham	Pallone
Bera	Grayson	Pascarell
Beyer	Green, Al	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Grijalva	Peters
Boyle, Brendan F.	Hahn	Peterson
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Pingree
Brownley (CA)	Heck (WA)	Pocan
Bustos	Higgins	Polis
Butterfield	Himes	Price (NC)
Capps	Hinojosa	Quigley
Capuano	Honda	Rangel
Cardenas	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Carney	Huffman	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Johnson, E. B.	Sanchez, Linda T.
Cielline	Kaptur	Sarbanes
Clark (MA)	Keating	Schakowsky
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Schiff
Clay	Kennedy	Schrader
Cleaver	Kildee	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Kilmer	Scott, David
Cohen	Kind	Serrano
Connolly	Kirkpatrick	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Kuster	Sinema
Cooper	Langevin	Sires
Costa	Larsen (WA)	Slaughter
Courtney	Larson (CT)	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Lawrence	Speier
Cuellar	Lee	Swalwell (CA)
Cummings	Levin	Takano
Davis (CA)	Lewis	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lipinski	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Loeb	Titus
DeGette	Loeb	Tonko
DeLauro	Loftgren	Torres
DeBene	Lowenthal	Tsongas
DeSaulnier	Lowey	Van Hollen
Deutsch	Lujan Grisham	Vargas
Dingell	Malone, Sean	Veasey
Doggett	Malone, Sean	Vela
Doyle, Michael F.	Matsui	Velázquez
Duckworth	McCollum	Visclosky
Edwards	McDermott	Walz
Ellison	McGovern	Wasserman
Engel	McNeerney	Schultz
Eshoo	Meeks	Waters, Maxine
Esty	Meng	Watson Coleman
Farr	Moulton	Welch
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Wilson (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	Yarmuth
	Napolitano	

NOT VOTING—20

Bass	Lujan, Ben Ray	Rush
Bonamici	(NM)	Salmon
Brown (FL)	Moore	Sanchez, Loretta
Carter (GA)	Mulvaney	Sherman
Fincher	Pelosi	Tiberi
Gutiérrez	Poe (TX)	Tipton
Lieu, Ted	Rooney (FL)	Walters, Mimi

□ 1648

Mr. WALZ, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. RICHMOND changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. BENISHEK changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 236, noes 178, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 543]

AYES—236

Abraham	Donovan	Johnson, Sam
Aderholt	Duffy	Jolly
Allen	Duncan (SC)	Jones
Amodei	Duncan (TN)	Jordan
Babin	Ellmers (NC)	Joyce
Barletta	Emmer (MN)	Katko
Barr	Farenthold	Kelly (MS)
Barton	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)
Benishek	Fleischmann	King (IA)
Bilirakis	Fleming	King (NY)
Bishop (MI)	Flores	Kinzing (IL)
Bishop (UT)	Forbes	Kline
Black	Fortenberry	Knight
Blackburn	Fox	Labrador
Blum	Franks (AZ)	LaHood
Bost	Frelinghuysen	LaMalfa
Boustany	Garrett	Lamborn
Brady (TX)	Gibbs	Lance
Brat	Gibson	Latta
Bridenstine	Gohmert	LoBiondo
Brooks (AL)	Goodlatte	Long
Brooks (IN)	Gosar	Love
Buchanan	Gowdy	Lucas
Buck	Granger	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Graves (GA)	Lummis
Burgess	Graves (LA)	MacArthur
Byrne	Graves (MO)	Marchant
Calvert	Griffith	Marino
Carter (TX)	Grothman	McCarthy
Chabot	Guinta	McCaul
Chaffetz	Guthrie	McClintock
Clawson (FL)	Hanna	McHenry
Coffman	Hardy	McKinley
Cole	Harper	McMorris
Collins (GA)	Harris	Rodgers
Collins (NY)	Hartzler	McSally
Comstock	Heck (NV)	Meadows
Conaway	Hensarling	Meehan
Cook	Herrera Beutler	Messer
Costello (PA)	Hice, Jody B.	Mica
Cramer	Hill	Miller (FL)
Crawford	Holding	Miller (MI)
Crenshaw	Hudson	Moolenaar
Culberson	Huelskamp	Mooney (WV)
Curbelo (FL)	Huizenga (MI)	Mullin
Davidson	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Davis, Rodney	Hunter	Neugebauer
Denham	Hurd (TX)	Newhouse
Dent	Hurt (VA)	Noem
DeSantis	Issa	Nugent
DesJarlais	Jenkins (KS)	Nunes
Diaz-Balart	Jenkins (WV)	Olson
Dold	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo

Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam

Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton

Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)

Rooney (FL)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

Tiberi
Walters, Mimi

Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meehan
Meeks
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton

Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)

Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schneider
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shinkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—178

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cueilar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Massie
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moulton
Murphy (FL)

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

EMPOWERING EMPLOYEES
THROUGH STOCK OWNERSHIP ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 5719) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax treatment of certain equity grants, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 287, nays 124, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 544]

YEAS—287

Abraham
Aderholt
Aguilar
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Delaney
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Esty
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen

Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Keating

NAYS—124

Adams
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Blumenauer
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Butterfield
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo

Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hahn
Hastings
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kirkpatrick
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)

Maloney,
Carolyn
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meng
Nadler
Napolitano
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pingree
Pocan
Price (NC)
Rangel
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Veasey
Vela

NOT VOTING—17

Bonamici
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)

Dingell
Fincher
Gutiérrez

Lieu, Ted
Loudermilk
Moore

Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman
Schultz

NOT VOTING—20

Bonomici
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher
Graves (LA)
Gutiérrez
Lieu, Ted

Meadows
Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Rooney (FL)
Rush

Yarmuth

Sanchez, Loretta
Smith (NJ)
Stutzman
Tiberi
Walker
Walters, Mimi

Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.

Harper
Harris
Hartzel
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaull
McClintock
McCollum

McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner

Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Yoder
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz

Wasserman

Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1702

Mr. CICILLINE changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 544, I was in discussions on Louisiana flood relief funding. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 544, H.R. 5719, Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

SOCIAL SECURITY MUST AVERT IDENTITY LOSS (MAIL) ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5320) to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 545]

YEAS—414

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)

Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos

Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver

Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy

Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—17

Bonomici
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher
Gutiérrez
Larson (CT)

Lieu, Ted
Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Rokita

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1710

Mr. CONNOLLY changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

Mr. CARSON of Indiana changed his vote from “present” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

UNITED STATES APPRECIATION FOR OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5946) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 1, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 546]

YEAS—415

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen

Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta

Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra

Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)

Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgin
Hill
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)

King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Loftgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascarell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts

Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Smith (WA)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes

Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott

Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

[Roll No. 547]

YEAS—415

DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Kelly (PA)
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)

NAYS—1

NOT VOTING—15

Himes
Lie, Ted
Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Rooney (FL)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Tiberi
Walters, Mimi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remain-

□ 1717

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PREVENT TRAFFICKING IN CULTURAL PROPERTY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2285) to improve enforcement against trafficking in cultural property and prevent stolen or illicit cultural property from financing terrorist and criminal networks, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

Neal
Neugebauer
Olson
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita

Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swallow (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—16

Bonamici
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher
Gutiérrez
Hudson

Lieu, Ted
Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Rooney (FL)

Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Tiberi
Walters, Mimi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1723

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESTRAINING EXCESSIVE SEIZURE OF PROPERTY THROUGH THE EXPLOITATION OF CIVIL ASSET FORFEITURE TOOLS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5523) to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to re-

quire notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 548]

YEAS—415

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benish
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook

Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)

Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)

Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke

Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita

Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swallow (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—16

Bonamici
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher
Gutiérrez
Lie, Ted

Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Price (NC)
Rooney (FL)

Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Tiberi
Walters, Mimi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1730

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MODERNIZING GOVERNMENT TRAVEL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5625) to provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 549]

YEAS—415

Abraham	Coffman	Franks (AZ)
Adams	Cohen	Frelinghuysen
Aderholt	Cole	Fudge
Aguilar	Collins (GA)	Gabbard
Allen	Collins (NY)	Gallego
Amash	Comstock	Garamendi
Amodei	Conaway	Garrett
Ashford	Connolly	Gibbs
Babin	Conyers	Gibson
Barletta	Cook	Gohmert
Barr	Cooper	Goodlatte
Barton	Costa	Gosar
Bass	Costello (PA)	Gowdy
Beatty	Courtney	Graham
Becerra	Cramer	Granger
Benishkek	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Bera	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Beyer	Crowley	Graves (MO)
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Grayson
Bishop (GA)	Culberson	Green, Al
Bishop (MI)	Cummings	Green, Gene
Bishop (UT)	Curbelo (FL)	Griffith
Black	Davidson	Grijalva
Blackburn	Davis (CA)	Grothman
Blum	Davis, Danny	Guinta
Blumenauer	Davis, Rodney	Guthrie
Bonamici	DeFazio	Hahn
Bost	DeGette	Hanna
Boustany	Delaney	Hardy
Boyle, Brendan	DeLauro	Harper
F.	DelBene	Harris
Brady (PA)	Denham	Hartzler
Brady (TX)	Dent	Hastings
Brat	DeSantis	Heck (NV)
Bridenstine	DeSaulnier	Heck (WA)
Brooks (AL)	DesJarlais	Hensarling
Brooks (IN)	Deutch	Herrera Beutler
Brownley (CA)	Diaz-Balart	Hice, Jody B.
Buchanan	Dingell	Higgins
Buck	Doggett	Hill
Bucshon	Dold	Himes
Burgess	Donovan	Hinojosa
Bustos	Doyle, Michael	Holding
Butterfield	F.	Honda
Byrne	Duckworth	Hoyer
Calvert	Duffy	Hudson
Capps	Duncan (SC)	Huelskamp
Capuano	Duncan (TN)	Huffman
Cárdenas	Edwards	Huizenga (MI)
Carney	Ellison	Hultgren
Carson (IN)	Elmiers (NC)	Hunter
Carter (TX)	Emmer (MN)	Hurd (TX)
Cartwright	Engel	Hurt (VA)
Castor (FL)	Eshoo	Israel
Castro (TX)	Esty	Issa
Chabot	Farenthold	Jackson Lee
Chaffetz	Farr	Jeffries
Chu, Judy	Fitzpatrick	Jenkins (KS)
Cicilline	Fleischmann	Jenkins (WV)
Clark (MA)	Fleming	Johnson (GA)
Clarke (NY)	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Clawson (FL)	Forbes	Johnson, E. B.
Clay	Fortenberry	Johnson, Sam
Cleaver	Foster	Jolly
Clyburn	Fox	Jones

Jordan	Miller (MI)	Schweikert
Joyce	Moolenaar	Scott (VA)
Kaptur	Mooney (WV)	Scott, Austin
Katko	Moulton	Scott, David
Keating	Mullin	Sensenbrenner
Kelly (IL)	Murphy (FL)	Serrano
Kelly (MS)	Murphy (PA)	Sessions
Kelly (PA)	Nadler	Sewell (AL)
Kennedy	Napolitano	Sherman
Kildee	Neal	Shimkus
Kilmer	Neugebauer	Shuster
Kind	Newhouse	Simpson
King (IA)	Noem	Sinema
King (NY)	Nolan	Sires
Kinzinger (IL)	Norcross	Slaughter
Kirkpatrick	Nugent	Smith (MO)
Kline	Nunes	Smith (NE)
Knight	O'Rourke	Smith (NJ)
Kuster	Olson	Smith (TX)
Labrador	Palazzo	Smith (WA)
LaHood	Pallone	Speier
LaMalfa	Palmer	Stefanik
Lamborn	Pascrell	Stewart
Lance	Paulsen	Stivers
Langevin	Payne	Stutzman
Larsen (WA)	Pearce	Swalwell (CA)
Larson (CT)	Perlmutter	Takano
Latta	Perry	Thompson (CA)
Lawrence	Peters	Thompson (MS)
Lee	Peterson	Thompson (PA)
Levin	Pingree	Thornberry
Lewis	Pittenger	Tipton
Lipinski	Pitts	Titus
LoBiondo	Pocan	Tonko
Loeb	Poliquin	Torres
Lofgren	Polis	Trott
Long	Pompeo	Tsongas
Loudermilk	Posey	Turner
Love	Price, Tom	Upton
Lowenthal	Quigley	Valadao
Looney	Rangel	Van Hollen
Lucas	Ratcliffe	Vargas
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Veasey
Lujan Grisham	Reichert	Vela
(NM)	Renacci	Velázquez
Luján, Ben Ray	Ribble	Visclosky
(NM)	Rice (NY)	Wagner
Lummis	Rice (SC)	Walberg
Lynch	Richmond	Walden
MacArthur	Rigell	Walker
Maloney,	Roby	Walorski
Carolyn	Roe (TN)	Walz
Maloney, Sean	Rogers (AL)	Wasserman
Marchant	Rogers (KY)	Schultz
Marino	Rohrabacher	Waters, Maxine
Massie	Rokita	Watson Coleman
Matsui	Ros-Lehtinen	Weber (TX)
McCarthy	Roskam	Webster (FL)
McCaul	Ross	Welch
McClintock	Rothfus	Wenstrup
McCollum	Rouzer	Westerman
McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Westmoreland
McGovern	Royce	Williams
McHenry	Ruiz	Wilson (FL)
McKinley	Ruppersberger	Wilson (SC)
McMorris	Russell	Wittman
Rodgers	Ryan (OH)	Womack
McNerney	Salmon	Woodall
McSally	Sánchez, Linda	Yarmuth
Meadows	T.	Yoder
Meehan	Sanford	Yoho
Meeks	Sarbanes	Young (AK)
Meng	Scalise	Young (IA)
Messer	Schakowsky	Young (IN)
Mica	Schiff	Zeldin
Miller (FL)	Schrader	Zinke

NOT VOTING—16

Brown (FL)	Moore	Rush
Carter (GA)	Mulvaney	Sanchez, Loretta
Fincher	Pelosi	Tiberi
Finkel (FL)	Poe (TX)	Walters, Mimi
Gutiérrez	Price (NC)	
Lieu, Ted	Rooney (FL)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1737

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IM- PROVEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1550) to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 11, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 550]

YEAS—404

Abraham	Clark (MA)	Ellison
Adams	Clarke (NY)	Elmiers (NC)
Aderholt	Clawson (FL)	Emmer (MN)
Aguilar	Clay	Engel
Allen	Cleaver	Eshoo
Amodei	Clyburn	Esty
Ashford	Coffman	Farenthold
Babin	Cohen	Farr
Barletta	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Barr	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Barton	Collins (NY)	Fleming
Bass	Comstock	Flores
Beatty	Conaway	Forbes
Becerra	Connolly	Fortenberry
Benishkek	Conyers	Foster
Bera	Cook	Fox
Bilirakis	Cooper	Frankel (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (MI)	Costello (PA)	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (UT)	Courtney	Fudge
Black	Cramer	Gabbard
Blackburn	Crawford	Gallego
Blum	Crenshaw	Garamendi
Blumenauer	Crowley	Garrett
Bonamici	Cuellar	Gibbs
Bost	Culberson	Gibson
Boustany	Cummings	Gohmert
Boyle, Brendan	Curbelo (FL)	Goodlatte
F.	Davidson	Gowdy
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Graham
Brady (TX)	Davis, Danny	Granger
Bridenstine	Davis, Rodney	Graves (GA)
Brooks (IN)	DeFazio	Graves (LA)
Brownley (CA)	DeGette	Graves (MO)
Buchanan	Delaney	Grayson
Bucshon	DeLauro	Green, Al
Burgess	DelBene	Green, Gene
Bustos	Denham	Grijalva
Butterfield	Dent	Guinta
Byrne	DeSantis	Guthrie
Calvert	DeSaulnier	Hahn
Capps	DesJarlais	Hanna
Capuano	Deutch	Hardy
Cárdenas	Diaz-Balart	Harper
Carney	Dingell	Harris
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Hartzler
Carter (TX)	Dold	Hastings
Cartwright	Donovan	Heck (NV)
Castor (FL)	Doyle, Michael	Heck (WA)
Castro (TX)	F.	Hensarling
Chabot	Duckworth	Herrera Beutler
Chaffetz	Duffy	Hice, Jody B.
Chu, Judy	Duncan (SC)	Higgins
Cicilline	Duncan (TN)	Hill
	Edwards	Himes

Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern

McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford

NAYS—11

Amash
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Gosar

NOT VOTING—16

Beyer
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher

Barbano
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradner
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Jordan
Massie
Perry

Pelosi
Poe (TX)

Price (NC)
Rooney (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1743

Mr. GROTHMAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4419) to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 551]

YEAS—414

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Capps
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Baretta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bencis
Berra
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos

Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Bera
Clarke (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson

Fortenberry
Foster
Foss
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta

Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)

Richmond
Rigell
Robby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradner
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall

Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho

NOT VOTING—17

Beyer
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher
Gutiérrez
Kelly (IL)

Lieu, Ted
Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Price (NC)

Zeldin
Zinke

Rooney (FL)
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Tiberi
Walters, Mimi

Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael

F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)

Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyne
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarelli

Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rohy
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)

Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Woodall

Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—29

Amash
Babin
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Burgess
Chaffetz
Duncan (TN)
Farenthold

Gohmert
Gosar
Griffith
Harris
Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
Labrador
Marchant
Massie

McClintock
Palmer
Perry
Price, Tom
Sanford
Sensenbrenner
Weber (TX)
Westmoreland
Wittman

NOT VOTING—20

Beyer
Brown (FL)
Carter (GA)
Fincher
Gutiérrez
Joyce
Kelly (IL)

Lieu, Ted
Moore
Mulvaney
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Price (NC)
Rigell

Rooney (FL)
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Tiberi
Walters, Mimi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1755

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016 I was absent due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 542 on ordering the previous question—"Aye." Rollcall No. 543 adoption of H.Res. 879—"Aye." Rollcall No. 544 passage of H.R. 5719—"Aye." Rollcall No. 545 passage of H.R. 5320—"Aye." Rollcall No. 546 passage of H.R. 5946—"Aye." Rollcall No. 547 passage of H.R. 2285—"Aye." Rollcall No. 548 passage of H.R. 5523—"Aye." Rollcall No. 549 passage of H.R. 5625—"Aye." Rollcall No. 550 passage of House Amendment to S. 1550—"Aye." Rollcall No. 551 passage of H.R. 4419—"Aye." Rollcall No. 552 passage of H.R. 5963—"Aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 544 (on passage of H.R. 5719), 545 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5320), 546 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5946), 547 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 2285), 548 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5523), 549 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5625), 550 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended House Amendment to S. 1550), 551 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 4419), and 552 (motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 5963) I did not cast my vote due to illness. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all of the votes.

SUPPORTING YOUTH OPPORTUNITY AND PREVENTING DELINQUENCY ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5963) to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 29, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 552]

YEAS—382

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bera
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany

Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cardenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)

Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaever
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)

Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael

F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)

Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyne
Maloney, Sean
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascarelli

Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rohy
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity:

Steven VanAusdile of Washington vice Cameron Staples of Connecticut.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUSSELL). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken later.

SAN LUIS REY INDIAN WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT AMENDMENT

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1296) to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1296

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SAN LUIS REY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION.

The San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 100-675) is amended by inserting after section 111 the following:

"SEC. 112. IMPLEMENTATION OF SETTLEMENT.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds and recognizes as follows:

"(1) The City of Escondido, California, the Vista Irrigation District, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority, and the Bands have approved an agreement, dated December 5, 2014, resolving their disputes over the use of certain land and water rights in or near the San Luis Rey River watershed, the terms of which are consistent with this Act.

"(2) The Bands, the San Luis Rey River Indian Water Authority, the City of Escondido, California, the Vista Irrigation District, and the United States have approved a Settlement Agreement dated January 30, 2015 (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Settlement Agreement') that conforms to the requirements of this Act.

"(b) APPROVAL AND RATIFICATION.—All provisions of the Settlement Agreement, includ-

ing the waivers and releases of the liability of the United States, the provisions regarding allottees, and the provision entitled 'Effect of Settlement Agreement and Act,' are hereby approved and ratified.

"(c) AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Secretary and the Attorney General are authorized to execute, on behalf of the United States, the Settlement Agreement and any amendments approved by the parties as necessary to make the Settlement Agreement consistent with this Act. Such execution shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.). The Secretary is further authorized and directed to take all steps that the Secretary may deem necessary or appropriate to implement the Settlement Agreement and this Act.

"(d) CONTINUED FEDERALLY RESERVED AND OTHER WATER RIGHTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any provisions in this Act, the Bands had, have, and continue to possess federally reserved rights and other water rights held in trust by the United States.

"(2) FUTURE PROCEEDINGS.—In any proceeding involving the assertion, enforcement, or defense of the rights described in this subsection, the United States, in its capacity as trustee for any Band, shall not be a required party and any decision by the United States regarding participation in any such proceeding shall not be subject to judicial review or give rise to any claim for relief against the United States.

"(e) ALLOTTEES.—Congress finds and confirms that the benefits to allottees in the Settlement Agreement, including the remedies and provisions requiring that any rights of allottees shall be satisfied from supplemental water and other water available to the Bands or the Indian Water Authority, are equitable and fully satisfy the water rights of the allottees.

"(f) NO PRECEDENT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed or interpreted as a precedent for the litigation or settlement of Indian reserved water rights."

SEC. 2. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.

The second sentence of section 105(b)(1) of the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (Public Law 100-675) is amended by striking the period at the end, and inserting the following: ", provided that—

"(i) no more than \$3,700,000 per year (in principal, interest or both) may be so allocated; and

"(ii) none of the funds made available by this section shall be available unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget first certifies in writing to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate that the federal budget will record budgetary outlays from the San Luis Rey Tribal Development Fund of only the monies, not to exceed \$3,700,000 annually, that the Secretary of the Treasury, pursuant to this section, allocates and makes available to the Indian Water Authority from the trust fund."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bill before us today helps bring closure to almost 50 years of litigation and uncertainty that have impacted tribal and nontribal communities in southern California.

□ 1800

Negotiations between five tribes, water districts, cities, and Federal Government have been ongoing for decades, and this bill represents the results of those successful negotiations. The Federal money has already been appropriated for this settlement, and this bill, as amended, includes provisions that are aimed at resolving direct spending issues that have been identified by the Congressional Budget Office.

It is not often that both sides of the aisle come to an agreement on anything involving California water. While I hope that we will have agreement on larger California water issues in the near future, this bill shows that we can come together. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill approves a water rights settlement agreement that would resolve nearly five decades of litigation. That is a great thing.

The 2015 settlement between the United States and the parties that Mr. DENHAM just mentioned is important, and approving this settlement will finally put an end to years of bitter fighting over water rights in the San Luis Rey River Basin. It also leaves intact the full amount of funds Congress previously appropriated for the tribes. This kind of negotiation is important, and the painstaking work that has gone into it is to be commended. Now it is up to Congress to do its part to implement a well-crafted settlement.

I commend my colleagues across the aisle for introducing this bill and for moving it through the House, and I thank the committee staffs on both sides who have been working hard to bring this bill to the floor.

I have to say, though, Mr. Speaker, that all of this good, collaborative work represented in Mr. HUNTER's bill stands in contrast to another set of pending water agreements in our State. I hope that the Obama administration will look at this successful example of collaboration in San Diego County and reconsider its current approach to the Westlands-San Joaquin Valley drainage disputes, where Congress and the public have been extremely ill-served.

In the two pending drainage agreements, the Interior Department has agreed to waive hundreds of millions of dollars that are owed to taxpayers. They have failed to close off potential litigation risks from other parties and have failed to secure actual commitments to clean up the contamination. They have also promised to write a new, permanent water contract for a party that is not a tribal party but is in an arid state where everyone is hurting for clean water. Meanwhile, we weren't able to receive administration testimony on one of the agreements due, in part, to a pending inspector general investigation of the beneficiaries.

I am hopeful that, in the next administration and in a new Congress, we can do a better job on this drainage issue and, specifically, that we will be able to tackle those California drainage disputes with the same level of collaboration and problem-solving that we have seen in the San Luis Rey Basin.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman and my great friend from California.

Mr. Speaker, the parties to this settlement have been working towards a resolution for almost 50 years; so I will keep my remarks brief so that we don't delay them any further. Before I get into the substance of this bill, I thank Chairman BISHOP, Chairman FLEMING, and the Natural Resources Committee staff for their assistance in getting this bill to the floor right now. I also thank my friends across the aisle.

Today we are addressing an issue that dates back to the late 19th century, when the Federal Government established reservations—in what is now my district in northern San Diego County—for five Mission Indian bands. The creation of these reservations included sufficient water to meet the bands' present and future needs. However, in 1969, litigation arose surrounding whether the Federal Government improperly signed over the bands' water rights claims to two non-Indian municipalities—what are today the city of Escondido and the Vista Irrigation District.

In 1988, after decades of litigation, Congress enacted legislation that was introduced by former Congressman Ron Packard, the 1988 San Luis Rey Water Rights Settlement Act. Among its provisions, the legislation directed the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to provide water annually to the tribes and established the San Luis Rey Tribal Development Fund. However, that act only becomes effective when all of the parties to the litigation enter into a settlement agreement providing for the complete resolution of all claims. That

is what the legislation we are considering today accomplishes.

This legislation puts into effect a previous Department of Justice settlement agreed to by all parties—the five Mission Indian bands, the two local municipalities, and the Federal Government—and requires no new money or water to be enacted. With the passage of H.R. 1296, Congress can, at last, end this dispute and finalize the action it sought in passing the original settlement act in 1988.

I urge all Members to support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this is one small step to California's water solutions. It is about time that we came together on this one small issue in California. Now it is time to face the much bigger issues of a drought-stricken State that continues to see a lack of water storage. It is time that we find a real solution for all of California.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1296, a bill to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, approves and ratifies a settlement agreement entered into among the United States; five Bands of Mission Indians in northern San Diego County; the City of Escondido, California; and the Vista Irrigation District. The settlement agreement was contemplated by the 1988 San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act, in which Congress, seeking to end decades of litigation, created a \$30 million trust fund to be provided to the Bands with interest upon execution of a settlement. That amount was appropriated for the trust fund in 1989.

The parties' settlement agreement requires ratification and approval by Congress in order to be effective, hence the introduction of H.R. 1296. After the House Natural Resources Committee reported H.R. 1296, the Congressional Budget Office concluded that the bill would increase net direct federal spending by \$18 million over the 2017 through 2026 period. After further discussions, the bill was amended in a way that CBO concluded would eliminate the \$18 million spending effect. Specifically, the amended H.R. 1296 provides that the money in the trust fund—rather than becoming fully available to the Bands immediately upon the settlement taking effect as the 1988 Act provided—would be made available at the rate of \$3.7 million per year, with the Bands having the option to withdraw less than that amount. The House passed H.R. 1296 with this amendment on September 22, 2016.

The only change regarding the trust fund that H.R. 1296 as amended makes to the 1988 Act is to change the rate at which the money in the trust fund is made available to the Bands. The full amount of the fund that Congress appropriated in 1989, including the interest that has been and will continue to be earned on that money, is unchanged. And crucially, the agreement to limit the annual allocations to no more than \$3.7 million does not affect the Bands' right to eventually receive all

of the money in the trust fund once the settlement takes effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1296, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ROBERT EMMET PARK ACT OF 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4564) to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as "Robert Emmet Park", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4564

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Robert Emmet Park Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Robert Emmet was one of Ireland's most prominent historical figures, having led an effort to secure Irish independence in 1803.

(2) Although Emmet's efforts initially failed, they succeeded in inspiring new generations of Irish men and women to struggle for independence.

(3) For his efforts to gain Irish independence, Emmet was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death by hanging.

(4) Robert Emmet's "Speech from the Dock" motivated many of the efforts that led to an independent Ireland following 1916's Easter Rising; (Emmet famously said that "To [Ireland] I sacrificed every selfish, every lasting sentiment . . . I wished to place her independence beyond the reach of any power of earth . . . to procure for my country the guarantee which Washington procured for America . . . to exalt her to that proud station in the world."). Emmet was strongly influenced by American democracy and the American Revolution.

(5) Emmet had family members similarly admiring of the United States and dedicated to the cause of Irish independence, including his brother Thomas Addis Emmet who went on to become a prominent Attorney General of New York.

(6) Emmet has been revered by generations of Irish-Americans for his leadership, courage, and sacrifice.

(7) Fifty years ago on April 22, 1966, the Robert Emmet Statue was dedicated on a small parcel of National Park Service land (reservation 302) at the corner of 24th Street NW and Massachusetts Avenue NW in Washington, DC.

(8) Robert Emmet's statue is the central feature of reservation 302.

(9) Many leading Members of Congress, including Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and Senators Everett Dirksen

and Mike Mansfield served on the Robert Emmet Statue Dedication Committee.

(10) Other members of that committee and participants in the dedication ceremony included Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall, Representative Michael Kirwan, Ambassador of Ireland William P. Fay, and Rector of St. Matthews Cathedral John K. Cartwright.

SEC. 3. REDESIGNATION OF ROBERT EMMET PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The small triangular property designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302, shall be known as “Robert Emmet Park”.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, paper, or other record of the United States to the property referred to in subsection (a) is deemed to be a reference to “Robert Emmet Park”.

(c) SIGNAGE.—The Secretary of the Interior may post signs on or near Robert Emmet Park that include one or more of the following:

(1) Information on Robert Emmet, his contribution to Irish Independence, and his respect for the United States and the American Revolution.

(2) Information on the history of the statue of Robert Emmet located in Robert Emmet Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill, introduced by Congressman CROWLEY of New York, redesignates a small, triangular property in Washington, D.C., that is currently designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302, as Robert Emmet Park.

Robert Emmet is a prominent historical figure who is known for his role in the Irish Rebellion of 1803 and for his classic Speech from the Dock that inspired future efforts to gain Irish independence. Last April marked the 100th anniversary of the 1916 uprising, commonly known as the Easter Rising by Irish Republicans, to end British rule and establish an independent Irish Republic.

The small property redesignated by the bill is located just a few blocks from the Irish Embassy, and it currently features a nearly 100-year-old statue of Robert Emmet—a source of pride for America's Irish community. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to post informational

signage regarding Robert Emmet and his statue in the park.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, Robert Emmet was an Irishman who was inspired by our hard-fought independence in this country, and he wanted the same for his native land. I think this bill is a wonderful thing for Ireland and a wonderful thing for Irish Americans, including for my colleague, Mr. CROWLEY, a great, proud Irish American.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4564 designates a small triangle of land in Washington, DC as the Robert Emmet Park. The parcel is home to a statue of Robert Emmet, a seminary figure in Ireland's quest for independence. The bill also authorizes the National Park Service, which managed the area, to add interpretive displays and signage to the area.

Emmet admired the independence we achieved in this country, and only wanted the same freedom and liberty for his compatriots. These powerful sentiments are a charge to all of us in this Chamber and throughout the country: that we put the good of our fellow countrymen before our individual gains and that we work together to preserve this great Nation.

By designating this small plot of land and the accompanying statue as Robert Emmet Park, this stands as a constant reminder of the call to liberty and freedom that binds our Nation together. I am glad to support this bill and thank the sponsor, Representative JOE CROWLEY of New York, the vice-chair of the Democratic Caucus.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank both of my friends from California for bringing this bill to the floor today. I am not a member of the requisite committee, but I appreciate the work that was done to bring it to the floor. I thank them both for speaking in favor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that we are here this week at the cusp of the grand opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture here in Washington, D.C.—a, rightfully, magnificent building here on The Mall of our Nation's Capital. I think, after listening to a few of the remarks I will make about this little piece of property here in Washington, it is a modicum in comparison to that, but it is, I think, worthy of our support.

This is a bipartisan bill that is before us today. It has earned the support of both sides of the aisle. Specifically, it would name a small parcel of land in Washington, D.C., as the Robert Emmet Park. In some ways, the name can be considered a formality because, as has been mentioned by Mr. DENHAM, there is already a statue of Emmet that has been in the park for decades. It is the only statue in the very small

park, and it is situated so that it is the main visible feature to visitors. I hope one doesn't mind my sharing just a little of the history here today.

The Robert Emmet statue first came into the possession of the United States 100 years ago, when then-President Woodrow Wilson, other Cabinet members, diplomats, and Members of Congress joined in the acceptance ceremony.

The statue was a gift from the Irish American community and was created by renowned artist Jerome Connor. After it was donated, it graced the rotunda of the National Museum of Natural History for its first 50 years. In the 1960s, it was moved to its current location in the park, and it was rededicated. The statue has stood there ever since and has been admired by millions of tourists, visitors, local residents, and passersby.

But this is not just a statue. For many Americans, the admiration for Robert Emmet reflects a deep and abiding pride in Irish American history as well as the lasting, worldwide influence of our own American history. That is because, over 200 years ago, inspired by George Washington and the American Revolution, Emmet led an attempt to free Ireland from British rule. For this effort, he was captured and was ultimately executed. In the course of his execution, he gave one of the most famous speeches in history, known as the Speech from the Dock. His cause lived on not only because he paid the ultimate price on September 20, 1803, but because of his incredible and indelible words that he spoke that day.

In his speech, Emmet spoke about how George Washington and the American independence struggle inspired his actions. He spoke about his desire for sovereignty and for independence for his own land. He spoke about his desire for freedom and uttered words that live on in the hearts of Irish Americans and of all freedom-loving people throughout the world.

I quote from that speech:

Let no man write my epitaph; for as no man who knows my motives dare now vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them. Let them and me rest in obscurity and peace and my tomb remain uninscribed and my memory in oblivion until other times and other men can do justice to my character. When my country takes her place among the nations of the Earth, then—and not till then—let my epitaph be written.

It is dangerous to paraphrase a famous speech; but basically Emmet was saying not to write his epitaph until the struggle was won. He believed it ultimately would be won someday.

The brilliance of his speech and the courage of his convictions had a profound impact on people throughout the world, but particularly in Ireland. Understand that he was subject to execution—he was hung, drawn, and quartered—and he knew that that is what

he was facing; yet he had the ability to deliver one of the greatest speeches in the history of mankind.

Scholars indicate that President Abraham Lincoln knew and recited the very speech I just alluded to. The American author Washington Irving wrote of Emmet, and many school-children across our country memorized parts of the speech I just referred to. I, myself, learned of that passage during time spent at my high school, my alma mater, Power Memorial Academy in New York City.

Emmet and his speech also had a real and concrete impact on our own American history. In fact, organizations called the Emmet Monument Association sprung up in the United States. Their goal was to build a burial monument to Emmet on which that promised epitaph, one day, could be written. Since Emmet had requested that Ireland be free before his epitaph were written, these were really Fenian freedom organizations.

□ 1815

Over the years, these and other organizations were supported by countless Americans not only in New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C., but throughout our land, Irish and non-Irish alike. Their work was the precursor to later American roles in the struggle for Ireland's independence, and their presence played a major part in American political life for many, many, many decades.

When the Emmet statue was moved to its current location 50 years ago, many leading American figures served on the bipartisan dedication committee, including then-Speaker of the House John W. McCormack and Senators Everett Dirksen and Mike Mansfield. They were joined by the Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall and Rector of St. Matthews Catholic Cathedral, John Cartwright.

President Lyndon Johnson also conveyed his admiration for Emmet in a message to the event writing, "... the sheer patriotism and the gallant courage of Robert Emmet has inspired Americans no less than Irishmen ... We Americans are proud to accord a place of honor here in the Nation's Capital to Robert Emmet, whose struggles and sacrifices bespeak the yearnings of mankind throughout the ages."

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Congress and the U.S. Government have long recognized the significance of this park and its central statue in keeping alive not only the memory of Robert Emmet but the ideals that he fought and what he was executed for.

I hope we can continue that record and the bipartisan cooperation here today by passing this legislation. This bill doesn't require spending funds. It doesn't require undue efforts. It doesn't significantly rearrange any current

setup of the park or the park system. It would simply attach the name "Robert Emmet Park" to the existing small piece of land where that statue rests.

I respectfully urge its passage.

In closing, I thank the members and staff of the Natural Resources Committee for their work and their support of this measure. I greatly appreciate their work in ensuring that this is on the floor and that the bill passes today.

I can't do enough justice to the life of Robert Emmet, nor his brother, Thomas, for that matter, and all those who followed afterwards. He was an incredible inspiration, as I said, not only to Ireland but well beyond the shores of Ireland as well, including the United States of America.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would just like to thank Mr. CROWLEY for offering this important issue. It is important to Irish heritage, and it certainly deserves the recognition as a park right here in our local area of Washington, D.C.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4564.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials they might want to include on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5931.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1820

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5931) to

provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with Mr. RUSSELL in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I raise this issue because, on three occasions now, we have had the transfer of pallets of cash to the Government of Iran, and this legislation would make certain that that does not happen again.

The reason we do not want to pay cash to the Government of Iran has to do with all of the efforts that the international community has put into trying to track the conduct of that regime, which is a primary money laundering concern for the international financial community, and for the fact that particular government in Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, has been the primary source of cash support for Hamas in the past and also today for Hezbollah.

We could add to that the work of the IRGC in trying to get parts for their ballistic missile program as their agents are out and about Europe trying to buy this equipment.

It is not in the interest of the United States to have the regime have cold, hard cash. So this legislation would put an end to that.

As the Members of the House will recall, the President announced in January that the United States would pay Iran \$1.7 billion to settle a dispute involving a 1979 arms deal. This payment came out of the blue.

From the start, by the way, Iranian military commanders were saying that a hostage exchange, which I think most of us originally assumed, was going to be nine prisoners who were in the process of being convicted in the United States, of Iranian nationality, were going to be exchanged for the four hostages, the four Americans, that Iran was holding.

Yet, from the beginning, as this was announced, you saw the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps speaking to this issue saying there was going to be a transfer of cash. Basically, there was going to be a ransom payment here in exchange for letting the Americans go.

Well, it turns out that, after months of pressing from the Foreign Affairs Committee and the media, the Obama administration finally admitted that it had ignored the concerns from the Justice Department.

Now, what was the Justice Department's concerns? It had to do with the way in which the payment was being

made. It had to do with the transfer of cash.

As the Justice Department said, there is a longstanding U.S. policy against this process. Why? Because when you do so, you can expect to get more of the same kind of action from a state like Iran.

Indeed, once the \$1.7 billion in these three tranches of cash were paid, the result, after the release of Americans held hostage in Iran and after they announced in Iran that this was linked to these pallets of cash, then they took three more American hostages. They detained three more Americans and held them, plus a Canadian, plus a Frenchman, and a Brit. So, not surprisingly, I guess, Iran is continuing in this behavior.

I think now the administration claims also that cash was the only way they could do this particular transaction, but that is simply not true. It could have permitted a transaction to go through the international financial system. How do we know this? Because they were making other payments through the international financial system to Iran as sanctions were being lifted through the proper procedure there.

Just this week, the Treasury Department confirmed that other recent transactions with Iran were conducted through traditional banking channels.

I think the reason this was done in pallets of cash, in my opinion, was because that is what the Iranians were demanding. The reason I think that is because that is what they are saying in terms of their television coverage of this.

So the administration did choose to deliver \$1.7 billion in untraceable assets to Iran's radical regime. And that is problematic when the international body charged with developing policies to combat money laundering and combat terrorism financing tells us that, in their words, physical transportation of currency is one of the main methods used to move criminal assets, to launder money, and—to me, most importantly—to “finance terrorism.”

I believe that, again, that is why the Iranian regime wanted the cash. It is not a coincidence to me that the desire for cash comes just as this committee's legislation to crack down on banks that finance Hezbollah is having an impact. What kind of an impact? We have made it very, very hard for those in Hezbollah and Hamas to now get their hands on the support that previously had come through Iran.

Iran and its proxies need cash, and we should not be transferring it to them. So this legislation, which passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee last week, has two core elements: One, it prohibits future cash payments for any reason to Iran. And, two, it demands transparency and advanced notification of any future settlements re-

lated to the U.S.-Iran Hague Tribunal so that the Congress is not surprised again.

It poses a fundamental question: Are we comfortable providing Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism that is fueling a bloodbath in Syria, with billions of dollars in cash that they can turn around and funnel to the Assad regime, to Hezbollah, and to Hamas? I think, for all Members, the answer to that question is clear.

I would urge an “aye” vote on this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in opposition to this bill.

Let me start by underscoring my respect and admiration for our chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee and my friend, ED ROYCE. It is unusual that we debate a Foreign Affairs bill subject to a rule because the vast majority of our legislation is the product of strong bipartisan collaboration.

So I regret that the bill we are debating today doesn't have support across the aisle, and all you need to do is read the bill's title to know what I mean. There were 50 Republican sponsors and no Democrats. We really weren't part of putting this bill together. And again and again in the bill, we see the word “ransom.”

Now, I know that some of my colleagues and the chairman believe sincerely that the latest payment to Iran was a ransom. I happen to disagree. I think holding Iran's money until Iran released American detainees was a pretty shrewd bargain. Whatever we think, using the word “ransom” turns this bill into a political hot button, a poke in the eye of the administration.

Now, I don't like or trust the Government of Iran. I voted against the Iran bill last year, and it is no secret that I have some differences with the President's Iran policy. But I do know that pushing legislation just to embarrass the White House won't help to resolve those differences we might have.

□ 1830

I also question the bill's focus on cash. Look, I share the view that any sum dumped into Iran's bank account may be put to bad use. But, Mr. Chairman, I would have that concern whether the money got to Iran via cash, check, wire transfer, or stacks of gold bars. Money is money; it is fungible. We have no way of knowing what happens to it once it is in Iran's hands. We can guess, but we have no way of knowing.

Does that irk me? Sure, it does. Iran's leaders do all sorts of things that irk me and, more important, that make the world less safe. But whether we like it or not, the payment we are talking about was Iran's money. We paid it as part of a settlement under the Algiers Accords, which the United

States signed in 1981. We have been making payments like this for decades—under Ronald Reagan, under George H.W. Bush, and now under Barack Obama—and in that time, regardless of how we sent the money, we haven't had any control over what Iran does with it. I agree, it is deeply frustrating because we know what Iran is up to.

We can't control that, Mr. Chairman. But there are some things we can control. For instance, I agree with Chairman ROYCE that the way we found out about this payment gave Congress short shrift. We did receive a briefing, but we did not learn how and when the payment was going forward. Congress can, and should, make sure that happens with respect to future payments. That is what my amendment does, which I am going to introduce.

In my view, that is what the Committee on Foreign Affairs would have done if we had advanced this bill according to our normal bipartisan process. Again, as I said, there was no input from the minority. It comes to the floor with 50 Republican cosponsors and not a single Democrat. I am not able to support the bill because, to me, it puts political concerns ahead of our legitimate concerns. I share the chairman's feelings about Iran. I don't think there is a dime's worth of difference between our feelings with Iran. It is simply a matter of what is the best way to go about doing it. I don't think this is the best way.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would make the point that, as we talk about whether Iran took possession of this money in cash or by check, that transaction is immaterial. I understand the argument here, but let me explain why I do not think that holds true with respect to the process here.

There are other options that could have been followed, that have been followed by the international community when payment is made. For example, the administration could have held the funds in an escrow account overseas, verified that the end recipients of the funds were, in Iran, not sanctioned entities, like the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

By providing cash, the administration is doing the work for the Iranians that they need done in terms of preparatory work for money laundering. That is the problem. That is the problem with the way this was done. Cash transactions, in and of themselves, raise serious terrorism financing risks, according to the Financial Action Task Force; and that is the official body, international body, that sets the global standards for preventing money laundering and is most focused on stopping terror finance. What they say, again, is that the physical cross-border transportation of currency is the main

method used to move illicit funds, to launder money, and to finance terrorism. That is why we want to cut off cash.

These risks are particularly acute here because the State Department has identified Iran as the leading state sponsor of terrorism and as the country that is actively supporting terrorist organizations with cash, such as Hezbollah, Hamas as well, and then also assisting Syrian President Assad in his murderous assault on civilians. So that is the first point I would make.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this issue. I rise in support of this legislation, the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

Last month, Mr. Chairman, information came to light the administration secretly paid a cash ransom to Iran, a state sponsor of terrorism, in exchange for the release of American hostages, a decision kept secret from Congress, a decision kept from Congress because, as this administration and its own State Department know well, it is longstanding U.S. policy to deny hostage-takers the benefits of ransom.

In fact, just last year, President Obama issued a Presidential Policy Directive stating just that: "The United States Government will make no concessions to individuals or groups holding U.S. nationals hostage. It is United States policy to deny hostage-takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession."

I fear this President has set a dangerous precedent for United States nationals and personnel abroad. We are already seeing it, Mr. Chairman. Since the ransom has been paid, Iran has taken seven more United States citizens hostage.

This decision was not only foolish, but shortsighted. I have yet to mention where this money is likely to go. Iran has been designated as a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S. State Department since 1984. It has supported groups like Hezbollah and Hamas, which call for the destruction of our allies, including Israel.

The President would understandably like to deny ransom was paid and instead claim this was simply leverage and part of a settlement deal that he struck with the same Iranians who, by his own admission, have violated the spirit of his generous agreements before. For someone who holds the spirit of pledges in such high esteem, Mr. Chairman, I don't think even the President could disagree that, at the very least, he violated the spirit of his own policy.

This administration's desire to appease a radical Iranian regime knows

no bounds. Though the President stands idly by as the Iranians violate the terms of their agreement with the United States, Congress must not stand idly by while he violates his own deal with the American people.

I thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, H.R. 5931. It is time to cut off the cash.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN), whose helpful amendment to this bill was adopted during the Committee on Foreign Affairs' markup.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman ROYCE and rise in support of his legislation, Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act, which I cosponsored, to prohibit ransom payments to Iran, the largest state sponsor of terror.

Iran calls America the Great Satan and pledges death to America. Iran is illegally test-firing ICBMs. They finance Assad in Syria, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terror groups. Iran recently detained and embarrassed, publicly, U.S. Navy sailors. Iran currently is threatening U.S. Navy warships. Iran leaders do not respect American weakness—they prey upon it—and the U.S. is feeding into it, like the unsigned political commitment otherwise known as the Iran nuclear deal. Purchasing Iran's heavy water didn't help. Speaker RYAN has aptly pointed out, Secretary Kerry has been a shill for Iran, as if he is the president of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce.

I am deeply troubled that earlier this year the Obama administration airlifted a cash ransom payment at the exact same moment as the release of four unjustly detained American hostages. Some people blindly loyal to this President will say that this was Iran's money. No, it wasn't. This was a disputed claim for decades, and for very good reason. In the late 1970s, Iran fell behind in their payments under the Foreign Military Sales program. Iran canceled their orders, overtook our Embassy, and then repudiated all foreign obligations.

Not only have we been disputing Iran's claim for \$400 million, we had counterclaims against Iran, including one for \$817 million. In fact, a Federal law from 2000 details a very specific requirement regarding payments to Iran from the FMS account, which was directly violated by the ransom payment to Iran.

Between the 1979 Iranian Revolution and the 2000 law, U.S. victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism sued the Iranian Government in U.S. court with claims caused by Iran's terrorism. The claims were paid by the U.S. Government. These claims were subrogated to the U.S., meaning that their claims against Iran became the U.S. claims against Iran.

The 2000 law clearly states that "no funds shall be paid to Iran, or released to Iran . . . from the Foreign Military Sales Fund, until such subrogated claims have been dealt with to the satisfaction of the United States."

Yet President Obama paid Iran the full \$400 million amount from the FMS fund, plus more than three times that amount in interest, a total of \$1.7 billion in cash, in violation of the 2000 law. You can call a ransom payment leverage. But guess what, folks; it is still ransom. And why don't we pay ransom? Because now, with the price paid on American hostages, Iran has now captured new, unjustly imprisoned American hostages.

Passage of this bill is critically important, and I thank Chairman ROYCE for his unyielding, inspiring leadership on this issue to hold Iran accountable.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The argument that the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) was making is based on the counter to this argument that the administration has made. What the administration has said is: Look, Iran says we owe them \$400 million. We will impute the interest on that. The interest on the \$400 million is \$1.3 billion. Thus, we get to the \$1.7 billion that the tribunal says we owe, and we will pay that in three tranches.

The only way you get to that number, as Mr. ZELDIN has pointed out, is if you ignore the fact that in 2000, pursuant to a law signed by President Clinton, American taxpayers provided \$400 million, the same amount as in the FMS trust fund, to U.S. citizens who had won judgments against Iran for its support of terror. So the United States Government then took on their \$400 million in claims against Iran. So, in fact, those two sums should have been netted out.

In fact, according to this law, the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, the President was required to attempt to recover that money, that \$400 million from Iran, to the satisfaction of the United States. As part of this settlement, we are just finding out—get this—we are just finding out that the administration is letting Iran off the hook for the \$400 million plus interest. These sums would have netted out to zero.

According to the State Department, the administration has agreed to no longer pursue that \$400 million claim against Iran plus interest. Why? Why? And that is why this bill is so important, because it brings much-needed transparency to the U.S.-Iran Claims Tribunal by allowing Congress to see what claims each side has filed when they are likely to come in front of the tribunal and the likelihood that either Iran or the United States will prevail.

So again, what I am concerned happened here is because of the push from

Iran—and we need pushback against this. So Iran comes in at the eleventh hour of this deal and says: Wait a minute. We want this \$400 million in cash plus we want the interest. We are going to the tribunal. That is the decision from the tribunal. And then we give up on the counterclaim for the same amount. That is the concern here.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, let me say this: None of us likes the Government of Iran. None of us likes the idea of making payments to Iran, but this bill imposes a blanket ban on most forms of payment of our international obligations.

Let me just say that the Algiers Accords, which were signed 35 or 40 years ago, President Ronald Reagan, and President George H.W. Bush did the same thing that President Obama is doing now by making payments to Iran. There are things that gall us, but there are international obligations that we really have to follow through with.

□ 1845

It wasn't a matter and isn't a matter of giving money for hostages. We know this was part of a larger transaction. In fact, it was Iran's money that we held back; and we didn't release their money until we knew that those hostages were free. So I think it was pretty shrewd on our part to wait and use their money to hold back until the hostages were released.

Again, I think the Government of Iran is a terrible government. I think there are lots of things we could and should be doing together to put the skids on them. And we will be developing legislation together. But this legislation, to me, is more about poking a finger in the eye of the President and the eye of the administration by using words like "ransom" and saying all kind of things.

That is not really what we should be doing. We should be working together to find bipartisan solutions to check Iran, which nobody here will say is a good actor—certainly not me—one of the worst actors in the world, a leading sponsor of terrorism. But the United States has to fulfill international obligations, and we will do that, and we will do it at the same time we are countering Iran and making sure that it doesn't get away with its aggression and all the other horrific things the Government of Iran does. So I have to oppose this bill.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chair, it looks as though I have one more Member who has arrived and wishes to speak on this measure. I yield 3 minutes to the gen-

tleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. LANCE. I thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership on this extremely important issue.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5931, the Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act.

It is a sad day when the American people see their tax funds being given to the world's most notorious financier of international terrorism. This legislation puts an end to it. And it is taxpayer funds. That was the original purpose in the 1970s. Since then, the Iranian regime has sponsored state terrorism across the globe.

The total now stands at \$1.7 billion that this administration has handed over to Iran. And despite weeks of denial after denial, the administration has finally acknowledged that these cash shipments to Iran were leveraged for the release of four innocent Americans unlawfully held by Tehran. I translate the term "leverage" to mean ransom.

We already know that the world is less safe based upon the nuclear agreement with Iran and that we are catering to Iran's demands. I believe that the \$1.7 billion to Iran sets a dangerous precedent that a terrorist network convicted in our courts can escape compensating U.S. victims.

There have been quite a few victims who were compensated in our courts, and those amounts of money have never been paid to the victims' families. The cash payments shipped in the middle of the night to Iran should instead have gone to the loved ones of those murdered by the Iranian regime.

The bill would stop the flow of funds to the terrorist networks long supported by Iran. I fear it may be inevitable that these funds would make their way to some of the world's worst actors. It is a risk we shouldn't have taken, and this legislation would ensure that it cannot happen again not only regarding this administration—this administration is going out of office and there will be a new President and a new administration come January—but this legislation goes well beyond the remaining months in office of this administration.

This is excellent legislation, regardless of which political party controls the White House, the executive branch, the State Department.

All of us should honor the judgments that have been rendered in courts of law for those who have lost their lives in acts of terrorism where the responsibility has been adjudicated in our courts of law. And it is to that end that Chairman ROYCE and the Foreign Affairs Committee and many others of us in the Congress have been involved in this issue.

The Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act is needed, and I urge its passage.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the esteemed majority whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Chairman, back in June of 2015, President Obama said: "It is United States policy to deny hostage-takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession."

That was back in 2015. Of course, just 6 months later, President Obama released seven Iranians and sent \$400 million in cash to Iran in exchange for Americans held hostage.

When the initial word came out that \$400 million was sent in unmarked bills on an unmarked plane to, in essence, exchange that money for American hostages, it sent a chilling signal all across the world. Not only was the administration completing a prisoner swap, but the administration was actually cowering to the Iranians' request for a cash payment.

\$400 million was converted into European currency, flown through Geneva, and then transferred to Iran just as the American hostages were released. But what we heard from the White House were denials, actually calling us out, saying it wasn't a ransom payment, despite the clearly coordinated series of events.

Mr. Chairman, nonetheless, we learn that the President's own Justice Department warned that this cash payment would signal a change in U.S. ransom policy and, of course, the Iranians themselves consider it a ransom payment. In fact, the Iranians bragged that they received cash ransom from the United States.

Nonetheless, the administration continues to refuse to confront this problem and how it actually makes America less safe. And we have seen that play out. Since this hostage ransom payment, more Americans and other Westerners have been taken hostage because the President put a bounty on the heads of Americans and other Westerners.

We have also learned there is another \$1.3 billion sent to Iran in cash. The administration said that there was no other way to send the payment; that they couldn't wire it. But, of course, since then, we have learned that there have been wire transfers made to Iran. So the President continued to mislead the American people about this serious breach of American protocol as it deals with Iran.

Now, a serious question to ask is: Where is that \$1.7 billion going? And not if, but how much of that \$1.7 billion is going to end up in the hands of Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terrorist organizations?

After all, Iran is the largest state sponsor of terror.

I think these are all important questions that need to be answered, Mr. Chairman. So all of these serious questions need to be answered by the administration, which has continued throughout this entire process of misleading the American people about what really happened. And the American people are demanding answers.

This bill by Chairman ROYCE is a serious response to stop these kinds of cash ransom payments from ever happening again to make America less safe. I appreciate all of my colleagues voting for this.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In summation, Mr. Chairman, throughout negotiations on the President's nuclear deal, the Foreign Affairs Committee held scores of briefings and hearings and meetings with the Obama administration on Iran.

So if the goal of this settlement was only to put to rest a decade-old excuse over an abandoned arms sale, why the secrecy? And why the secrecy, especially, about transferring this in pallets of cash?

I believe what happened here was that Iran, at the eleventh hour, demanded this cash payment and we ended up acquiescing.

And why ignore your own lawyers?

That is the other real question, to me. The head of the Justice Department's National Security Division warned that Iran would see it as a ransom and respond by taking more American hostages. And that is exactly what happened. They held the cash until the hostages left Iran that day. Even the State Department calls it leverage. It was textbook ransom. The Iranians viewed it as a ransom. They bragged about it. And now 3 more Americans have been taken hostage.

In an interview just yesterday, President Rouhani said Iran is actively engaged in negotiations with the Obama administration to get more money. And that is why the bill in front of us today does two things: it provides more transparency regarding the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal and it prohibits cash payments to the Government of Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, for any reason.

Remember, as international authorities have made clear, the physical transportation of currency—that means cash—is one of the main methods used for the purpose of money laundering and to finance terrorism.

So, once again, all Members must ask themselves today one important question: Are you comfortable providing Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, with billions of dollars in cash that they can turn around and funnel to the Assad regime, to Hezbollah, and to Hamas?

Mr. Chairman, the answer is clear. And I ask all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chair, I am grateful to be a co-sponsor of H.R. 5931, to prohibit future cash payments to Iran.

In January, the President made a \$1.7 billion cash payment along with the dangerous Iranian Nuclear Deal. After months of questions from the Foreign Affairs Committee about the deal and other leaders, we are just now getting the truth—

The payment was a ransom for four Americans who sat on a runway until the currency was en route.

The payment was made in cash—provided in pallets of untraceable foreign currency easily provided to murderous terrorists.

The Administration claimed cash was the only way to pay the ransom, yet the Treasury Department stated that the U.S. has made payments to the Iranian government via wire transfer in the past year.

As a leading state sponsor of terrorism, a cash payment to Iran will almost certainly go to finance terrorist activities, putting American families at risk.

Needless to say, the cash payment to the Iranian regime is a dangerous precedent that puts American families at risk. Last week, I sent a letter to the Treasury Department's Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence asking what steps his office took to ensure the cash ransom did not go to finance terrorism. I am still awaiting response.

I appreciate the leadership of Chairman ED ROYCE for sponsoring this legislation and for his work to stop the dangerous practice of providing cash to state sponsors of terrorism threatening American families.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this crucial legislation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this legislation, which is not a product of bipartisan collaboration as is the tradition of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The facts of this case are simple. Unfortunately, they have been muddled by election year politics and a lack of careful deliberation on this matter.

In 1979, U.S. weapons sales to Iran were interrupted by the Iranian revolution, and \$400 million worth of American weapons that were paid for by Iran were never delivered.

In December 2015, the U.S. and Iran settled the claim over the weapons sale for \$1.7 billion, including \$1.3 billion in interest.

Payment of the claim on January 16, 2016 coincided with Implementation Day of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the release of four Americans detained in Iran.

The settlement was announced the next day, and Congress was briefed on the payment.

For eight months this settlement was not the emergency it has somehow become.

And now with less than 50 days until the election we have rushed this legislation to the Floor without any input from the Minority.

We did not even bother to have a hearing on this subject, which the Majority obviously views as important.

In fact, the hearing on the settlement payment was scheduled for this week, after we marked up this bill in Committee last week.

The hearing was subsequently cancelled, which was probably for the best.

The Committee might have looked a little foolish sending a bill to the Floor to be voted on and then seeking out the facts of the case in a hearing.

Point, shoot, aim, should not be the manner in which Congress conducts U.S. foreign policy.

Perhaps we should go back to the drawing board and try to move forward in a bipartisan fashion.

That is how the House Foreign Affairs Committee functions best.

It is how we passed Iranian sanctions to bring Iran to the negotiating table.

It is how we have gone after Iran's financing of Hezbollah.

And it is how we should continue to confront the legitimate challenges Iranian behavior poses to security and stability in the world.

This legislation is not in keeping with that successful tradition, and I must oppose it.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-64. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 5931

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since 1979, when it held more than 50 United States citizens for 444 days, Iran has repeatedly held United States citizens hostage.

(2) Presidential Policy Directive 30 issued by President Barack Obama on June 24, 2015, states that "It is United States policy to deny hostagetakers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession."

(3) On January 17, 2016, the President announced that Iran would release several United States citizens while the United States would grant clemency to and release seven Iranian nationals serving sentences or awaiting trial in the United States for serious crimes.

(4) Senior officials of the Department of State have acknowledged that these United States citizens were released as part of a "prisoner swap" and Iranian negotiators reportedly asked for a cash payment.

(5) On January 17, 2016, the President also announced that "The United States and Iran are now settling a longstanding Iranian government claim against the United States Government."

(6) The overall amount of the settlement is approximately \$1,700,000,000.

(7) Subsequent reports revealed that \$400,000,000 of this \$1,700,000,000 settlement was secretly flown to Iran, in cash, simultaneously with the release of these United States citizens.

(8) One of the United States citizens released that night, Pastor Saeed Abedini, has stated

that Iranian officials explained a delay in their departure was due to the status of another plane.

(9) Senior officials at the National Security Division of the Department of Justice reportedly objected to the \$400,000,000 cash payment, warning that Iran would see it as a ransom.

(10) On August 18, 2016, a Department of State spokesman admitted that the \$400,000,000 cash payment was “leverage” to gain the release of Americans held hostage by Iran.

(11) Iranian State Television quoted General Mohammad Reza Naghdi, commander of the Basij militia, as claiming “Taking this much money back was in return for the release of the American spies.”.

(12) According to Presidential Policy Directive 30, the United States policy against paying ransom and releasing prisoners “protects United States nationals and strengthens national security by removing a key incentive for hostage-takers to target United States nationals, thereby interrupting the vicious cycle of hostage-takings, and by helping to deny terrorists and other malicious actors the money, personnel, and other resources they need to conduct attacks against the United States, its nationals, and its interests.”.

(13) Since the United States released Iranians serving sentences or awaiting trial in the United States for serious crimes and provided Iran with \$400,000,000 in cash, Iran has taken several more United States citizens hostage.

(14) On August 22, 2016, the Department of State issued an “Iran Travel Warning” noting that “Iranian authorities continue to unjustly detain and imprison U.S. citizens, particularly Iranian-Americans, including students, journalists, business travelers, and academics, on charges including espionage and posing a threat to national security.”.

(15) The Government of the United States has designated Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984 and a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern since 2011.

(16) The Department of State’s most recent Country Reports on Terrorism makes clear that “Iran continued its terrorist-related activity in 2015, including support for Hizballah, Palestinian terrorist groups in Gaza, and various groups in Iraq and throughout the Middle East.”.

(17) In announcing Iran’s designation as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern, the Department of the Treasury made clear that “any and every financial transaction with Iran poses grave risk of supporting” Iran’s ongoing illicit activities, including terrorism.

(18) On March 17, 2016, the Department of State acknowledged in a letter to Congress that there remain some “large claims” pending before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, “many of which are against the United States”.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States Government not to pay ransom or release prisoners for the purpose of securing the release of United States citizens taken hostage abroad.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON CASH PAYMENTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Government may not provide, directly or indirectly, promissory notes (including currency) issued by the United States Government or promissory notes (including currency) issued by a foreign government, to the Government of Iran.

(b) LICENSING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the conduct of a transaction or payment in connection with an agreement to settle a claim or claims brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal may be made only—

(A) on a case-by-case basis and pursuant to a specific license by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury; and

(B) in a manner that is not in contravention of the prohibition in subsection (a).

(2) PUBLICATION IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—The President shall publish in the Federal Register a list of transactions and payments, including the amount and method of each such transaction and payment, by the United States Government to the Government of Iran in connection with the agreement described in paragraph (1).

(c) TERMINATION.—The prohibition in subsection (a) and the licensing requirement in subsection (b) shall remain in effect until the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) the President has rescinded a preliminary draft rule or final rule (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act) that provides for the designation of Iran as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern pursuant to section 5318A of title 31, United States Code; and

(2) the Secretary of State has removed Iran from the list of countries determined to have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism under section 6(f) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, or any other provision of law.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON OUTSTANDING CLAIMS BEFORE THE IRAN-UNITED STATES CLAIMS TRIBUNAL.

(a) REPORT.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that lists and evaluates each outstanding claim before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The total value of each outstanding claim.

(2) The current status of each outstanding claim.

(3) The likelihood that each claim will be resolved in the next 6 months.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed 3 years.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 6. NOTIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION RELATING TO SETTLEMENTS OF OUTSTANDING CLAIMS BEFORE THE IRAN-UNITED STATES CLAIMS TRIBUNAL.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days prior to conducting a transaction or payment from the Government of the United States to the Government of Iran in connection with an agreement to settle a claim or claims brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The notification required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The total amount of the settlement, including the total principal and interest, and an explanation of the calculation of the interest.

(2) A legal analysis of why the settlement was made, including a detailed description of all claims and counter-claims covered by the settlement.

(3) A certification by the President that the settlement is not a ransom for the release of individuals held hostage by Iran.

(4) An identification of each entity of the Government of Iran that will receive amounts from the settlement.

(5) A certification that the funds provided to Iran under the settlement will not be used to provide support to foreign terrorist organizations, the regime of Bashar al-Assad, or other destabilizing activities.

(6) Whether an equal amount of Iranian funds are available and accessible in the United States to satisfy judgments against Iran by victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism.

(7) A copy of the settlement agreement.

(8) A description of the disposition of any related claims that have been subrogated to the United States Government.

(9) A certification that the settlement is in the best interest of the United States.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

SEC. 7. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.

Nothing in this Act shall apply to any activities subject to the reporting requirements of title V of the National Security Act of 1947.

SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize any payment by the Government of the United States to the Government of Iran.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.—The term “Government of Iran” means—

(A) the state and the Government of Iran, as well as any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof;

(B) any entity owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the foregoing;

(C) any person to the extent that such person is, or has been, or to the extent that there is reasonable cause to believe that such person is, or has been, acting or purporting to act directly or indirectly on behalf of any of the foregoing; and

(D) any person or entity identified by the Secretary of the Treasury to be the Government of Iran under part 560 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) IRAN-UNITED STATES CLAIMS TRIBUNAL.—The term “Iran-United States Claims Tribunal” means the tribunal established pursuant to the Algiers Accords on January 19, 1981, to resolve certain claims by nationals of one party against the other party and certain claims between the parties.

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114–781. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not

be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ROYCE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-781.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, strike line 11 and all that follows through line 17 and insert the following:

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Government may not provide, directly or indirectly, to the Government of Iran—

(A) monetary instruments; or

(B) precious metals.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “monetary instruments” has the meaning given the term in paragraph (dd) of section 1010.100 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) the term “precious metal” has the meaning given the term in section 1027.100(d) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

Page 6, after line 11, insert the following:

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The term “agreement to settle a claim or claims brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal”, as used in subsection (b), shall not be construed to mean a “promissory note”, as used in the definition of “monetary instrument” for purposes of subsection (a).

Page 6, line 12, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

Page 7, line 6, strike “(d)” and insert “(e)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, last week, when the Foreign Affairs Committee met to consider this legislation, the ranking member expressed concerns that the bill, as introduced, was too broad in our attempt to end payments to Iran in cash and cash-like equivalent. So I committed to sharpening this language as the process moves forward.

The amendment before us makes good on that commitment, using the more precise term “monetary instrument,” which has a much more specific definition in U.S. law, while also adding precious metals, a real concern among those who closely follow Iran.

So that is the nature of the amendment before us.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1900

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, let me, first of all, say I appreciate Chairman ROYCE's consideration of my feedback during the markup, and I know he is well-intentioned with this measure.

As he mentioned, I believe that the underlying legislation was too broad. It could have been interpreted as a ban on any payment, including wire transfers, checks, or cash. This does improve the bill.

I don't like sending money to Iran, but if we ban any payments to Iran, we would be violating our obligations under the Algiers Accords. So, the specific changes in this bill narrow the banned payments to cash and precious metals.

To me, cash is a red herring. No matter how we pay money to Iran, whether cash or wire transfer, once the money gets to an Iranian bank account, it is impossible for us to track it. We can imagine how Iranians use it, but we can't know for certain.

Whether cash or wire transfer, we can't prevent them from doing the terrible things they do. So let's not talk about the form of the payment when I think our real concern is that we don't like what Iran does with money that it legally obtains.

Additionally, my understanding is that the settlement in question required an immediate payment. So as much as it might be counterintuitive, electronic wire payments to Iran have taken months to complete, while the cash option met the terms of the settlement.

It is galling. It is nothing we like to do, but, again, we signed an agreement called the Algiers Accords, and every President, in terms of giving money back to Iran, which was legally their money, has used the rules of the Accords. President Obama is not the first President to do that. As I pointed out before, both President Reagan and President George H.W. Bush did it as well.

It takes a long time to make a wire transfer to Iran because U.S. sanctions against Iran are so powerful and so comprehensive that there are virtually no banking relationships between the United States and Iran. Therefore, a wire transfer was not an option; it would have taken too long. So in order to abide by the settlement, the U.S. Government had to make an immediate payment.

So, Mr. Chairman, that is the reason I will have to oppose this amendment, even though I appreciate that the chairman is seeking to clarify the bill and make it better.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I would just make the following points. We did have another way to transfer any agreed-upon settlement without transferring pallets of cash, and we know that because the administration had made other transfers to Iran.

So this bill does not withdraw the U.S. from the Claims Tribunal or Algiers Accords. It doesn't impact that. Nor does it effectively prevent the United States from paying out awards rendered by the tribunal.

As I have indicated, we simply, with this bill, prohibit cash from being used as a payment method. If the United States has to pay Iran a tribunal award in the future, the payment should be processed through the formal financial system as the other payments to Iran have been, and that is how the Hague Tribunal payments have been handled for 35 years, and that is how it should work in the future.

But our sanctions system was designed with tribunal payments in mind. The Iran transaction sanctions regime contains a number of exemptions from the rules so that certain transactions can go forward, and, in this case, transactions for tribunal settlements are explicitly authorized and would shield any entity involved in such a transaction from liability under U.S. law.

So going back to the original argument, we are trying to perfect the bill. But at the end of the day, we can't collapse the effort because we have now had three panelloads full of cash, with pallets of cash transferred to the regime, and we can bet Iran will angle for more.

Just last night, the Iranian President asserted that considerable sums of money are under discussion to be returned in Iran. This can't happen again. This cannot happen by another pallets-of-cash shipment to the Iranian regime or the IRGC, so this amendment is important.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me respond just to some of the things that we have heard from some of our colleagues.

This was not a ransom payment. This was payment for a 30-year-old claim over a weapons shipment that was never delivered, and the United States actually got a pretty good deal in the settlement. We might have had to pay more interest if we hadn't settled and the claim had gone to judgment at the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal.

When the prisoners' plane was sitting on the tarmac, the administration, as I mentioned before, held up the settlement money. They couldn't find the mother and wife of one of the prisoners, Jason Rezaian from The Washington Post. Administration officials feared that, as Mr. Rezaian was being released, the Iranians were detaining his family, and this was unacceptable. The administration leveraged the settlement money, holding it up until Mr. Rezaian's family could be found and the prisoners could leave the country.

Leveraging the money, money that belonged to Iran in the first place and

was going to be paid to Iran under the Algiers Accords, was smart. Can you imagine if the administration had paid the settlement anyway, even if the prisoner release was stalled? That didn't happen.

Some people are saying that the administration made payments to Iran via wire transfer before and after the ransom, so why did the ransom have to be cash? Well, the payments that were made via wire transfer before and after the settlement payments were months in the making. It takes a long time to make a wire transfer to Iran because U.S. sanctions against Iran are so powerful and so comprehensive, as I mentioned before, that there are virtually no banking relationships between the U.S. and Iran. It takes a long time to wire money to Iran.

But the requirement of the settlement was that the payment had to be immediate; therefore, a wire transfer, instead of cash, was not an option. It would have taken too long.

Let me say this. I said it before and I will say it again. Money is fungible. Whether cash, wire transfers, checks, gold, or any other form of payment, once it gets to Iran, we have no way of tracking it. So I believe this debate about cash is beside the point. Money can be moved, be used for nefarious purposes once it gets to Iran, no matter what the method.

But when we are going to make a payment to Iran pursuant to a settlement or a judgment, Congress should know about it, and I am offended that we didn't know about it. And that is why, when I introduce my amendment a little bit later on, we are going to require that Congress be informed of any kinds of transfer, not only to Iran, but to any other rogue nation, at least 5 days before.

So we should have greater oversight of these payments. I agree with that. But I don't think that we should worry about whether it was cash or some other method.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-781.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PAYMENT OF RANSOM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection (b), the President and all officers of the United States Government shall not make a payment to a government or person for the purpose of securing the release of un-

justly detained individuals who are nationals of the United States or aliens who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) does not prohibit the United States Government from providing assistance to individuals who are nationals of the United States or aliens who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States that have been arrested.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, may take such actions, including the promulgation of such rules and regulations, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity.

(2) PERSON.—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, my amendment, in short, prohibits ransom payments to any country. Although the American people consider this to be U.S. policy, given the administration's recent actions, we have to make this prohibition explicit. This amendment will support and strengthen the good work of Chairman ROYCE on H.R. 5931.

Think about this timeline. The U.S. wires \$400 million in cash from the Swiss National Bank and then physically transports it to another city to hand off to Iranian officials, all in 3 days, 3 days before Iran releases four American hostages. But it gets worse. Less than a week after this, the U.S. again sends hoards of cash to Iran.

We only know this timeline thanks to multiple and persistent inquiries from myself and other Members of Congress. And yet there are so many details that we still don't know.

For instance, on April 5, 2016, White House Spokesman Josh Earnest, in response to a reporter's question on whether the Obama administration misled Congress about the Iran deal, stated: “I don't think there is any evidence to substantiate this claim . . . I think you should take a rather dim view of that suggestion because Congressman POMPEO . . . didn't approve this deal and he certainly didn't favor it.”

But of course my personal view of the JCPOA is irrelevant if the administration stonewalls Congress. The State Department has admitted that its payment of millions of dollars in pallets of cash to the Iranians would not have been made without the release of American hostages. The administration's selective noun use does not excuse criminality, nor does it explain away months of lying to the American people.

Mr. Chairman, ransom payments put a price on the head of every American.

This bill prohibits the United States Government from making a payment to secure the release of unjustly detained U.S. nationals or lawful residents.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Let me say, first of all, on the face of it, the amendment makes sense. It is already U.S. policy not to pay ransom.

On June 24, 2015, President Obama issued a directive:

It is the United States' policy to deny hostage-takers the benefits of ransom, prisoner releases, policy changes, or other acts of concession.

Codifying this policy though, without giving the President any flexibility, is not what we should be doing. There is no waiver in this bill. Things like this usually have waivers so the President—any President, this President and future Presidents—would have flexibility.

But again, this whole issue, I believe, is a red herring. The United States did not pay ransom for the four Americans detained in Iran. We were paying Iran back its own money, money it had given us to buy weapons before the Iranian Revolution.

I have never heard of paying a ransom using the captor's own money. It is galling, but it is not a ransom. Every mention of ransom is an attempt to politicize this issue and criticize the President, and that is not what we should be doing here. We should be putting our heads together and finding a solution.

These issues are too important to get caught in partisan fights. It is not how we do things on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Kansas for offering this amendment to a very important underlying bill from the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, ED ROYCE.

It is really important to point out, as a matter of policy and what, unfortunately, is very necessary for this Congress to take action on, to make it very clear that we don't pay ransom.

Now, with regard to the \$1.7 billion that has been paid to Iran to secure the release of the four Iranian hostages, other terms have been used. The one most often used lately is called “leverage.”

The fact is, if the money did not arrive immediately, the hostages wouldn't have been released. No money, no hostage release.

Why are we debating as if this wasn't a ransom? If the money didn't show up,

\$400 million in cash, the hostages wouldn't have been released.

Why do we not put a price on securing the release, a financial price? It is because now more Americans are being unjustly imprisoned by Iran. Mr. Shahini, from California, in Iran visiting his mother, is being held, accused of "cooperating with hostile governments, actions against national security, and communication with antirevolutionary agents and media." This is an American visiting his mom in Iran.

And why do we not pay ransom? Why we do not give money to secure the release of American hostages is that now more Americans have been taken hostage.

□ 1915

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Chairman, this is an important amendment. We need to codify what we have known for years has been American policy under Democrat Presidents and Republican Presidents that we simply won't pay ransom to get Americans back. It is enormously important to our country.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me say, first of all, that the Iranian regime is a bad regime. They hold American prisoners before we paid them the money, and they will hold prisoners after. It has no basis whatsoever. It is easy to put out the word "ransom," but this was not a ransom.

It is a reprehensible regime. They do reprehensible things. The United States fulfills its obligations. Again, the Algiers Accords, by the logic that this should not have been done, then when George H.W. Bush did it, it shouldn't have been done; when Ronald Reagan did it, it shouldn't have been done. They did it because we maintain our obligations in the United States.

So any of us can get up and give a litany of things we don't like about the Iranian Government. Believe me, I take second to none when it comes to that. But the United States needs to fulfill its obligations, and the Iranian regime needs to be checked. But it is not a ransom, and that is just the problem.

By calling it a ransom, by calling names, by trying to poke a finger in front of the eyes of the administration, we don't get to the real issue. The real issue, which I hope we will get to later, is, again, to give Congress notice before this happens. That is the issue. To just say ransom and throw that word out, anybody can do that; but this wasn't a ransom.

We are fulfilling our obligations under the accords that we signed that

each American President facing the same type of thing has sent money to Iran because we fulfill our obligations. It doesn't matter from which party the President comes. President Obama did nothing more than other Presidents have done before him.

I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-781.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 10. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN PERSONS THAT HOLD OR DETAIN UNITED STATES NATIONALS OR ALIENS LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any Iranian person involved in the kidnapping or unjust detention on or after March 9, 2007, of any individual who is a national of the United States or an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;

(2) any Iranian person that engages, or attempts to engage, in an activity or transaction that materially contributes to, or poses a risk of materially contributing to, kidnapping or unjust detention described in paragraph (1); and

(3) any Iranian person that—

(A) is owned or controlled by a person described in paragraph (1) or (2);

(B) is acting for or on behalf of such a person; or

(C) provides, or attempts to provide—

(i) financial, material, technological, or other support to a person described in paragraph (1) or (2); or

(ii) goods or services in support of an activity or transaction described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The President shall block, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), all transactions in all property and interests in property of any person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) EXCEPTION; PENALTIES.—

(1) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of subsection (b).

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under subsection (b) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(3) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under subsection (b) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ENTITY.—The term "entity" means a corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity.

(2) IRANIAN PERSON.—The term "Iranian person" means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the Islamic Republic of Iran; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(3) PERSON.—The term "person" means an individual or entity.

(4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term "United States person" means—

(A) an individual who is a national of the United States or an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. POMPEO

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-781 be modified in the form I have placed at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 11, after line 21, add the following:

SEC. 10. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRANIAN PERSONS THAT HOLD OR DETAIN UNITED STATES NATIONALS OR ALIENS LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

(a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to—

(1) any Iranian person involved in the kidnapping or unjust detention of any individual who is a national of the United States or an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States;

(2) any Iranian person that engages, or attempts to engage, in an activity or transaction that materially contributes to, or poses a risk of materially contributing to, kidnapping or unjust detention described in paragraph (1); and

(3) any Iranian person that—

(A) is owned or controlled by a person described in paragraph (1) or (2);

(B) is acting for or on behalf of such a person; or

(C) provides, or attempts to provide—

(i) financial, material, technological, or other support to a person described in paragraph (1) or (2); or

(ii) goods or services in support of an activity or transaction described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The President shall block, in accordance with the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), all transactions in all property and interests in property of any person subject to subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) **EXCEPTION; PENALTIES.**—

(1) **INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.**—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of subsection (b).

(2) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—The requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under subsection (b) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(3) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations prescribed under subsection (b) to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section 206.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ENTITY.**—The term “entity” means a corporation, business association, partnership, trust, society, or any other entity.

(2) **IRANIAN PERSON.**—The term “Iranian person” means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of the Islamic Republic of Iran; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(3) **PERSON.**—The term “person” means an individual or entity.

(4) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) an individual who is a national of the United States or an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity.

Mr. POMPEO (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas? There was no objection.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I have offered today places comprehensive sanctions on individuals who hold Americans hostage. This amendment will support and strengthen the good work of Chairman ROYCE on H.R. 5931.

This week marks 1 year the Iranian Government has been holding hostage Nizar Zakka, a U.S. legal permanent

resident and international Internet development expert. Mr. Zakka, this week, was sentenced to 10 years in prison and millions of dollars in fines. His only crime was to bring greater Internet access to the women of Iran. He joins two other Americans held hostage and one who is missing.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I do appreciate the sentiment behind what the gentleman is seeking to do. Of course we want to punish anyone who is unjustly holding American citizens behind bars, but there are so many potential unintended consequences in this amendment, I simply don't know where to start.

First, the amendment requires sanctions against any Iranian who unjustly detains a U.S. citizen. But the term “unjustly detained” is not defined.

So who defines it? Does the White House? The Congress? Iran? It is very difficult.

Secondly, as anyone who has worked on sanctions policy knows—and we work on sanctions a lot on the Foreign Affairs Committee—it is typically not the use of sanctions that encourages the change in behavior; it is the threat of sanctions that encourages the change in behavior. That means that the Iranians have to believe that we will implement sanctions against them, but the President has to be given flexibility to use it or suspend it if they do change their behavior.

This is impossible under this amendment. The President has no flexibility, no waiver, no termination authority, none of the typical details that compels regimes to change their behavior.

So let me say, because of that, I encourage all Members to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), our colleague and the ranking member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman, and I thank my friend, the ranking member.

I have to oppose the amendment of my friend from Kansas. I oppose the amendment not because of what my friend is trying to accomplish, but because of the way that we are trying to do it.

I proudly represent Bob Levinson, who went missing on March 9, 2007. He is the longest held American in history. We have worked tirelessly in this House—working with my friend, the sponsor of this amendment; Mr. ROYCE, the chairman of the committee; and Mr. ENGEL, the ranking member, we have worked in a strong, bipartisan way, all of us together, to bring Bob home.

By amending this legislation—which I explained last week in our committee hearing why I opposed, just as the ranking member did today, because of the risks that the underlying bill causes in violating our legal obligations under the Algiers Accords that has yielded over \$2.5 billion for American claimants and prohibiting settlement of claims until certification, that requirement that could prevent the U.S. from reaching settlement. This is a piece of legislation that we oppose. The goal is to continue to ensure that everything we do in focusing on bringing Bob home is done in a way that can pass with overwhelming support.

So, unfortunately, I have to oppose my good friend's amendment. But I want to thank him for the effort of focusing attention, again, on American citizens who continue to be held in Iran.

Eight months ago we were told when Amir Hekmati, Saeed Abedini, and Jason Rezaian finally were able to return home to their families and that the Iranians agreed to continue cooperating with the United States to determine the whereabouts of Robert Levinson. It is 8 months later, and Bob Levinson is not home with his family in Coral Springs, Florida.

I look forward to working with my friend from Kansas and I look forward to working with every Member of this House and all of us in this country who understand that as long as there are Americans being held and as long as Bob Levinson, the longest held American in history, continues to be missing in Iran that this House of Representatives will not rest, and that we will continue to pay attention and work together to find ways to maximize our efforts to bring him home through whatever pressure is necessary. It is intolerable that we have to come to the floor over and over and over again as this poor family continues to wait for the return of their father and grandfather.

I thank my friend for helping to raise this issue. I, unfortunately, have to oppose the amendment for the reasons that I have stated. But I look forward to working together with my friend from Kansas, Democrats, Republicans, and all of the people of goodwill in this House and in this country until we bring him home.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. POMPEO).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114-781.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, after line 21, add the following:
SEC. 10. PROHIBITION ON CASH PAYMENTS TO STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Government may not provide, directly or indirectly, to a government of a state sponsor of terrorism, or an agent acting on behalf of such a government—

(A) monetary instruments; or

(B) precious metals.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “monetary instruments” has the meaning given the term in paragraph (dd) of section 1010.100 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(B) the term “precious metal” has the meaning given the term in section 1027.100(d) of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) APPLICATION TO NORTH KOREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a payment, or an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of the Government of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, or an agent acting on behalf of such Government, in the same manner and to the same extent as such subsection applies with respect to a payment, or an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of a state sponsor of terrorism, subject to the termination provisions described in paragraph (2).

(2) TERMINATION.—Subsection (a) shall cease to apply with respect to a payment, or an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of the Government of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, or an agent acting on behalf of such Government, beginning on the date on which the President makes the certification to Congress under section 402 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–122; 22 U.S.C. 92512).

(c) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)(A)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)), section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)), section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)), or any other provision of law, to be a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I want to take a moment and thank Chairman ROYCE for all of his work on this commonsense bill.

But I have to say I am a little bit shocked that Chairman ROYCE has to put so much work into this kind of a bill to prohibit cash payments to Iran, the lead sponsor of terrorism in the

world. Shame on us for being in a situation where we need legislation to stop cash payments to a state sponsor of terror.

Have we so soon forgotten what happened on 9/11? Have we so soon forgotten Iran's role in 9/11 15 years ago?

Just recently, former U.S. Senator and Democratic Party vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman quoted the 9/11 Commission saying that there is strong evidence that Iran facilitated the transit of al Qaeda members into and out of Afghanistan before 9/11 and that some of these were future 9/11 hijackers.

Iran supports international terror. They have been designated a state sponsor of terror since 1984.

We know that the currency of terror is what?

It is cash. They use cash to fund terrorism.

So instead of saying, Do you know what, we are going to make payments—if payments have to be made—by wire transfer to some Iranian bank in Europe where those payments can be traced, we say, No, no, no; we have been so successful in cutting them off from the financial world, we want to make these payments in cash to them.

It is illegal right now for us to actually load up a plane full of cash and send it from the U.S. to Iran. So the recent transaction that happened to get around that rule, the administration—President Obama and Jack Lew—said: We are going to wire the money. We are going to actually wire the money. We are going to wire it to a European bank and instruct them to convert it to cash and send it to Iran.

Shame on the American administration and shame on this House for not stopping it.

I have an amendment that says not just Iran, but all state sponsors of terror; and we should also include North Korea to be included on the list of folks that we are unwilling to send cash payments to.

This is just commonsense American policy that we have had in place for a long time that now is being rolled back by this administration. We have had so many people on both sides of the aisle who understand the threat of terror and the threat of cash in terrorists' hands that we have all stood together. We now see a division in this House to not support that very commonsense effort, which is an effort to support the American citizens and their safety. I think this is a sad day for this institution.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I think everybody knows I am from

New York, and, frankly, I don't need anyone lecturing me about 9/11. That is a pain in my heart that I will live with for the rest of my life. So I think that any reference to 9/11 from this bill is just totally off base.

Again, Mr. Chairman, I don't like the idea of shipping payments to Iran or any government hostile to the United States, but we have to abide by our obligations whether we like it or not. We also don't want to tie our hands, which is what this amendment would do.

This measure would impose a permanent and blanket prohibition on most forms of money transfers, not just cash, whether made directly or indirectly through third parties. It would preempt all existing provisions of law.

We have no idea what sort of consequences could come with something like this. We may face diplomatic or strategic opportunities that would require quick action. But this provision is all-encompassing, regardless of circumstance. And, again, there is no waiver for unforeseen situations. There are always waivers for the President in bills like this because the President can best decide what unforeseen situations there are. And, again, it is any President from any party.

So I think this amendment would take us down a wrong path. I am going to oppose it, and I urge all Members to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Chairman, I would just note that the chairman's bill and my amendment don't prohibit cash payments to a lot of countries around the world. It restricts cash payments to only a few countries around the world and those countries that are American designated states that sponsor terrorism.

I don't mean to lecture anybody about 9/11. I didn't live in New York, I am not from New York, but I watched what happened in New York. And I think it is important that we not forget what happened, who was responsible, and that we don't lose our focus today for partisan reasons on who those bad actors are, and that we remain vigilant in our effort to push back and fight back against state sponsors of terror. And part of that fight is the fight against allowing them cash.

On the Financial Services Committee—I know Mr. ROYCE works on this aggressively—we can use the global financial system to shut them out, and we have been successful at that. But if you open up the global financial system and you pour cash and gold into Iran that can be used to sponsor terror, to buy technology in regard to missiles, or to advance your nuclear program, that has a direct impact on all Americans, our security, and our safety.

I think it is incumbent upon this House to look out first for our constituents and our countrymen, which

means let's prohibit cash payments, not any payment. You can make a wire transfer that you can actually trace. But let's not send cash payments that are untraceable to State sponsors of terror.

I yield back the balance of my time. The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-781.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike the text of the committee print and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restrictions on Payments to State Sponsors of Terrorism Act".

SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON PAYMENTS TO STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No agency or instrumentality of the United States Government may make a payment, or enter into an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of a government of a state sponsor of terrorism, or an agent acting on behalf of such a government, in settlement of a claim or judgment against the United States, unless, not less than 5 days prior to making such payment or entering into such agreement, the President submits to the appropriate committees of Congress in writing—

(1) a notification of the proposed payment or agreement; and

(2) the text of the claim or judgment with respect to which such payment or agreement relates.

(b) APPLICATION TO NORTH KOREA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (c) shall apply with respect to a payment, or an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of the Government of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, or an agent acting on behalf of such Government, in the same manner and to the same extent as such subsections apply with respect to a payment, or an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of a state sponsor of terrorism, subject to the termination provisions described in paragraph (2).

(2) TERMINATION.—Subsections (a) and (c) shall cease to apply with respect to a payment, or an agreement to make a payment, to an agency or instrumentality of the Government of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, or an agent acting on behalf of such Government, beginning on the date on which the President makes the certification to Congress under section 402 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-122; 22 U.S.C. 92512).

(c) PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall publish in the Federal Register a list of payments, and agreements to make payments, to agencies and instrumentalities of governments of a state sponsors of terrorism

as described in subsection (a) that were made or entered into during the prior 180-day period.

(2) CONTENTS.—The list of payments, and agreements to make payments, required to be published in the Federal Register under paragraph (1) shall, with respect to each such payment or agreement, include the following:

(A) The amount of the payment or agreement.

(B) The agency or instrumentality of the United States Government that made the payment or entered into the agreement.

(C) The reason or reasons for the payment or agreement.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON OUTSTANDING CLAIMS BEFORE THE IRAN-UNITED STATES CLAIMS TRIBUNAL.

(a) REPORT.—The President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes each claim pending before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the amount (if an amount is specified) and the status before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal of each claim described in subsection (a).

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

(d) DEADLINE.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be submitted to the appropriate committees of Congress not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until the disposition of all claims pending before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal.

SEC. 4. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.

Nothing in this Act shall apply to any activities subject to the reporting requirements of title V of the National Security Act of 1947.

SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize any payment by the Government of the United States to a state sponsor of terrorism or North Korea.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term "state sponsor of terrorism" means a country the government of which the Secretary of State has determined, for purposes of section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)(1)(A)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)), section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)), section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)), or any other provision of law, to be a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I am offering this amendment because I do think there is a lot of common ground when it comes to this issue.

My concern is that the administration really did not give Congress its due with respect to this payment. We were told about the payment but not notified about how this transition would take place, and that is just not right, especially when it is somewhat unusual.

My amendment would require the administration, and future administrations, to notify Congress at least 5 days in advance of any settlement agreement or payment to Iran, to other countries on the state sponsors of terrorism list, and to North Korea, and it provides appropriate oversight on the claims that are remaining at the tribunal.

It is straightforward, and it ensures that Congress' role in foreign policymaking is not overlooked. I don't think anyone here disagrees with that idea.

My amendment gets to the heart of it. I think it would allow this bill to sail through the House with strong support on both sides. It leaves aside the areas that are sure to eventually derail the underlying measure—talk of ransom again and again, or to focus exclusively on cash payments. We are not going to agree on these areas. Putting them front and center guarantees that this bill has no path forward.

So let's put those issues aside and advance legislation that addresses all our concerns. That is what we do every day on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I hope my amendment will help get our committee's work back on track.

Again, I ask all Members to support the amendment. I don't think anyone can disagree with the fact that the administration, or future administrations, give Congress enough time so that we will hear about payments, we will hear about transactions before they are done, not while they are done or after they are done.

I ask all Members to support this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment and will regretfully oppose the ranking member's substitute.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, I agree with part of the argument that is being made here by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

You just heard a common theme between the underlying bill and the ranking member's substitute, and that is the need for greater transparency, especially transparency around the Claims Tribunal. That is a must.

I will go back to the underlying problem. If diplomats were working overtime on a settlement, why not tell the

committee of jurisdiction of the possibility? If the goal of this settlement was merely to put to rest a decade-old dispute over an abandoned arms sale, as we were told after the fact, then why the secrecy? The administration has intentionally left us, the committee, and this Congress in the dark.

Both the underlying bill and the ranking member's substitute requires the administration to be more transparent with Congress and the American people about how it engages with the tribunal. If future settlements are truly a good deal for the American taxpayers, these requirements should be welcomed, not a burden.

The goal of the underlying legislation is to ensure that a tribunal that has been in place since 1981, and has operated more or less successfully, cannot be manipulated, cannot be manipulated by either the next administration or this administration. So here the two of us agree.

But I am afraid that this substitute does not address a larger problem, and that is because this proposal, unlike the underlying bill, contains no restriction on the way in which Iran could be paid. I was raising questions about the \$1.7 billion payment when it was first made. Quite frankly, not too many were focused on it until it was revealed that it was paid in cash.

Let me explain why many of us believe that this is a crucial problem. It is because checks and wire transfers do leave a paper trail. Cash does not leave a paper trail. If Iran wires money to its terrorist proxies, we can see the banks it used, and we can work to cut them out of the financial system. That is what we are trying to do in isolating their ability to transfer funds to Hezbollah or Hamas.

Now, when we give Iran cash then Iran can put that cash on a plane or on the back of a truck, and they can send that cash to Syria, or send it to Gaza, or to Hamas, or send it to Lebanon, or to Hezbollah. And that is why cash, the physical bills, are so valuable to Iran. Cash, not wire transfers, is the currency of terror.

So the bottom line is that because everyone knows that cash is a conduit for all sorts of illegal behavior, my hope is to carry the day here with this argument that the underlying bill has got to maintain this ability to cut off payments in cash to the terrorists in Tehran.

I call them terrorists because that is what the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is funding, as well as ballistic missile production, and that is what the Quds Force—and the head of the Quds Force is in charge of assassinations outside of the country—that is what he is doing.

They have just toppled a government in Yemen that was an ally to the United States, they just committed further atrocities in Syria, and they are bulking up Hezbollah as we speak.

That is why I feel that portion has to remain in the bill, and that is why I reluctantly oppose this amendment which would remove the effectiveness of the cutting off of cash.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, let me say that I appreciate my friend, Chairman ROYCE's words. We don't agree totally on this, but we do agree that the Iranian regime is a bad regime and they need to be checked. And I would hope that after this whole process is done, because this bill is not going to become law, that we can put our heads together and come up with something that can become law. The Iranians need to be checked, and the Congress needs to be informed and needs to be a part of the process. We are, obviously, an independent branch of government.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend, Mr. ENGEL.

Mr. Chairman, the goal here tonight, I think, is to both simultaneously ensure that we don't take any action that would make it difficult for Americans to bring claims to the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal that would enhance our ability to continue with our legal obligations under the Algiers Accords but that will also focus on the very specific problem that we have at hand.

Mr. ENGEL's substitute amendment, I think, will permit us to do all of that. It carries over the provision from the underlying bill that requires reporting to Congress on claims settlements and payments to Iran, it enhances our ability to be aware of and to have greater disability of transfer of funds to Iran going forward, and it ensures that Congress will be able to keep in sharp focus before any of those transfers happen so that we can then act accordingly.

And I would just remind everyone that we have really done meaningful work in the House under the leadership of the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, and the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL. We have done meaningful work because we have been able to work together to take on the threats posed by Iran.

It is because of the work, the bipartisan effort, the work that has been done together that Iran faced unprecedented economic sanctions. And it is because of the work, again, that has been done in a bipartisan way that members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps, who direct the funding of terror and commit egregious human rights violations, continue to remain sanctioned. And it is because of the efforts of Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL that banks continue to be weary of dealing with Iran, and Iran is still fully unable to access the international financial market in U.S. dollars.

So there are plenty of examples of the good work that we have done to-

gether. When we work together on these issues of critical importance, the country is stronger and safer. I think Mr. ENGEL's amendment will provide us the opportunity to go forward in a bipartisan way in a manner that, again, will help the United States be stronger and safer. I know that is everyone's goal, both on the Foreign Affairs Committee and in the House. That is why I support the amendment, and that is why I urge my colleagues to also support it.

□ 1945

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chairman, regretfully, I will be opposing the substitute. As Members of the House know, it is unusual for the two of us to be at odds. In working together, we have a long track record of success: 14 bills this session, 18 in the last session. Just yesterday, the House sent to the President's desk bipartisan legislation, which was authored by me and Ranking Member ENGEL, to crack down on the illegal trafficking of wildlife; but here we have a disagreement. Sending pallets of cash is bad policy. This bill fixes the problem. I oppose the substitute and urge the passage of the underlying measure.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUFFY) having assumed the chair, Mr. RUSSELL, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5931) to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2046

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) at 8 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 879 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5931.

Will the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) kindly take the chair.

□ 2047

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5931) to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with Mr. ABRAHAM (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-781, offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 176, noes 238, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 553]

AYES—176

Adams	Carson (IN)	DeGette
Aguilar	Cartwright	Delaney
Amash	Castor (FL)	DeLauro
Ashford	Castro (TX)	DeBene
Barton	Chu, Judy	DeSaulnier
Bass	Cicilline	Deutch
Beatty	Clark (MA)	Dingell
Becerra	Clarke (NY)	Doyle, Michael
Bera	Clay	F.
Beyer	Cleaver	Duckworth
Bishop (GA)	Clyburn	Duncan (TN)
Blumenauer	Cohen	Edwards
Bonamici	Connolly	Ellison
Boyle, Brendan	Conyers	Engel
F.	Cooper	Eshoo
Brady (PA)	Costa	Esty
Brown (FL)	Courtney	Foster
Brownley (CA)	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Cuellar	Fudge
Butterfield	Cummings	Gabbard
Capuano	Davis (CA)	Gallego
Cardenas	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
Carney	DeFazio	Graham

Grayson	Lowenthal	Ruppersberger
Green, Al	Lowey	Ryan (OH)
Green, Gene	Lujan Grisham	Sánchez, Linda
Grijalva	(NM)	T.
Hahn	Luján, Ben Ray	Sarbanes
Hastings	(NM)	Schakowsky
Heck (WA)	Lynch	Schiff
Higgins	Maloney,	Schrader
Himes	Carolyn	Scott (VA)
Hinojosa	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Honda	Massie	Serrano
Hoyer	Matsui	Sewell (AL)
Huffman	McCollum	Sherman
Israel	McNerney	Sinema
Jackson Lee	Meeks	Scott, David
Jeffries	Meng	Slaughter
Johnson (GA)	Moulton	Smith (WA)
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Speier
Jones	Nadler	Swalwell (CA)
Kaptur	Napolitano	Takano
Keating	Neal	Thompson (CA)
Kelly (IL)	Nolan	Thompson (MS)
Kennedy	Norcross	Titus
Kildee	O'Rourke	Tonko
Kilmer	Pallone	Torres
Kind	Pascrell	Tsongas
Kirkpatrick	Perlmutter	Van Hollen
Kuster	Peters	Vargas
Langevin	Peterson	Veasey
Larsen (WA)	Pingree	Velázquez
Larson (CT)	Pocan	Visclosky
Lawrence	Polis	Walz
Lee	Quigley	Wasserman
Levin	Rangel	Schultz
Lewis	Rice (NY)	Waters, Maxine
Lipinski	Richmond	Watson Coleman
Loebach	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
Lofgren	Ruiz	Yarmuth

NOES—238

Abraham	Ellmers (NC)	Kelly (PA)
Aderholt	Emmer (MN)	King (IA)
Allen	Farenthold	King (NY)
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Kinzing (IL)
Babin	Fleischmann	Kline
Barr	Fleming	Knight
Benish	Flores	Labrador
Bilirakis	Forbes	LaHood
Bishop (MI)	Fortenberry	LaMalfa
Bishop (UT)	Fox	Lamborn
Black	Franks (AZ)	Lance
Blackburn	Frelinghuysen	Latta
Blum	Garrett	LoBiondo
Bost	Gibbs	Long
Boustany	Gibson	Loudermilk
Brady (TX)	Gohmert	Love
Brat	Goodlatte	Lucas
Bridenstine	Gosar	Luetkemeyer
Brooks (AL)	Gowdy	Lummis
Brooks (IN)	Granger	MacArthur
Buchanan	Graves (GA)	Marchant
Buck	Graves (LA)	Marino
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	McCarthy
Burgess	Griffith	McCaul
Byrne	Grothman	McClintock
Calvert	Guinta	McDermott
Capps	Guthrie	McGovern
Carter (TX)	Hanna	McHenry
Chabot	Hardy	McKinley
Chaffetz	Harper	McMorris
Clawson (FL)	Harris	Rodgers
Coffman	Hartzler	McSally
Cole	Heck (NV)	Meadows
Collins (GA)	Hensarling	Meehan
Collins (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Messer
Comstock	Hice, Jody B.	Mica
Conaway	Hill	Miller (FL)
Cook	Holding	Miller (MI)
Costello (PA)	Hudson	Moolenaar
Cramer	Huelskamp	Mooney (WV)
Crawford	Huizenga (MI)	Mullin
Crenshaw	Hultgren	Murphy (PA)
Culberson	Hunter	Neugebauer
Curbelo (FL)	Hurd (TX)	Newhouse
Davidson	Hurt (VA)	Noem
Denham	Issa	Nugent
Dent	Jenkins (KS)	Nunes
DeSantis	Jenkins (WV)	Olson
DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)	Palazzo
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam	Palmer
Doggett	Jolly	Paulsen
Dold	Jordan	Pearce
Donovan	Joyce	Perry
Duffy	Katko	Pittenger
Duncan (SC)	Kelly (MS)	Pitts

Poliquin	Russell	Valadao
Pompeo	Salmon	Wagner
Posey	Sanford	Walberg
Price (NC)	Scalise	Walden
Price, Tom	Schweikert	Walker
Ratcliffe	Scott, Austin	Walorski
Reed	Sensenbrenner	Weber (TX)
Reichert	Sessions	Webster (FL)
Renacci	Shimkus	Welch
Ribble	Simpson	Wenstrup
Rice (SC)	Smith (MO)	Westerman
Rigell	Smith (NE)	Westmoreland
Roby	Smith (NJ)	Williams
Roe (TN)	Smith (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Wittman
Rogers (KY)	Stewart	Womack
Rohrabacher	Stivers	Woodall
Rokita	Stutzman	Yoder
Rooney (FL)	Thompson (PA)	Yoho
Ros-Lehtinen	Thornberry	Young (AK)
Roskam	Tiberi	Young (IA)
Ross	Tipton	Young (IN)
Rothfus	Trott	Zeldin
Rouzer	Turner	Zinke
Royce	Upton	

NOT VOTING—17

Barletta	Lieu, Ted	Rush
Carter (GA)	Moore	Sanchez, Loretta
Davis, Rodney	Mulvaney	Shuster
Farr	Payne	Vela
Fincher	Pelosi	Walters, Mimi
Gutiérrez	Poe (TX)	

□ 2111

Messrs. PERRY, SMITH of Missouri, DUNCAN of South Carolina, GUINTA, CRAMER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Messrs. YOHIO, HUELSKAMP, McDERMOTT, DOGGETT, and PALMER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, CROWLEY, BARTON, and MASSIE changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 553, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia) having assumed the chair, Mr. ABRAHAM, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5931) to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 879, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5037; and the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5798.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 254, noes 163, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 554]

AYES—254

Abraham	Dent	Hurd (TX)
Aderholt	DeSantis	Hurt (VA)
Aguilar	DesJarlais	Issa
Allen	Diaz-Balart	Jenkins (KS)
Amash	Dold	Jenkins (WV)
Amodei	Donovan	Johnson (OH)
Ashford	Duffy	Johnson, Sam
Babin	Duncan (SC)	Jolly
Barr	Duncan (TN)	Jones
Barton	Ellmers (NC)	Jordan
Benishek	Emmer (MN)	Joyce
Bilirakis	Farenthold	Katko
Bishop (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Bishop (MI)	Fleischmann	Kelly (PA)
Bishop (UT)	Fleming	King (IA)
Black	Flores	King (NY)
Blackburn	Forbes	Kinzinger (IL)
Blum	Fortenberry	Kirkpatrick
Bost	Fox	Kline
Boustany	Franks (AZ)	Knight
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Labrador
Brat	Garrett	LaHood
Bridenstine	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Brooks (AL)	Gibson	Lamborn
Brooks (IN)	Gohmert	Lance
Buchanan	Goodlatte	Latta
Buck	Gosar	Lipinski
Bucshon	Gowdy	LoBiondo
Burgess	Graham	Long
Byrne	Granger	Loudermilk
Calvert	Graves (GA)	Love
Cárdenas	Graves (LA)	Lucas
Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer
Chabot	Griffith	Lummis
Chaffetz	Grothman	MacArthur
Clawson (FL)	Guinta	Maloney, Sean
Coffman	Guthrie	Marchant
Cole	Hanna	Marino
Collins (GA)	Hardy	McCarthy
Collins (NY)	Harper	McCauley
Comstock	Harris	McClintock
Conaway	Hartzler	McHenry
Cook	Heck (NV)	McKinley
Costello (PA)	Hensarling	McMorris
Cramer	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers
Crawford	Hice, Jody B.	McSally
Crenshaw	Hill	Meadows
Cuellar	Holding	Meehan
Culberson	Hudson	Messer
Curbelo (FL)	Huelskamp	Mica
Davidson	Huizenga (MI)	Miller (FL)
Davis, Rodney	Hultgren	Miller (MI)
Denham	Hunter	Moolenaar

Mooney (WV)	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (PA)
Mullin	Rohrabacher	Thornberry
Murphy (PA)	Rokita	Tiberi
Neugebauer	Rooney (FL)	Tipton
Newhouse	Ros-Lehtinen	Trott
Noem	Roskam	Turner
Nugent	Ross	Upton
Nunes	Rothfus	Valadao
Olson	Rouzer	Vargas
Palazzo	Royce	Vela
Palmer	Ruiz	Wagner
Paulsen	Russell	Walberg
Pearce	Salmon	Walden
Perry	Sanford	Walker
Peters	Scalise	Walorski
Peterson	Schrader	Weber (TX)
Pittenger	Schweikert	Webster (FL)
Pitts	Scott, Austin	Wenstrup
Poliquin	Sensenbrenner	Westerman
Pompeo	Sessions	Westmoreland
Posey	Shimkus	Williams
Price, Tom	Shuster	Wilson (SC)
Ratcliffe	Simpson	Wittman
Reed	Sinema	Womack
Reichert	Smith (MO)	Woodall
Renacci	Smith (NE)	Yoder
Ribble	Smith (NJ)	Yoho
Rice (SC)	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Rigell	Stefanik	Young (IA)
Roby	Stewart	Young (IN)
Roe (TN)	Stivers	Zeldin
Rogers (AL)	Stutzman	Zinke

NOES—163

Adams	Frankel (FL)	Moulton
Bass	Fudge	Murphy (FL)
Beatty	Gabbard	Nadler
Becerra	Gallo	Napolitano
Bera	Garamendi	Neal
Beyer	Grayson	Nolan
Blumenauer	Green, Al	Norcross
Bonamici	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Boyle, Brendan	Grijalva	Pallone
F.	Hahn	Pascarell
Brady (PA)	Hastings	Perlmutter
Brown (FL)	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brownley (CA)	Higgins	Pocan
Bustos	Himes	Polis
Butterfield	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Capps	Honda	Quigley
Capuano	Hoyer	Rangel
Carney	Huffman	Rice (NY)
Carson (IN)	Israel	Richmond
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Johnson, E. B.	Sanchez, Linda
Cicilline	Kaptur	T.
Clark (MA)	Keating	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Clay	Kennedy	Schiff
Cleaver	Kildee	Scott (VA)
Clyburn	Kilmer	Scott, David
Cohen	Kind	Serrano
Connolly	Kuster	Sewell (AL)
Conyers	Langevin	Sherman
Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Sires
Costa	Larson (CT)	Slaughter
Courtney	Lawrence	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Lee	Speier
Cummings	Levin	Swalwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Lewis	Takano
Davis, Danny	Loeb	Loeb
DeFazio	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
DeGette	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
Delaney	Lowe	Titus
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham	Tonko
DeBene	(NM)	Torres
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray	Tsongas
Deutch	(NM)	Van Hollen
Dingell	Lynch	Veasey
Doggett	Maloney,	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael	Carolyn	Visclosky
F.	Massie	Walz
Duckworth	Matsui	Wasserman
Edwards	McCollum	Schultz
Ellison	McDermott	Waters, Maxine
Engel	McGovern	Watson Coleman
Eshoo	McNerney	Welch
Esty	Meeks	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Meng	Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Barletta	Farr	Gutiérrez
Carter (GA)	Fincher	Lieu, Ted

Moore	Pelosi	Sanchez, Loretta
Mulvaney	Poe (TX)	Walters, Mimi
Payne	Rush	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2119

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5037) to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for non-judicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 555]

YEAS—413

Abraham	Bucshon	Crawford
Adams	Burgess	Crenshaw
Aderholt	Bustos	Crowley
Aguilar	Butterfield	Cuellar
Allen	Byrne	Culberson
Amash	Calvert	Cummings
Amodei	Capps	Curbelo (FL)
Ashford	Capuano	Davidson
Babin	Cárdenas	Davis (CA)
Barr	Carney	Davis, Danny
Barton	Carson (IN)	Davis, Rodney
Bass	Carter (TX)	DeFazio
Beatty	Cartwright	DeGette
Becerra	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Benishek	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bera	Chabot	DeBene
Beyer	Chaffetz	Denham
Bilirakis	Chu, Judy	Dent
Bishop (GA)	Cicilline	DeSantis
Bishop (MI)	Clark (MA)	DeSaulnier
Bishop (UT)	Clarke (NY)	DesJarlais
Black	Clawson (FL)	Deutch
Blackburn	Clay	Diaz-Balart
Blum	Cleaver	Dingell
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Doggett
Bonamici	Coffman	Dold
Bost	Cohen	Donovan
Boustany	Cole	Doyle, Michael
Boyle, Brendan	Collins (GA)	F.
F.	Collins (NY)	Duckworth
Brady (PA)	Comstock	Duffy
Brady (TX)	Conaway	Duncan (SC)
Brat	Connolly	Duncan (TN)
Bridenstine	Conyers	Edwards
Brooks (AL)	Cook	Ellison
Brooks (IN)	Cooper	Ellmers (NC)
Brown (FL)	Costa	Emmer (MN)
Brownley (CA)	Costello (PA)	Engel
Buchanan	Courtney	Eshoo
Buck	Cramer	Esty

Farenthold	Lance	Renacci	Wilson (FL)	Yarmuth	Young (IN)	Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Palmer
Fitzpatrick	Langevin	Ribble	Wilson (SC)	Yoder	Zeldin	Davis (CA)	Johnson (OH)	Pascarell
Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)	Rice (NY)	Wittman	Yoho	Zinke	Davis, Danny	Johnson, E. B.	Paulsen
Fleming	Larson (CT)	Rice (SC)	Womack	Young (AK)		Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Pearce
Flores	Latta	Richmond	Woodall	Young (IA)		DeFazio	Jolly	Perlmutter
Forbes	Lawrence	Rigell				DeGette	Jones	Peters
Fortenberry	Lee	Roby				Delaney	Jordan	Peterson
Foster	Levin	Roe (TN)				DeLauro	Joyce	Pingree
Fox	Lewis	Rogers (AL)				DelBene	Kaptur	Pittenger
Frankel (FL)	Lipinski	Rogers (KY)				Denham	Katko	Pitts
Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher				Dent	Keating	Pocan
Frelinghuysen	Loeb	Rooney (FL)				DeSantis	Kelly (IL)	Poliquin
Fudge	Lofgren	Ros-Lehtinen				DeSaulnier	Kelly (PA)	Polis
Gabbard	Long	Roskam				DesJarlais	Kennedy	Pompeo
Galleo	Loudermilk	Ross				Deutch	Kilmer	Posey
Garamendi	Love	Rothfus				Diaz-Balart	Kind	Price (NC)
Garrett	Lowenthal	Rouzer				Dingell	King (IA)	Price, Tom
Gibbs	Lowey	Roybal-Allard				Doggett	King (NY)	Quigley
Gibson	Lucas	Royce				Dold	Kinzing (IL)	Rangel
Gohmert	Luetkemeyer	Ruiz				Donovan	Kirkpatrick	Ratcliffe
Goodlatte	Lujan Grisham	Ruppersberger				Doyle, Michael	Kline	Reed
Gosar	(NM)	Russell				F.	Knight	Reichert
Gowdy	Lujan, Ben Ray	Ryan (OH)				Duckworth	Kuster	Renacci
Graham	(NM)	Salmon				Duncan (SC)	LaHood	Rice (NY)
Granger	Lummis	Sánchez, Linda				Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa	Richmond
Graves (GA)	Lynch	T.				Edwards	Lamborn	Rigell
Graves (LA)	MacArthur	Sanford				Ellison	Lance	Roby
Graves (MO)	Maloney,	Sarbanes				Ellmers (NC)	Langevin	Roe (TN)
Grayson	Carolyn	Scalise				Emmer (MN)	Rogers (WA)	Rogers (AL)
Green, Al	Marchant	Schakowsky				Engel	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)
Green, Gene	Marino	Schiff				Eshoo	Latta	Rohrabacher
Griffith	Masse	Schrader				Esty	Lawrence	Rokita
Grijalva	Matsui	Schweikert				Farenthold	Lee	Rooney (FL)
Grothman	McCarthy	Scott (VA)				Fitzpatrick	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen
Guinta	McCaul	Scott, Austin				Fleischmann	Lewis	Roskam
Guthrie	McCollum	Scott, David				Fleming	Lipinski	Ross
Hahn	McDermott	Sensenbrenner				Flores	LoBiondo	Rothfus
Hardy	McGovern	Serrano				Forbes	Loeb	Rouzer
Harper	McHenry	Sessions				Fortenberry	Lofgren	Roybal-Allard
Harris	McKinley	Sewell (AL)				Foster	Long	Royce
Hart	McMorris	Sherman				Fox	Loudermilk	Ruiz
Hastings	Rodgers	Shimkus				Frankel (FL)	Love	Ruppersberger
Heck (NV)	McNerney	Shuster				Franks (AZ)	Lowenthal	Russell
Heck (WA)	McSally	Simpson				Frelinghuysen	Lowey	Ryan (OH)
Hensarling	Meadows	Sinema				Fudge	Lucas	Sánchez, Linda
Herrera Beutler	Meehan	Sires				Gabbard	Luetkemeyer	T.
Hice, Jody B.	Meeks	Slaughter				Galleo	Lujan Grisham	Sarbanes
Higgins	Meng	Smith (MO)				Garamendi	(NM)	Scalise
Hill	Messer	Smith (NE)				Garrett	Lujan, Ben Ray	Schakowsky
Himes	Mica	Smith (NJ)				Gibbs	(NM)	Schiff
Hinojosa	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)				Gibson	Lynch	Schrader
Holding	Miller (MI)	Smith (WA)				Gohmert	MacArthur	Schweikert
Honda	Mooney (WV)	Speier				Goodlatte	Maloney,	Scott (VA)
Hoyer	Moolenaar	Stefanik				Gowdy	Carolyn	Scott, Austin
Hudson	Moulton	Stivers				Graham	Maloney, Sean	Scott, David
Huelskamp	Mullin	Stutzman				Granger	Marchant	Sensenbrenner
Huffman	Murphy (FL)	Swalwell (CA)				Graves (GA)	Marino	Serrano
Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)	Takano				Graves (LA)	Matsui	Sessions
Hultgren	Nadler	Thompson (CA)				Graves (MO)	McCarthy	Sewell (AL)
Hunter	Napolitano	Thompson (MS)				Grayson	McCaul	Sherman
Hurd (TX)	Neal	Thompson (PA)				Green, Al	McClintock	Shimkus
Hurt (VA)	Neugebauer	Thornberry				Green, Gene	McCollum	Shuster
Issa	Newhouse	Tiberi				Grijalva	McDermott	Simpson
Jackson Lee	Noem	Tipton				Grothman	McGovern	Sinema
Jeffries	Nolan	Titus				Guinta	McHenry	Sires
Jenkins (KS)	Norcross	Tonko				Guthrie	McMorris	Slaughter
Jenkins (WV)	Nugent	Torres				Hahn	Rodgers	Smith (MO)
Johnson (GA)	Nunes	Trott				Hardy		Smith (NE)
Johnson (OH)	O'Rourke	Tsongas				Harper	McNerney	Smith (NJ)
Johnson, E. B.	Olson	Turner				Hastings	McSally	Smith (TX)
Johnson, Sam	Palazzo	Upton				Heck (NV)	Meadows	Smith (WA)
Jolly	Pallone	Valadao				Heck (WA)	Meehan	Speier
Jones	Palmer	Van Hollen				Hensarling	Meeks	Stefanik
Jordan	Pascarell	Vargas				Herrera Beutler	Meng	Stewart
Joyce	Paulsen	Veasey				Hice, Jody B.	Messer	Stivers
Kaptur	Pearce	Vela				Higgins	Mica	Swalwell (CA)
Katko	Perlmutter	Velázquez				Hill	Miller (FL)	Takano
Keating	Perry	Viscosky				Hinojosa	Miller (MI)	Thompson (CA)
Kelly (IL)	Peters	Wagner				Holding	Mooney (WV)	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (MS)	Peterson	Walberg				Honda	Moulton	Thompson (PA)
Kelly (PA)	Pingree	Walden				Hoyer	Mullin	Thornberry
Kennedy	Pittenger	Walker				Hudson	Murphy (FL)	Tipton
Kilmer	Pitts	Walorski				Huffman	Murphy (PA)	Titus
Kind	Pocan	Walz				Nadler	Napolitano	Tonko
King (IA)	Poliquin	Wasserman				Huizenga (MI)	Neal	Torres
King (NY)	Polis	Schultz				Hultgren	Neugebauer	Trott
Kinzing (IL)	Pompeo	Waters, Maxine				Hunter	Newhouse	Tsongas
Kirkpatrick	Posey	Watson Coleman				Hurd (TX)	Noem	Turner
Kline	Price (NC)	Weber (TX)				Hurt (VA)	Nolan	Upton
Knight	Price, Tom	Webster (FL)				Israel	Norcross	Valadao
Kuster	Quigley	Welch				Issa	Nugent	Van Hollen
Labrador	Rangel	Wenstrup				Jackson Lee	Nunes	Vargas
LaHood	Ratcliffe	Westerman				Jeffries	O'Rourke	Veasey
LaMalfa	Reed	Westmoreland				Jenkins (KS)	Olson	Vela
Lamborn	Reichert	Williams				Jenkins (WV)	Pallone	Velázquez

NAYS—1
McClintock

NOT VOTING—17

Barletta
Carter (GA)
Farr
Fincher
Gutiérrez
Hanna
Kildee
Lieu, Ted
Moore
Mulvaney
Payne
Pelosi
Poe (TX)
Rokita
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Walters, Mimi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2126

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ABNER J. MIKVA POST OFFICE BUILDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5798) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the “Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 22, answered “present” 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 556]

YEAS—392

Abraham	Boyle, Brendan	Chu, Judy
Adams	F.	Cicilline
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Clark (MA)
Aguilar	Brady (TX)	Clarke (NY)
Amash	Bridenstine	Clawson (FL)
Amodei	Brooks (AL)	Clay
Ashford	Brooks (IN)	Cleaver
Babin	Brown (FL)	Clyburn
Barr	Brownley (CA)	Coffman
Barton	Buchanan	Cohen
Bass	Buck	Cole
Beatty	Bucshon	Collins (GA)
Becerra	Burgess	Collins (NY)
Benish	Bustos	Comstock
Bera	Butterfield	Conaway
Beyer	Byrne	Connolly
Bilirakis	Calvert	Conyers
Bishop (GA)	Capps	Cook
Bishop (MI)	Capuano	Cooper
Bishop (UT)	Cardenas	Costello (PA)
Black	Carney	Courtney
Blackburn	Carson (IN)	Cramer
Blum	Carter (TX)	Crawford
Blumenauer	Cartwright	Crenshaw
Bonamici	Castor (FL)	Crowley
Bost	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Boustany	Chabot	Culberson
	Chaffetz	Cummings

Visclosky	Watson Coleman	Womack
Wagner	Weber (TX)	Woodall
Walberg	Webster (FL)	Yarmuth
Walden	Welch	Yoder
Walker	Wenstrup	Young (AK)
Walorski	Westerman	Young (IA)
Walz	Westmoreland	Young (IN)
Wasserman	Williams	Zeldin
Schultz	Wilson (FL)	Zinke
Waters, Maxine	Wilson (SC)	

NAYS—22

Allen	Kelly (MS)	Ribble
Brat	Labrador	Salmon
Davidson	Lummis	Sanford
Gosar	Massie	Stutzman
Griffith	Moolenaar	Wittman
Harris	Mulvaney	Yoho
Hartzler	Palazzo	
Huelskamp	Perry	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Rice (SC)

NOT VOTING—16

Barletta	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Carter (GA)	Kildee	Rush
Costa	Lieu, Ted	Sanchez, Loretta
Farr	Moore	Walters, Mimi
Fincher	Payne	
Gutiérrez	Pelosi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2132

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5931, PROHIBITING FUTURE RANSOM PAYMENTS TO IRAN ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5931.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016, TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday, September 26, 2016, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

HONORING ST. CLOUD ATTACK VICTIMS AND HEROISM OF POLICE OFFICER

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, an act of terror took place at a St. Cloud, Minnesota, mall.

On Saturday night, 10 people were stabbed at the Crossroads Mall before the attacker was fatally shot by an armed off-duty police officer on the scene. Thankfully, none of the victims were killed, and all are expected to make full recoveries. The attack is yet another troubling reminder of the growing threat that Americans do face here at home.

The quick reaction of the armed off-duty police officer, Jason Falconer of Avon, likely stopped this from being an even greater tragedy. He is a hero for his bravery, his courage, and his selflessness to protect those who were in danger that night. Our law enforcement officers put themselves in harm's way, and they deserve our utmost respect for the risks and the difficult decisions that they make each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, the safety of our citizens must remain a top priority, and I will continue to work to ensure that our law enforcement agencies have the resources that are necessary to protect American lives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN YEE OF AURORA, COLORADO

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the service of an extraordinary retired high school world history teacher, Mr. John Yee, whom I had 44 years ago when I was a student at Central High School in Aurora, Colorado.

Mr. John Yee was a teacher who inspired his students by making history come alive in the classroom and by leaving us with an intellectual curiosity about the world around us that would forever be a part of our lives.

Mr. John Yee's personal story of having grown up in Kunming, China, during the Imperial Japanese Army's invasion of his homeland, as well as his subsequent service as a translator with the Flying Tigers, gave him an unparalleled depth of understanding when it came to describing the cultural dynamics of global events.

Mr. Speaker, a great nation cannot exist without great teachers, and I believe that Mr. John Yee is among the very best, and I will forever be grateful for his unyielding dedication to public education.

WYOMING LOSES TWO OF ITS FAVORITE SONS

(Mrs. LUMMIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a tough week for Wyoming. Wyoming is the land of high altitudes, low multitudes, and great attitudes. We have the smallest population in the Nation, and yet, geographically, we are one of the largest States in the Nation; so everyone matters. This week, we lost two of our favorite sons—two of our most impressive people.

Brian Scott Gamroth was killed in a motorcycle accident when coming back to Wyoming from a Shriners Convention on Sunday. Brian was the voice of Wyoming. He gave his time, talents, and energy to raise hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of dollars for Wyoming's charities. His heart was as big as his gigantic frame and as his deep, baritone voice on the radio in Casper, Wyoming. He was a dear friend and a beloved Wyoming person, and I will miss him with my whole heart.

On the same day, we lost our beloved Flip McConnaughey, who died after serving our senior U.S. Senator, MIKE ENZI, as his chief of staff here in Washington for over 20 years. Flip McConnaughey came out of municipal government in Wyoming, as did our senior Senator, MIKE ENZI. They love the communities of Wyoming. They have worked so hard all of these years in the U.S. Senate for Wyoming.

I thank them, and we will miss them with all of our hearts.

NATIONAL READ WITH A CHILD WEEK

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of National Read with a Child Week, which is organized by the Children's Reading Foundation to promote early literacy development.

The first few years of a child's life are critical to the acquisition of language and literacy skills, which are cornerstones of social and academic development. I firmly believe that all children deserve an excellent education and that preparation for academic success can never begin too early. Unfortunately, many children face significant barriers to achievement as recent research shows that over three-quarters of fourth graders from low-income families are not proficient in reading.

The Children's Reading Foundation, which is headquartered in Kennewick, Washington, is leading the way in supporting early childhood literacy and in preparing all children for success in school and throughout their lives. Read with a Child Week, which takes place this week, September 18 through 24, is highlighting the tremendous importance of early literacy, and I call on all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this initiative.

GUIDANCE ON THE SOCIAL COST
OF CARBON

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration is advancing something under the Council on Environmental Quality known as a “guidance on the social cost of carbon.” This would be undertaken while doing environmental impact studies.

At the same time the administration claims that it is trying to advance more oil and gas by using those reserves to further help the energy economy in this country, it is also advancing this, but it claims it has not yet been adopted. Yet, some Federal agencies are already using it in order to block the development of this and of other important infrastructure. This will be yet another tool to stop either needed energy policy or other infrastructure projects that need to be done around this country.

We cannot afford to have these regulators coming out using a policy that has not been passed by the Congress

but, indeed, is something that has been adopted by the administration on its own in order to block projects that are especially needed in rural areas for our energy economy in this country, for nonreliance on foreign energy, and for the jobs that are so desperately needed. This is a wrong-headed approach to adopt policy without the word of Congress—the people’s Representatives—on this issue.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today after 3 p.m. on account of personal reasons.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker’s table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2615. An act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

H.R. 5252. An act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, as the “Marcelino Serna Port of Entry”.

H.R. 5937. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o’clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2016, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 16 AND AUG. 19, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Markwayne Mullin	8/16	8/19	Jordan		649		14,588				15,237
Committee total					649		14,588				15,237

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Sept. 16, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ITALY AND AFGHANISTAN, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 30 AND AUG. 6, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Hon. Eliot Engel	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Hon. Rosa DeLauro	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Hon. Anna Eshoo	7/31	8/5	Italy		2,255		(3)				2,255
Hon. Steve Israel	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Hon. André Carson	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Hon. Terri Sewell	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Wyndee Parker	7/31	8/5	Italy		1,804		(3)				1,804
Caroline Behringer	7/31	8/5	Italy		2,255		(3)				2,255
Bina Surgeon	7/31	8/5	Italy		2,255		(3)				2,255
Emily Berret	7/31	8/5	Italy		2,255		(3)				2,255
Hon. Nancy Pelosi	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. Eliot Engel	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. Rosa DeLauro	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. Anna Eshoo	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. Steve Israel	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. Dutch Ruppersberger	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. André Carson	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Hon. Terri Sewell	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Wyndee Parker	8/3	8/4	Afghanistan		7		(3)				7
Committee total					23,515						23,515

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. NANCY PELOSI, Sept. 2, 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6942. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Alabama and North Carolina; Interstate Transport — 2010 NO₂ Standards [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0209; FRL-9952-74-Region 4] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6943. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Prong 4-2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, SO₂, and 2012 PM_{2.5} [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0315; FRL-9952-72-Region 4] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6944. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) [EPA-R07-OAR-2016-0407; FRL-9952-55-Region 7] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6945. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Arkansas; Regional Haze and Interstate Visibility Transport Federal Implementation Plan [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0189; FRL-9952-03-Region 6] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6946. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Pyridaben; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0390; FRL-9951-92] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6947. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.3555(e) of the Commission's Rules, National Television Multiple Ownership Rule [MB Docket No.: 13-236] received September 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6948. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6949. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties

entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6950. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan, Transmittal No. 16-46, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6951. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Species; Identification of 14 Distinct Population Segments of the Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Revision of Species-Wide Listing [Docket No.: 130708594-6598-03] (RIN: 0648-XC751) received September 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6952. A letter from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting the report of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2015, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 3103a(d)(2); Added by Public Law 90-351, Sec. 1401(a) (further added by Public Law 109-177, Sec. 114(c)); (120 Stat. 211); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6953. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline, Santa Clara County, California final integrated report and environmental impact report for September 2015 (revised December 2015) (H. Doc. No. 114—166); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6954. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the West Sacramento General Reevaluation Final Report and Appendices for December 2015 (revised May 2016) (H. Doc. No. 114—167); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6955. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Navigation Improvements Craig, Alaska Final Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for March 16, 2016 (H. Doc. No. 114—168); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6956. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the American River Watershed Common Features General Reevaluation Final Reports and Appendices for December 2015 (Revised May 2016) (H. Doc. No. 114—169); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

6957. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Treatment of Indian Tribes in a Similar Manner as States for Purposes of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act [EPA-HQ-OW-2014-0622; FRL-9952-61-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF52) received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6958. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Announcement of the Results of the Phase III Allocation Round of the Qualifying Gasification Project Program [Announcement 2016-34] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6959. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Credit for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration; 2016 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor [Notice 2016-53] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6960. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Updating of Address for Qualified Vehicle Submissions [Notice 2016-51] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6961. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Foreign Tax Credit Guidance under Section 909 Related to Foreign-Initiated Adjustments [Notice 2016-52] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6962. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — October 2016 (Rev. Rul. 2016-25) received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6963. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Facilitating Compliance with Qualified Plan Document Requirements [Announcement 2016-32] received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6964. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Announcement of Certification Resulting from the 2012-2013 Phase III Allocation Round of the Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program (Announcement 2016-33) received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6965. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rules — Evidence from Excluded Medical Sources of Evidence [Docket No.: SSA-2016-0015] (RIN: 0960-AH92) received September 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6966. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report entitled "Department of Energy Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Fiscal Year 2015", pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, Sec. 316(b), as amended; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Armed Services.

6967. A letter from the Labor Member, Management Member, Railroad Retirement

Board, transmitting the Board's budget request for FY 2018, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-445, Sec. 416); (97 Stat. 436); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 6004. A bill to modernize Government information technology, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-783, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 954. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program; with an amendment (Rept. 114-784). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 5303. A bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-785, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5303 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 6116. A bill to enable needed drinking water standards, reduce lead in drinking water, plan for and address threats from climate change, terrorism, and source water contamination, invest in drinking water infrastructure, increase compliance with drinking water standards, foster greater community right to know about drinking water quality, and promote technological solutions for drinking water challenges; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 6117. A bill to provide at-risk and disconnected youth with subsidized summer and year-round employment and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 6118. A bill to promote innovation in financial services, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6119. A bill to distribute Federal funds for elementary and secondary education in the form of vouchers for eligible students and to repeal a certain rule relating to nutrition standards in schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 6120. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for clarification and rationalization of Medicare prescription drug plan recovery rules for certain claims; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. PAL-LONE, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 6121. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to climate resiliency, security, and source water protection planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 6122. A bill to authorize the creation of a commission to develop voluntary accessibility guidelines for electronic instructional materials and related technologies used in postsecondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 6123. A bill to congressionally designate the museum to preserve the stories, knowledge, and history of the Medal of Honor to be constructed in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, as the National Medal of Honor Museum; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STIVERS (for himself and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 6124. A bill to amend section 428 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to provide incentives to grantees under the Continuum of Care program to re-house all former members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6125. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for perfluorinated compounds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.R. 6126. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the disclosure of total corporate tax paid by a corporation in each annual report required to be filed under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6127. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the improvement of consumer confidence reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 6128. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in sources of drinking water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 6129. A bill to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DESANTIS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. GRIF-FITH):

H.R. 6130. A bill to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUELSEKAMP, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. RUSSELL, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 6131. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human-animal chimeras; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 6132. A bill to establish a task force to develop a national trauma care system, to improve the trauma care system of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. BOST, and Mr. GOODLATTE):

H.R. 6133. A bill to reauthorize certain programs established by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 6134. A bill to establish a National TechCorps program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. FINCHER):

H.R. 6135. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 719 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Fred D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 6136. A bill to provide for USA Retirement Funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6137. A bill to provide emergency tax relief for persons affected by severe storms and flooding occurring in Louisiana; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERA, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BASS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. HAHN, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 6138. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 560 East Pleasant Valley Road, Port Hueneme, California, as the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion "Seabees" Fallen Heroes Post Office Building; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. HARPER, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. McDERMOTT):

H.R. 6139. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare entitlement to immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant recipients; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 6140. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for perchlorate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. NOLAN):

H.R. 6141. A bill to amend the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 to require the publication of the negotiating position of the United States for each proposed trade agreement

after each meeting of the parties to the trade agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. MACARTHUR, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KIND, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. RATCLIFFE):

H.R. 6142. A bill to amend section 403(q) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the Food and Drug Administration from requiring the percent of daily value of added sugars to be included in the labeling of certain nutrient-dense foods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 6143. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish revised guidance for school officials seeking to reduce exposure to lead from drinking water in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Georgia:

H.R. 6144. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to include the outlays and revenue totals relating to social security benefits in a concurrent resolution on the budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. ESTY, and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 6145. A bill to require certain equestrian helmets to include a warning label, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6146. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the dependent care credit by repealing the phasedown of the credit percentage; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 6147. A bill to establish the 50th Anniversary Apollo I Memorial; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 6148. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for microcystin toxin, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. GABBARD, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana):

H.R. 6149. A bill to promote pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6150. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to prohibit private educational lenders from requiring accelerated repayment of private education loans upon the death or disability of a cosigner of the loan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6151. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow veterans affected by school closures to continue receiving monthly stipends under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for a certain period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6152. A bill to provide funding for Violent Crime Reduction Partnerships in the most violent communities in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. GIBSON):

H.R. 6153. A bill to provide installation reutilization authority for arsenals, depots, and plants; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6154. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reduce lead in drinking water, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 6155. A bill to amend the Wilderness Act to ensure access to wilderness areas by Federal, State, and local emergency response personnel during an emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 6156. A bill to amend the Wilderness Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to require the management of a wilderness study area, not designated by statute, under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management for multiple use pending congressional consideration of the recommendation for designation of the area as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OLSON (for himself and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 6157. A bill to modernize the prescription verification process for contact lenses, to clarify consumer protections regarding false advertising of contact lenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FLORES, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 6158. A bill to provide for enhanced penalties for certain offenses relating to controlled substances containing fentanyl, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut):

H.R. 6159. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt premiums paid on non-cash-value property and casualty insurance from the taxes to enforce reporting on certain foreign accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 6160. A bill to establish the United States Chief Manufacturing Officer in the Executive Office of the President with the responsibility of developing a national manufacturing strategy to revitalize the manufacturing sector, spur economic growth, and expand United States competitiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 6161. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to notify certain Federal agencies when principal investigators at such institutions engage in discrimination on the basis of sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 6162. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to ensure that prepaid funds deposited in an insured depository institution satisfy the requirements of the primary purpose exclusion to the definition of deposit broker, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6163. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to repeal the denial of assistance and benefits for individuals with certain drug-related convictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LEWIS (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. COURT-

NEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HOYER, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. LOEBESACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H. Con. Res. 160. Concurrent resolution recognizing the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, the only national museum dedicated to documenting African American life, history, and culture; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. WALZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. TAKANO, and Miss RICE of New York):

H. Con. Res. 161. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HECK of Washington, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. POCAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H. Res. 882. A resolution encouraging the observance of the week beginning on October 9, 2016, as "National Wildlife Refuge Week"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H. Res. 883. A resolution supporting the designation of a week as National Federal Nurse Recognition Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BARTON, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H. Res. 884. A resolution recognizing that Hillary Rodham Clinton violated, ignored, and otherwise chose not to follow legal and ethical obligations and responsibilities expected of the head of any Federal agency of the United States Government during her tenure as United States Secretary of State from 2009 through 2013; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DENHAM, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FARR, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HARDY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIREN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H. Res. 885. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos and Latinas to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, Ms. HAHN, Mr. HANNA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Ms. MENG, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. BRAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. HARDY, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H. Res. 886. A resolution recognizing November 26, 2016, as "Small Business Saturday" and supporting efforts to increase awareness of the value of locally owned

small businesses; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. ELLISON):

H. Res. 887. A resolution supporting efforts to increase competition and accountability in the health insurance marketplace, and to extend accessible, quality, affordable health care coverage to every American through the choice of a public insurance plan; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. KIND, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. TIBERI):

H. Res. 888. A resolution expressing support for designation of September as "National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SPEIER, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H. Res. 889. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence and its devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities, and support programs designed to end domestic violence in the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H. Res. 890. A resolution expressing support for the Arctic Council and commemorating the Arctic Council 20th anniversary; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 6116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 6117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 6118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence . . . of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 6119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The "Power of the Purse" as defined in Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. CAPPS:

H.R. 6121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 6122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 6123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STIVERS:

H.R. 6124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article 1, Sec 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

General Welfare Clause, Article I, Section 8

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 6127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 6128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 6129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GOODLATTE:

H.R. 6130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 9; article III, section 1, clause 1; and article III, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution, which grant Congress authority over federal courts and article I, section 8, clause 3, which gives Congress the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the States.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 6131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

H.R. 6132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution which gives Congress the authority to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof"

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 6133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 6134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

H.R. 6135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 6136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution relating to the power of Congress to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

Article 3, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution relating to the power of Congress to regulate commerce.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 6138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 7

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 6139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof

By Mr. CARDENAS:

H.R. 6140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 6141.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section VIII

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 6142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. FUDGE:

H.R. 6143.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GRAVES of Georgia:

H.R. 6144.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 6145.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, as this legislation provides for the general welfare of the United States.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6146.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6147.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 6148.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 6149.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: “[T]o provide for [the] general Welfare . . . [and] To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6150.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6151.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6152.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. LOEBSACK:

H.R. 6153.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6154.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 6155.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 purports that, “The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .”

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 6156.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 purports that, “The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .”

By Mr. OLSON:

H.R. 6157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. REED:

H.R. 6158.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 6159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution:

The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 6160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 6161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 6162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: “The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 213: Mr. LONG, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.

H.R. 225: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 226: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 347: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 532: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 583: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 729: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 742: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 923: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 1218: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 1221: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.

H.R. 1284: Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 1310: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1375: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1399: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 1427: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1530: Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 1572: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 1608: Mr. GRIFFITH and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1728: Mr. KEATING and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2132: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 2224: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2268: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2293: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 2302: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2431: Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2660: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 2737: Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. POMPEO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. COOK, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. SANFORD, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2739: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. YODER.

H.R. 2799: Mr. BARR and Mr. NOLAN.

H.R. 2889: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 3048: Mr. BRADY of Texas.

H.R. 3119: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3226: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 3316: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3355: Mr. TROTT.

H.R. 3378: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3381: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. GIBBS.

H.R. 3397: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 3512: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3514: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3522: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3656: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 3660: Mr. TIPTON.

H.R. 3666: Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. DOLD.

H.R. 3683: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 3687: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 3706: Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mr. CLAY, and Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 3720: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 3742: Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. COOK, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 3790: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 3849: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 3886: Mr. COHEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 3892: Mr. FLEMING.
 H.R. 3919: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 4027: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 4177: Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 4184: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 4212: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 4216: Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 4298: Mrs. NOEM, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. CONAWAY.
 H.R. 4365: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. MEEKS.
 H.R. 4559: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 4567: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
 H.R. 4626: Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. WESTERMAN.
 H.R. 4718: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 4764: Ms. ADAMS.
 H.R. 4773: Mr. CURBELO of Florida and Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 4798: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 4907: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 4919: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 4927: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 4938: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 4989: Miss RICE of New York.
 H.R. 5002: Mr. MCKINLEY.
 H.R. 5045: Mr. GUTHRIE.
 H.R. 5083: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 5113: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 5177: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 5182: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 5224: Mr. MARCHANT.
 H.R. 5301: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 5313: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 5321: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 5344: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
 H.R. 5475: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 5499: Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. CONAWAY.

H.R. 5557: Mr. TONKO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 5560: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 5619: Mr. TROTT.
 H.R. 5622: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 5628: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
 H.R. 5671: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 5721: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia.
 H.R. 5727: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. STEWART.
 H.R. 5732: Mrs. LOVE, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. HILL, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
 H.R. 5733: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 5745: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 5807: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BARR, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 5813: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. REED.
 H.R. 5814: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 5829: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 5898: Mr. KEATING.
 H.R. 5902: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 5935: Mr. SANFORD.
 H.R. 5942: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mr. JOLLY.
 H.R. 5951: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. SARBANES.
 H.R. 5961: Mr. HULTGREN and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 5962: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
 H.R. 5972: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H.R. 5980: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HECK of Nevada.
 H.R. 6001: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
 H.R. 6013: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 6017: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 6030: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 6042: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 6045: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 6070: Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 6074: Mr. WESTERMAN.
 H.R. 6076: Mr. KNIGHT.
 H.R. 6086: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 6087: Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. LATTI, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 6088: Mr. BARLETTA and Mrs. WALORSKI.
 H.R. 6094: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DUFFY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROHR-ABACHER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. TROTT, Mr. MARINO, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 6097: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 6098: Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 6100: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 6108: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 6110: Mr. BARLETTA.
 H.J. Res. 22: Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.J. Res. 94: Mr. HONDA.
 H.J. Res. 98: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
 H. Con. Res. 114: Mrs. BLACK.
 H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. PALMER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. BOST, Mr. HARPER, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.
 H. Con. Res. 141: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. WILLIAMS.
 H. Con. Res. 153: Mr. RUSH, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. LEE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H. Con. Res. 155: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. NUNES, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. ROSS.
 H. Res. 28: Mr. ZELDIN, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
 H. Res. 591: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WALKER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H. Res. 750: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H. Res. 838: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. ROUZER.
 H. Res. 846: Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BASS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. LEE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. RANGEL.
 H. Res. 854: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H. Res. 866: Ms. FUDGE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H. Res. 881: Mr. MCNERNEY.

SENATE—Thursday, September 22, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, protector of nations in a turbulent world when we know not what a day will bring forward, we look to You, our help in ages past and our hope for the years to come.

Today, we ask that You would use our lawmakers as agents of reconciliation and justice. May their labors hasten the day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We thank You, O God, that even during seasons of challenge and unrest, we have the calm assurance of Your presence. Even in the valley of the shadows, we find comfort because You are with us.

Lord, forgive us for the many times we have failed to humble ourselves and pray and seek Your face and turn from evil so that You will hear our prayers, forgive our sins, and heal our land. We praise You that the best is yet to come for this great land, and we anticipate Your providence enabling us to be blessed beyond anything we can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The Senator from Pennsylvania.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1831**

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to speak on S. 1831, the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act, also known as the PACT Act. This is a bipartisan bill.

I thank my colleague Senator BLUMENTHAL for coauthoring this and the 33 cosponsors I have.

This is a commonsense bill. This is the first Federal law that would protect all animals from torture, maiming, and abuse. The PACT Act allows Federal law enforcement to intervene when this kind of abuse occurs where

the Federal Government has jurisdiction, on Federal property, in U.S. territories, and in relation to interstate commerce.

The act specifically bans the most appalling forms of animal abuse. It is often known as crushing. This is when a deranged individual actually tortures and sometimes sexually assaults household pets for some perverse enjoyment that they get. There are people who are in the business of soliciting animals over the Internet so they can conduct this appalling activity and then sell the images. It is unbelievable, but it happens.

This legislation is not controversial. Stopping this kind of obscene animal abuse is not controversial at all. There are no Republicans objecting to this legislation. The next Democratic leader on the other side is a cosponsor. Senator SCHUMER is a cosponsor of this legislation. There are 27 Democratic cosponsors. Over half of the Democratic caucus are cosponsors of this legislation, and a majority of House Members have cosponsored companion legislation. We worked with all of the relevant committees to make sure all concerns were addressed. It has been endorsed by every major animal welfare organization, including the Humane Society, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the Animal Welfare Institute. We worked with agricultural and sporting groups. There is no organized opposition to this at all.

This legislation is necessary because there are many hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of cases of this kind of horrific abuse of animals occurring every year. We have seen appalling cases. I will submit for the record examples that are too appalling to discuss. Frankly, it is just that bad, and we need to bring this to an end.

It is also important for me to briefly point out that academic research has found a very strong correlation between people who abuse animals and then subsequently commit violent crimes against human beings. This has been documented by the National Institute of Mental Health. They say that a history of sexually assaulting animals is the single largest risk factor and strongest predictor of increased risk of committing child sexual abuse.

A 2013 Northeastern University study found that half of all school shooters had harmed animals before harming humans. It is very clear that if we can stop people from this appalling abuse of animals, we will also be protecting human beings, and that is why law enforcement agencies endorse my legisla-

tion as well. The PACT Act is endorsed by the National Sheriffs' Association, Fraternal Order of Police, Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, and nearly 200 local law enforcement agencies.

As I have said, this is a very simple issue. It is not confusing or complicated, and it is not controversial. Animals are not adequately protected across America. Many of our constituents feel very strongly and passionately about this issue, as well they should. Passage of this legislation will help protect people as well as animals, and Congress should act on this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1831 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Toomey substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I reserve my right to object.

It is stunning that my friend from Pennsylvania would come to the floor and abandon all the principles we have heard the new Republican majority wants in the Senate. First of all, how about having a hearing? There has not been a hearing on this bill. I would put my support of animals and fighting animal abuse with anyone's. The Humane Society has supported me every time I have run for office. PETA has supported me, as have all of the animal rights groups.

Wouldn't it be a good idea to follow what the Republican leader said about how we are going to proceed in this new Senate? He said that we were going to have hearings, and they would not bring a bill to the floor unless there has been a hearing. Well, that hasn't worked out so well.

We have recently been out of session for 7 weeks. We had a lot of time to do all kinds of things, but we have done nothing. This has been the longest recess since 1956, and with the break that is anticipated by my Republican colleagues, we will break all records going back to—we don't even know when. We haven't been able to determine that. It could go as far back as the Depression or World War I.

All of this sadness about not getting something done on this legislation

cries for relief—relief for the American people that we start working again. We have not only had months to deal with legislation like this, but we have had more than 6 months to deal with something that is vitally important to America. It is important everywhere in America. It is important in Nevada, Pennsylvania, Kentucky—everyplace. What is that? How about having a full Supreme Court?

The man who opened the Senate today, ORRIN HATCH, the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, said publicly so everyone could hear that Merrick Garland would be a consensus nomination for the President. We satisfied his consensus appetite, and we brought forward, through the President of the United States, Merrick Garland on March 16. We waited and waited. Initially no one would even meet with him—no Republican would meet with him. Finally, a few Republicans trickled into a few meetings, but there was no hearing, and, of course, no vote.

We are happy to consider all kinds of legislation, but to pick and choose what they are going to do, leaving volumes of work undone here in the Senate, is something that leaves me incredulous.

Before we rush ahead on legislation that has had no hearing, I think it would be a good idea that we have a hearing and a vote on Merrick Garland. If Republican Senators want to vote against Merrick Garland, let them do it, but let's go through the process.

I ask through the Chair whether the Senator from Pennsylvania would be willing to modify his unanimous consent request so that following a vote on confirmation of the nomination of a consensus nominee, Merrick Garland, to be a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court so we would have nine members on the Court—nothing too unusual—the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of this legislation, S. 1831.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator modify his request?

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, that was a consent request, was it not?

Mr. REID. Yes, it was.

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I object to the initial request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the original request.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, let me briefly observe what is going on here. I don't think it is any mystery to anyone who has been following what is happening here.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could direct a question to my friend through the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Pennsylvania yield?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I came to the floor at his convenience. I am busy, and I am sure he is busy. I came to the floor to be a gentleman, and I allowed him to go first. I have a speech to give. I came here, and I agreed to the Republican leader's request. I didn't need to agree. I said I would be willing to do this right now so the Republican leader could give his speech later. I think it is rude, to say the least, for him to give a speech here and prevent me from giving a speech to the Senate. I think that is not being very collegial, and I am disappointed that he would do this. He can go ahead and talk as long as he wants. I will wait.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I believe I have the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I would observe for the record that we have been waiting for about 2 weeks, looking for the opportunity to do this and work with every Member on the other side, and we accommodated the leader's schedule when he said this was the only time he could do this—this and one other time.

I will close by saying this: Look, we all know what is going on here. The Democratic leader stands up and complains that we have not been productive and not gotten things done, and then when I propose a unanimous consent request on a bipartisan bill that has a majority of Democratic Senators as cosponsors, has been thoroughly vetted, and is supported by every outside group, he raises a completely unrelated issue and uses that as the basis to block this noncontroversial legislation.

This is exactly what the American people are so frustrated about with this body and some of the leadership in this body when this kind of completely partisan-driven agenda blocks progress even on modest and noncontroversial legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just so the record is very clear, I have been asked to come to the floor on two or three different occasions to meet his schedule, and I was here; he wasn't. Make sure the record reflects that.

Mr. President, for almost 2 years the Senate has been run by the Republicans. The schedule is set by the Republicans. I don't set the schedule anymore.

To have my friend, the Senator from Pennsylvania, come here and say: Well, this is really important—I have indicated how I feel about animal cruelty. I have spoken out about all kinds of animal cruelty for more than three decades. But I also have some concern, as do the American people, that Senators like my friend from Pennsylvania have helped block a simple hearing and a vote on a man who is a consensus

nominee to be a Supreme Court Justice. That is wrong.

I am not a big fan of polling, but you could take a poll in your front room, in a mall, or have one of these professionals come in and claim they know what they are doing. Overwhelmingly, it would show that the American people want a vote on this.

The Supreme Court being short one member has stopped work from being done for the good of this country. Important cases that should have been determined haven't been determined. Now they have to go along with whatever the lower courts say. That is not our system of justice.

So I hope everyone understands that it would be extremely fair and important to have a hearing and a vote on Merrick Garland.

I can't understand the lack of courage of my Republican friends such as the Senator from Pennsylvania. If they don't like Merrick Garland, vote against him, but don't block him. For the longest time in the history of America, a Supreme Court Justice has been stopped—stopped—from even having a hearing. It has never happened before—never in the history of this country.

I will speak on my subject a little later.

I yield the floor.

I ask that the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN WESTMORELAND

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, we are reaching that time of year when some of our colleagues will retire, some may be retired without wanting to be retired, and we will have new colleagues coming to the Senate and the House next year. I wish to pause for a moment and pay tribute to a great Georgian who will be retiring at the end of

December and who has served our State for six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives—Mr. LYNN WESTMORELAND.

LYNN WESTMORELAND is a true entrepreneur, a native Georgian, a dedicated father, an outstanding businessman, and an unquestioned leader in the House of Representatives. As the ranking member of the Intelligence Committee in the House, he has been instrumental since 9/11, seeing to it that we remain safe in this country and that we have the information we need to make decisions we need to make to keep America safe.

I go back with LYNN WESTMORELAND a long time. I was a realtor in Georgia. I was in the brokerage business for 33 years. I dealt with homebuilders all the time, and one of them was LYNN WESTMORELAND.

Early in his career, he founded his own construction company, called L.A.W. Construction. He was an outstanding homebuilder in Fayette County, GA, and in our State. He built that business to be one of the best building and construction businesses in our State, and I am proud of what he accomplished.

He is also a guy who gives back. So LYNN decided to run for public office. He ran for the Georgia House of Representatives in Fayette County and won. He served 12 years in the Georgia House, rising to Republican leader in the Georgia House of Representatives. He was the leader at the time when, for the first time in history, the Georgia Republican Party went from the minority party to the majority party.

Wherever LYNN has been, he has been a leader and a fighter for what is right for our country and a dynamic leader for our State.

LYNN is married to a beautiful lady named Joan. They have three children and six grandchildren. She has been a great supporter of LYNN. They have been side by side since they first met at the age of 15 and began their 47-year marriage a few years later.

LYNN will be retiring, and we will miss him. We want to say thank you to LYNN for all he has done for Georgia when he was in our legislature and for what he has done for America now in the Congress of the United States. He will be sorely missed, but he will be appreciated always as a man of courage, a man of conviction, a man of commitment, and a true son of Georgia who excelled in the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, President Obama has issued a proclamation that this week is Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week.

As the President explained, we pause to remember all those we have lost to opioid use disorder. We stand with the courageous individuals in recovery, and we recognize the importance of raising awareness of this epidemic. In recognition of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, I am here with my colleagues to convey the urgency of responding to this crisis.

I want to start my remarks with a story I heard yesterday from a wonderful man named Patrick Byrne. I met yesterday with Patrick, as he was awarded the 2016 Education Award and Hero of the Year Award by the National Association of Letter Carriers. Patrick is from Lynn, MA. He lost his son James Byrne to heroin addiction. Here is their story.

James Byrne lived a fairly normal life in many ways. The son of Lynn, MA, Branch 7 president and Army vet Patrick Byrne, James had a good upbringing and strong family ties. He had a master's degree in computer science and made a good living in IT, but throughout his adult life, James had been hooked on heroin, a drug easily found on Lynn's post-industrial streets. James had periods of sobriety, but circumstances always seemed to steal them from him eventually.

James had enjoyed 7 months clean of drugs when an old friend and fellow addict called him one day in January of 2014 to beg James to find heroin for him. After first refusing, James gave in and bought some for his friend and apparently couldn't resist using it himself instead. The friend called James on the cell phone over and over as James lay dying of an overdose on the floor of his sister's house just down the street from his father's home. That is where Patrick found him.

After making his story public, Patrick heard from many other letter carriers about their own struggles with addiction, depression, or mental illness in their families. Patrick said: "I was shocked at how many people are dealing with similar problems." Inspired by Patrick's experiences and his efforts to educate fellow letter carriers and the broader public about the need to remove the stigma of addiction, the Postal Service Employee Assistance Program launched the Silent No More Initiative. The program is designed to help postal employees or their families break through the stigma and shame to share personal stories.

I thank Patrick for his leadership and service, and I pray for his family and for all the parents who are relying on hope and strength as they look for the support to achieve long-term recovery.

None of us can be silent anymore in the face of this epidemic.

In order to get Patrick and all the families who are suffering the help they need when they need it, the Federal Government needs to invest in funding treatment and recovery programs. So far Congress has failed in this task.

In Massachusetts, I am hearing enormous frustration from people who don't feel adequate resources are being brought to bear on this epidemic of prescription drugs and heroin addiction. Countless individuals and families suffering with addiction cannot find a bed for detox. Then, when they are at their most vulnerable moment in recovery, they cannot find a place or provider for long-term treatment.

In May, Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire introduced legislation for \$600 million in emergency funding to combat this crisis. Then again in July, I and others argued on the floor for the need to invest \$1.1 billion into opioid treatment and recovery programs, but both times when Senator SHAHEEN made the case and others joined on the floor asking for additional funding, all of that was blocked so we could not in fact provide real funding that cities and States need to fight this epidemic.

We will not save lives and stop the scourge of addiction with just words and promises. We will not save lives with legislation that pays only lip service to providing treatment. So I stand here during Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week to pledge that I will not stop fighting for funding.

In Boston, there is an area of our city called the Methadone Mile. It is approximately 1 square mile. It is the location of methadone clinics, safety net hospitals, and homeless shelters. It is also the home to those struggling with addiction, those receiving treatment for addiction, and the litany of saints and angels who are providing the desperately needed services for those suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders. It is a 1-mile, one-stop shop for hope and ground zero in the battle against addiction in Boston.

Here, in Washington, we are at the epicenter of the Money Mile. It is an area where Big Pharma's lobbyists toil with the task of ensuring that even during the storm of prescription drugs, heroin and fentanyl overdose deaths, the deluge for opioid-based painkillers goes unabated. When pitted against the Money Mile, the Methadone Mile doesn't stand a chance. The Money Mile and its army of Big Pharma lobbyists are the reason mandatory prescriber education is not a law. It is the reason partial-fill prescriptions is not a law. It is the reason the Food and Drug Administration and other Federal agencies and State agencies across our country have not done the job over the

years and have in fact been complicit in the worsening of this epidemic.

Without real funding for opioid addiction treatment, the Methadone Mile and all the other areas in cities across this country will continue to drown in overdoses and death.

Our cities are fighting a war, and we need to help them. With that, I will yield the floor to the Senator from Minnesota, AMY KLOBUCHAR, who has worked tirelessly to stem the oversupply of prescription opioid drugs in this country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, and I thank Senator MARKEY for the work he has done and his passionate words as well as his understanding of the crisis this truly is.

I think one of the ways I can explain it in my State is, every day you turn on the news and you hear about car crashes and you hear about when there is a murder. Well, in the heart of my State, deaths from prescription drug abuse now claim the lives of more Minnesotans than homicides or car crashes. It is a crisis on the rise. According to the department of health in our State, drug overdose deaths among Minnesotans increased 11 percent from 2014 to 2015. Last year alone, 336 people in our State died from overdoses. The Twin Cities has been hit hard by this deadly trend. In Hennepin County, data shows that opioid-related deaths have increased 40 percent since 2006. But we know this is not a crisis confined to our urban areas.

I see Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire is here. This is something that has hit hard in her State in rural areas, just like in mine.

In one 7,000-person town in Minnesota, 3 young people died in just 6 months. Another three were hospitalized for heroin overdoses. We know, by the way, that heroin overdose is no longer separate from prescription drugs. In fact, four out of five heroin users got their start on prescription drugs. They got addicted because someone gave them to them, or they got them out of a medicine cabinet or they went to the emergency room and were given 30 pills and got addicted, or maybe they just went to the dentist to get a wisdom tooth fixed.

These are real stories that are happening all over the country. I was in Montevideo, MN—a smaller town—with some doctors. One of them started to cry at this event, telling the story about how a guy had seen him for back pain over and over and over. The next thing he knew, the Secret Service was in his office telling him that this person had gotten completely addicted and was making threats over the Internet on the lives of elected officials and ended up in prison. He had no idea.

At that same forum, I heard the story of a 12-year-old who was courted

by a pusher—a 12-year-old. They came up to him and said: Hey, could you go check your parent's medicine cabinet? They gave him a list of drugs and sent him off. They said: If you come back with those bottles of pills, we will give you a can of beer. That is what is happening in smalltown America.

We passed a bill, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. I was proud of the bipartisan work. I was one of the four lead sponsors on that bill. It builds on some of the work we have done to set up a framework. Senator CORNYN and I passed one of the first bills in this area, the drug take-back bill, which allows for drug take-backs in a way that we are now starting to see across the Nation. We were already seeing them, of course, in police departments and public facilities, but this makes it easier for drugstores and pharmacies to take back drugs. Walgreens has announced they are going to be doing this on a national basis. It also makes it easier for long-term care facilities.

Those things are beginning, but we can't end there, not when on one recent National Prescription Drug Take Back Day back in April, over 445 tons of unused drugs were collected. That is 1 day in this country, to give a sense of how many are out there. In the CARA bill, we made it easier to do drug take-backs.

We also increased the availability of naloxone, although I will say on a side-line, Senator MARKEY, one problem with this is the price of naloxone has gone up 1,000 percent by the pharmaceutical company that provides it. So that is another issue we are going to have to deal with. That is, of course, for another day. But I will say that naloxone is something we know can save lives.

For me, the heart of this is trying to go after these prescription drugs at the start, to try to stop people from becoming addicted. I will get to the treatment part in a moment, but we need to stop the addiction in the first place.

Just this month, one Minnesota newspaper told the story of a man in Duluth who got prescriptions for opioid painkillers from 23 dentists and 15 emergency room physicians in just over 2 years.

Back in May, in Moorhead, I heard the story of another man—this was from a rehab counselor. This guy had filled 108 prescriptions for painkillers from more than 85 different prescribers in Minnesota and in neighboring States.

The Presiding Officer is my neighbor in South Dakota. We see people who go to South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin in search of different doctors whom they can basically dupe into giving them prescriptions because they are addicts. That should not be happening. Doctors

should not be giving out these prescriptions. That is why I have introduced a new bill that would require doctors and pharmacies to immediately report when they give out these prescriptions and require physicians to check this list. Many States have these programs in place—prescription drug monitoring programs—but they are voluntary. Not everyone does them. Some States, such as Florida, don't even share their data with the rest of the country. I truly believe the doctors and pharmacists on the frontlines—if they check these, we are going to stop people from getting addicted and get them into treatment the way we should.

That leads me to the next piece, which is treatment itself. I have had many people tell me that they are better off committing a felony to get treatment. Why is that? Well, a lot of States, like mine, have good drug courts, and if you can get into the right program in the drug court, you are going to get treatment and followup and you are going to get the help you need. But a lot of insurance policies are not covering it. There is not treatment available. That is why I support Senator MANCHIN, and I am an original cosponsor of the LifeBOAT Act, which basically places a 1-cent fee on each milligram of active opioid ingredient in a prescription pain pill. That is one good way to pay for treatment, as well as, of course, Senator SHAHEEN's strong bill that appropriates emergency funding to address the drug abuse epidemic with treatment.

We have to remember that only 1 in 10 people who suffer from opioid addiction actually receives the treatment they need.

My State is a big believer in treatment. We use treatment a lot for low-level offenses. We use drug courts a lot. It is one of the reasons we have been able to keep our crime rate at a decent level compared to a lot of other States. That does not mean there is not horrific crime, but we have really focused on treatment.

In my own life, my dad is an alcoholic. He is sober now and happily married at age 88. He stopped drinking a while back, but he would not have done it without treatment. And that was after three DWIs and a lot of difficulty, but he got through it. From seeing that, seeing my dad climb the highest mountain but fall to the lowest valleys, I believe there is redemption and there is hope. But I don't think that treatment should be limited to just the people who have good insurance or can afford it.

We in this country have created this crisis. Let's be clear. Decisions were made at pharmaceutical companies and everywhere across the country to expand the use of opioids, to tell people they can take 30 pills when maybe they need 1 or none or maybe 2 or 3. These are bad decisions. They were made, and

people were duped and they got addicted. The least we can do is give them the treatment so they can get off of it, and then make sure their kids don't get addicted as well.

This is a serious epidemic, and it calls for serious action as well as funding.

I say thank you, to Senator MARKEY. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Minnesota.

Many have already heard these statistics: Our Nation is experiencing more deaths from drug overdoses than from gun violence or auto accidents. Nearly 30,000 people in the United States died from an opioid overdose in 2015. Approximately 1,300 of those were in Massachusetts.

Fentanyl, the drug that killed the musician Prince from the State of the Senator from Minnesota, is flowing in from China and Mexico and is laying waste to our communities. It is 50 times more powerful than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Approximately 2.5 million Americans abused or were dependent on opioids in 2012, but fewer than 1 million received treatment for their condition.

If we do not provide the resources and enact the policies required to change the momentum of this epidemic, we are poised to lose future generations to addiction and death. We need the money for treatment.

With that, I would like to yield the floor to my good friend and great Senator from New Hampshire, who has led the fight here on the Senate floor for funding for opioid use disorder treatment and recovery, Mrs. JEANNE SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts, who has seen the same tragedy we are seeing in New Hampshire. I am sad to have to come to the floor again today to join my colleagues, Senator MARKEY and Senator KLOBUCHAR, who have spoken so passionately about our need to address the ongoing heroin and opioid crisis.

Like them and many others, I have been coming to the floor for many months to describe the terrible toll this crisis is taking on communities across the country. I know the Presiding Officer must see it in his home State because it is happening all across America.

It is ironic that we are here during Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week to once again call on this Congress and the Senate to pass emergency funding to address what is the most pervasive, most destructive, and, I believe, most urgent public health crisis that faces this Nation.

I certainly don't want to minimize the gravity of the other health chal-

lenges we are facing in America, especially the Zika outbreak, which I believe is absolutely critical, but by any objective measure, these challenges are dwarfed by the destruction and loss of life that is being inflicted every day by the uncontrolled epidemic of heroin and opioid abuse. This epidemic is raging in all 50 States. It is an uncontrolled public health epidemic of staggering dimensions. In 2014, some 47,000 people died from drug overdoses—far more than the number of Americans who died in motor vehicle accidents the same year.

I am sad to say that New Hampshire is at the epicenter of this epidemic because we have the highest percentage of overdose deaths in the Nation. This year, at the rate we are seeing overdose fatalities, we will lose over 500 people in New Hampshire, a State of about 1.3 million. Estimates are that over 100,000 people in New Hampshire have some sort of substance abuse/misuse issue. The statistics don't even begin to describe the heartbreak and the trauma that is experienced by those who have drug misuse issues and their families. Yet, despite this appalling death toll, despite what the statistics tell us, the Senate has failed to provide emergency funding to first responders and to treatment providers on the frontlines of this crisis.

In July, Congress passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA. I applaud Senator KLOBUCHAR and the other sponsors of that legislation. It is a good, bipartisan bill that passed this Chamber with overwhelming support. I was a cosponsor, and I voted for it. But, as we all know very well, CARA is an authorizing bill, it is not an appropriations bill. The public may not know that because I think there is a lot of confusion about the difference between authorizing and appropriating, but the fact is, we know here in this Chamber that CARA is an authorizing bill and it does not provide one penny to fight the opioid epidemic.

We need to fund CARA. That is probably not going to happen this year and may not happen for several years. We need to put actual resources behind all of our talk about stemming this crisis. Earlier this year, I introduced emergency funding that would provide an additional \$600 million for policing, prevention, treatment, and recovery. I offered this legislation as an amendment to the CARA bill but sadly it was defeated.

The legislation looks at all of those aspects: prevention, treatment, recovery, and policing because I believe there isn't one magic bullet solution for this issue.

We definitely need more treatment. We need to acknowledge that addiction is a disease. That is a critical part of it, but we also need to do the policing—the long-term recovery. I was at a recovery center in New Hampshire sev-

eral weeks ago, and one of the women I met there who was in recovery said: You know, getting clean was easy. It is staying clean that is the hard part.

Our Nation has addressed our public health crises with emergency funding bills far larger than the one I proposed. In 2014, Congress passed nearly \$5.4 billion—billion with a “b”—in emergency funding to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. The Ebola outbreak killed one person in America. The heroin and opioid epidemic is killing more than 128 Americans every single day.

We know treatment is the only effective answer to addiction, but people are being turned away from treatment due to lack of resources. Nationwide, in 2013, nearly 9 out of 10 people needing drug treatment did not receive it. It is the same story on the law enforcement side of the equation, a chronic lack of resources.

As Senator KLOBUCHAR pointed out, and as my colleagues from Vermont—who just came to the floor—and Massachusetts understand very clearly, heroin traffickers expressly target rural States and counties where law enforcement is spread too thin and lacks the resources to respond effectively.

Meanwhile, as Congress fails to act, the opioid epidemic is on the verge of expanding dramatically. Carfentanil is a synthetic opioid that is used to tranquilize elephants. It is now available on the streets, blamed for a record surge of drug overdoses in the Midwest.

Carfentanil is 100 times more potent than fentanyl, which, in turn, can be up to 50 times more deadly than heroin. It is one of the synthetic additives to heroin that is causing so many overdose deaths in New Hampshire. Until recently, Hamilton County, OH, had four to five overdoses a day. Now, because of carfentanil, the county is reporting 20 overdoses, 30 overdoses, and sometimes even 50 overdoses a day, completely overwhelming first responders.

Some public health officials say the United States has reached a disastrous inflection point in the opioid epidemic. Going forward, we may be seeing more and more synthetic opioids on the market—cheaper, more potent, more addictive, and even more deadly.

This is just one more wake-up call.

As I travel across New Hampshire and talk to Senate colleagues from across the country, again and again I hear about the lack of resources to marshal an effective, well-coordinated response. As new and more dangerous opioids hit the streets, this crisis could become exponentially worse. Our failure to act is having tragic consequences.

At long last, let's give law enforcement, let's give treatment providers, and let's give recovery centers the resources they so desperately need. At long last, let's come together. Let's pass an emergency funding bill to combat the opioid epidemic. If we can

spend billions to fight Ebola on a distant continent, surely we can allocate \$600 million to combat a raging epidemic right here at home.

When the Senate comes back into session after the election, we will have another opportunity to consider emergency funding to combat this crisis. For tens of thousands of Americans, this is very literally a matter of life and death.

Let's put politics aside. Let's do the job the American people sent us to do. At long last, let's give law enforcement and treatment providers on the frontlines the resources they need to effectively address the opioid crisis.

Thank you to my colleagues from Massachusetts and Minnesota for coming to the floor to once again point out the need we so desperately have.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I believe we had arranged for Senator GRASSLEY and me to speak at this point.

I see my distinguished colleague on the floor.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have about 8 minutes or 9 minutes of remarks, but I don't see the Senator from Iowa yet. If the Senator from Vermont wishes to speak—

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, he wanted me to speak, and then he was going to speak. If I might continue, this will be fairly brief.

EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the reason I have come to the floor today—and I will be joined by Senator GRASSLEY—is to share my concern and his concern about the EB-5 Regional Center Program. The authorization of this program is set to expire at the end of the month, but Senate leadership wants to extend the EB-5 Program as part of the continuing resolution. I want the Senators to know that if this flawed program is not reformed, I believe it should end. I can no longer support a straight extension of the program.

For years, I strongly supported the EB-5 Program. I even championed its reauthorization. I did so because EB-5 was designed to bring in investment and jobs to underserved rural and urban communities. For some time, that is what it did. In my home State of Vermont, communities such as Warren and Vergennes used EB-5 to create and save jobs during difficult economic times. They are EB-5 success stories, but that was the EB-5 yesterday. The EB-5 Program today is mired in fraud and abuse. It has strayed from its important policy goals. The incentives Congress created to direct investment to underserved areas—the very reason I supported this program—have been rendered meaningless.

The program has become an unintended boon for the wealthiest business

districts in the country. Affluent areas now dominate the program. They exploit incentives that were intended for underserved areas, a practice Department of Homeland Security Secretary Johnson has rightly described as gerrymandering. It has reached the point where a luxury hotel in Beverly Hills, CA, qualifies as a distressed urban area. Only in the world of EB-5 is Beverly Hills considered economically distressed.

This type of abuse today is not the exception, it is the rule. Currently, 90 percent of EB-5 capital goes to areas that rely on gerrymandering to qualify as distressed—90 percent. That is why the civil rights community, led by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, has so strongly criticized this program.

Far from being a tool for economic development and job creation, EB-5 is now serving as a corporate subsidy for wealthy developers, allowing them to save tens of millions of dollars in financing. It is no wonder these developers fight so hard against reforms that would restore incentives for EB-5 to do what it was supposed to do when it began—promote investment in rural and poor urban areas.

I am not suggesting that affluent areas should never qualify. I am merely suggesting they should not qualify for the unique incentives that Congress intended for underserved communities because these underserved communities have far more trouble attracting capital to create jobs.

Unfortunately, gerrymandering and abused incentives are only part of the problem. In recent years, EB-5 has become riddled with fraud. Review after review—conducted by the GAO, the Inspector General, and by Senator GRASSLEY and me on the Judiciary Committee—have revealed serious vulnerabilities in the program. Investors have been defrauded. They have lost money and their immigration benefits have been put in jeopardy.

Communities that once hoped to benefit from this program have been left to pick up the pieces. From California to Florida, and from Texas to even my home State of Vermont, allegations of fraud have stained this program. Since 2013, the Securities and Exchange Commission has filed dozens of EB-5-related enforcement actions. As of last year, over 50 more Federal investigations were ongoing. Fraud will continue unabated until we give the Department of Homeland Security the tools it needs to guard against abuse.

We have an obligation in Congress to ensure that Federal agencies can do their job. The Department of Homeland Security has made some administrative improvements to EB-5, but Secretary Johnson has made it clear to both me and Senator GRASSLEY that congressional action is necessary.

For 5 years, I worked with both Democrats and Republicans to reform

EB-5. In 2013, I included EB-5 reforms in the Senate-passed comprehensive immigration reform. That received a bipartisan vote of 68 votes in the Senate, but the House of Representatives failed to allow a vote on those reforms. Since then, I have continued to work with Senator GRASSLEY to review and reform the EB-5 Program.

Last year, he and I negotiated far-reaching reforms with our counterparts in the House Judiciary Committee. Senator GRASSLEY and I pushed to have that four corners agreement included in the omnibus appropriations bill at the end of last year. But big city developers still viewed our reforms as a threat to their bottom line, and they have worked aggressively to block our efforts.

Unfortunately, leaders in Congress sided with the developers and extended the EB-5 Program without reform. Senator GRASSLEY and I are not going to relent in our efforts to reform this program.

I see the distinguished Senator from Iowa on the floor. He will be speaking on this, but I would note that at the very beginning of the new year, we worked together to continue a series of public hearings to keep pushing for reform. We are united in our belief that it is unacceptable that Congress has failed to respond to an overwhelming consensus for reform. A full revamping of the program is required. A Band-Aid is not good enough. Powerful corporate interests must not be allowed to derail improvements that can guard against fraud, protect investors, and also help our most distressed communities.

The powerful developers want only “window dressing” reform proposals that do little to change the status quo. We cannot accept so-called reforms that the SEC believes would, in fact, leave holes in enforcement efforts.

Senator GRASSLEY and I, along with our counterparts in both parties in the House Judiciary Committee, have put forward meaningful reforms. These reforms were developed in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security and the SEC. They are tailored to prevent the rampant fraud we are seeing today. They are necessary to save EB-5 from itself.

As the American people learn more about how the EB-5 Program is being abused, the louder the calls will be for its reform or even its termination. I believe we could still fix EB-5, but I cannot support simply extending it yet again. I do not come to this decision lightly, but I cannot support a continuing resolution that leaves these flaws in place. The time has come, either reform EB-5 or get rid of it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to fully support everything Senator LEAHY has said. I have my own remarks on the same subject.

When Senator LEAHY and I are done—and I may be the end of that—if Senator LEAHY wants to speak, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 60 seconds on another item.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in 1990, Congress created the EB-5 visa, which was intended to create new employment for U.S. workers and to infuse new capital into the country. Two years later, Congress revised the EB-5 category by establishing a pilot program allowing investors to use regional centers to pool their investments. This pilot program still exists, nearly 25 years later, but it is deeply flawed, lacks adequate oversight, and has veered far away from congressional intent.

The Regional Center Program expires on September 30 of this year. In my view, it is in need of a major overhaul if it is going to be reauthorized. I have said that repeatedly on the Senate floor, in hearings, and in letters to Senate leadership.

Despite the need for reform, the fiscal year 2016 Omnibus appropriations bill included a straight and clean extension of the program. This was a disappointment given the alarm bells and the whistleblower allegations. It was a missed opportunity. It is my hope that both House and Senate leaders will find a way to include reforms in a continuing resolution or simply leave it off the table for a later date.

The Senate Judiciary Committee held two hearings this year on the program. We discussed the flaws and corruption. We noted the many vulnerabilities. We had stakeholders weigh in. We heard from local leaders, associations representing workers and regional centers. We listened to academics and government officials. We received feedback from all types of industries, as well as immigration and securities attorneys. We talked to other Senate offices and committees.

We have outlined the problems. Allow me to mention a few of them. Under the EB-5 Regional Center Program: Investments can be spent before business plans are approved. Regional center operators can charge excessive fees of foreign nationals in addition to their required investments. Jobs created are not “direct” or verifiable jobs but rather are “indirect” and based on estimates and economic modeling. All jobs created by a project are counted by the foreign national when obtaining a green card, even if EB-5 money is only a fraction of the total invested. Investment funds are not adequately vetted. Gifts and loans are acceptable sources of funds from foreign nationals. The investment level has been stagnant for nearly 25 years. There is no prohibition against foreign governments owning or operating regional centers or projects.

Regional centers can be rented or sold without government oversight or approval. Regional centers don’t have to certify they comply with securities laws. There is no oversight of promoters who work overseas for the regional centers. There is no set of sanctions for violations, no recourse for bad actors. There are no required background checks on anyone associated with a regional center. Regional centers draw targeted employment area boundaries around poor areas in order to come in at a lower investment level, yet the jobs created are not actually created in those areas, and the projects aren’t actually in those areas. Every targeted employment area designation is rubberstamped by the agency. Adjudicators are pressured to get to a yes, especially for those politically connected. Visas are not properly scrutinized. They have been approved despite national security warnings. Files and applications lack basic and necessary information to monitor compliance. The agency does not do site visits for each and every project. There is no transparency on how funds are spent, who is paid, and what investors are told about the projects they invest in.

Then there are the national security problems. Our committee has received numerous briefings and classified documents to show this side of the story.

The enforcement arm of the Department of Homeland Security wrote an internal memo that raises significant concerns about the program. There was an interagency working group that reviewed fraud and other national security vulnerabilities in 2010. Members of the working group made recommendations to reform the program, including the recommendation to sunset the regional center model due to crippling fraud and national security vulnerabilities.

Not all of these recommendations were communicated to Congress. This week, Chairman CHAFFETZ, Mr. CUMMINGS, and I sent a letter to the Director of the agency in charge and asked for documents relating to this working group. I also sent a letter to Secretary Johnson, calling on him to investigate the policies and guidance that permit foreign ownership of an EB-5 regional center. It is obvious that foreign corporations and foreign governments are increasingly taking advantage of the Regional Center Program to establish ownership in U.S.-based real estate projects. I am concerned that this may allow foreign corporations and foreign governments to profit from marketing U.S. green cards to their citizens in return for investment and ownership in EB-5 real estate projects. I asked for a top-to-bottom review to ensure that U.S. interests are protected in the EB-5 program.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has brought over a dozen suits against regional centers and operators.

U.S. investors and foreign nationals are being duped and left high and dry. Just this week another individual was indicted for devising a scheme to defraud and obtain money and property from investors. This person was able to take in millions of dollars from foreign investors and use the money for his personal gain. I have seen it time and again. But, under current law, such individuals are not banned from the program in the future.

Aside from the vulnerabilities, the benefits of the program are questionable. Even the Government Accountability Office says it is hard to ascertain the economic benefits.

Most of the visas are going to urban and affluent areas at a discounted rate when Congress specifically intended to steer some visas to rural and high unemployment areas. Census tracts are stitched together to incorporate remote public housing developments so that highrises, hotels, casinos and resorts can attract investors for less than the statutory \$1 million requirement.

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this specific issue. Though Congress intended for most EB-5 investments to be made at the \$1 million level, nearly all are made at the \$500,000 level because of gerrymandering. That is just not right. Gerrymandering allows very affluent areas to benefit from the lower investment threshold, resulting in little incentive to invest EB-5 funds in distressed or rural areas, as was envisioned by Senators when it was created.

The senior Senator from New York says we don’t know how cities work. He doesn’t think projects should or could be built in the Bronx. He says they will commute and work on 5th Avenue where luxury condos are being built. Those in New York jump over rivers and go through Central Park just to connect to low-income neighborhoods.

As a result, smaller and economically depressed cities are forced to compete with Beverly Hills, Miami, and Manhattan. Foreign investors—who ultimately want a green card—want to put their money in glitzy hotels and luxurious condo projects where there is a higher return.

Targeted employment areas are at the heart of the controversy about EB-5 and are the principal reason we were unable to pass commonsense reforms last year. Yet we proposed a lot of good reforms. For example, the Grassley-Leahy-Conyers-Goodlatte proposal, for the first time, incentivized EB-5 investment in manufacturing and infrastructure projects.

Manufacturing employers create direct, long-term, quality jobs in their communities. As for infrastructure, we have lots of needs in the Midwest, including rail and river transportation, wastewater treatment plants, and bridges. More EB-5 capital in infrastructure projects would reduce the

burden on taxpayers, especially when local governments are up against Federal mandates.

We also proposed reallocating the visas—carving out enough for rural and high unemployment areas but leaving more than half of the visas for projects that come in at the higher investment level. We even offered to give affluent areas their own carve-out. Yet one proposal suggested to us was to make the visas cheaper. They want to reduce the amount an investor has to pay for a green card. They also want more visas. The demand for visas is through the roof, yet they want to reduce the price.

My colleagues and I have been willing to engage with other Members on this issue. We have made so many concessions. I am not sure how much more we can give, especially when there are increasing calls to end the program. The status quo is not acceptable. It is time for things to change.

I encourage my colleagues to join the ranking member and me in our request for reforms. I hope this body will think twice before allowing the program to continue as is.

TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Now, Mr. President, I would like to use that additional 60 seconds.

Another issue I want to raise with Senate leadership is transparency and our responsibility of government oversight.

Last week, I spoke about the danger of allowing agencies to improperly use the Office of Senate Security to keep information secret even when it is unclassified.

I said that if we let the FBI get away with hiding the Clinton investigation documents from the public, then other agencies would abuse the system to undermine transparency and oversight. That is exactly what is happening.

The State, Treasury, and Justice Departments are trying the same trick to hide documents about the Obama administration's transfer of billions of dollars to Iran for hostages.

These unclassified documents requested by the Judiciary Committee are being locked away in the basement of the Capitol. They are being treated as if they are classified, but they are not.

The Committee was not consulted and did not agree to these burdensome and unnecessary document controls.

With the Clinton investigation documents, the FBI improperly mixed classified and unclassified documents together in order to keep the unclassified documents secret. But, this time every paragraph and every page of the Iran hostage payment documents is 100 percent unclassified.

So why send it to Senate Security? Why keep it locked away from the pub-

lic and congressional oversight? Why would the Senate participate in this scheme to undermine transparency?

If the Senate, as an institution, wants to take its oversight responsibility seriously, we should not be helping the executive branch hide embarrassing information from the American people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The Senator's time has expired. Mr. GRASSLEY. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 516, H.R. 5325, a bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 5082

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a substitute amendment at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL], for Mr. COCHRAN, proposes an amendment numbered 5082.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5083 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5082

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment that is at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5083 to amendment No. 5082.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5084 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5083

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5084 to amendment No. 5083.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

AMENDMENT NO. 5085

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the text proposed to be stricken.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5085 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5082.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5086 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5085

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5086 to amendment No. 5085.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 5087

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit H.R. 5325 with instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] moves to commit the bill to the Appropriations Committee with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 5087.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5088

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5088 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 5325.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “5” and insert “6”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 5089 TO AMENDMENT NO. 5088

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 5089 to amendment No. 5088.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike “6” and insert “7”.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk for the substitute amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk for the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls under rule XXII be waived for these cloture motions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, there have been broad requests for a clean continuing resolution. So that is what I have just offered. It is a result of many hours of bipartisan work on both sides of the aisle. It is a fair proposal. It funds all current government operations through December 9, while also providing funding for the new legislation we have just passed overwhelmingly and that the President has signed. That is legislation to address the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic as well as the TSCA bill.

It contains a sufficient downpayment on flood relief for many States, including Maryland, West Virginia, and Louisiana, and, of course, it includes im-

portant resources to support our veterans and combat Zika. These are resources needed to help develop a vaccine and promote mosquito control.

Members will have the next 4 days to review before any votes are taken in relation to the issue. Further, we expect the President to either sign or send up the veto message on JASTA by tomorrow. Beginning the process on the clean CR today will ensure that there is adequate time to finish before the override vote and before the current government funding runs out next week. Then we can turn to the veto override.

I look forward to continuing with bipartisan cooperation so we can complete our important work on Zika, veterans funding, and the clean CR that will fund the government through December 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise as the ranking member on the Appropriations Committee. I want to say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that over the past few weeks, we Democrats have negotiated with the Republicans to come up with a responsible continuing funding resolution that keeps the government open through December 9, giving Congress time to complete an appropriations process.

Our goal was to respond to compelling urgent needs: Zika, Flint, floods in Louisiana, and also our national security as well as those things that are important to the economy of the United States of America. We wanted to be sure it did not include any poison pill riders but did contain the continuing funding for veterans and military construction. Our negotiations have been cordial and productive. I compliment the other side of the aisle on their professionalism and on their civility.

We are now down to a handful of issues, but they are down to the real issues. The majority leader has filed a Republican-only bill with a substitute that has now been placed before the Senate today. We Democrats cannot vote for that substitute and urge others to vote against it.

We want to be sure we avoid a government shutdown and a government showdown and continue the constructive talks that we have had, but the substitute offered by the Republican majority leader falls short. What is wrong with the bill before us?

One, it fails to help the people of Flint, MI; 100,000 people in Flint, MI, are still waiting for their water to be clean and safe; 9,000 children have already had lead exposure that can cause permanent and irreversible damage. It tells Michigan to keep waiting in line.

We know the people of Louisiana have been hit by terrible floods. We don't want to just give lip service in response to their needs but Louisiana is

not the only “need” in America. We believe the people of Flint, MI—the people of Flint who have been waiting for more than 1 year—should be included in this continuing resolution.

I want to be clear. We do want to help the people of Louisiana, but we also want to help the people of Flint. The other side of the aisle says Flint can be handled 2 months from now with a bill called WRDA—the water resources development bill. The House has made no commitment to help Flint in that bill. They haven’t even brought WRDA to the floor for action.

The people of Flint need help now. They actually needed help 9 months ago. Remember, they are in a jackpot because of flawed budget cuts and our failure to enact a comprehensive infrastructure bill where cities like Flint, Baltimore, and so on could do something about their aging water infrastructure and at the same time create American jobs in our own urban communities.

The Senate passed Flint funding on the WRDA bill 95 to 3 last week. So why wait? It is paid for. We have a framework for proceeding. Let’s just do it. Also, while Democrats continue to fight for Flint, we will not stand by on partisan policy riders such as the SEC political disclosure to a 10-week continuing funding resolution.

I know the 135,000 Marylanders who work for the Federal Government want to stay on the job. I want them to know we are working very hard to keep the government open and to avoid a shutdown or a slamdown. We need to make sure we help our veterans. We need to make sure we have the funds to fight Zika and the terrible challenge of children being born with the most horrific and lifelong—as short as their little lives might be—permanent handicaps, and we want to help Flint. Most of all, we know that in a trillion-dollar budget that funds both domestic and military, we have a framework to move ahead.

Very serious work has been done on national security: the funding of the Department of Defense, the funding of other agencies that contribute to our national security, whether it is the State Department and diplomatic efforts, whether it is Homeland Security. Didn’t they do a good job responding last weekend to the challenges in New York? In every community we face these.

At the same time, when you look at the Labor-HHS, an agency such as the National Institutes of Health, we want them to keep the lights on so they can keep the light of hope going on to make sure we find cures for disease. We will say more about this.

We appreciate the majority leader for continuing conversation with us. We are a work in progress. Let’s get back to work. Let’s continue to make progress. We have taken steps forward.

Let’s not take steps sideways or take steps backward. Let’s continue making progress. Let’s get rid of the poison pill riders. Let’s come to an agreement on how we can help Louisiana and help Flint and resolve some of these other issues.

Mr. President, we look forward to more conversation, more constructive conversation, and our side of the aisle stands ready to engage in those conversations and negotiations. I urge my colleagues to be on standby and to wish us well so we keep doing the job we were elected to do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING OUR NATION’S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today I want to talk about the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each day to keep us safe—law enforcement officers. Last month I spent much of my time meeting with various law enforcement agencies across Arkansas. In the wake of the shooting in Dallas and other violence against police officers, I wanted Arkansas’ law enforcement officers to know that I support them and that Arkansans support them. I wanted to learn a little more about what life looks like from their perspective.

From the North Little Rock Police Department, to the Prosecuting Attorneys Association, to the Federal prison in Forrest City, to the Arkansas Sheriffs’ Association in Northwest Arkansas—each of these meetings left me confident in our State’s law enforcement officers and provided me with valuable insight into the law enforcement community.

Police officers in Arkansas and across the country have a difficult job, one that is unlike any other career. In the Army, my soldiers and I fought overseas to keep our country safe, but at the end of our tours, we went home, and many of us transitioned to other safer jobs. But for law enforcement officers, there is no end to the tour. They put their lives on the line every single day to keep us safe. We owe them a debt of gratitude, and we ought to find ways to support our officers more and ensure that their communities and the country as a whole have a better understanding of their hard work and sacrifice.

Each of the law enforcement groups I met had a similar message: Law enforcement officers need support, cooperation, and assistance. They need support from their communities and their leadership at every level—local,

State, and Federal. They need to know that we are on their side, and in the face of controversy, they need to know they have leaders who will be a steady hand.

Given the controversy surrounding law enforcement recently, it is easy to take a different view, but most officers, like most soldiers with whom I served in the Army, are committed to upholding the discipline and integrity of their force. They want those who violate policy and especially the law to be held accountable, but they also want those decisions made in a factual, unbiased way.

To keep us safe, law enforcement officers also need the cooperation and assistance of those they are sworn to protect. They know this will help them not only to investigate and punish crime but also, and more importantly, to stop crime before it happens. They have a constant and regular presence which serves not only to deter the criminal element but also to reassure and gain the support of the vast majority of law-abiding Arkansans who are going to provide the tips or help smooth the waters in moments of tension.

So how do we achieve these things? I believe there are a few simple steps. First, take a moment to recognize our law enforcement officers and the vital work they do. So many officers commented to me how thankful they were to see yard signs announcing support for the police or when someone picked up their lunch or just said a simple thank you.

Law enforcement is a tough job and it can be a little strange. Officers dedicate their lives to protecting law-abiding citizens, who are the vast majority of all Americans. Yet they have to spend much of their time around the tiny minority and the criminal element to protect those law-abiding citizens. Therefore, it means a lot when they hear from you.

Second, law enforcement agencies ought to continue their outreach efforts to the communities they serve. On a visit to the Jonesboro Police Department, Chief Rick Elliot told me: “It all gets back to community relations and outreach.” I was struck by how many of our police officers in Arkansas work to become integral parts of their communities.

In El Dorado, the police department recently shared a video of an officer singing and dancing with local kids at the area Boys & Girls Club. The Little Rock Police Department announced an upcoming “Coffee with a Cop” event, which will allow Arkansans to come and meet their police officers in a casual setting. A school resource officer in Morrilton made State and national news last month for starting “Cop Car Karaoke” to get to know his students better. I could go on.

But let’s be honest. These aren’t the stories dominating the headlines.

These days, it seems like the police make the news most often when there is an officer involved in use of force, like in Ferguson or now in Charlotte, or when cops are gunned down in the line of duty, like in Dallas and Baton Rouge. Sadly, these stories often have a racial element, too, which, of course, drives more media coverage. We haven't seen a story like this in Arkansas lately, but the law enforcement officers with whom I spoke all knew it could happen at any time. That is one reason why they stressed community engagement so much, especially in Black neighborhoods where tensions can run the highest.

So the final step, after citizens and law enforcement officers do their part, is for elected leaders and community leaders to do ours. Too often, leaders jump to conclusions after an officer-involved use of force, not least so they can jump in front of a television camera. But, as we have seen in Ferguson and Baltimore, for example, first impressions can often be wrong. One thing I learned in the Army is that first reports often, even usually, are wrong or at least incomplete. Our leaders shouldn't fan the flames of racial tension and divide our communities before all the facts are known. After all, there is always a neutral, impartial inquiry following an officer-involved use of force, especially a shooting. Our leaders ought to let those inquiries occur in a calm, dispassionate setting and call upon all other citizens to do the same. They certainly should never condone rioting.

When the use of force is justified, we ought to support the officer, and when it is not, the public demands accountability.

During my visits around the State, I met with several veteran officers, but I also spoke with many new recruits and newly hired officers. You might expect these rookies to be discouraged by anti-police protests and the recent assassinations of law enforcement officers. On the contrary, they said they were more motivated than ever to prove themselves to the people they serve and to honor the sacrifices of those officers killed in the line of duty. We are lucky to have men and women like them.

As I left my meeting with the officers at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, I stopped to pay my respects at the Hall of Honor, a memorial dedicated to the troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty. Toward the back of the room, above a small star for each lost trooper, inscribed in the wall are the words "In Valor There is Hope." These words are particularly poignant right now.

I am grateful for every officer at every department and agency who displays professionalism and courage in the face of danger every day. In their valor, the American people do, indeed, find hope.

Thank you.

God bless our men and women in blue.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY WINTERSON

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate the retirement of Emily Winterson, an immigration specialist in my Boston office, who has served the people of Massachusetts and the United States for over 32 years.

Emily began working in the Senate on March 7, 1984, and has worked for four consecutive Massachusetts Senators since then. First, Emily worked in the office of Senator Ted Kennedy for over 20 years. When Senator Kennedy passed, she stayed on to work for Senator Paul Kirk, then Senator Scott Brown, and now she has been on my team in the Boston office since I was sworn in.

As my colleagues know well, there are two parts to a Senate office. The side the Nation hears about most often and is in the news is the legislative work we do right here in Washington. But there is an equally important side to our work, and that is the help we provide back home. We would not be able to offer this critical help without devoted people like Emily Winterson. Emily has committed entirely to this work, and she has touched the lives of countless families across the State of Massachusetts. With her years of expertise and her relentless determination, she has helped people navigate our complex immigration system, and she does it all with exceptional humility and grace.

When someone has a last-minute passport problem and may not be able to make the trip with the group from the temple or the church, Emily has been the one to cut through the red-tape. When a student needs a visa to be able to attend one of our great universities, Emily is there. When extraordinary musicians or performers from around the world needed help getting into the country, Emily was there. When families needed her most, when foreign adoptions were tangled up and families were divided or stranded, Emily was there. When sick children needed to get medical care at world-class hospitals in Boston and around our State, Emily was there. No matter the issue, Emily always knew the right people to call to get results in government offices both here and abroad—and they all knew Emily.

There are too many stories to count, but I want to tell just one. A young

woman came from China to the United States to study medicine at Boston University. While she was here, she was diagnosed with leukemia. She had no family in America and she desperately needed help getting a visa for her sister to come to the United States to help take care of her. As have so many others, she reached out to Emily for help.

Now, Emily was able to get the visa for her sister to come and to support her through a long and very difficult treatment, but the story doesn't stop there. Without any form of financial support and unable to work, the young woman faced eviction. Together with the help of Catholic Charities, Emily helped secure the funds needed to help her get caught up on her rent.

During all of this, the young woman's student visa expired, which left her ineligible for health care. Once again, Emily got to work and was able to obtain deferred action on her visa. Emily even helped her find an apartment near the hospital when she was being treated, and in her usual "do more than anyone would expect," Emily even helped her furnish the place.

Still, the young woman's health worsened. As she was nearing her final days, her last wish was to see her mother, whom she had not seen for 12 years during her studies. Again, Emily concentrated all of her efforts on securing an expedited visa for her mother so she could be with her before she passed. Because of Emily's tireless work, this young woman, far from home, spent her final days with the support and care of her mother and her sister.

Emily was there for her through thick and thin. When this young woman needed help and had no one to turn to, Emily was there. With steadfast commitment, Emily fought for her.

Now, this is just one of many stories that together form the fabric of Emily's life work. At a time when many Americans feel that government is not working for them, a system that too often overlooks those in need, Emily is a shining example of the powers of public service. She embodies the link between government and the people. She has dedicated her working life to making government fulfill its most fundamental mission—improving the lives of the people it serves.

Emily Winterson has shown us all that when we take time to listen to someone's story, when we have the compassion to care about their troubles and the determination to fight on their behalf, we have the power to improve each other's lives. This is government by the people and for the people. Emily is American politics at its best. This is the legacy that Emily leaves behind.

We will all miss her greatly. Although we are sad to see Emily leave, we could not be happier for her as she begins her much earned retirement in

October. I know she is looking forward to gardening, to working on her memoirs, and to spending more time with her children and her grandchildren.

So, Emily, on behalf of the people fortunate enough to work alongside you, for the State of Massachusetts and for the thousands of people you have served, thank you. We wish you the best as you move into the next chapter of your life.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to start by thanking my colleague from Indiana for his indulgence, and I look forward to hearing his remarks. We were both on the floor today waiting to speak while we tried to work out differences with the continuing resolution. I am hopeful those issues can be resolved so we can have a process to move forward with our spending bills.

In the meantime, I need to talk on the floor today about an ongoing issue in all of our communities around the country, sadly, which is this issue of prescription drug abuse, heroin, and now fentanyl. It is really an epidemic. It is now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in my home State of Ohio, and more recently it is the No. 1 cause of accidental death in our country, surpassing car accidents. It is something that is taking thousands of lives every year, and it is something that is tearing families apart, causing crime, creating real hardship for so many families, and hurting the economy.

President Obama and his administration declared this week Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, and I commend him for that. I think raising the awareness of this issue is really important right now. Having a national conversation on this issue is really important right now.

This is the opportunity I take every week to come to the floor. I have been doing it since before we passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act back in March. I come every

week to talk on the floor about the importance of addressing the issue. Initially, it was to get the legislation passed, and we did that. Now we are implementing the legislation and even adding additional legislation because of this new wave of addiction that we are seeing and overdoses and deaths based on synthetic heroin, also called fentanyl or carfentanil or U-4, which is coming into our communities.

About once a month, I have a tele-townhall, and I ask people on the call a number of questions that they answer about their top priorities. I started out by asking this question: How many of you have been directly affected by the heroin and prescription drug epidemic in Ohio? I will tell you, sadly, that in the last few calls we have had surprising results, which is that roughly half of the people on the call say they have been affected, whether I am calling people in Cleveland, Columbus, or in rural areas—no matter where it is. I recently called people in Canton, OH, and Wood County, outside of Toledo, and 49 percent of the people on the call said yes, they have been affected directly.

Earlier this month I talked to people in my town of Cincinnati, and it was 51 percent. Here is something even more alarming. A couple of months ago, I called people in southeast Ohio. Some of you know that Portsmouth, OH, is an area that, unfortunately, has been hit particularly hard. In fact, there is a book that some may have read, and if you have not and you are interested in this issue, I would recommend it. It is called "Dreamland," by a man named Sam Quinones. What the author talks about is the history behind this prescription drug, heroin, and opioid epidemic and some suggestions for us on how to address it.

In any case, I called southeast Ohio. "Dreamland" is based on a community center swimming pool. It is the name of a swimming pool in Portsmouth, OH, and 68 percent of the people on the call said they were directly affected. Typically, we have about 20 to 25,000 people on the call, and 68 percent said they were directly affected. That is alarming, but it doesn't surprise me because I see it when I am home.

So many other people are seeing it now, too. As some know, recently there was something that went viral on Facebook. It was a photograph of two people passed out in the front of a car and a child in the backseat. It happened in northeast Ohio, in East Liverpool, OH. This has been shared thousands and thousands of times, and commented on thousands and thousands of times. The two people in the front seat were the grandmother and her boyfriend and a grandson was in the backseat, age 4. They were passed out, overdosed in the front seat, and he was looking confused and alarmed in the backseat.

This, unfortunately, is something that is happening around our country. The East Liverpool police said at the time:

It is time that the non-drug-using public sees what we are dealing with on a daily basis. . . . The poison known as heroin has taken a strong grip on many communities—not just ours.

I agree with them. They see these images every day, not just in East Liverpool but in your hometown and in your county. This is not the only child who has watched his parents overdose. In Cleveland, 2 weeks ago, a 6-year-old boy was found in Barkwell Park shaking and crying next to his parents, who were both unconscious from heroin overdoses.

Another incident that has received national attention is the spike of 24 heroin overdoses in Akron, OH, 1 week ago today. So far 112 people in Akron, OH, have died from overdoses this year. That is already a record. Already this year more people have died in Akron than all of last year. This follows an even larger spike of overdoses in my hometown of Cincinnati, OH, where since August 19, there have been 300 heroin overdoses. During a 6-day period there were 174 overdoses. I went to the firehouse that responded to the largest number of those overdoses and talked to the firefighters about it. They talked about administering Narcan. This miracle drug actually can reverse the overdose. Typically, it is administered once. With regard to these overdoses, they saved so many lives—34 lives. They had to use Narcan not once, not twice, not three times but four or five times. We found out later—and I was able to get samples to Cincinnati to find this out—that there was carfentanil mixed with the heroin. This is a synthetic drug that traffickers are now using that is far more powerful even than heroin. Carfentanil is actually something that is a sedative for large animals such as elephants, and yet traffickers are using this along with heroin.

The Hamilton County coroner confirmed that eight of the overdoses in this 6-day period were a direct result of carfentanil. Some of these victims were not brought back to life. Some of them did pass away. But these brave first responders responded quickly, professionally, and were able to save all but 4 or 5 lives out of 174 in a 6-day period—incredible. This new drug called fentanyl is incredibly powerful. It is a substance so strong that only a few flakes of it ingested by a human being can kill them.

If you want an idea of how addictive this stuff is, consider the story of a woman in Massillon, OH, who last Saturday used heroin with her boyfriend. He died of an overdose right next to her, and, according to police, after he died, she left his corpse lying there for 11 hours while she went out to get more heroin.

I have met with addicts who are still using, and I have met with those in recovery all over Ohio. I have met with several hundred people who have a story to tell. I am told again and again by those in recovery the same thing: The drug becomes everything. The drug becomes more important than family, more important than work, more important than anything, leading them to do what many of these people have never done before, which is commit crimes to pay for their habit.

As addictive as heroin is, fentanyl can be 50 to 100 times more powerful. According to the DEA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, carfentanil can be many times more powerful, 10 times as powerful as morphine. It is used primarily to take down elephants and used as a sedative. The police officer in Newtown, OH, who heads up our Hamilton County drug task force said: "The side effect of carfentanil is death."

These synthetic drugs are contributing in Ohio to our rapid increase in overdoses. Since 2000, the number of annual opioid overdoses in Ohio has increased dramatically. We are losing one life to overdose every 3 hours. We happen to have information now coming in on fentanyl. Just in the last 2 years, according to records, from 2013 to 2015, we saw a 13-fold increase in fentanyl-related deaths. Just 3 years ago, about 1 in 20 deaths in Ohio was a result of fentanyl. Now it is more than one in three. Sadly, I expect that number to rise substantially this year, based on the information we have.

The message today for those who might be listening or a family member who might be listening is, if you are suffering from this addiction, get treatment. Find some place that provides treatment, longer term recovery. This legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which passed this House with a vote of 92 to 2, will help provide for treatment and recovery. It is the first time we have ever dealt with recovery in the Congress. It is very important.

If you don't know whether the heroin that is on the street contains these deadly synthetic drugs, you need to be extremely, extremely careful. As Coroner Sammarco in Hamilton County puts it, every time you buy heroin or every time you inject it, "you may be literally gambling with your life."

These drugs that are devastating Ohio don't come from Ohio. They don't come from any of our States. We are told they come from overseas, primarily from China. There are laboratories in China that are developing this poison—this fentanyl and carfentanil. Some of the labs, we are told, also are in India.

The drugs that are coming from China and India then come through the U.S. mail. It comes from their postal system and our postal system into the United States. It is unbelievable, but

the poison is coming in the mail to our communities. It is easy to do. Because unlike private carriers, such as UPS or FedEx, in the mail system a package can be sent without having any information attached to it. It shouldn't be that easy, and it doesn't have to be. We want to close this loophole. It is a commonsense idea that will help to keep our streets safer and help prevent some of these deadly overdoses from synthetic heroin.

Customs and Border Protection has told us that if we had advance electronic data on these packages from overseas, like we must have from private carriers, such as UPS or FedEx, it would help to ensure that these dangerous drugs wouldn't end up in the hands of the drug traffickers or, worse yet, in the hands of our family members and friends.

That is why we introduced the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act, or STOP Act. It is very simple. It is to help keep this poison off the streets by closing a loophole and requiring that same advance electronic data to come with all these packages coming from overseas showing where it is coming from, what is in it, and where it is going. They are using the mail system because they don't have to provide that now.

This legislation goes hand in hand with the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act that we talked about earlier, which both Houses passed by nearly unanimous votes and the President signed in July. This legislation is a tremendous step forward and is very comprehensive, dealing with the prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery and helping to provide law enforcement officers with the Narcan they need. It helps in getting the drugs off the shelves with the take-back program. It is a good bill, but I think this is complementary to it—to deal with it now and to stop this new surge of fentanyl and carfentanil.

I urge the administration, especially in light of these tragic events recently and during this Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week to implement the CARA legislation as soon as possible. There are a number of new programs that must be implemented for our veterans and for pregnant women and the babies born with dependency to ensure they are getting the funding that they need. The President and the administration, if they get these programs up and running, will be able to make a bigger difference sooner.

Let's also increase the funding for opioid programs. We have a 47-percent increase in the funding for this year, the fiscal year we are in right now. But we are coming to the end of the fiscal year. CARA has another \$181 million per year in authorized funding per year going forward for this opioid issue—heroin, prescription drugs, fentanyl.

We should make a down payment for that in this continuing resolution. I know it is only a short-term continuing resolution that we are talking about on the floor here today in order to keep the funding going. We need to make a down payment to ensure CARA is funded.

If you are one of the 92 Senators who supported the CARA Act, I hope you will look at the STOP Act. It is complementary to CARA. It will help deal with the very real problems we face by limiting the supply of these dangerous drugs. It is a bipartisan bill. Last week, PATRICK TIBERI and RICHARD NEAL introduced the STOP Act in the House. So we have a companion bill in the House that is bipartisan. They both have a real passion for this issue, and I appreciate them.

Everything that we are doing in this area is important right now. Every Senator should be involved. If you are tough on crime, you should care about the increase in crime that is being created by this. If you are concerned about the innocent victims of an addiction epidemic, you should support this legislation to help protect those children who are being born with addictions. If you want to be tougher on China or if you want better border security, you should support this legislation to try to shut off this poison coming into our States from other countries. If you care about—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 10 minutes.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, again, this is an issue that has brought us all together in the past. Let's continue to work together on this on a bipartisan basis to begin to turn the tide on this epidemic before it is too late, before we lose more of our young people, before we have more communities devastated by this crisis.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Michigan.

AUTOMATED VEHICLES

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the incredible future of mobility in this country. Earlier this week, the Department of Transportation, or DOT, made history by releasing its official Federal policy for automated vehicles. This marks a major milestone in the effort to bring driverless cars to American roads and to ensure that our country remains the world leader in the next generation of transportation.

DOT's Federal policy contains four key components. The first outlines a 15-point safety assessment for the safe design, development, testing, and deployment of automated vehicles. This

is a meaningful first step, the first Federal guidance for automotive manufacturers seeking to develop and deploy these new technologies.

The second component outlines the distinct Federal and State roles for regulation of automated vehicles, moving us toward a uniform national framework for the regulation in this space.

Third, the policy makes a Federal commitment to expedite the safe introduction of automated vehicles into the marketplace. The Department of Transportation will streamline its procedures to be more responsive to consumers and innovative manufacturers alike.

Finally, the policy presents a number of novel considerations that Congress should closely examine. This includes new tools and authorities that the DOT might need in the future as automated vehicle technology advances and we begin to see deployment on a much wider scale.

Last year, over 35,000 lives were lost in motor vehicle crashes. We saw the largest annual percentage rise in deaths on our roads for the past 50 years—50. This is simply unacceptable. Connected and automated vehicle technologies have the potential to drastically reduce this troubling statistic and help ensure that at the end of the day, our children, our parents, and all of our family and friends are able to travel on our roads and make it home safe and sound.

We need to roll up our sleeves and do our part to ensure successful implementation of this policy. Many of our existing laws and regulations were enacted long before modern vehicles. Now is the time to consider updating policies from a time when the most advanced onboard electronics in our cars and trucks were AM radios. We need to do this the right way and ensure that these cars and trucks are introduced safely as we work through the challenges facing wide-scale deployment and the adoption of these absolutely revolutionary technologies. This means we need to take a hard look at issues such as automotive liability, consumer education, data and cyber security, and the future of the American workforce.

As a member of Senate Commerce Committee and as the cofounder of the Smart Transportation Caucus, I am committed to leading these important discussions on Capitol Hill. As a start, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of what I believe are the key aspects of DOT's four-part Federal policy. Safety, of course, is paramount, and the new safety assessment emphasizes consumer education and awareness. Just as prior generations had to adapt to the innovation of stoplights and the construction of interstate highways, Americans in the coming months and years will learn how to operate and share the road with automated vehicles.

To save lives, consumers must trust that the technology underpinning this revolution in transportation is completely safe. It will require public-private cooperation to improve consumer understanding and adoption of these technologies. We also cannot ignore the new threats facing modern vehicles, as they are increasingly connected to each other and to the infrastructure.

It is critical that the 15-point assessment promotes built-in cyber security from the very start of vehicle development lifecycle. I am encouraged that DOT is addressing data recording, data sharing, and data privacy. We need to know how these automated systems work and what happens when they don't. We also need to ensure that this data is shared and protected.

Finally, I support DOT's emphasis on continuing collaborative work among industry, government, academic, and R&D communities to advance automated vehicles. In Michigan, we have already seen the benefits of such collaborative work at the Mcity testing facility in Ann Arbor. Soon, joint advanced research will take place on a much larger scale at the American Center for Mobility in Ypsilanti, where we will be testing, validating, and certifying the vehicles that will be driving America in the coming years.

I look forward to the continued partnership with DOT to help advance the innovation that is driving the future of mobility, and I want to thank Secretary Foxx and Administrator Rosekind for their focus and hard work that made this week's historic announcement possible.

This guidance demonstrates that America will be the global leader in the development and deployment of advanced vehicle technologies. You know, just 8 years ago, people were predicting the financial ruin of the auto industry here in America. Today, not only have we had the auto industry come roaring back with record sales, but we are now working to produce some of the greatest and most important innovations in American manufacturing history.

(The remarks of Mr. PETERS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3381 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. PETERS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I have put this poster up for Waste of the Week to

address waste, fraud or abuse of taxpayers' hard-earned dollars, and this is week 51.

Today I am here to draw attention to the \$2.3 billion owed to the United States from uncollected anti-dumping and countervailing duties. These are nations that have violated our trade laws, that signed up through trade laws or trade agreements, and then violated those—or companies from those countries that have violated those. There are laws that prohibit that and enforce that, and this is what it ought to be.

Let me say at the outset here that I do support international trade. It bolsters our economy; the statistics show that. It creates new opportunities for American businesses overseas, and it enhances America's security and global roles.

Trade raises economic prosperity; it has been a proven fact. Just take my State of Indiana. In recent years, Indiana has exported over \$34 billion in goods and services. Hoosier manufacturers export automobiles, auto parts, industrial machinery, medical devices, and much more. Indiana is a national leader in pharmaceutical and agricultural exports. In 2014, our State had the highest share of manufacturing employment per capita and the highest manufacturing income share relevant to the total income of any State in our country.

According to statistics, more than one in four—actually one in five—jobs in Indiana are due to our ability to export overseas. That has a significant impact on our economy here in Indiana. It is vital for our State to have strong trade laws that prevent other countries from engaging in unfair trade so that Hoosier companies can compete with them on a level playing field.

Having said that, I support international trade for all of the benefits to my State and to our country. I also strongly support the use of our trade laws to protect American companies against dumped or subsidized imports from foreign countries, China in particular.

Under Federal law, anti-dumping duties are special fees that are placed on products shipped to the United States at unfairly low prices. Sometimes this occurs when a foreign manufacturer sells a product in the United States for less than it cost to even make that profit. They are not even trying to regain their costs. They want our market share, so they dump products into the United States that undercut our American-made goods. I will not stand for that. I will not support that.

Some who support trade laws say that we shouldn't be enforcing these, that it will ultimately work itself out. I don't believe that. The law is the law. The agreements are the agreements. They need to be enforced. Countervailing duties are fees placed on products imported into the United States

that are made in countries where the foreign government unfairly subsidizes the product to lower their sale price.

We are a free enterprise system here in America. Yes, there have been some subsidies, and we should not be a violator of that in terms of unfairly breaking the laws, and we generally are not in that situation. But many countries, we have found and proven through a process, a judicial process, have unfairly subsidized their products, and we need to impose the fees and penalties against these countries and these companies.

Both anti-dumping and countervailing duties are how we fight the predatory practices of foreign nations that unfairly hurt American manufacturers by making American-made products more expensive than a foreign competitor's product. In order to level the playing field for American companies and their workers, the U.S. Department of Commerce calculates the duties that should be placed on the imported product to make up for these predatory trade practices. Once Congress calculates the money owed to the United States, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency—CBP, which oversees all imports into the United States—is responsible for collecting these fees that are imposed.

Even though CBP is legally directed to collect all of these fees, recently the Government Accountability Office discovered that from the years 2001 to 2014, the CBP failed to collect about \$2.3 billion in anti-dumping and countervailing duties. There are a number of reasons CBP has trouble collecting these fees, but one key reason the Government Accountability Office highlighted is that CBP simply does not assess the fees once the item is initially imported or once Commerce determines how much is owed. Basically, they are just behind the curve. So the agency that is responsible for collecting these fees simply is not doing its job successfully enough. CBP is supposed to collect the fees within the first 6 months of entry of the product or assessment, but in its accountability process, the GAO found that of the 41,000 uncollected bills—41,000 uncollected bills—the median age of the bills was 4.5 years, and they were supposed to do it in the first 6 months. Clearly, we have some dysfunction here. Clearly, we have some waste that needs to be corrected so that we can enforce these trade laws. Otherwise, we are sending a signal: Go ahead and do it. Chances are we will get away with it. Their assessment system is not functional. We have a good chance of avoiding the fee altogether.

That is the signal which is being sent out to countries and manufacturers all around the world that are dumping or unfairly subsidizing their products and making our products—our competition less competitive.

As I said, GAO has found that out of the 41,000 uncollected bills, the median age is 4.5 years. We need to get them back to the 6-month standard.

Additionally, we have learned that nearly 1,000 of those uncollected bills were between 10 years and 13 years old. That is simply not acceptable. It is a dysfunction of government. It is a dysfunction of the bureaucratic processes we have to deal with in Washington. If it were somebody else's money, maybe we could make an excuse for this dysfunction, but this is taxpayer money. This money is from the hard-earned money each family takes home at the end of the week to pay the bills, to pay the mortgage, to save money for college. It is unacceptable to have this happening in Washington, DC, where this waste, fraud, and abuse continue to ramp up on our calculator.

American manufacturers work tirelessly to compete on a global market and sometimes against those who don't even play by the rules. Those who don't play by the rules have to have the rules enforced. So enforcement of our trade laws through the assessment of anti-dumping and countervailing duties is essential to ensure a level playing field for American workers and to show that predatory practices will not be tolerated. That is one reason I supported bipartisan legislation that was enacted earlier this year that would give the Customs and Border Patrol people the tools necessary to better enforce our trade laws, such as requiring CBP to better track which foreign companies may be less likely to pay fees owed to the United States.

Fortunately, CBP has agreed with the GAO's recommendations. Now that Congress has also provided the Customs and Border Patrol people with the tools to implement and enforce these recommendations, I am hopeful—but also watchful—that CBP will improve its track record in the near future.

We have a responsibility not only to sort out waste of taxpayers' dollars or misuse of taxpayers' dollars, we have a responsibility to try to correct the errors, to give the tools to the agencies to do their job as we have ordered them to do and then to oversee and make sure. It is one thing that the job is done. It is one thing to come to the floor and identify a problem. It is another thing to come down here with my colleagues and offer a solution. It is another thing to follow up and oversee that solution and see what we can do to make sure this doesn't happen again. We are far too short on oversight and far too long on rhetoric.

With that, I am adding \$2.3 billion for uncollected anti-dumping and countervailing duties, bringing our taxpayer price tag to over \$328-plus billion of waste, fraud, and abuse. Think what we could do with that \$328 billion—help our defense, help the National Institutes of Health produce lifesaving new

medical techniques or therapies, pave some roads, pay for essential functions of the Federal Government, or even better, not have to take this money from the taxpayers and simply throw it away.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

WILLSEYE HOSPITAL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to talk for a few minutes about a hospital in Pennsylvania, WillsEye Hospital. This is a hospital which is not only critically important to our State but to the Nation as well. It serves people from across our State and across the country.

WillsEye Hospital is a public trust that was gifted to the city of Philadelphia and founded in 1832. It was the first dedicated eye hospital in the country, providing care to the blind and the indigent—something they still do today. They still have that same mission.

Unfortunately, if the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—what we know as CMS—has its way, WillsEye Hospital will no longer be able to provide this kind of care. This is world-class care that so many Pennsylvanians and so many Americans can speak to personally. I had a personal experience when my daughter Julia had an eye problem years ago, and WillsEye did great work for her.

In this case, CMS is using an arbitrary ratio of the number of inpatients and outpatients to say that WillsEye Hospital is not a hospital and should be what is known as an ambulatory surgery center, which could have drastic implications and ultimately force WillsEye to close. Again, this was an institution founded almost 200 years ago.

Last week I went to WillsEye in Philadelphia to talk about this problem and had the opportunity to meet Joey Povia, whose picture is in this enlarged photograph. Joey is 6 years old, and he has retinoblastoma, a type of ocular cancer which, if left untreated, will lead to his death.

According to the American Cancer Society, there are 200 cases to 300 cases of retinoblastoma diagnosed each year. In the last fiscal year, WillsEye treated 110 unique individuals with a diagnosis of retinoblastoma, or almost 37 percent to 55 percent of the diagnosed cases in the country. So you can see the impact of just one hospital on a substantial problem that Joey and children across the country have. Fortunately for Joey, he is receiving first-rate treatment, but we have to have ask ourselves: What about the others who have retinoblastoma? What about the children who will have retinoblastoma in the future? What will happen to them without WillsEye Hospital?

You can tell from this picture not just how dynamic Joey is—and I can attest to that personally, after having met him—but how focused he is on getting better and how confident he and his family are that he can, in fact, get better because of the great work done at WillsEye Hospital.

There are many who might think this is just a unique situation or simply an unfortunate situation, and certainly it is for Joey and his family and for others who have retinoblastoma or a number of other ailments or problems that center on their eyes. Thank God we have WillsEye to treat those problems. But there are other hospitals in the Nation that are dealing with some of these same issues and especially dealing with issues that relate to their interaction with CMS, and these are obviously some great hospitals that I will mention in a moment.

In this case, for whatever reason, I think CMS is treating WillsEye Hospital unfairly. I think that is an understatement. In this case, we have a number of institutions that have a bed ratio—that is the interplay between inpatient and outpatient that CMS is focused on in this circumstance—there are some hospitals that have a bed ratio that is lower than the one at WillsEye. Because those numbers are lower, that would mean those hospitals should be the subject of the same kind of action CMS is taking when it comes to WillsEye.

When WillsEye was first denied hospital status, their bed ratio was 17 percent. But according to the data provided by the American Hospital Association, the Cleveland Clinic, one of our great institutions, has a ratio of 6.14 percent, which is obviously lower than 17 percent, and Stanford Health Care, another great institution, has a ratio of 10.5 percent, which is again lower than the 17 percent at WillsEye Hospital. As I mentioned, these are the bed ratios. So it doesn't make much sense that CMS is focused on WillsEye and is not taking the same action or similar action as it relates to those other two institutions.

Now, no one would doubt that these two premier institutions—Cleveland Clinic and Stanford—are hospitals. There is no question they are hospitals. Yet CMS is focused on WillsEye in a determination they have made that it is not a hospital. It doesn't make any sense.

CMS does not even have a definite ratio that a facility needs to meet in order to have inpatient beds. They simply need to be “primarily engaged” in providing inpatient services. So there is no definite ratio, and yet they are taking action that is to the detriment of WillsEye Hospital, and I believe—and I think the evidence in the record is clear—to the detriment of a lot of people in Southeastern Pennsylvania, a lot of people throughout our Common-

wealth, and indeed throughout our Nation. In this case, I believe, obviously, CMS has made the wrong decision.

One would think, in order to help determine what a hospital is doing, a representative from CMS would visit and would do a thorough review of the hospital that can only be done in person. You can't do that just based upon charts or phone calls. One would think someone from CMS would come and see WillsEye Hospital firsthand. They really haven't done that yet in a manner that is connected to the actions they have been taking. So I have encouraged them to do that. It is not a very burdensome task to get on the train, go to Philadelphia, spend some time in WillsEye Hospital, and use that as part of the basis upon which to make a determination as an agency of government.

In this case, unfortunately, CMS has made an arbitrary decision, which is wrong. This decision threatens this world-class hospital, and that is an understatement. In essence, this decision makes no sense. WillsEye is a hospital. It provides great care for people who can't get this care almost anywhere else in the country, especially when it comes to children and especially when it comes to that diagnosis that families get of retinoblastoma. Without the intervention and the great work at WillsEye, those children will die.

I will continue to urge CMS to work with me and to work with WillsEye on a solution that resolves this bureaucratic problem. That is basically what this is, a bureaucratic approach that doesn't make sense in the real world—the real world of quality medical care, the real world of the services that WillsEye provides, and the real world of Joey's circumstance and children like him across our region in Pennsylvania but also across the country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes, and if the Chair would, let me know when I have spoken for 8 minutes, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair will do so.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Chair.

FUNDING FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this has been a roller coaster time for those of us who care deeply about what happened over 2½ years ago in the city of Flint with a system that was not treat-

ed properly and exposed 100,000 people in Flint to lead poisoning.

We had a great vote last week, and I am very grateful to Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER, who came together, working with Senator PETERS and me, to put together a larger water bill that included an effort to help Flint families as well as other communities that have exposure to lead in their water. That effort had a final vote of 95 to 3. This was a very positive moment.

Today, just a little while ago, it was just the opposite. We have an opportunity to complete the job we started last week and include this fully offset package in this budget bill in front of us, the continuing resolution. Yet the Republican leader did not do that. What adds insult to injury is, there is help for Louisiana but not for the families of Flint, and I might add, ours is fully offset. There is no offset in spending, there are no other programs cut to pay for the help for Louisiana, but I offered to phase out a program I sponsored in 2007—that doesn't happen a lot around here—in order to pay for this emergency in Flint and help other communities with lead in their water across the country. So we have something fully paid for and for which there should be absolutely no objection.

I would love to know the objection to helping a group of people—100,000 people in Flint and other families across the country in Jackson, MS, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Texas, and across the country—with something fully paid for. What is the objection to putting that into this continuing resolution if the other side of the aisle is willing to put in something that doesn't have an offset in it to help the people in Louisiana?

I support helping the people in Louisiana. I believe we are in this together as a country. As Americans, I think, no matter the emergency, we should be willing to help each other. We have had a variety of emergencies over the years, such as the fertilizer company in West, TX, where there was an explosion a few years ago. It was not a flood, not a hurricane, not a drought but a fertilizer explosion, and people were exposed. The Federal Government stepped in to help, and that wasn't fully paid for either.

Here we have a situation with 100,000 people—9,000 children under the age of 6—who are seriously exposed to lead and that exposure will affect their development, physically and mentally, for the rest of their lives. They have now waited—they have waited—over 1 year since they knew what was happening. We have finally gotten to a point where we have strong bipartisan support in the Senate, and this is easy to put this in this bill—easy. But we are in a situation where we are saying to the people of Flint: Well, wait just 3 more months. Wait until the end of the

year. I guess the other question is, Why don't people in Louisiana wait until the end of the year? I think we should help both of them now.

In Flint, we literally have people getting up in the morning and saying: OK. I have to take the kids to the school. Should I pick up the bottle of water before I take them to school or after? Gosh. Now, I don't have a car, but can I get somebody to help me go over before I go to work—pick up the bottle of water now or later? We are going to have to spend some time because it is not easy to use bottled water and do a shower for yourself and the kids, let alone for cooking and all of the other things we take for granted every day. People in Flint, for almost 2 years, have been having to deal with this every single day.

If this were happening to us, we would view it as an emergency. A decade ago—I don't know, 10 or 12 years ago—when Washington, DC, had lead in the water, somehow everybody came together to get that fixed. There was a concern about the water in the Cannon House Office Building, and that got fixed. I have a funny feeling if something happened in Wisconsin, the Speaker would decide that was serious enough to fix that, but we have a group of people in Flint, MI, who trusted their elected officials and who have been waiting—actually, incredibly patiently—for action so they can turn on the faucet and have clean water.

They had such hopes last week. This was a great moment of people coming together, 95 to 3, on a bill that would not only help families in Flint but across the country. That is how we are supposed to govern. We did that concerning the lead in the water in Flint. We went the extra mile to make sure that was fully offset by phasing out another program to pay for it.

Literally, this package could go anywhere. It could go by itself by voice vote today. It could go any number of places, but it needs to happen now. To see the continuing resolution come to the floor with help for Louisiana and not for the families of Flint is outrageous. It is just outrageous. I will do everything in my power to make sure this does not happen. We are not—we are not, I am not—going to support an effort that says to the people of Flint: You don't count. Your child doesn't count. We care about people in Louisiana. Oh, they count, but people in Flint, MI, don't count. We don't see them. We don't care.

Well, we do see them. We do care about them. We spent 8 months putting together a bipartisan coalition in the Senate, and I am grateful for that. As I said before, Senator INHOFE has been terrific to work with. We were so pleased last week that we were on track to get this done and then to find out that when we now have this opportunity and we had this huge vote—a bi-

partisan, fully offset, paid-for package to move it forward—suddenly Flint doesn't count. Flint families don't count. Flint children don't count. But for Louisiana, which wasn't in the WRDA bill—or so far we haven't voted on it separately—we need to help Louisiana. By the way, let me say again, I am happy to support Louisiana, but the help for Louisiana and the help for Flint need to be done the same.

Let me finally say—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has used 8 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Chair.

I want to actually turn and give 2 minutes to my colleague who has been my great partner in this, but I want to close by saying this. There is one other provision in this bill that is outrageous and that continues dark money in campaigns from having to be reported. So this continuing resolution is saying yes to dark money and no to children with lead poisoning in Flint, and that is not acceptable.

Now to my partner Senator PETERS.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I thank Senator STABENOW for yielding me her remaining time. I couldn't concur more with what she had to say.

This is another day. It seems like we are down here on the floor all of the time talking about the crisis in Flint, asking for help, and demanding that folks step up to help the people of Flint. We are so close to doing it.

As the Senator mentioned, we came with incredible bipartisan support, 95 votes—a program fully paid for that the Senator authored, a program that I fought for as a Member of the U.S. House. Now we are saying this is so important that we are willing to take this program, use these funds to help the people of Flint. But the people can't wait any longer. In this body, the Senate should not be about picking and choosing specific States to help, specific cities to help, specific neighborhoods. It should be about all of America: No matter who you are, no matter where you live, when you are hurting, we will step up as the American people and help those folks in need. That is all we are asking.

A program that is fully paid for and has strong bipartisan support—this seems to be a very easy thing to do, which is why I am at a loss to understand why it can't be put in a CR when it had such broad support and when it is clear people have been waiting for months. We had families in Washington last week, a woman, a mom, talking about her daughter whose teeth are crumbling when she bites into sandwiches because of the damage related to lead poisoning. She has blood levels going up and down with lead; it is still not under control. She was in tears. She was at a loss. She felt some hope when the WRDA bill passed. But if we don't take action and we leave to go back to our States for the month of Oc-

tober, who knows when we were going to bring this up. This is wrong.

The people of Flint have waited long enough. The people of Flint have suffered enough. This is our opportunity as the Senate to rise up and to say: Every American's life is important. Every American's life is one that we celebrate. Every child should have opportunities.

We can put this in the CR. We can pass it and send a strong signal to the people of Flint that their lives matter. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, if there is a moment left, I wish to underscore that we are not asking to pit communities against each other. We are not asking colleagues to say no to Louisiana. We are asking colleagues to say yes to Flint and Louisiana and understand that your ZIP Code doesn't matter. We have the obligation to step up when there is an emergency and help American families. That is all we are asking for the people of Flint.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate an event that both represents and helps preserve what is best about this great country. I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to finish these remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 25 years ago next month, the Senate confirmed, and President George H.W. Bush appointed, Clarence Thomas to be an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, I would like to note both what this country has done for Justice Thomas and what Justice Thomas is doing for this country.

President Bush made the announcement of then-Judge Thomas's Supreme Court nomination on July 1, 1991, at the Bush home in Maine. In his brief remarks, Judge Thomas said: "Only in America could this have been possible." He was right. It would be difficult to find a more powerful story about how far someone can go in this country.

Clarence Thomas was born on June 23, 1948, in a small wood-frame house in the rural town of Pin Point, GA. Six people lived in that house, which had no indoor plumbing.

Life in the world of Clarence's youth was fully segregated. In 1955, the year after the Supreme Court ruled segregated education unconstitutional, he and his brother moved in with his maternal grandparents, Myers and Christine Anderson. Myers Anderson lacked the outward material signs of success that many prize so highly today. He

grew up poor, without a father, and had only a third grade education. Yet it was what he had, rather than what he lacked, that would make him the most profound influence on his grandson, Clarence Thomas. Mr. Anderson's strength of character, his principles and values, and his example shaped the man whose memoir would later be titled, "My Grandfather's Son."

Clarence's grandparents were honest, hardworking, and deeply religious people. They taught decency and respect for others, insisting that Clarence never refuse to do an errand for a neighbor. Mr. Anderson wanted his grandson to be self-sufficient, able to stand on his own two feet even in a hostile world where the odds seemed heavily stacked against him.

The other powerful influences for young Clarence were the nuns who taught him at St. Benedict's Grammar School. There, and at St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Clarence learned that all people are inherently equal, no matter what the law or society might say at a particular time.

Clarence graduated from high school in 1967, the only Black student in his class, and was the first person in his family to attend college. After graduating from Yale Law School, Clarence went to work for Missouri attorney general John Danforth—known as Jack Danforth by us—arguing his first case before the Missouri Supreme Court just 3 days after having been sworn in as a member of the Missouri Bar. He came to Washington in 1979 to join then-Senator Danforth as a legislative assistant.

Clarence Thomas was confirmed by the Senate for the first of five times in 1981 as Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights. I think I was the chairman at that time. He would become the longest serving chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1982, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 1990, and a Supreme Court Justice in 1991 at the age of 43. America gave him opportunities that do not exist anywhere else in the world.

Since this anniversary is about Justice Thomas's service on the Supreme Court, let me turn from what America has done for him to what he is doing for America. I have known Clarence for 35 years and chaired or served on the committees that oversaw each of his appointments. His impact on our Nation comes from his own strength of character fueling his deep conviction about the principles of liberty and other great principles as well.

I have already touched on some of the building blocks of Clarence's character, including his grandfather's example of standing firm in his beliefs. In one interview, Clarence said that his professional career is a vindication of the way he was raised. He described that upbringing in this way in a 1986 article:

But my training by the nuns and my grandparents paid off. I decided then . . . that it was better to be respected than liked.

At the time of Clarence's Supreme Court nomination, reporters noted that he defied categorization and refused to uncritically accept orthodoxy of any stripe. Even liberal columnists acknowledged the nominee's intellectual independence was great. This strength of character has not changed and makes it possible for Justice Thomas to advance his deep conviction about the principles of liberty.

The first principle is the inherent equality of every human being. As the Declaration of Independence states, government exists to secure the inalienable rights of individuals. Justice Thomas has called the Constitution "a logical extension of [the Declaration's] principles."

The second principle of liberty that defines Justice Thomas's service is the necessity of limits on government, including judges. In 1988, while Chairman of the EEOC, he made an important presentation at the Federalist Society's annual symposium. The related principles of equality and God-given inalienable rights, he said, are "the best defense of limited government, of the separation of powers, and of the judicial restraint that flows from the commitment to limited government."

Justice Thomas has said many times that he resists a single label or category for his judicial philosophy or his understanding of the power and role of judges in our system of government. In that 1988 speech, however, he said that liberty and limited government are the foundation for what he called "a judiciary active in defending the Constitution, but judicious in its restraint and moderation." This judiciary, he explained, "is the only alternative to the willfulness of both run-amok majorities and run-amok judges."

To put it simply, Justice Thomas draws a direct connection between equality and God-given inalienable rights, limited government, and liberty itself. This means that each branch of government, including the judiciary, should be active but only within its proper bounds. A judiciary consistent with liberty will be active in properly interpreting and applying the Constitution and will be restrained in declining to exercise power to manipulate or change the law.

In 1990, after being appointed to the U.S. court of appeals, Clarence had lunch with a friend and reflected on his new judicial role. He said: Every time I put on the robe, I have to remember that I am only a judge. The only reason that sounds unusual today is that we live in an era of run-amok judges engaging in what the late Justice Antonin Scalia called power-judging.

Justice Thomas's statement would not, however, have sounded strange to America's Founders. Alexander Ham-

ilton, after all, wrote that because the judiciary may exercise judgment but may not exercise will, it is the weakest and least dangerous branch.

In 2008, two legal scholars wrote about Justice Thomas in the Wall Street Journal. They quoted him describing his basic yet profound judicial philosophy this way: "It's not my Constitution to play around with," he said. "I just think that we should interpret the Constitution as it's drafted, not as we would have drafted it."

A properly active judiciary will interpret the Constitution as it is already drafted, and a properly restrained judiciary will refuse to interpret the Constitution the way judges would have drafted it. That is what judges are supposed to do in our system of government. They are supposed to interpret the Constitution as it was drafted. Judges must take the law as they find it and apply it impartially to decide cases. That is their job, their part of the system of government that supports liberty and freedom.

This is the kind of Justice that we knew Clarence Thomas would be: A Justice who knows both the purpose and the limits of the power the Constitution gives him. This is also the reason that many fought so hard against his appointment and continue to criticize his service. The debate over Justice Thomas's Supreme Court nomination was a debate over what kind of Justice should be appointed in America. His opponents and critics want Justices who will interpret the Constitution as those particular Justices would have drafted it. In other words, they want a judiciary that is inconsistent with liberty, a judiciary that will control the law rather than be controlled by the law. They are concerned more about power than about liberty.

Thankfully, Justice Thomas is the kind of Justice that our liberty requires, and defending liberty is what he is doing for America and for each one of us. We have all passed by the National Archives building, which sits on Constitution Avenue just a few blocks from here. One of the statues in front bears the inscription, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." Justice Thomas is paying that price of vigilance.

A Justice's clerks, in a unique and special way, become a family. Justice Thomas's clerks have become partners in America's best law firms and professors at her finest law schools, carrying with them the principles and lessons he taught about how to protect liberty. As I did 5 years ago when celebrating Justice Thomas's 20th anniversary, I asked some of his former clerks to send letters about the Justice.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

The principles of liberty established by America's Founders are the same

principles to which Clarence Thomas is deeply committed. But it is when those principles are fueled by personal character, integrity, and brilliance that they become a powerful force that defines a nation and helps chart its future.

On July 1, 1991, when President Bush announced that he was nominating Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court, Clarence said that his grandparents, his mother, and the nuns who taught him “were adamant that I grow up and make something of myself.” To my friend Clarence, I have to say that not only did you exceed all of those expectations, but your service, character, and example are helping to make something good out of the rest of us.

Also, on a more personal note, the unexpected death of Justice Scalia has been a profound loss in many ways, including for his friend and colleague Clarence Thomas. On several different levels—personally, philosophically, even spiritually—they were close—fellow travelers, if you will. Justice Scalia’s death is a great personal loss, but it also created a void that I am confident Justice Thomas is already filling in continuing to stand for the principles they mutually shared.

A few months ago, Justice Thomas was the commencement speaker at Hillsdale College in Michigan. He cautioned that today there is more emphasis on our rights and what we are owed than on our obligations and what we can give. He asked this question: “If we are not making deposits to replenish our liberties, then who is?”

By his character and convictions, Clarence Thomas continues to make those deposits and maintain the vigilance necessary to replenish and protect our liberty. America gave him much, and he is returning even more.

As a personal friend of most of the Justices, but especially Clarence Thomas, he has far exceeded what many of us thought he would be able to do on the Court. I thought that he would be great and that he would do a great job as a Justice on the Supreme Court, but he has gone even beyond my expectations. He is a great Justice. He is a person of great quality, of great character, and great spirit. You cannot be around him very long without laughing and enjoying life. You can’t be around him very long without knowing that this is one heck of a unique individual—somebody who really deserves to be on the Supreme Court, who has made a process of being a great Justice.

I am proud of him. I am proud of what he has been able to do. I am proud of what he has become. I am proud of the growth that he continually makes in life. I have always been proud of Clarence Thomas, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JUDICIAL CRISIS NETWORK,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2016.

Senator ORRIN HATCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: This year we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas’s confirmation. His significance on the Court has often been underappreciated by commentators and politicians alike. Justice Scalia’s outspokenness and Thomas’s silence at oral arguments may have captured the fancy of reporters who favor rhetorical flash over a quarter-century of studious opinions. But as Thomas moves into the most senior position among the Court’s conservatives, his influence will soon become clearly recognizable.

Thomas joined the Court after the 1991 October Term had already begun. He had just spent the summer battling those who would do anything to ensure that Justice Thurgood Marshall could not be replaced by a conservative African-American Justice.

He won those battles, but he had a new challenge waiting for him at the Supreme Court. Whereas his new colleagues had had months to prepare for the Term’s cases, Thomas was thrown, metaphorically speaking, into the deep end. Or, as Thomas himself would describe it later, he was building his wagon as he was riding in it.

But despite that initial disadvantage, Thomas made clear to his colleagues from his first week on the Court that he would mount a serious challenge to the liberal status quo. In the third case he heard, he shocked his colleagues by emerging as the lone dissenter. After his powerful dissent was circulated to the other justices, his position gained three additional votes. It wasn’t enough to change the outcome of that particular case, but it made clear to the other justices that a new wind was blowing from an unexpected direction.

Those outside the Courthouse’s marble walls were only rarely aware of Thomas’s influence. For example, in one case in which he and Scalia were the only two dissenters, many in the press depicted Thomas as Scalia’s puppet. When internal records from the term were released decades later, however, the truth became clear: Thomas started out as the lone dissenter in that case, and it was Scalia who had moved to join him. As he had done before, time and again, Thomas was blazing his own trail.

Thomas’s life experiences—a childhood lived under state-mandated racial segregation and a society that punished federal judges who tried to enforce constitutional requirements of race neutrality—undergird his commitment to principled constitutionalism. He shares the Founders’ skepticism of untrammelled governmental power, as well as their belief that the Constitution keeps government from encroaching on our foundational liberties. And he recognizes that making the right decisions in the face of harsh criticism takes courage.

So last Term Justice Thomas penned several opinions advancing a serious critique of the administrative state, the growing army of unelected bureaucrats who increasingly write laws that, at least under the Constitution, are the sole responsibility of our elected representatives in Congress. Even staunch originalists like Justice Scalia hadn’t taken on that behemoth.

He makes decisions based on legal principles, not politics. That means that Thomas

is just as willing to uphold laws he may consider wrong and strike down those he may like, voting to strike down even “conservative” federal laws such as those regulating locally-grown and distributed marijuana. He may like the policies behind those laws, but he doesn’t think the federal government has the constitutional power to pass them in the first place.

He also refuses to invent new law to reach “hard cases.” As he sees it, judges shouldn’t do damage control for lawmakers who don’t do a good job writing laws.

Nor is it his job to edit the Constitution to fit his own views. He makes numerous “liberal” pro-defendant decisions that are dictated by the constitutional right to a jury trial or to confront one’s accusers. It’s not because he thinks those criminals are innocent; it’s because he takes seriously his oath to uphold the Constitution.

I was privileged to clerk for Justice Thomas nine years ago. While his judicial integrity and commitment to the Constitution are truly remarkable, his clerks most admire his personal integrity. His high standards helped us reach our own potential and his continued mentorship and guidance have truly made him a father figure to a growing clerk “family”. Through him we learned how to wear the mantle of authority lightly, how to maintain humility and perspective in the face of adulation, and even how to stay the course with fortitude when faced with criticism and personal attack.

As the Court prepares to change with Scalia’s successor, I predict that the importance of Thomas’s calls for a courageous and principled constitutionalism will soon be recognized much more widely. Many who overlooked or downplayed the importance of his steady hand will soon begin to realize how significant he has been all along.

Sincerely,
CARRIE SEVERINO,
Chief Counsel and Policy Director,
Judicial Crisis Network.

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 16, 2016.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: Twenty-five years ago, Justice Clarence Thomas took his seat as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. I had the privilege of serving as one of Justice Thomas’s first law clerks, during the Court’s October Term 1991.

By now, Justice Thomas’s jurisprudence is apparent. He favors text over policy, original meaning over evolving standards, history over legislative history, rules over standards, and getting it right over following precedent. He understands that the Constitution limits the government in order to secure individual liberty. He further understands that maintaining our constitutional structure—including the separation of powers and federalism—is critical to preserving that liberty. He broadly enforces the Constitution, but recognizes that it leaves ample room for citizens to govern themselves through democratic processes. In areas related to race, he worries about the laws of unintended consequences, and his views are informed by his own remarkable experiences growing up in the segregated South.

Even as early as 1991, much of this was already becoming apparent. During his very first sitting, he was the sole dissenter in three different cases during the justices’ initial voting. (I can tell this story because all

of the pertinent information has already been disclosed.) Despite being a brand-new, 43-year-old justice, he never flinched at going it alone, and it never occurred to him to do anything other than call the balls and strikes exactly as he saw them. His positions in these three cases were eminently sensible: (1) if a capital defendant puts on mitigating evidence of good character, the prosecutor may respond with countervailing evidence that the defendant belonged to a white supremacist prison gang; (2) state tort law, rather than the constitutional prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment, governs the routine mistreatment of prisoners; and (3) if a criminal defendant secures an acquittal on the ground of insanity, he may be civilly confined for as long as he remains dangerous. The first of these cases was ultimately decided by an 8-1 margin, the second by 7-2, and the third by 5-4. In the second and third cases, Justice Scalia switched his original vote from the majority to the dissent. So, while outside observers were speculating that Justice Thomas seemed to be reflexively following Justice Scalia, in significant part it was Justice Scalia who was following Justice Thomas.

Another striking opinion from that year was *Wright v. West*. On a superficial level, the case involved an unusually narrow question about whether there was enough evidence to support a particular criminal conviction. The lower court had said no, and the Justices unanimously said yes. Rather than simply reinstate the conviction, Justice Thomas wrote a long, scholarly opinion explaining why it was wrong for a federal court to review the conviction at all without giving respect to the views of the state court in which the defendant had been originally convicted. His ambitious opinion fractured the Court into a 3-3-1-1 split. But, four years later, Congress codified his view in the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, thereby fundamentally changing the law and practice of federal habeas corpus.

Then there was *United States v. Fordice*, which involved the desegregation of public universities. The majority opinion, which Justice Thomas joined, contained much lofty rhetoric about the urgent need for desegregation. At the same time, Justice Thomas worried about harming historically black colleges, and he wrote separately to urge their preservation: "It would be ironic, to say the least, if the institutions that sustained blacks during segregation were themselves destroyed in an effort to combat its vestiges."

Since that year, Justice Thomas has staked out strikingly original positions in a wide range of areas including the Commerce Clause, the non-delegation doctrine, federal war powers, deference to federal agencies, the Establishment Clause, retroactivity, implied preemption, race neutrality, and cross burning, to name only a few examples. With the loss of Justice Scalia, he is the Court's only remaining originalist. While his views have not always garnered a majority, he has done more than any other Justice in the last half-century to lay out what the words of the Constitution meant to those who ratified it—and to show how far the current Court has strayed from that original understanding. The Court has been, and will be, greatly enriched by his service.

Sincerely,

GREGORY G. KATSAS.

MCLEAN, VIRGINIA,

September 16, 2016.

Re Celebrating Justice Thomas's 25 Years of Service on the Supreme Court.

HON. ORRIN G. HATCH,
U.S. Senate, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: As a lawyer who had the great fortune to serve as a law clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas during October Term 1992 on the Supreme Court, and as an American who cares deeply about the constitutional foundations of our Republic, I write with pleasure and gratitude to commemorate the first 25 years of Justice Thomas's tenure as an Associate Justice. Through his dedicated and principled work on the Court, through his humble jurisprudence and worldview as a judge, and through his amazing personal story and lifetime of experience and relationships, Justice Thomas has made a singularly historic and positive contribution to the life of our Nation and to the legacy of the Court.

Before offering my perspective on the lasting impact of Justice Thomas's first 25 years of service, let me say a word of tribute to the President who nominated him to the Court. The selection of Clarence Thomas to serve as Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States was one of the most consequential, world-improving decisions made by President George H.W. Bush during his term of office. I believe all Americans, of all backgrounds and all political persuasions, have benefited (probably far more than they realize) from the fact that Justice Thomas has occupied one of the nine seats on the Court's bench since 1991.

I also want to express my deep personal thanks to you, Senator Hatch, for the pivotal role you played in securing the confirmation of Justice Thomas in 1991. As a leader on the Judiciary Committee, you were the essential, stalwart champion in support of the nomination. I trust you take enormous pride in the legacy of Justice Thomas's service on the Court and the gift to our country that you helped to bring about.

THE MOST PERSONABLE AND AUTHENTIC JUSTICE

After emerging from the searing cauldron of his confirmation hearings, Justice Thomas was often portrayed in the press as a wounded and brooding figure, quietly stewing in anger in the inner chambers of the Supreme Court Building. Certainly anger would have been a natural and justifiable emotion for someone who suffered through a nationally televised inquisition and whose home had been picketed by activists who called him many things, including (astoundingly) "inauthentic." The truth, however, is that this portrayal of the smoldering, angry, reclusive Justice is the absolute opposite of reality.

I would venture to say that few Justices in history have been more personable, accessible, and, yes, authentic. He is a good man, a warm and caring man, a Justice who takes the time and personal attention to become a real friend to everyone who works with him in the Supreme Court family. He is utterly open and candid with his life experiences.

And what experiences they have been! From the abject poverty and racial suppression of Pin Point, Georgia; to the up-by-the-bootstraps discipline of life with his self-sufficient grandfather, Myers Anderson; to the unwavering kindness and motivating strictness of the nuns of St. Benedict the Moor Grammar School; to the challenge of forging his own career path at Holy Cross, at Yale Law School, in the private sector, and with John Danforth; and finally to the Education

Department and EEOC of the Reagan Administration before his appointment as a judge on the court of appeals. Few of us can imagine what it took for him to navigate that extraordinary upward journey. But the meaning and value of those life experiences shine through in his smile, his warm hugs for friends in need, and his deep and generous laugh. And, of course, they animate his loving marriage with Ginni.

Justice Thomas's life experiences also shine through in the way he opens his Chambers and his heart to all manner of school groups and other visitors eager to meet him and share in his life story. He may have set a record for the number of visitors to the Court, and these guests come to meet with him from all walks of life and from every corner of the United States.

More than that, his life and personality come through in the way he approaches the drafting of Supreme Court opinions. From his first Term on the Court, and consistently today as a veteran Justice, he takes care to ensure that his opinions are written for the everyday American, so that the average person can understand the issues at play and the force and track of his reasoning. That has always been a top priority and objective in every case he handles.

For me as his former law clerk, his example was and remains a true lesson in humility—a lesson in how all of us who appear in the federal courts, whether as advocate or judge, should approach our roles humbly. Justice Thomas's humility comes from the recognition that to participate in the law is to uphold a sacred trust, because our legal system is an essential part of the American experiment in self-government. And the Supreme Court, as the paramount court in the United States, is the most important guardian of that trust.

DEFENDER OF FREEDOM AND EQUAL JUSTICE
UNDER LAW

True to this sacred trust, Justice Thomas brings an unwavering vigilance to the work of the Court. For him, every time the Court resolves a case, including in the way the Justices reason through the issues, the Court affects the freedom and individual liberty of all Americans. In approaching his role on the Court, even in cases involving technical questions of statutory interpretation, just as in the most momentous decisions of constitutional law, Justice Thomas maintains a constant mindfulness that the Court can and should contribute to the preservation of freedom and to the promotion of equal justice for all Americans.

He is steadfastly attentive to the proper limits of the Court's role as an interpreter of the law, rather than a creator of new legal norms, and to the opportunities the Court has to decide cases in ways that will preserve and vindicate the Founders' original understanding of our constitutional system and the true nature of the rights protected by the Constitution. He knows that remaining true to the originating vision of the Founders is the surest guarantee of liberty.

I am not revealing some secret or non-public information. This vigilance is manifest in the words and structure of each opinion he authors, whether speaking for a majority of the Court or in a separate concurrence or dissent.

Many of his influential opinions are directed at the judicial function itself. Federal judges are not elected, and once they are confirmed to lifetime appointments, they are not accountable to the people. That means that the most basic freedom of a self-governing people to make policy choices

through their elected representatives and to redirect the agenda of government at all levels according to the changing priorities of the popular will depends critically upon the discipline and consistency with which the judiciary honors its institutional limits.

Thus, Justice Thomas has defended the political freedom of the people by urging the courts to stick to clear, simple, and consistent principles of decision and to avoid using malleable balancing tests and multifactor standards that allow judges to supersede the will of the legislators with their own preferred policy outcomes. His concurring opinion in *Holder v. Hall* (1994), construing section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, is a model of such defense: "I can no longer adhere to a reading of the Act that does not comport with the terms of the statute and that has produced such a disastrous misadventure in judicial policymaking."

Knowing that the Constitution, not the niceties of stare decisis, is the true bastion of the people's liberty, Justice Thomas has often been the lone voice urging the Court to return to the foundational understanding of the Constitution's great clauses and to cast aside decades of misguided judicial gloss. He is the only Justice on the current Court calling for a complete course correction back to the original meaning of the Commerce Clause, which has become, as reinterpreted by the Court, the prime springboard for the runaway growth of the federal government. In voting with the Court to protect an individual's right to keep and bear arms against abridgment by a municipal government in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010), he was also the only Justice who actively urged the restoration of the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to its rightful place as the surest bulwark against the suppression of fundamental liberties by the States.

Justice Thomas's allegiance to the text and original meaning of the Constitution has often led him to assert broader, bolder, and less compromising protection for the guarantees enshrined in the Bill of Rights. He has been among the staunchest upholders of the First Amendment on the Court and has consistently urged full protection for commercial speech, free from judge-made balancing tests. And he has joined Justice Scalia and others to reestablish the force and imperative of the Confrontation Clause as a fundamental protection for criminal defendants.

With similar boldness, Justice Thomas has refused to compromise in pursuing the goal of equal treatment under the law for all Americans. He knows well that despite the best of intentions, government only exacerbates prejudice and inequality when it persists in granting preferences or imposing disadvantages on the basis of race. And he believes that such programs are inconsistent with the colorblind commands of the Fourteenth Amendment.

As he wrote in his concurrence in *Adarand Constructors v. Peña* (1995), "Purchased at the price of immeasurable human suffering, the equal protection principle reflects our Nation's understanding that such classifications ultimately have a destructive impact on the individual and our society." In his understanding of the Constitution, "there can be no doubt that racial paternalism and its unintended consequences can be as poisonous and pernicious as any other form of discrimination," since it "teaches many that because of chronic and apparently immutable handicaps, minorities cannot compete with them without their patronizing indulgence. Inevitably, such programs engender attitudes of

superiority or, alternatively, provoke resentment among those who believe that they have been wronged by the government's use of race."

THE MOST COURAGEOUS JUSTICE

Justice Thomas's plea for a colorblind Constitution is just one example of what may be his most distinguishing quality as a judge: the courage of his conviction.

He showed that courage from his first days on the Court when he wrote fearless opinions as the lone dissenter on hot-button issues, like the application of the Eighth Amendment to the treatment of prisoners in state institutions in *Hudson v. McMillian* (1992). When, in reaction, the *New York Times* reflexively labeled him the "cruellest Justice," many of us knew that he was actually the most courageous.

This flame of courage has continued to burn steadily over the past 25 years.

It was burning bright in *Graham v. Collins* in 1993 when he concluded that the "mitigating circumstances" prong of the Court's death penalty jurisprudence invited capital juries to engage in the same unbounded and potentially irrational and discriminatory sentencing judgments that the Court first condemned in *Furman v. Georgia* (1972):

"Any determination that death is or is not the fitting punishment for a particular crime will necessarily be a moral one, whether made by a jury, a judge, or a legislature. But beware the word 'moral' when used in an opinion of this Court. This word is a vessel of nearly infinite capacity—just as it may allow the sentencer to express benevolence, it may allow him to cloak latent animus. A judgment that some will consider a 'moral response' may secretly be based on caprice or even outright prejudice. When our review of death penalty procedures turns on whether jurors can give 'full mitigating effect' to the defendant's background and character, and on whether juries are free to disregard the State's chosen sentencing criteria and return a verdict that a majority of this Court will label 'moral,' we have thrown open the back door to arbitrary and irrational sentencing."

His courage was also on display in *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow* in 2004, where Justice Thomas had the temerity to suggest that the Establishment Clause may not protect an individual right and may not be incorporated fully against the States through the Fourteenth Amendment—a proposition often raised by respected law professors but shunned as anathema by the modern Court.

And this courage flamed again in 2009 in *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District Number One v. Holder* when Justice Thomas was the first Member of the Court to reach the conclusion that section 5 of the Voting Rights Act is no longer constitutionally sustainable as a countermeasure for a historical pattern of voter discrimination and disenfranchisement in the covered States.

Many of us (including me) will not agree with every position Justice Thomas has espoused in his opinions. But all of us, I believe, should recognize and respect the conviction with which he approaches his duties on the Court and the boldness and courage he has consistently exhibited in voicing his convictions.

We live in times today when the courage of conviction is in short supply among our leaders but is most needed by our Nation. We are therefore blessed, indeed, that courage and conviction have full expression on the Supreme Court of the United States through the voice of Justice Thomas.

Thank you, Senator Hatch, for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts on the

important contributions of Justice Thomas to our Nation and to the Supreme Court on the historic 25th anniversary of his appointment as Associate Justice.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN GILL BRADBURY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

LOUISIANA FLOODS

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise again today to bring attention to the devastating floods in my State of Louisiana, which are now being called the Great Flood of 2016. In a matter of a few days, 7.1 million gallons of rain fell on Louisiana—more than fell during Hurricane Katrina. The flooding that resulted caused \$8.7 billion in damages to homes and businesses.

A flood event of this magnitude is such a low probability that it is called a thousand-year flood. To put this in perspective—just statistically—the last time a flood of this magnitude would have occurred in this area would have been 500 years before Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas.

It is hard to comprehend, but this chart may help. We all know of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy and of Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005. This is from the 1871 Chicago fire. This is the fifth largest disaster after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. In the last 100 years, the 2016 Louisiana flood is the third largest disaster in American history.

The National Hurricane Center was not able to warn us for this. They said that rain is going to start. It started to rain, and the next day there was flooding. Most folks who were flooded had never been flooded before. They were living in areas that they were told were not at risk for flooding.

The first parishes did not have time to evacuate or to prepare. Here you can see a family being helped out by volunteers. In the back, you see what is called a high-water vehicle. It doesn't flood out, but it is a single vehicle. There were as many as 30,000 folks evacuated from their homes by what was called the "Cajun Navy"—Americans helping Americans get out.

By the way, this is a residential street. This is a neighborhood in which you can see the street itself flooded. This family's belongings are now piled up on the side of a road. They escaped with the bags they hold. This is one family. So far, 144,000 people have applied for individual assistance through FEMA.

I suggest that these people need to know their fellow Americans care about them. Just as important for communities, small businesses were hit too. According to the local newspaper, 12,000 small businesses in the area flooded have been out of commission because of the flood. This is from Denham Springs. It is a town right

across the Amite River from East Baton Rouge Parish. You see everything they are selling piled up on the side of the road. Of course, this is tragic for the business, but think about the community. The National Flood Insurance Program estimates that 40 percent of small businesses that flood never recover and never go back into business.

This is tragic not just for the business owner but also for the people whom she employs because you have just destroyed the job and the opportunity for everyone whom she does employ.

It is one thing to look at statistics and to look at the huge scope of this disaster, but I return to the fact that it is a disaster affecting individuals and affecting families—people who have lost everything. When I say “everything”—they still have their life, but the floodwaters have now receded. You would say: Wait, how can floodwaters have receded if we still have a home under which there is obviously a lot of water?

This flood was so devastating. There is a community called Cypress Point in the French Settlement. The homes were built far above the base flood elevation. They were told they were not at risk of flooding. The floodwaters rose, though, to 46 feet above flood level, and they ripped out the ground beneath the homes. What you are looking at used to be ground beneath the home. Now the river has taken away the bank, and these homes are sitting in a river.

Ten of these homes are being condemned, and there is a certain kind of bitterness these folks must feel. First, they didn't think they were going to flood. If they want to come back and put supports under their home, they will have to get an Army Corps of Engineers permit to do that. If their home falls into the river—and it looks like that could happen—they have to pay to remove their home from that river. They are going to be caught coming and going. Again, these homes are built above the base flood elevation.

This is Dorothy Brooks. Dorothy is 78. She is being rescued. She is wheelchair-bound. Here is Sergeant Thomas Wheeler of the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office carrying her out. Dorothy did not have time to get out on her own. You can still see rain falling, even though water is up to about 3 or 4 feet. Many seniors like Dorothy were able to return to their home, but due to their age, they could not rip it out. If your home is flooded to 4 feet, you have to go around and physically take the sheetrock and the insulation out that is behind the carpet and the wood floors. If not, mold comes in.

Here is a tragic example of it. Roy and Vera Rodney are both in their eighties. They had 4 inches of water in their home. The FEMA inspector told

them that it was habitable. So they were denied repairs and rental assistance, but they didn't have any family nearby. They couldn't gut their house. They couldn't repair it. So the water-damaged carpet, furniture, and belongings stayed, and, predictably, mold appeared. They could no longer live there. They evacuated. They weren't there to let volunteers in to rip it out. Now they have mold throughout their home, and it is uninhabitable. Because they couldn't get the aid they needed, cost of recovery grew with time.

If there is a metaphor here, it is this. If you are unable to get the aid when needed, the cost of recovery grows with time. Roy and Vera were not required to purchase flood insurance. They lived in zone X. Zone X is thought to be at such low risk of flooding that flood insurance is not required.

By the way, that is a huge factor in flooding. About 80 percent of the homes that were flooded did not have flood insurance—not because they didn't purchase it on purpose when they were told to but because they were told they lived in low-risk areas for flooding where flood insurance was not required.

I will say that is why Federal aid is so critical. We have thousands of families completely caught off guard, unprepared—through no fault of their own—by a freak of nature, a thousand-year flood. They are now struggling to pick up the pieces. They are trying to make the decision: Do I stay and rebuild, or do I just move on? Families, businesses, Louisiana need help. I ask that we pass this funding bill quickly. People are hurting; people need help.

Some look at this picture and just see debris. This may be Youngsville, a community I visited, but it could be any community. I would say that is not debris. That is a wedding dress that was saved for 20 years. It is picture albums, children's toys, clothes to go to work, textbooks, and memorabilia. It is their life, piled up the road.

I am thankful that Senate leadership has put what they are calling a down payment on the continuing resolution. This reassures families that their fellow Americans care and that they can rebuild and prosper, but we are not through yet. Helping each other is a fundamental American value.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to support this legislation—to help families faced with losing their homes and losing everything, to help folks pick up the pieces and put their lives back together. To Americans across the country, call your Senator and ask them to support Dorothy, Ray, and Vera.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

PRESCRIPTION OPIOID AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, in recognition of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, I am here to convey the urgency of responding to this crisis.

We are coming to the point of no return in this national discussion of opioid addiction. Between 2013 and 2015, the United States saw an increase of more than 8,000 percent in the amount of synthetic opioids such as fentanyl seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Wait; it gets worse. The Massachusetts State Police Crime Laboratory tells my office that from 2013 to 2015, the number of items seized by law enforcement that tested positive for fentanyl increased by 10,000 percent. We are watching as this category 5 hurricane is making landfall. Unless we do something to stop it, we will watch fentanyl lay waste to community after community all across the United States of America. Fentanyl is the Godzilla of opioids. It is stronger, it is deadly, and it is coming to every family in our country unless we do something now.

Between 2013 and 2014, more than 700 deaths in the United States were attributed to fentanyl and its components. That is for the whole country, but according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, as of last month, unintentional opioid overdose deaths in my State since January have skyrocketed. From January to the end of June, there were 488 confirmed cases of fentanyl overdose opioid deaths in my own State alone. There were only 700 deaths in the whole country from fentanyl between 2013 and 2014. Fentanyl has now been confirmed in two-thirds of all of the overdosed deaths in Massachusetts so far this year. It was 57 percent of the deaths last year in 2015 and now it is up to 66 percent of the deaths.

Many drug users overdose on fentanyl because they have no idea it is mixed into whatever substance they are injecting or whatever pills they are swallowing. They do not realize how deadly it is. It also poses a serious threat to the men and women who are first to respond to the scene of an overdose. If the powder is absorbed into the skin or accidentally inhaled, it can be deadly, making our first responders especially vulnerable to the drug's harmful effects. Just last week, 11 members of a SWAT team fell ill after a bust in Connecticut where they encountered deadly fentanyl.

We know Mexico and China are the primary sources of illicit fentanyl and for the chemical building blocks from which it is made and then trafficked into the United States. The business model for those who manufacture and sell fentanyl is simple: fentanyl is

cheaper, more potent, and more addictive than heroin.

We must make stopping the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China one of our highest foreign policy priorities. We must elevate it up to what we are trying to put together as a plan to fight ISIS. We must put it up there with a plan to ensure that we protect our jobs from copyright or trade infringement. We must elevate this importation of fentanyl to the very highest level of foreign policy concern in our country.

I was pleased to see reports of recent cooperation between the United States and China in combating fentanyl trafficking, including a commitment by China to target U.S.-bound exports of substances controlled in the United States and an agreement to increase the exchange of law enforcement and scientific information that can lead to coordinated actions to control substances and chemicals of concern.

We are improving information sharing on heroin and fentanyl between our government and Mexico. Next month, Mexico, Canada, and the United States will meet for a North American drug dialogue and focus on commitments to develop a North American approach to combatting illicit opioids, including fentanyl and its precursor chemicals and analogs, but there is so much more we must do. Fentanyl is an overseas invader of a different kind, but it is equally deadly. We must continue to elevate the fight against fentanyl and make it one of our highest national and international priorities.

I have introduced a Senate resolution calling for cooperation to stop the trafficking of illicit fentanyl from overseas. It is a bipartisan resolution with the support of Senator RUBIO, and I thank my friend Senator SHAHEEN for cosponsoring this legislation as well. Our resolution expresses the sense of the Senate that the U.S. Government and the Governments of Mexico and China have a shared interest in and responsibility for stopping the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States, and all three countries should develop joint actions to attain that goal.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution and to recognize the grave seriousness of the challenge illicit fentanyl poses to our country and to make stopping the trafficking of that drug into the United States a national priority.

Let's be clear. Stopping the overprescription of opioid pain medication that is fueling addiction to heroin and fentanyl and countless overdoses starts with the prescribers. We need to require anyone who prescribes opioid pain medication and other controlled substances to undergo mandatory training on safe prescribing practices and the identification of possible sub-

stance use disorders. We need to make sure people who enter the judicial system don't arbitrarily have their Medicaid coverage terminated, making it more difficult to access treatment once they are released and thereby fueling the vicious cycle of reincarceration.

We need to make sure all opioids approved by the Food and Drug Administration are first reviewed by independent experts to ensure that those drugs are not only safe and effective but also will not continue to fuel the epidemic of addiction in this country.

We need to make sure prescription drug monitoring programs are fully utilized and nationally interoperable in order to prevent doctor shopping, where one doctor doesn't know another doctor has already prescribed a medication or a person moves from one State to another State with multiple doctors prescribing the same prescription drugs. That must end.

We must let Big Pharma know their army of lobbyists will be matched by an army of advocates who work every day to raise awareness and save lives.

In Boston, there is an area of our city called the Methadone Mile. It is approximately 1 square mile. It is the location of methadone clinics, safety-net hospitals, and homeless shelters. It is also home to those struggling and receiving treatment for addiction and the litany of saints and angels who are providing the desperately needed services for those suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders. It is a 1 mile, one-stop shop for hope and ground zero in the battle against addiction in Boston.

Here in Washington, we are at the epicenter of the Money Mile. It is both an area where Big Pharma's lobbyists toil with the task of ensuring that even during this storm of prescription drug, heroin, and fentanyl overdose deaths, the deluge of prescriptions for opioid-based painkillers goes unabated. According to a story that came out this week from the Associated Press and Center for Public Integrity, the pharmaceutical industry spent more than \$880 million nationwide on lobbying and campaign contributions from 2006 through 2015. That is more than eight times what even the NRA and the gun lobby recorded for activities during that time period. When pitted against the Money Mile, the Methadone Mile doesn't stand a chance. The Money Mile and its army of Big Pharma lobbyists are the reason mandatory prescriber education is not the law. It is the reason the Food and Drug Administration has been complicit in many instances in the worsening of this epidemic. Without real funding for opioid addiction treatment, the Methadone Mile and all the other areas in cities across the country will continue to drown in overdoses and deaths. Our cities are fighting a war, and we need to help them.

Throughout Massachusetts, people are growing angrier and angrier by the day. They are frustrated by Congress's lack of response to this, and frankly so am I. The deaths caused by this epidemic are growing exponentially every single year, but the only thing that outpaces those deaths are the empty promises of funding made by this Congress. I believe history will judge this Congress by how we responded to the prescription drug, heroin, and fentanyl epidemic that is devastating this country. We have little more than 100 days left in this Congress to do the right thing—100 days to show the American people that partisan politics will not impede our responsibility to respond to what may ultimately become the greatest public health crisis of the 21st century in the United States.

The U.S. Congress has an opportunity to let all those who are struggling with addiction know we have heard their stories, help is on the way, and we will not forget them. We must let them know that no matter how dark life seems right now, there is hope, and sunlight will grace them once again. Treatment works, recovery is possible, but this Congress must provide the funding for that treatment and recovery. We must fund the \$1.1 billion the President is asking for the opioid crisis in our country. We can no longer turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to that request.

Families all across our country desperately need this help. There is a terrorist that is across the streets of every city and town in our country, and it is this opioid epidemic. It is a terrorist that is more deadly for those families in America than anything that is going on in Aleppo. It kills 30,000 people a year, and the numbers are growing on the streets of our country. We know what the cause of it is. We know more treatment is needed for those who are already affected. It is the responsibility of this Congress to provide that funding.

As we now talk about a continuing resolution, the Republicans still refuse to talk about funding for this opioid crisis. If we do not deal with this issue, we do not deal with the public health crisis on the streets of our country right now.

I urge every Member, regardless of party, to listen to the families of this country, listen to those who are suffering, need help, and are looking to us to give them the assistance they need. These family members are heroes, but heroes need help. They are turning to us, and so far we have not given them the help or the treatment and recovery programs they need.

At this point, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask to be recognized to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, first of all, as to the news that has already been reported today, there is a broader issue about funding the government that remains in play with some issues, and there has been back and forth about that which will continue. I want to specifically talk about one of the provisions involved in this; that is, the funding for Zika. My colleagues know I have been discussing this issue for quite some time over the last few months as it has spread.

Let's start with the United States. Across the U.S. territory, there are now close to 20,000 cases of Zika. There are over 3,300 infections in the mainland of the United States; 867 of them are in Florida and 90 were transmitted locally, meaning it happened in the State. There are 89 infections in Florida involving pregnant women. There are 85 infections now among U.S. servicemembers, two of whom are pregnant. There are 21 dependents of U.S. servicemembers infected with Zika, and one of them is pregnant. This is an issue that continues to grow in urgency, and it has taken far too long for Congress to act. As I have said repeatedly, both parties are to blame that we are at this point.

What I am more optimistic about is the fact that we have reached a bipartisan agreement to fund the Federal Government's response to this virus, and it is a \$1.1 billion package. There is \$15 million specifically targeted for States with local transmissions, and so far Florida is the only State that has local transmissions. It also includes \$16 million specifically for territories like the Island of Puerto Rico, which has had the highest number of affected American citizens, and that is by far. It is not even close.

So next week when we come back, we are expected to vote on these anti-Zika resources, and it is going to be part of the larger bill to fund the Federal Government beyond September 30. I know that some of those other issues have yet to be worked out. There will be some extensive debate about some of the issues remaining, but this provision is an important part of this, and it has to be a part of the final package as we send it over to the House.

I will begin by laying this out today in the hopes that not just my colleagues in the Senate will support the funding mechanism for Zika but also to begin to speak to some of our House colleagues about how important it is that we get the anti-Zika funding passed. Passing this funding will enable this money to begin to flow to help those who are being hurt by the virus but also so that medical researchers can focus on developing a vaccine with-

out having to worry about their resources drying up.

I think this package that has been put together in a bipartisan way rightfully prioritizes funding for Americans in Puerto Rico and Florida, and I am encouraged that our repeated calls for action on their behalf are beginning to be answered. I think that as we go through some of the details of it here, as some of it becomes public and as we go through some of the issues, I know people are going to care about it.

This anti-Zika funding provides \$1.1 billion. By the way, the Senate already passed the \$1.1 billion provision—I believe back in May—so the Senate has already acted on this once. This is kind of revisiting this issue, but it is important. We are going to have to lead the way on how this is structured.

Among the provisions, there is almost \$400 million for mosquito control and surveillance. That is money which will go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to do things like support vector controls, technical assistance for States, as well as international response activities. Of this amount, by the way, \$44 million is to reimburse States for public health emergency preparedness funding that was transferred for Zika response activities.

There is about \$400 million for vaccine and diagnostic development through the National Institutes of Health and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority. This is strictly related to research for Zika, vaccine development, and the commercialization of diagnostic tests. It is hard to get a test for Zika now. A couple of weeks ago, someone whom I know well could not find a place to do the test because there is not a commercially available one that is widely available.

It provides about \$75 million to reimburse health care providers in States and U.S. territories that have active Zika transmission, for those without private health insurance. That includes \$40 million for community health centers in Puerto Rico and U.S. territories, \$6 million for the National Health Services Corps in Puerto Rico, and \$20 million for maternal and child health special projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories.

It requires a spending plan of not later than 30 days after this act is passed, so it has oversight, and it provides about \$1 million for oversight activities just to make sure the money is being appropriately targeted.

This funding also includes about \$175 million to support response efforts related to the Zika virus—for example, our diplomatic and consular programs; \$14 million to address the Zika virus abroad, including our own personnel. For emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service, we include about \$4

million to support potential costs of evacuating U.S. citizens from Zika-affected countries.

There is \$1 million to enable financing of \$1.9 million in repatriation loans to U.S. citizens who are seeking to leave a Zika-affected area outside of the United States or who have been exposed to or contracted Zika.

As part of the global health programs, there is another \$145 million to support the ability of infected countries to implement vector management and control programs to reduce the transmission of the virus. This is important because a lot of the cases we are seeing are coming from other countries. The virus has taken off in places like Brazil and other places, and when we have U.S. visitors to those places, ultimately what we are finding is that some people infected by Zika abroad are trying to come into the United States, even if they come in potentially on a tourist visa or what have you. So part of this effort is to control it abroad so it doesn't ultimately spread and reach here.

There is a lot, as I said, that is complex. There are a lot of funds available. The good news is that it is being targeted in the right direction. The good news for Florida is that as the only State so far that has had a global transmission of Zika, we have included \$15 million, which I think will be incredibly helpful for Florida.

So I urge my colleagues—we have all come at this from a different perspective. There were a lot of other issues in play and a lot of political rhetoric surrounding this, but I think we have reached the point where, at least when it comes to Zika, we can rally around the proposal that is before us. It is as good as we are going to get given the time constraints we face, and we have waited far too long. We cannot leave here on September 30, next week, without moving something forward, and I think this gives us the best chance to get it done.

I urge my colleagues to support it as we go into the new week, and I urge the House Members to look at this and rally around it. We have to take action on this once and for all. This gives us the best chance of success.

I am cautiously optimistic that we are going to be able to get this done over here. I say "cautiously" because I want people at home to understand that this provision for Zika is part of a much bigger product that involves funding the Federal Government, and there are all sorts of other issues that are still being debated.

As we heard the minority leader and others who have already spoken today—I read it in the press—they are not big fans of the proposal that is on the table. There are broader issues at play that could potentially derail Zika, issues that have nothing to do with Zika funding. There are other issues

being debated that could derail funding for Zika that have nothing to do with Zika but involve some of these other issues associated with the funding of the government.

This is important enough for us to move forward. I don't think anyone wants to see a government shutdown, of course, but beyond that, I think we have to get moving on this funding. We have heard loud and clear that this has taken far too long.

Let me say that if this money doesn't start flowing—because I have been really hard on the administration about spending the money that is already available to them, but now I can tell you that money is slowly dwindling. Here is the fact: If we don't get something done over the next few days, the research on the vaccines and other things are going to stop and come to a grinding halt.

If we want to save money on Zika, if we want to save money on this issue once and for all, develop a vaccine. That is what needs to happen. That can't happen if the funding is being threatened or if the funding is not something they can count on to move forward. Also, these local governments and municipalities and the State of Florida have already expended significant amounts of money to deal with this issue, including the mosquito control efforts. So that is important.

These cases are going to happen whether we fund it or not. That is why I wanted us to do this in April and in May and June and in July. It took too long. Here is where we are now. Better late than never. Let's get this done as soon as possible so that we can give assurance to our people back home that the Federal Government has stepped up and their elected representatives have done their job to deal with this issue once and for all.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I rise to address an issue vital to the future of our country and to the future of our planet: climate change.

When President Kennedy told the Nation that we would land a man on the Moon by the end of the 1960s, he said:

We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard . . . because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win.

It was an ambitious goal—one that many believed was beyond reach. The technology was not all in place. But on July 20, 1969, America and the entire world watched Neil Armstrong take one giant leap for mankind and become the first human to walk on the Moon. It was a powerful moment. We achieved President Kennedy's vision. We accomplished the improbable. We accomplished what many people thought was impossible because America and the American people are known for overcoming great challenges and achieving the impossible and because we set an ambitious goal that inspired us to push past the limits of what we had previously thought achievable. Now we have to do it again.

But whether we are looking out to the Moon or out to the stars, we have to focus here on spaceship Earth and save our planet from catastrophic climate change. We have to move quickly because to save our planet—our beautiful, blue-green planet—we have to keep it from warming more than 2 degrees Celsius, which is 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The planet has already warmed nearly 1 degree Celsius since we started burning fossil fuels, and we are running out of time.

Moreover, despite growing attention and growing concern around the world, humankind's production of global warming gas is still increasing rather than decreasing. We are in a race against time, and at this moment, we are losing that race.

We need immediate, bold action. That is why in the upcoming months I will introduce a plan that challenges our Nation to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by the year 2050—a plan referred to as 100 by 50. The 100 by 50 plan will set a goal of having no more than 50 percent of our country's energy come from fossil fuels by 2030 and a complete phaseout of energy from fossil fuels by the year 2050.

There will be those who, as with President Kennedy's challenge, will say that is beyond reach, but we already have in hand the vast majority of the technology needed to meet this challenge. We need market incentives that will dramatically accelerate the introduction and deployment of these technologies. We need a continued effort to improve the affordability and efficiency of these technologies. Like going to the Moon, this has to be a challenge that our generation is willing to accept, unwilling to postpone, and that we intend to win.

Climate change is here, and it is already having devastating impacts on our world. We can observe climate change in many different ways, through temperature readings of the planet, through the measuring of carbon dioxide which drives temperature increases, and we can see it through the changing, damaging facts on the ground, from glaciers to fire seasons, to droughts, to rising sea levels.

Consider this. Since May of 2015, each and every month has set a new temperature record—the hottest May of 2015, hotter than any May ever recorded; June of 2015, hotter than any June ever recorded; July of 2015, hotter than any July ever recorded and so forth, 16 months in a row. As NASA has recently announced, August of this year, 2016, has tied July of this year, 2016, as the hottest month ever recorded, not just the hottest July, not just the hottest August, not just the hottest months of the year but the two hottest months ever recorded on our planet. To put that into context, global temperatures in August were almost a full degree Celsius above the 20th century average, well on the way to reaching that 2-degree threshold that scientists refer to as a threshold for catastrophic consequences. It isn't that catastrophic consequences start just when we reach 2 degrees. We can already see the facts on the ground, and we can already see the carbon dioxide that is driving temperature is continuing to rise steadily.

We know carbon dioxide pollution that is spewing into the air from burning fossil fuels is driving those temperatures. That is because, as we burn more fossil fuel and emit more carbon dioxide, the carbon dioxide traps the heat on our planet's surface and global temperatures rise higher and higher. You can see that pattern going back hundreds and thousands of years. You can also see it just looking at the time from 1959 until now.

We have increased substantially the amount of carbon dioxide from 320 parts per million to now we have broken 400 parts per million. During that time, temperatures have risen steadily just copying that carbon dioxide level, just as it has over hundreds of thousands of years before.

What we also see is that in this black line, which are the carbon dioxide levels, we see the slope is going upward, meaning that the rate of humankind pollution is increasing, not decreasing. Not so long ago, scientists said we must curtail the pollution of the planet at 350 parts per million. That is down here, 350 parts. We are no longer there. We passed that level quite a while ago in the late 1980s, and here we are at 400, steadily going up.

So we see it in the temperatures, the hottest months ever on record for 16 months in a row, we see it in the carbon dioxide, but we can see it wherever we travel in this country through the facts on the ground.

Take my home State of Oregon. Our fire season is now 60 days longer than it was 40 years ago, with ever greater acreage being burned. Just this summer, we saw two wildfires—the Cherry Road and Rail Fires—burn more than 100 square miles of land. Another example, warmer winter months failing to kill the pine beetles, magnifying their

destructive infestations. On the coast of Oregon, we see the rising acidity of the Pacific Ocean, the level 30 percent higher than it was before we started burning coal, gas, and oil 150 years ago. That was before the industrial revolution. It is making it much harder for the oyster to be able to reproduce and to form shells in those first few days of life.

Now, we may wonder, what does ocean acidity have to do with global warming? Here is the situation. The carbon dioxide we are putting into the air—much of it is being absorbed by the ocean. The amount that is left is the amount you saw on the chart just a moment ago, but the amount the ocean absorbs becomes carbonic acid. The ocean is so vast, it is almost unimaginable that there could be enough carbon dioxide that we are putting into the air to be absorbed by the ocean to create carbonic acid to create this acidity level, but that is exactly what has happened. If the shells of our oysters are being affected, what else is being affected in the food chain? For example, what about the impact on coral reefs?

Obviously, it is not just Oregon that is feeling the impact. Every State we go to, we can find an impact of facts on the ground. We see communities all along the East Coast, from Key West and Miami to Wilmington, NC, Annapolis, New York, experiencing sunny-day flooding because of rising sea levels. We have watched the glaciers of Glacier National Park dwindle from 150 in 1910 to just 25 today.

As with the pine beetles, warmer weather is great for ticks, and out-of-control tick populations are killing moose in Minnesota and New Hampshire. The lobsters of Maine are moving north. That is not all. It is like the 10 plagues in ancient Egypt—more devastating droughts, more powerful floods, fiercer storms. It is a direct assault on rural America, a direct assault on our fishing, forestry, and farming, and that matters. It matters for rural America and it matters for urban America.

Our Earth is changing at lightning speed right before our eyes. We can evaluate this change through temperature records. We can evaluate it through the recording of carbon dioxide levels. We can evaluate it through the facts on the ground, and it is all going to get much worse, year by year.

So there is no time to wait. To save our planet, we must move quickly. We must move forward to end the burning of fossil fuels and to do so in a short period of time. We must completely transform our energy system.

In the first half of 2016, roughly 60 percent of our Nation's total energy output came from burning fossil fuel. The good news there is, we already have made a significant reduction, if you will, of the total energy picture.

There is a lot of clean and renewable energy we are producing, but we have so much further to go.

On these bar charts, what we are seeing in red is the amount of energy in different sectors: residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation in the generation of electricity. The red is what is being produced by fossil fuels, and the green represents what is being produced by clean or renewable energy. These red bars have to go. We need to transform them completely and do so to the green bar, renewable and clean energy, by 2050.

This goal is achievable, but it is going to take enormous political courage. Those vested deeply in the fossil fuel economy will—for their personal profit, their company's profit—try to hold on to the fossil fuel energy economy. It will not matter to them that they are destroying the planet, but it should certainly matter to every single Senator who serves in the U.S. Senate and every Member of the House. We are responsible. We are responsible to take on this challenge.

The first thing we should do, because it is a fabulously effective tool, is put a fee on carbon. A fee on carbon drives our economy to eliminate carbon in the most cost-effective ways, unleashing a torrent of technology, the development of technology in the best possible, cost-effective way to turn these red bars into green bars.

We have seen this work before. We applied this strategy to sulfur dioxide, and the result was that with less expense and less time than anyone imagined, we were able to tackle that problem, and what works for sulfur dioxide works for carbon dioxide. The impact on the price of carbon will be immediate and substantial. One of the reasons is, we already have significant, powerful technologies that will be mobilized by such a carbon fee.

Let's examine some of the major energy sectors, starting with electricity. The potential electricity we could generate in the United States from just wind and solar is over 120 times the amount of electricity currently generated from fossil fuels. This is the amount of energy currently generated in electricity from fossil fuels. This large green sphere is the potential energy—the theoretical potential energy—from solar and wind. So we have a lot to work with.

Here is more good news. Solar and wind energy has grown increasingly affordable in recent years. For instance, photovoltaic solar panels produced electricity at 39 cents per kilowatt hour in 2009. That is up here. In 2014, it was 8 cents per kilowatt hour, an almost fivefold reduction. We see in communities and cities all across the country, businesses and homes with solar panels on their rooftops. We start to see businesses putting up arrays, not just on rooftops but sometimes in their

yards. Those declining costs matter. If you put a carbon fee on top of it, you drive that deployment.

Over the same period, the cost of wind was cut by more than half, from 14 cents per kilowatt hour to 6 cents per kilowatt hour. In the 2 years since the 2014 numbers, the story has continued to be one of declining costs. Those declining costs, together with Federal tax credits, have resulted in a rapid growth in wind and solar energy deployment.

Let's take a look at the solar side. We have on the red line the declining cost per kilowatt hour of solar energy and on the blue bars the increasing deployment of solar energy. That is pretty dramatic, rapid drops in costs, rapid increase in deployment.

We see the same thing in wind. On wind power, we see declining costs occurring here, and we see increased deployment since the year 2000. In the early 2000s, I was traveling the State, talking to folks interested in running for the Oregon State Legislature. In the very first trip I took, I was traveling in the area and saw the first big wind turbines being deployed on the plateau east of the Cascades. Then 6 months later, 1 year later, 2 years later, there was a huge increase in deployment of wind turbines, mimicking what we see on this chart right here.

Here is a fascinating number. In the first quarter—this is the first 3 months of this year—96 percent of the new electricity-generating capacity has come from wind and solar. That is a stunning number. Most people think the new generation capacity is coming from natural gas because it has dropped so much in cost, but 96 percent in the first 3 months of this year came from wind and solar.

If we make a national commitment to these and other clean, renewable sources, such as geothermal and wave energy, we can absolutely achieve 100 percent green electrons—clean, renewable electrons by 2050, eliminating fossil fuels in the generation of electricity.

This decision is not without challenges, just as the journey to the Moon was not without challenges. Most significantly, we have to match the supply of the variable solar and wind energy to the demand for electricity. As we know, for solar and wind to generate electricity, the Sun has to shine and the wind has to blow, but there are a number of ways we can tackle this challenge.

One answer is to shift demand through peak load pricing, encouraging consumers, for example, to shift flexible consumption, such as drying your clothes, to match the supply. We change the time of day we use our dryer. Another possibility is to increase the grid of electricity from one region where there is excess supply to another region where there is excess

demand. A third answer is to store electricity, which can be accomplished through quite a variety of technologies. To name a few, you can store energy in a liquid salt solution at high-temperature solar projects. You can use pump storage, where you pump water up a hill and then you run it back down through turbines. You can use battery storage. By investing in these strategies, the elimination of fossil fuels in the generation of electricity is within our grasp.

Let's turn to transportation. Fossil fuels have dominated the transportation sector for a century, but that is changing. One change is the greater deployment and use of mass transit, light rail, streetcars, bicycles, and pedestrian transit. These investments get people out of fossil fuel cars. That trend continues, and we should encourage it.

Another strategy is electrify the cars themselves. We have seen tremendous progress in the electric car market thanks to falling prices and growing consumer demand. Today there are approximately 500,000 plug-in vehicles driving on our roads. You can see how that really started in 2010, and here we are 6 years later at half a million cars, with a steady upward growth. Electric vehicles are far more viable today than they were in 2010 because the most expensive component of an electric vehicle is the battery, and the price of batteries—lithium ion batteries—has been plunging, dropping fourfold since 2008 to less than \$300 per kilowatt hour.

We have also seen other parts of the transportation industry adopt electricity into their fleets. Mack Trucks, for example, has developed an electric hybrid garbage truck. Proterra, an innovator in heavy-duty electric transport, recently unveiled an electric bus that can travel 350 miles on a single charge. They are developing a recharging capacity that can recharge a bus faster than you can put diesel into a diesel bus tank.

What about aviation? How do we transition our airlines from fossil fuels? Well, biofuels are a piece of the puzzle. United Airlines has started using a mixture of 30 percent biofuel and 70 percent traditional jet fuel for flights from Los Angeles to San Francisco. JetBlue just announced a 10-year contract to buy 350 million gallons of renewable biofuels to mix into its fuel supply. That will account for about 20 percent of its annual fuel use at Kennedy International Airport. Other airlines, including Lufthansa and Virgin Atlantic, are embracing biofuels.

Let's think a little bit about long-haul trucking, which currently runs virtually universally on diesel. It is a big challenge. Biodiesel can play a role here, as it does in aviation. A few years ago, Poland Springs switched to a 5-percent biodiesel blend for its fleet of tractor trailers and tanker trucks. The

company estimates that not only did it reduce its annual carbon emissions by 1.8 million pounds in the first 2 years, but it saved about \$70,000 in fuel costs. That is a pretty substantial incentive.

As more and more firms seek to replace fossil diesel with biodiesel, production has surged, increasing from 343 million gallons in 2010 to 1.2 billion gallons in 2014. But while the production and use of biodiesel is growing, we don't anticipate that it will be a complete answer. The production of biofuel has challenges of its own, including a potential disruption of food agriculture.

We have to keep developing and looking at a variety of technologies, possibly including, for example, the development of hydrogen fuel cells. Nikola Motor, an electric truck startup in Salt Lake City, announced plans at the end of last month for its upcoming Nikola One big rigs to run on custom-made hydrogen electric fuel cells. These trucks are going to be designed to travel 1,200 miles between hydrogen fill-ups.

If hydrogen does become viable along established routes for trucking, we will need to generate a lot of hydrogen, and we can do that from electricity, putting the green electrons to work in this challenge and establishing a fuel deployment infrastructure.

What about residential and commercial heating? About one-fifth of all natural gas is used to heat homes and water in residences. Both of these objectives can be accomplished through electrification. The good news here is that heat pumps, powered by green electrons, can be cost-competitive with gas heating in most climates, even at today's very low natural gas prices.

Replacing the use of natural gas in the commercial and industrial sectors will be more challenging, especially industrial manufacturing. Electrification will help. Conservation will help. They will be part of the solution. In some cases, there may not be a solution. There may not be a viable answer. We will need to employ carbon offsets to reach net zero generation of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels.

So there are pieces of this puzzle we will have to figure out. Just as our predecessors in the space program did not have all of the answers when they set out on a mission to put a man on the Moon, we don't have all of the answers now, but we have a lot. With the diligence and determination that has characterized the American spirit, we will find more answers and we can reach these goals.

We have so much of the technology in hand to propel ourselves into the 100-by-50 vision, but we need political courage. We need commitment as a nation. We need to take responsibility because we are the first generation feeling the impact of the disruptive ravages of climate change, and we are the

last generation that can do something about it. And we do so, driving a rapid transition from a fossil fuel-based energy economy to a clean renewable one.

One thing is certain: It is going to mean a lot of new jobs. That is pretty exciting. There is going to be a lot of innovation. That is pretty exciting. Already more than 2.5 million Americans go off to work every day in the clean and renewable energy industry. Some 414,000 are employed in renewable generation, such as solar and wind. In just the past 6 years, the solar industry alone has added 115,000 jobs. Another 170,000 are employed in advanced vehicles, working to move the automotive industry further toward hybrid and electric vehicle technology. Imagine how many more jobs we will create if we truly commit and invest in clean and renewable technologies. Imagine what a boon it will be to our economy to be the leader in these industries, selling and exporting the technology and the products that we develop around the world.

As we head into this exciting frontier, we have an obligation to do right by all the American workers, the men and women who rely on jobs in fossil fuel industries to provide for their families. We need to make sure they have the support and the training and the help to transition to work in the new industries. We need to make sure no worker in the fossil fuel world is left behind.

These are the basic elements of the 100-by-50 plan I will be introducing to move our country from fossil fuel to clean renewable energy:

One. Adopt a price on carbon to put our markets to work on this mission.

Two. Utilize energy conservation—virtually always the most cost-effective strategy.

Three. Convert all electricity generation from fossil fuel electrons to green electrons.

Four. Shift as many uses as possible from the fossil fuel energy world to the electric energy world, including various applications in transportation and home and business heating.

Five. Sustain substantial investments in research and development to improve current technologies and develop new ones.

Finally, for the most difficult challenges, we may consider utilizing carefully constructed carbon offsets to reach net zero fossil fuels.

Fellow citizens, colleagues here in the Chamber, we need a bold plan to save our beautiful, blue-green planet from the ravages of global warming. This 100-by-50 is that plan—completely overhauling our energy system over the next three and a half decades, eliminating carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels by 2050.

By leading this fight, America will benefit from all of the technological innovation it generates. By leading this

fight, America will generate good-paying jobs. By leading this fight, America will have the moral standing to pull together the nations of the world onto a parallel path. America must lead this charge. We are the only Nation that can. We have the best scientific and technical minds in the world.

The American people have the courage to take on big challenges. By leading this fight, America will bring together the nations of the world. Working together, we will save our planet. The world needs to act, and to act now, to tackle the devastating impacts of climate change. It cannot wait. But they will need our example—a national commitment to revolutionizing our energy sector to spur them to action, to set an example, to work in cooperation.

Daniel Burnham, the great American architect, once said:

Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work.

We need to stir our blood and our hearts and our minds and our souls to this great challenge. We need to do everything in our power, utilizing every tool at our disposal. We are in a very real race against time, and it is a race in which we are behind but a race we must not lose. That is our responsibility. That is our moral obligation to our children and their children and their children's children.

Some will say this can't be done, but I say to them and I say to you: Do not bet against America. We conquered the electron and harnessed electricity. We beat gravity to soar above the clouds. We cured diseases, invented the telephone, the television, and the Internet. When President Kennedy called us into action, we, America, traveled to the Moon. When we commit ourselves, there is nothing American ingenuity cannot accomplish. We will find the answers. We will achieve the impossible. At this moment, let's embrace the urgency of this mission and determine to act immediately and to act boldly.

Fellow Americans, colleagues, let's join together and set ourselves and our Nation and, through our leadership, the world's community of nations on a course to make this giant leap for mankind.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII,

the pending cloture motions with respect to H.R. 5325 not ripen until 2:15 p.m., on Tuesday, September 27; I further ask that if cloture is invoked on the substitute amendment, cloture be considered to have been invoked at 6 p.m., on Monday, September 26.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, NORTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER AND SOUTHERN NEVADA CHAPTER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Red Cross, Northern and Southern Nevada Chapters.

The Northern and Southern Nevada Chapters of the American Red Cross were established during World War I, when a small group of women came together to knit sweaters, socks, and caps for troops overseas. Since then, the American Red Cross in Nevada has provided invaluable support and services to those in need. For instance, during the Great Depression, the American Red Cross provided temporary housing, nutritious meals, and clean drinking water. The American Red Cross also provided disaster relief after the 1999 Clark County flood that caused extensive property damage.

For 100 years, the American Red Cross in Nevada has served numerous people in our community, Nation, and throughout the world. Today 650 volunteers facilitate essential programs for Nevadans, including services for the Armed Forces, community preparedness training, youth services, and international programs to reconnect families. Through these programs, the American Red Cross transforms the lives of individuals and families across the Silver State.

The American Red Cross in Nevada has made many noteworthy contributions to our community. Its services ensure that Nevadans receive relief during their most difficult times. The American Red Cross's work is appreciated and admired, and I wish them continued success.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAS VEGAS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 25th anniversary

of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. For a quarter century, the museum has inspired curiosity, appreciation, and responsibility for the natural world and its resources. It is my great pleasure to recognize the institution, its employees, and its board members before the U.S. Senate today.

The Las Vegas Natural History Museum began as a culmination of efforts by dedicated Nevadans, including executive director and founder Marilyn Gillespie, to protect the State's collection of wildlife and prehistoric exhibits. Through cooperation with the Las Vegas City Council and partnerships within the Las Vegas area, the museum was soon able to officially open its doors to visitors in 1991. Since then, the museum has expanded to include a multibillion dollar collection of regional and global artifacts, as well as a variety of interactive scientific exhibits and educational resources. In 2002, the Smithsonian Institution granted affiliate membership to the Las Vegas Natural History Museum, further enhancing its exhibits and impact on visitors.

Early collaborations within the Las Vegas area provided the framework for a history of community engagement that continues to define the institution to this day. Last year, more than 23,000 educational tours were provided to students from Clark County, each of which were designed to meet State educational requirements. The museum also continued its Open Doors Program, allowing more students from at-risk or economically disadvantaged schools to visit the museum.

At a time when environmental stewardship is more important than ever, I am proud to join my fellow Nevadans in celebrating this important milestone. As we look back on 25 years of scientific exploration and discovery, we look forward to many more in the future.

OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this weekend the doors will open on a new American treasure. The National Museum of African American History and Culture tells the story of a people whose toil and genius helped create America and whose contributions in every walk of life have enriched our Nation beyond measure.

The museum stands majestically on the National Mall, at the foot of the Washington Monument.

If you stand at the museum's entrance and look in one direction you see the Lincoln Memorial, where Marian Anderson sang and Dr. King spoke of his dream for America.

Look in the other direction and you can see a plot of land where, just several generations ago, men, women and

children were sold like chattel—close enough to this Capitol that members of Congress could hear their anguished cries.

Those stories and many, many more, are chronicled within the walls of this ambitious and long overdue museum.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture represents America's first official attempt to tell the story of African Americans—a story that spans 600 years and stretches from the indignity and inhumanity of slavery to the long and still ongoing march for freedom that changed our Nation and our world.

As one writer described it, the museum is “a shifting mix of sadness and celebration.” It is a record of brutal subjugation, racial violence, and discrimination—and it is the story of a resilient people who survived those horrors and created a rich and vibrant culture.

The new museum is the 19th in the priceless portfolio of the Smithsonian Institution.

If you ask African Americans about the significance of the new museum, you are likely to hear many answers. One answer you will hear over and over is: “Now our ancestors can rest.”

At long last, the stories of struggle, perseverance, and achievement that have been passed down, generation after generation, in African-American families finally have an official and honored repository in America.

Speakers at the museum's opening on Saturday will include President Barack Obama and former President George W. Bush—two Presidents, one Republican and one Democrat, a White man and our Nation's first African-American President. Imagine the ancestors' delight at that line-up.

As many as 100,000 people from all over America are expected to visit the museum on this opening weekend—like one giant, proud family reunion.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture tells the harrowing story of slavery, Jim Crow, and segregation. It also documents the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s—the template for the women's movement, the disability rights movement, and other modern human rights struggles in America and around the world.

But the Museum of African American History and Culture is more than a story of suffering and struggle. It is a celebration of resilience and triumph—of faith in America and in a better future.

It showcases the countless ways in which African Americans have enriched and enlivened American culture and society—in sports, music, literature, and art—in commerce and business, and in scientific discovery.

While it focuses on African Americans, it is a museum for all Americans—because you cannot truly under-

stand American history without understanding African-American history and the difficult, often inspirational, and always central role that African Americans have played in our history.

Lonnie Bunch III is a brilliant historian and educator. He is also the founding director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

As he says, the history of African Americans is “the quintessential American story,” a story of measured progress and remarkable achievement after an ugly period of painful oppression.

From 2001 to 2005, Lonnie Bunch served as president of the Chicago Historical Society, now called the Chicago History Museum. That is where I came to know and respect him.

During his short tenure, Lonnie Bunch oversaw a hugely successful expansion of the Chicago History Museum, and he helped broaden community support for the museum dramatically.

He became almost as much of a cultural treasure as the museum itself, and we hated to see him leave Chicago.

But the chance to help create the National Museum of African American History and Culture—literally, from the ground up—was the challenge of a lifetime.

It was also, as Lonnie Bunch will tell you, something he felt he needed to do for his ancestors, to honor their struggle and perseverance.

When he signed on to head it in 2005, the National Museum of African American History and Culture had no staff, no collection, and no building—not even a blueprint.

No Smithsonian museum had ever started life without a collection.

What is more, the museum's initial, very modest acquisitions budget meant that many of the most valuable artifacts of African-American history sell at traditional auctions were beyond the financial reach of the new museum.

So Lonnie Bunch conceived of a brilliant strategy to build the museum's collection.

He and his staff conducted “Antiques Roadshow”-style programs in 15 cities called “Save Our African American Treasures.”

Their hunt for African-American treasures kicked off in January 2008 at the Harold Washington Public Library in Chicago. Hundreds of people brought family heirlooms to be inspected and appraised.

Many of the nearly 40,000 artifacts in the new museum's collection came from these shows. In city after city, people brought treasured objects that had been in their families for years and generations and said: “We've cared for this until now. We trust the Smithsonian to keep it safe from now on.”

Among the treasures is Harriet Tubman's prayer shawl, given to her by

Queen Victoria, and the great abolitionist's personal hymnal.

As the endpoint in the great migration of African Americans from the Deep South to the North, Chicago holds a special place in African-American history and that is reflected in the new museum.

One of the most powerful exhibits is the original glass casket that held the battered body of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy from Chicago who was viciously murdered by two White men in Mississippi in 1955. Emmett Till was kidnapped, beaten to a bloody pulp, and shot in the head. His broken body was then weighted down and thrown into a river.

His grieving mother, Mamie Till Moseley, insisted that the casket remain open during her son's funeral so the world could see what racial hatred and violence had done to her only child.

The images of Emmett's mangled body shocked the Nation's conscience and fueled the modern civil rights movement.

Rosa Parks said she was thinking of those images 3 months later when she refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus.

Other treasures from Chicago and Illinois include objects from the Pullman Car Company and from famed African-American publications including *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines and the *Chicago Defender* newspaper.

There are photographs from fair housing marches led by Dr. Martin Luther King in Marquette Park, a neighborhood in southwest Chicago in 1966. Dr. King was struck in the head by a brick thrown from an angry mob. Those marches showed America that racial animus and violence was not simply a Southern problem, it was an American problem.

Only nine African Americans have ever served in this Senate. Illinois is proud to be home to three of those Senators, including the man who went on to become our first African-American President.

Among the museum's artifacts from Barack Obama's historic public life is the entire contents of a 2008 Obama for President headquarters in Falls Church, VA—packed up—lock, stock and barrel—and preserved by the Smithsonian for future generations.

Among the museum's other treasures are a fighter jet flown by Tuskegee Airman and shards of glass from the horrific Klan bombing in 1963 of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, an act of terrorism that claimed the lives of four little girls attending Sunday school.

Other artifacts remind us that the long march to freedom is not entirely over yet.

Poll tax receipts from a century ago remind us of the need to be vigilant in protecting every Americans' constitutional right to vote.

A guard tower from the infamous Angola State Penitentiary reminds us that racial inequities persist in America's criminal justice and we have more work to do to root it out.

To borrow a phrase from the immortal Sam Cooke, the National Museum of African American History and Culture "has been a long, long time coming."

It was first proposed more than a century ago by African-American veterans of the Civil War.

Congress approved it once, in 1927, but never funded it because of the Depression.

The idea was resurrected in the late 1980s, led by Congressman JOHN LEWIS of Georgia, an icon of the civil rights movement.

For 15 years, though, a bill to create the museum was defeated.

The logjam was finally broken in 2003, when President George W. Bush took up the cause.

More than any previous Smithsonian museum, this one has relied on private donations, rather than just public dollars.

A number of celebrities have made very large gifts, including \$5 million from Michael Jordan and \$21 million from Oprah Winfrey, the largest single benefactor.

But many of the donations have come from churches, sororities and fraternities, and other African-American groups. A large amount—\$4 million—came from average people in gifts of less than \$1,000.

The new museum looks like nothing else on the National Mall. It is clad in burnished bronze grillwork and built to resemble a three-tiered crown from an old African kingdom.

Looking at it, one is reminded of the words of the writer James Baldwin. In exhorting African Americans to take pride in their history, Baldwin wrote: "Your crown has been bought and paid for. All you must do is put it on."

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is one of the great jewels in that crown. It will help the ancestors to rest and allow this and future generations to learn and be inspired, and that is cause to celebrate.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT REGARDING AMENDMENT NO. 5082 TO H.R. 5325

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have an explanatory statement regarding Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325 printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. COCHRAN OF MISSISSIPPI, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS REGARDING THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5325

The following is an explanation of the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act".

This Act includes the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017 (Division A), the Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act, 2016 (Division B), the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017 (Division C), and a division on rescissions of funds (Division D). H.R. 5325 was used as the vehicle for the Senate amendment.

Section 1 of the Act is the short title of the bill.

Section 2 of the Act displays a table of contents.

Section 3 of the Act states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

Section 4 provides a statement of appropriations.

Section 5 states that each amount designated by Congress as an emergency requirement is contingent on the President so designating all such emergency amounts and transmitting such designations to Congress.

Section 6 of the Act specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference, and it specifies that any reference to the "joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act" contained in division A shall be considered to be a reference to this explanatory statement.

References in this explanatory statement in division A (Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017) to "conferees" are deemed to be references to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and references to the "conference agreement" are deemed to be references to the recommendations in division A of this Act.

The Act does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined by clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following is an explanation of the effects of Division A, which makes appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2017. Unless otherwise noted, reference to the House and Senate reports are to House Report 114-497 and Senate Report 114-237. The language set forth in House Report 114-497 and Senate Report 114-237 should be complied with and carry the same emphasis as the language included in the joint explanatory statement, unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement. While repeating some report language for emphasis, this joint explanatory statement does not intend to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein. In cases in which the House or the Senate has directed the submission of a report, such report is to be submitted to both

Houses of Congress. House or Senate reporting requirements with deadlines prior to, or within 15 days after enactment of this Act shall be submitted not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act. All other reporting deadlines not specifically directed by this joint explanatory statement are to be met.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Bid Savings.—The conferees note that, given information for cost variation notices required by 10 U.S.C. 2853, the Department of Defense continues to have bid savings on previously appropriated military construction projects. Therefore, the agreement includes rescissions to the Army, Air Force, and Defense-Wide construction accounts. The Secretary of Defense is directed to continue to submit 1002 reports on military construction bid savings at the end of each fiscal quarter to the Committees.

Missile Defense.—The conferees remain committed to rapidly implementing the European Phased Adaptive Approach (EPAA). Construction of the first Aegis Ashore missile defense site in Deveselu, Romania, is complete and the site is operational. The Committees fully funded construction of the second site at Redzikowo, Poland, in fiscal year 2016, and expect the Missile Defense Agency to pursue an aggressive construction schedule to bring this critical asset online. Additionally, the conference agreement fully funds the request for the first phase of the Long Range Discrimination Radar at Clear, Alaska. This radar will dramatically improve our ability to effectively target ballistic missile threats to the homeland coming from the Pacific. As the missile threat continues to evolve, the conferees remain strongly supportive of the expeditionary deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery on Guam. The conferees encourage the Department of Defense to consider making this deployment permanent and request the appropriate military construction projects in support of this critical mission be requested in future budget submissions.

Overseas Contingency Operations.—The conference agreement includes House Title IV, Overseas Contingency Operations. The Senate bill included funding for similar projects in Title I.

Emerging Security Threats in Europe.—The conferees are aware that heightened tensions between Russia and Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2014 have increased security threats to European nations, particularly in Eastern Europe. In response to Russian aggression, the Administration in 2014 announced the European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) to enhance allied security by increasing the presence and joint training activities of U.S. military forces in Europe. The ERI includes a number of military construction projects funded in both fiscal year 2015 and in this Act. The conferees note that although ERI military construction funding was originally intended to be a one-time only investment, the evolving nature of the threat has prompted the Department of Defense (DOD) to expand its plans for investing in military construction to support the continual presence of U.S. rotational military forces in Europe, increased training activities with European allies, and the prepositioning of Army combat-ready equipment in Poland to support an armored brigade combat team.

The conferees recognize the importance of providing reassurance and security to the Nation's European allies, but are concerned that DOD has not outlined a comprehensive

plan for military construction requirements to support the ERI. Instead, the Committees have received ad hoc notifications of proposed planning and design expenditures for projects in support of the ERI, including a \$200,000,000 facility for prepositioning Army combat brigade equipment in Poland, and nine ERI-related Air Force projects, primarily at U.S. Air Force bases in Germany, estimated to cost a total of \$260,000,000.

Given the magnitude of the planned ERI military construction investment thus far, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (the Committees), with submission of the fiscal year 2018 budget request, a comprehensive plan for military construction requirements associated with the European Reassurance Initiative through the fiscal year 2018 Future Years Defense Program.

The conferees further direct the Comptroller General of the United States to provide to the Committees, not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, a report evaluating the extent to which the Department of Defense has developed a comprehensive force structure plan, including military construction requirements, to meet emerging security threats in Europe. The report shall include an assessment of the extent to which the Department has:

- (1) identified the near-term and long-term United States military force requirements in Europe in support of the European Reassurance Initiative;

- (2) evaluated the posture, force structure, and military construction options for meeting projected force requirements;

- (3) evaluated the long-term costs associated with the posture, force structure, and military construction requirements; and

- (4) developed a Future Years Defense Program for force structure costs associated with the European Reassurance Initiative.

The report shall also include any other matters related to security threats in Europe that the Comptroller General determines are appropriate, and recommendations as warranted for improvements to the Department's planning and analysis methodology. The reports shall be provided in the appropriate classified and unclassified formats.

Al Udeid Air Base Mold Contamination.—The conferees are concerned about reports that airmen serving at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar were living in dangerously contaminated barracks. On social media and later in the press, reports detailed collapsing ceilings, contaminated water, and toxic black mold found throughout the facility. The Committees have raised concerns in the past about low levels of funding for facility sustainment, restoration and modernization, and if the black mold issues at Al Udeid were a result of a lack of funding for maintenance, that is unacceptable. Also, the conferees are aware that the Department of Defense Inspector General released a report in September 2014 (DODIG-2014-121) that identified 1,057 deficiencies and code violations "that could affect the health, safety, and well-being of warfighters and their families" stationed in Japan. Included among the deficiencies were elevated levels of radon and excessive mold growth. In light of the Inspector General report and the reports from Al Udeid, the conferees direct the Department to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act detailing global military housing and expeditionary facilities locations with mold contamination, mitiga-

tion strategies implemented or expected to be in place, and any new construction standards designed to prevent mold contamination.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conference agreement provides \$513,459,000 for Military Construction, Army. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$98,159,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support.

Aging Army hangars for Combat Aviation Units.—The conferees recognize that the Army's aging hangars housing combat aviation units are structurally deficient and do not meet the operational requirements of the Army's Combat Aviation Brigades. A critical need exists for the Army to modernize infrastructure associated with operational needs, inclement weather, personnel changes, and unforeseen circumstances. The conferees direct the Secretary of the Army to submit a report to the congressional defense committees not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act detailing the age and condition of the Army's Combat Aviation Brigade aircraft maintenance hangars, a prioritization of the most deficient infrastructure assets, and a plan to modernize or replace those hangars, including the required resources.

Air traffic control facilities.—The conferees are concerned that many of the Army's air traffic control facilities are unsafe, antiquated, and do not provide adequate control, communications or observation abilities for the current air traffic levels at certain locations. For example, the current facility located at Fort Benning, Georgia, will become wholly inadequate at the current pace of operations and a replacement facility is necessary to ensure air traffic services are available to support mission readiness and deployment platforms and the military flying community. The conferees are concerned that this could be a problem throughout the Army enterprise with the recent reductions to the Department of Defense's construction accounts. Therefore, the Secretary of the Army is directed to conduct a risk assessment on Army air traffic control facilities throughout the Army enterprise and develop a plan to update these facilities. This assessment shall be submitted to the congressional defense committees not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act.

Defense Laboratory Enterprise Facilities and Infrastructure.—The conferees note that DOD investment in Defense laboratories has been lacking, resulting in negative impacts on the ability of the military to develop new acquisition programs or perform cutting-edge research. At the same time, the Nation's near-peer competitors are making significant new investments in their research and development capabilities as part of the effort to close the technology gap with the U.S. military. Of additional concern, aging lab infrastructure also creates a disincentive to attracting new employees as DOD tries to rebuild its technical workforce.

One of the tools that Congress has provided to incentivize DOD lab investment is the establishment of a higher threshold for unspecified minor military construction (UMMC) for laboratories to enable the services to keep up with a threat that evolves faster than the normal planning process. However, the conferees are concerned that the services are not programming sufficient UMMC to take full advantage of the laboratory revitalization initiative. For example, in fiscal year 2016, the Army, which operates an extensive network of DOD labs, did not allo-

cate any unspecified minor military construction funding for necessary laboratory revitalization projects, and the request for UMMC in the Army has remained flat at \$25,000,000. Therefore, the conference agreement provides an additional \$10,000,000 to supplement unspecified minor military construction, and the Army is encouraged to pursue opportunities to use the additional funding for lab revitalization.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement provides \$1,021,580,000 for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$88,230,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

Military Construction funding for the Navy and Marine Corps.—Conferees are concerned about the need for the construction of an F-35C aircraft maintenance hangar, a communications complex and infrastructure upgrades, and an F-35C aircraft parking apron for the Marine Corps' four F-35C squadrons on the West Coast. This construction supports Carrier Air Wing operations with the USS *Carl Vinson* as the first F-35C compatible ship on the West Coast in support of the Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. The Marine Corps has identified these projects as its top priorities, critical to the F-35C squadrons and the conferees support these priorities.

Townsend Bombing Range.—Concerns still remain regarding the Townsend Bombing Range and its effect on the local timber industry. While the Navy and local stakeholders have started a dialogue, an agreement has not yet been reached. The conferees look forward to an agreement that meets the Navy's training needs and protects local timber stakeholders.

Navy Unfunded Reprogramming Requirements.—The Committees were recently informed that the Navy has been underestimating the cost of major construction projects over the past several years due to unrealistic cost assumptions and a flawed construction cost formula. The Navy acknowledges that it has been aware of this problem for some time but had taken no action to remedy the deficiencies in its construction cost estimating process or to notify the Committees in a timely manner of the situation or its potential impact on the execution of projects. As a result, the Navy is faced with a large inventory of underfunded projects, and insufficient unobligated balances from bid savings or cancelled projects to cover the shortfall. Thus, a number of authorized projects for which funds have been appropriated over the past several years are at risk due to insufficient funds to award a contract.

The conferees provide an additional \$89,400,000 in this Act, to address the Navy's highest priority urgent unfunded reprogramming requirements as well as unanticipated emergency construction requirements. However, the conferees are concerned that this is just the tip of the iceberg, and that additional underfunded projects for which no ready source of reprogramming funds is available will emerge. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of the Navy to reassess the sufficiency of the appropriation request for all previously appropriated projects for which contracts have not been awarded, and to provide to the congressional defense committees, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, (1) a detailed analysis of the process and decisions that led to the underestimating of construction costs, (2) the

revised cost estimate, if applicable, for any project that is estimated to be underfunded due to unrealistic cost assumptions and/or a flawed construction cost formula, (3) a plan of how the Navy intends to address the shortfall within its own resources, including the identification of any previously appropriated projects that might have to be cancelled, and (4) a description of the steps it is taking to remedy the cost estimating process for future construction projects.

The conferees further direct the Secretary of Defense to review the construction cost formulas used to develop military construction appropriation requests by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess the reliability of the formulas, and to report to the congressional defense committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act on its findings and any recommendations to improve the fidelity of the construction cost formulas.

All the services, including the Navy, have informed the Committees for the past several years that construction costs have been rising with the improving economy and the rebound of the construction market, and that bid savings have been subsequently decreasing. The conferees believe there is no excuse for the Navy's inability to or failure to address this problem, and fully expect a sound and justifiable cost estimate for any military construction projects submitted in the fiscal year 2018 and future budget requests.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement provides \$1,491,058,000 for Military Construction, Air Force. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$143,582,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services. Additionally, the conference agreement rescinds \$23,900,000 for three fiscal year 2014 projects in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), to support Air Force training exercises and provide an emergency divert location. The conferees are concerned that the Air Force has been unable to reach a land use agreement with the Government of the CNMI despite extensive negotiations, and no resolution to the issue is imminent. Therefore, the funding is rescinded without prejudice, and the Air Force is urged to resubmit the projects once agreement on the location is finalized and the projects can be executed.

Air Force Facility Security Requirements.—The conferees are concerned with the Department's funding recommendation for the Air Force's unspecified minor military construction account. An additional \$10,000,000 is provided to assist installations in the continental U.S. with significant facility entry and exit point concerns. Priority should be given to installations with access control points that present safety, security and traffic hazards.

Air Force Ballistic Missile Facilities.—The conferees are aware that ground-based intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) facilities at the Nation's three ICBM bases in Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming are aging and in urgent need of replacement. At a time of increased global tensions among nuclear-capable nations, it is imperative to replace crumbling and outdated ICBM infrastructure at U.S. installations with state-of-the-art nuclear deterrence facilities. Key to this effort is the replacement of the Cuban missile crisis-era Weapons Storage Facilities and Missile Alert Facilities at each of the ICBM bases. The conferees understand that the Air Force has developed a funding roadmap to replace the Weapons Storage Facili-

ties (WSFs) at each ICBM base but are concerned that the current timeline for implementation of the roadmap is not sufficiently aggressive in light of the urgency of upgrading these facilities to meet current threat conditions. Given the failing condition of the current WSFs and the importance of the ground-based ICBM capability to the Nation's nuclear deterrence, the conferees urge the Air Force to prioritize and accelerate the replacement of the WSFs as well as the Nuclear Alert Facilities at ICBM bases. The conferees reiterate the directive in Senate Report 114-237 for the Secretary of the Air Force to undertake an analysis of the cost of maintaining the existing Missile Alert Facilities at the Nation's ICBM bases and to provide a report to the Committees within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the findings of the analysis and a projected cost and timeline for replacing the Weapons Alert Facilities at each of these bases. The conferees also direct the Secretary of Defense to assess the feasibility of using Defense Access Road funding and other sources of funding to build alternate routes for military equipment traveling on public roads to missile launch facilities, taking into consideration the proximity of local populations, security risks, safety, and weather, and to provide a report to the Committees within one year of enactment of this Act.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$2,025,444,000 for Military Construction, Defense-Wide. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$180,775,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services. Within this amount, an additional \$15,000,000 is provided for Missile Defense Agency planning and design. The additional funding is to expedite the construction and deployment of urgently needed missile defense assets in various locations within the continental United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Pentagon Metro entrance facility.—The conference agreement includes funding for the Pentagon Metro entrance facility project as requested in the budget submission. The conferees remain concerned that this facility needs to be constructed in a manner that will further enhance the physical access and perimeter defense of the building in accordance with the Integrated Pentagon Security Master Plan and the Pentagon Century Review. Given that the design is only at 10 percent at this point, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to report to the congressional defense committees quarterly on the progress of the planning and design and any major construction changes to the current project's 1391.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

The conference agreement provides \$232,930,000 for Military Construction, Army National Guard. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$8,729,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

The conference agreement provides \$143,957,000 for Military Construction, Air National Guard. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$10,462,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

The conference agreement provides \$68,230,000 for Military Construction, Army

Reserve. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$7,500,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

The conference agreement provides \$38,597,000 for Military Construction, Navy Reserve. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$3,783,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

The conference agreement provides \$188,950,000 for Military Construction, Air Force Reserve. Within this amount, the conference agreement provides \$4,500,000 for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The conference agreement provides \$177,932,000 for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$240,237,000 for the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, which is \$35,000,000 above the request. The additional funding is for the Army and the Navy to accelerate environmental remediation at installations closed under previous Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) rounds.

Accelerated cleanup.—The conferees recognize that many factors hinder the cleanup of BRAC sites. However, the conferees believe that strategic investments can lead to quicker clean-ups and faster turnover of DOD property to the local community. Therefore, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the congressional defense committees a spend plan for the additional BRAC funds not later than 15 days after enactment of this Act.

Family Housing Overview

Homeowners Assistance Program—Delayed Expression or Delayed Identification of Injured Beneficiaries.—As the Executive Agent for the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) across the Department of Defense, the Army mistakenly administered approximately 76 applicants whose injuries were incurred during a military deployment, while they owned a home, and experienced delayed expression or delayed identification of the injury. The applicants were paid in good faith and in accordance with guidance from Congress and the Department of Defense to err in favor of wounded, ill, and injured HAP applicants. If these beneficiaries had suffered from an obvious physical injury—which the HAP statute envisioned—their injury would have been clearly documented at the time they owned their home, and they would have qualified for HAP benefits. Therefore, no funds from this Act shall be used to collect overpayments for any wounded, ill, or injured HAP beneficiary with delayed expression or delayed identification, or send notice letters, while the Department further develops permanent legislative solutions with Congress.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conference agreement provides \$157,172,000 for Family Housing Construction, Army.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

The conference agreement provides \$325,995,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement provides \$94,011,000 for Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement provides \$300,915,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement provides \$61,352,000 for Family Housing Construction, Air Force.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement provides \$274,429,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement provides \$59,157,000 for Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING
IMPROVEMENT FUND

The conference agreement provides \$3,258,000 for the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF
FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes section 101 limiting the use of funds under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract.

The conference agreement includes section 102 allowing the use of construction funds in this title for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

The conference agreement includes section 103 allowing the use of construction funds in this title for advances to the Federal Highway Administration for the construction of access roads.

The conference agreement includes section 104 prohibiting construction of new bases in the United States without a specific appropriation.

The conference agreement includes section 105 limiting the use of funds for the purchase of land or land easements that exceed 100 percent of the value.

The conference agreement includes section 106 prohibiting the use of funds, except funds appropriated in this title for that purpose, for family housing.

The conference agreement includes section 107 limiting the use of minor construction funds to transfer or relocate activities.

The conference agreement includes section 108 prohibiting the procurement of steel unless American producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been allowed to compete.

The conference agreement includes section 109 prohibiting the use of construction or family housing funds to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

The conference agreement includes section 110 prohibiting the use of funds to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification.

The conference agreement includes section 111 establishing a preference for American architectural and engineering services for overseas projects.

The conference agreement includes section 112 establishing a preference for American contractors in United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll and in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf.

The conference agreement includes section 113 requiring congressional notification of military exercises when construction costs exceed \$100,000.

The conference agreement includes section 114 allowing funds appropriated in prior years for new projects authorized during the current session of Congress.

The conference agreement includes section 115 allowing the use of expired or lapsed funds to pay the cost of supervision for any project being completed with lapsed funds.

The conference agreement includes section 116 allowing military construction funds to be available for five years.

The conference agreement includes section 117 allowing the transfer of funds from Family Housing Construction accounts to the Family Housing Improvement Program.

The conference agreement includes section 118 allowing transfers to the Homeowners Assistance Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 119 limiting the source of operation and maintenance funds for flag and general officer quarters and allowing for notification by electronic medium.

The conference agreement includes section 120 extending the availability of funds in the Ford Island Improvement Account.

The conference agreement includes section 121 allowing the transfer of expired funds to the Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense account.

The conference agreement includes section 122 restricting the obligation of funds for relocating an Army unit that performs a testing mission.

The conference agreement includes section 123 allowing for the reprogramming of construction funds among projects and activities subject to certain criteria.

The conference agreement includes section 124 prohibiting the obligation or expenditure of funds provided to the Department of Defense for military construction for projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

The conference agreement includes section 125 providing additional funds for various Military Construction accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 126 providing additional funds for Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.

The conference agreement includes section 127 rescinding funds from prior Appropriations Acts from various accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 128 rescinding unobligated balances from the fund established by Sec. 1013(d) of 42 U.S.C. 3374.

The conference agreement includes section 129 defining the congressional defense committees.

The conference agreement includes section 130 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act to close or realign Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The provision is intended to prevent the closure or realignment of the installation out of the possession of the United States, and maintain the Naval Station's long-standing regional security and migrant operations missions.

The conference agreement includes section 131 restricting funds in this Act to be used to consolidate or relocate any element of Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer until certain conditions are met.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
<hr/>				
ALASKA				
ARMY				
FORT WAINWRIGHT				
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000
AIR FORCE				
CLEAR AFS				
FIRE STATION.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
EIELSON AFB				
F-35A ADAL FIELD TRAINING DETACHMENT FAC.....	22,100	22,100	22,100	22,100
F-35A AIRCRAFT WEATHER SHELTER (SQD 2).....	82,300	---	82,300	82,300
F-35A AIRCRAFT WEATHER SHELTERS (SQD 1).....	79,500	79,500	79,500	79,500
F-35A EARTH COVERED MAGAZINES.....	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300
F-35A HANGAR/PROPULSION MX/DISPATCH.....	44,900	44,900	44,900	44,900
F-35A HANGAR/SQUAD OPS/AMU SQ #2.....	42,700	42,700	42,700	42,700
F-35A MISSILE MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	12,800	12,800	12,800	12,800
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON				
ADD/ALTER AWACS ALERT HANGAR.....	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CLEAR AFS				
LONG RANGE DISCRIM RADAR SYS COMPLEX PH1.....	155,000	155,000	155,000	155,000
FORT GREELY				
MISSILE DEFENSE COMPLEX SWITCHGEAR FACILITY.....	9,560	9,560	9,560	9,560
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON				
CONSTRUCT TRUCK OFFLOAD FACILITY.....	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900
ARIZONA				
NAVY				
YUMA				
VMX-22 MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	48,355	48,355	48,355	48,355
AIR FORCE				
LUKE AFB				
F-35A SQUAD OPS/AIRCRAFT MAINT UNIT #5.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
FORT HUACHUCA				
JITC BUILDING 52110 RENOVATION.....	4,493	4,493	4,493	4,493
CALIFORNIA				
ARMY				
CONCORD				
ACCESS CONTROL POINT.....	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600
NAVY				
CORONADO				
COASTAL CAMPUS ENTRY CONTROL POINT.....	13,044	13,044	13,044	13,044
COASTAL CAMPUS UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE.....	81,104	81,104	81,104	81,104
GRACE HOPPER DATA CENTER POWER UPGRADES.....	10,353	10,353	10,353	10,353
LEMOORE				
F-35C ENGINE REPAIR FACILITY.....	26,723	26,723	26,723	26,723
SAN DIEGO				
ENERGY SECURITY HOSPITAL MICROGRID.....	6,183	---	6,183	---
SEAL BEACH				
MISSILE MAGAZINES.....	21,007	21,007	21,007	21,007
AIR FORCE				
EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE				
FLIGHTLINE FIRE STATION.....	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CORONADO				
SOF HUMAN PERFORMANCE TRAINING CENTER.....	15,578	15,578	15,578	15,578
SOF SEAL TEAM OPS FACILITY.....	47,290	47,290	47,290	47,290
SOF SEAL TEAM OPS FACILITY.....	47,290	47,290	47,290	47,290
SOF SPECIAL RECON TEAM ONE OPERATIONS FAC.....	20,949	20,949	20,949	20,949
SOF TRAINING DETACHMENT ONE OPS FACILITY.....	44,305	44,305	44,305	44,305
TRAVIS AFB				
REPLACE HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	26,500	26,500	26,500	26,500

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

ARMY RESERVE				
FORT HUNTER LIGGETT				
EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER.....	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500
CAMP PARKS				
TRANSIENT TRAINING BARRACKS.....	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
COLORADO				
ARMY				
FORT CARSON				
AUTOMATED INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE.....	8,100	8,100	8,100	8,100
UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
AIR FORCE				
BUCKLEY AIR FORCE BASE				
SMALL ARMS RANGE COMPLEX.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
CONNECTICUT				
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
BRADLEY IAP				
CONSTRUCT SMALL AIR TERMINAL.....	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300
DELAWARE				
AIR FORCE				
DOVER AFB				
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	39,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
DOVER AFB				
WELCH ES/DOVER MS REPLACEMENT.....	44,115	44,115	44,115	44,115
FLORIDA				
NAVY				
EGLIN AFB				
WMD FIELD TRAINING FACILITIES.....	20,489	20,489	20,489	20,489
AIR FORCE				
EGLIN AFB				
ADVANCED MUNITIONS TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX.....	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
FLIGHTLINE FIRE STATION.....	13,600	13,600	13,600	13,600
PATRICK AFB				
FIRE/CRASH RESCUE STATION.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
DEFENSE-WIDE				
PATRICK AFB				
REPLACE FUEL TANKS.....	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,100
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
JACKSONVILLE IAP				
REPLACE FIRE CRASH/RESCUE STATION.....	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
GEORGIA				
ARMY				
FORT GORDON				
CYBER PROTECTION TEAM OPS FACILITY.....	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
FORT STEWART				
AUTOMATED QUALIFICATION/TRAINING RANGE.....	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800
AIR FORCE				
MOODY AFB				
PERSONNEL RECOVERY 4-BAY HANGAR/HELO MX UNIT.....	30,900	30,900	30,900	30,900
DEFENSE-WIDE				
FORT BENNING				
SOF TACTICAL UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE HANGAR.....	4,820	4,820	4,820	4,820
FORT GORDON				
MEDICAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
HAWAII				
ARMY				
FORT SHAFTER				
COMMAND AND CONTROL FACILITY, INCR 2.....	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

NAVY				
BARKING SANDS				
UPGRADE POWER PLANT & ELECTRICAL DISTRIB SYS.....	43,384	43,384	43,384	43,384
KANEOME BAY				
REGIMENTAL CONSOLIDATED COMM/ELEC FACILITY.....	72,565	72,565	72,565	72,565
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
HILO				
COMBINED SUPPORT MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM				
F-22 COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY.....	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
IOWA				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
DAVENPORT				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	23,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
SIOUX GATEWAY AIRPORT				
CONSTRUCT CONSOLIDATED SUPPORT FUNCTIONS.....	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600
KANSAS				
AIR FORCE				
MCCONNELL AFB				
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER.....	11,200	11,200	11,200	11,200
KC-46A ADAL TAXIWAY DELTA.....	5,600	5,600	5,600	5,600
KC-46A ALTER FLIGHT SIMULATOR BLDGS.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
FORT LEAVENWORTH				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
LOUISIANA				
AIR FORCE				
BARKSDALE AFB				
CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATION FACILITY.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
NAVY RESERVE				
NEW ORLEANS				
JOINT RESERVE INTELLIGENCE CENTER.....	11,207	11,207	11,207	11,207
MAINE				
NAVY				
KITTERY				
UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING.....	17,773	17,773	17,773	17,773
UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR NUCLEAR PLATFORMS.....	30,119	30,119	30,119	30,119
DEFENSE-WIDE				
KITTERY				
MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	27,100	27,100	27,100	27,100
MARYLAND				
NAVY				
PATUXENT RIVER				
CBARS RDT&E HANGAR.....	40,576	40,576	40,576	40,576
AIR FORCE				
JOINT BASE ANDREWS				
21 POINTS ENCLOSED FIRING RANGE.....	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
PAR RELOCATE JADOC SATELLITE SITE.....	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
DEFENSE-WIDE				
BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL				
MEDCEN ADDITION/ALTERATION INCR 1.....	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
FORT MEADE				
ACCESS CONTROL FACILITY.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
NSAW CAMPUS FEEDERS PHASE 3.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
NSAW RECAPITALIZE BUILDING #2 INCR 2.....	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)				
	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
MASSACHUSETTS				
AIR FORCE				
HANSCOM AFB				
SYSTEM MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING FACILITY.....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
MINNESOTA				
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
DULUTH IAP				
LOAD CREW TRAINING/WEAPON SHOPS.....	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600
MISSOURI				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
ST LOUIS				
LAND ACQUISITION-NEXT NGA WEST (N2W) CAMPUS.....	801	801	801	801
MONTANA				
AIR FORCE				
MALMSTROM AFB				
MISSILE MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	14,600	14,600	14,600	14,600
NEVADA				
NAVY				
FALLON				
AIR WING SIMULATOR FACILITY.....	13,523	13,523	13,523	13,523
AIR FORCE				
NELLIS AFB				
F-35A POL FILL STAND ADDITION.....	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600
NEW HAMPSHIRE				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
HOOKSETT				
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
ROCHESTER				
NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP.....	8,900	8,900	8,900	8,900
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADE PORT				
KC-46A INSTALL FUSELAGE TRAINER BLDG 251.....	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
NEW MEXICO				
AIR FORCE				
CANNON AFB				
NORTH FITNESS CENTER.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
HOLLOMAN AFB				
HAZARDOUS CARGO PAD AND TAXIWAY.....	10,600	10,600	10,600	10,600
KIRTLAND AFB				
COMBAT RESCUE HELICOPTER (CRH) SIMULATOR.....	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,300
NEW YORK				
NAVY RESERVE				
BROOKLYN				
ELECTRIC FEEDER DUCTBANK.....	1,964	1,964	1,964	1,964
SYRACUSE				
MARINE CORPS RESERVE CENTER.....	13,229	13,229	13,229	13,229
NORTH CAROLINA				
NAVY				
CAMP LEJEUNE				
RANGE FACILITIES SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.....	18,482	18,482	18,482	18,482
CHERRY POINT MARINE CORPS AIR STATION				
CENTRAL HEATING PLANT CONVERSION.....	12,515	12,515	12,515	12,515
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CAMP LEJEUNE				
DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
FORT BRAGG				
SOF COMBAT MEDIC TRAINING FACILITY.....	10,905	10,905	10,905	10,905

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
SOF PARACHUTE RIGGING FACILITY.....	21,420	21,420	21,420	21,420
SOF SPECIAL TACTICS FACILITY (PH3).....	30,670	30,670	30,670	30,670
SOF TACTICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITY.....	23,598	23,598	23,598	23,598
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
CHARLOTTE/DOUGLAS IAP				
C-17 CORROSION CONTROL/FUEL CELL HANGAR.....	29,600	29,600	29,600	29,600
C-17 TYPE III HYDRANT REFUELING SYSTEM.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
AIR FORCE RESERVE				
SEYMOUR JOHNSON AFB				
KC-46A ADAL BLDG FOR AGE/FUSELAGE TRAINING.....	5,700	5,700	5,700	5,700
KC-46A ADAL SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITIES.....	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,250
KC-46A TWO BAY CORROSION/FUEL CELL HANGAR.....	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
OHIO				
AIR FORCE				
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB				
RELOCATED ENTRY CONTROL FACILITY 26A.....	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600
OKLAHOMA				
AIR FORCE				
ALTUS AFB				
KC-46A FTU/FTC SIMULATOR FACILITY PH 2.....	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600
TINKER AFB				
KC-46A DEPOT SYSTEM INTEGRATION LABORATORY.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
ARDMORE				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
PENNSYLVANIA				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
YORK				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	9,300	9,300	9,300	9,300
AIR FORCE RESERVE				
PITTSBURGH IAP				
C-17 ADAL FUEL HYDRANT SYSTEM.....	22,800	22,800	22,800	22,800
C-17 CONST/OVERLAY TAXIWAY AND APRON.....	8,200	8,200	8,200	8,200
C-17 CONSTRUCT TWO BAY CORROSION/FUEL HANGAR.....	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
RHODE ISLAND				
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
EAST GREENWICH				
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING (JFHQ).....	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
SOUTH CAROLINA				
NAVY				
BEAUFORT				
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	83,490	83,490	83,490	83,490
PARRIS ISLAND				
RECRUIT RECONDITIONING CENTER & BARRACKS.....	29,882	29,882	29,882	29,882
DEFENSE-WIDE				
JOINT BASE CHARLESTON				
CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
MCENTIRE ANG				
REPLACE OPERATIONS AND TRAINING FACILITY.....	8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
TEXAS				
ARMY				
FORT HOOD				
AUTOMATED INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE.....	7,600	7,600	7,600	7,600
AIR FORCE				
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO				
BMT RECRUIT DORMITORY 6.....	67,300	67,300	67,300	67,300

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

DEFENSE-WIDE				
RED RIVER ARMY DEPOT				
CONSTRUCT WAREHOUSE & OPEN STORAGE.....	44,700	44,700	44,700	44,700
SHEPPARD AFB				
MEDICAL/DENTAL CLINIC REPLACEMENT.....	91,910	91,910	91,910	91,910
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
ELLINGTON FIELD				
CONSOLIDATE CREW READINESS FACILITY.....	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
NAVY RESERVE				
GALVESTON				
RESERVE CENTER ANNEX.....	8,414	8,414	8,414	8,414
UTAH				
ARMY				
CAMP WILLIAMS				
LIVE FIRE EXERCISE SHOOTHOUSE.....	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,400
AIR FORCE				
HILL AFB				
649 MUNS MUNITIONS STORAGE MAGAZINES.....	6,600	6,600	6,600	6,600
649 MUNS PRECISION GUIDED MISSILE MX FACILITY.....	8,700	8,700	8,700	8,700
649 MUNS STAMP/MAINT & INSPECTION FACILITY.....	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
COMPOSITE AIRCRAFT ANTENNA CALIBRATION FAC.....	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100
F-35A MUNITIONS MAINTENANCE COMPLEX.....	10,100	10,100	10,100	10,100
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
CAMP WILLIAMS				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	37,000	37,000	37,000	37,000
VERMONT				
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
BURLINGTON IAP				
F-35 BEDDOWN 4- BAY FLIGHT SIMULATOR.....	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
VIRGINIA				
ARMY				
FORT BELVOIR				
SECURE ADMIN/OPERATIONS FACILITY, INCR 2.....	64,000	64,000	64,000	64,000
AIR FORCE				
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS				
AIR FORCE TARGETING CENTER.....	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
FUEL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE DOCK.....	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200
DEFENSE-WIDE				
PENTAGON				
PENTAGON METRO ENTRANCE FACILITY.....	12,111	12,111	---	12,111
UPGRADE IT FACILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE-RRMC.....	8,105	8,105	8,105	8,105
ARMY RESERVE				
DUBLIN				
ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE SHOP/AMSA.....	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
WASHINGTON				
NAVY				
BANGOR				
SERVICE PIER ELECTRICAL UPGRADES.....	18,939	18,939	18,939	18,939
SUBMARINE REFIT MAINT SUPPORT FACILITY.....	21,476	21,476	21,476	21,476
BREMERTON				
NUCLEAR REPAIR FACILITY.....	6,704	6,704	6,704	6,704
WHIDBEY ISLAND				
EA-18G MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	45,501	45,501	45,501	45,501
TRITON MISSION CONTROL FACILITY.....	30,475	30,475	30,475	30,475
AIR FORCE				
FAIRCHILD AFB				
PIPELINE DORM, USAF SERE SCHOOL (150 RM).....	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

WISCONSIN				
ARMY RESERVE				
FORT MCCOY				
AT/MOB DINING FACILITY.....	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400
WYOMING				
AIR FORCE				
F. E. WARREN AFB				
MISSILE TRANSFER FACILITY BLDG 4331.....	5,550	5,550	5,550	5,550
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
LARAMIE				
NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER.....	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
AUSTRALIA				
AIR FORCE				
DARWIN				
APR - AIRCRAFT MX SUPPORT FACILITY.....	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
APR - EXPAND PARKING APRON.....	28,600	28,600	28,600	28,600
BULGARIA				
AIR FORCE				
GRAF IGNATIEVO				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS/OPERATION ALERT FACILITY.....	---	---	3,800	---
FIGHTER RAMP EXTENSION.....	---	---	7,000	---
UPGRADE MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	---	---	2,600	---
CUBA				
ARMY				
GUANTANAMO BAY				
MIGRATION COMPLEX IMPROVEMENTS.....	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
DIEGO GARCIA				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
DIEGO GARCIA				
IMPROVE WHARF REFUELING CAPABILITY.....	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
DJIBOUTI				
NAVY				
CAMP LEMONNIER				
MEDICAL/DENTAL FACILITY.....	---	---	37,409	---
AIR FORCE				
CHABELLEY AIRFIELD				
ACCESS ROAD.....	---	---	3,600	---
PARKING APRON AND TAXIWAY.....	---	---	6,900	---
ESTONIA				
AIR FORCE				
AMARI AB				
BULK FUEL STORAGE.....	---	---	6,500	---
GERMANY				
ARMY				
EAST CAMP GRAFENWOEHR				
TRAINING SUPPORT CENTER.....	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
GARMISCH				
DINING FACILITY.....	9,600	9,600	9,600	9,600
WIESBADEN ARMY AIRFIELD				
CONTROLLED HUMIDITY WAREHOUSE.....	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE BUILDING.....	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
AIR FORCE				
RAMSTEIN AB				
37 AS SQUADRON OPERATIONS/AIRCRAFT MAINT UNIT.....	13,437	13,437	13,437	13,437
SPANGDAHLEM AB				
EIC - SITE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE.....	43,465	43,465	43,465	43,465

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

HIGH CAPACITY TRIM PAD AND HUSH HOUSE.....	---	---	1,000	---
F/A-22 LOW OBSERVABLE/COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY...	---	---	12,000	---
F/A-22 UPGRADE				
INFRASTRUCTURE/COMMUNICATIONS/UTILITIES.....	---	---	1,600	---
UPGRADE HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR F/A-22.....	---	---	2,700	---
UPGRADE MUNITION STORAGE DOORS.....	---	---	1,400	---
DEFENSE-WIDE				
KAISERLAUTERN AB				
SEMBACH ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	45,221	45,221	45,221	45,221
RHINE ORDNANCE BARRACKS				
MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT INCR 6.....	58,063	58,063	58,063	58,063
GUAM				
NAVY				
JOINT REGION MARIANAS				
HARDENING OF GUAM POL INFRASTRUCTURE.....	26,975	26,975	26,975	26,975
POWER UPGRADE - HARMON.....	62,210	62,210	62,210	62,210
AIR FORCE				
JOINT REGION MARIANAS				
APR - MUNITIONS STORAGE IGLOOS, PH 2.....	35,300	35,300	35,300	35,300
APR - SATCOM C4I FACILITY.....	14,200	14,200	14,200	14,200
BLOCK 40 MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	31,158	31,158	31,158	31,158
ICELAND				
NAVY				
KEFLAVIK				
P-8A AIRCRAFT RINSE FACILITY.....	---	---	5,000	---
P-8A HANGAR UPGRADE.....	---	---	14,600	---
JAPAN				
NAVY				
KADENA AB				
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE COMPLEX.....	26,489	26,489	26,489	26,489
SASEBO				
SHORE POWER (JULIET PIER).....	16,420	16,420	16,420	16,420
AIR FORCE				
KADENA AB				
APR - REPLACE MUNITIONS STRUCTURES.....	19,815	19,815	19,815	19,815
YOKOTA AB				
C-130J CORROSION CONTROL HANGAR.....	23,777	23,777	23,777	23,777
CONSTRUCT COMBAT ARMS TRAINING & MAINT FAC.....	8,243	8,243	8,243	8,243
DEFENSE-WIDE				
IWAKUNI				
CONSTRUCT TRUCK OFFLOAD & LOADING FACILITIES.....	6,664	6,664	6,664	6,664
KADENA AB				
KADENA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	84,918	84,918	84,918	84,918
MEDICAL MATERIEL WAREHOUSE.....	20,881	20,881	20,881	20,881
SOF MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	42,823	42,823	42,823	42,823
SOF SIMULATOR FACILITY (MC-130).....	12,602	12,602	12,602	12,602
YOKOTA AB				
AIRFIELD APRON.....	41,294	41,294	41,294	41,294
HANGAR/AMU.....	39,466	39,466	39,466	39,466
OPERATIONS AND WAREHOUSE FACILITIES.....	26,710	26,710	26,710	26,710
SIMULATOR FACILITY.....	6,261	6,261	6,261	6,261
KWAJALEIN				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
KWAJALEIN ATOLL				
REPLACE FUEL STORAGE TANKS.....	85,500	85,500	85,500	85,500
LITHUANIA				
AIR FORCE				
SIAULIAI				
MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	---	---	3,000	---

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

MARIANA ISLANDS				
AIR FORCE				
UNSPECIFIED LOCATION				
APR - LAND ACQUISITION.....	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
POLAND				
AIR FORCE				
LASK AIR BASE				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	---	---	4,100	---
POWIDZ				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	---	---	4,100	---
ROMANIA				
AIR FORCE				
CAMP TURZII				
MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA.....	---	---	3,000	---
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	---	---	3,400	---
TWO-BAY HANGAR.....	---	---	6,100	---
EXTEND PARKING APRONS.....	---	---	6,000	---
SPAIN				
NAVY				
ROTA				
COMMUNICATION STATION.....	23,607	23,607	23,607	23,607
TURKEY				
AIR FORCE				
INCIRLIK AB				
AIRFIELD FIRE/CRASH RESCUE STATION.....	13,449	13,449	13,449	13,449
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES				
AIR FORCE				
AL DHAFRA				
LARGE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR.....	35,400	35,400	35,400	35,400
UNITED KINGDOM				
AIR FORCE				
CROUGHTON RAF				
JIAC CONSOLIDATION - PH 3.....	53,082	53,082	53,082	53,082
MAIN GATE COMPLEX.....	16,500	16,500	16,500	16,500
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CROUGHTON RAF				
CROUGHTON ELEM/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL REPLACEMENT.....	71,424	71,424	71,424	71,424
ROYAL AIR FORCE LAKENHEATH				
CONSTRUCT HYDRANT FUEL SYSTEM.....	13,500	13,500	13,500	13,500
WAKE ISLAND				
DEFENSE-WIDE				
WAKE ISLAND				
TEST SUPPORT FACILITY.....	11,670	11,670	11,670	11,670
VARIOUS WORLDWIDE LOCATIONS				
NAVY				
TRITON FORWARD OPERATING BASE HANGAR.....	41,380	41,380	41,380	41,380
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM.....	177,932	177,932	177,932	177,932
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
ARMY				
HOST NATION SUPPORT.....	18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	25,000	25,000	35,000	35,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	80,159	80,159	99,059	80,159

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

NAVY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	88,230	88,230	91,030	88,230
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	29,790	29,790	29,790	29,790
AIR FORCE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	84,862	84,862	94,802	84,862
PLANNING AND DESIGN - ANDREWS AFB.....	18,720	18,720	18,720	18,720
PLANNING AND DESIGN - HANSCOM AFB.....	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	30,000	30,000	40,000	40,000
DEFENSE-WIDE				
CONTINGENCY CONSTRUCTION.....	10,000	---	---	---
ENERGY CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM.....	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
PLANNING AND DESIGN				
DEFENSE WIDE.....	23,450	22,649	23,450	23,450
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION.....	23,585	23,585	23,585	23,585
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY.....	27,660	27,660	27,660	27,660
MDA.....	---	15,000	---	15,000
NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.....	71,647	36,000	71,647	36,000
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.....	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.....	27,653	27,653	27,653	27,653
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS SERVICE.....	3,427	3,427	3,427	3,427
SUBTOTAL, PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	776,183	744,735	817,823	765,536
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION				
DEFENSE-WIDE.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENT EDUCATION.....	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY.....	8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.....	8,631	8,631	13,631	8,631
MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY.....	2,414	2,414	2,414	2,414
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY.....	3,913	3,913	3,913	3,913
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND.....	5,994	5,994	5,994	5,994
SUBTOTAL, UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	35,452	35,452	40,452	35,452
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	8,729	8,729	8,729	8,729
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	12,001	12,001	12,001	12,001
AIR NATIONAL GUARD				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	10,462	10,462	10,462	10,462
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	17,495	17,495	17,495	17,495
ARMY RESERVE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	2,830	2,830	2,830	2,830
NAVY RESERVE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	3,783	3,783	3,783	3,783
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	---	---	---	---
AIR FORCE RESERVE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
MINOR CONSTRUCTION.....	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
FAMILY HOUSING, ARMY				
KOREA				
CAMP WALKER (DAEGU)				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (90 UNITS).....	54,554	54,554	54,554	54,554
CAMP HUMPHRIES				
FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION (216 UNITS).....	143,563	143,563	143,563	100,000

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	2,618	2,618	2,618	2,618
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	200,735	200,735	200,735	157,172
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	55,428	55,428	55,428	55,428
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	7,993	7,993	7,993	7,993
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	40,344	40,344	40,344	40,344
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	400	400	400	400
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	10,178	10,178	10,178	10,178
LEASING.....	131,761	131,761	131,761	131,761
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	60,745	60,745	60,745	60,745
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	19,146	19,146	19,146	19,146
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	325,995	325,995	325,995	325,995
FAMILY HOUSING, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS				
GUAM				
NSA ANDERSON				
REPLACEMENT HOUSING PHASE I.....	78,815	78,815	78,815	78,815
JAPAN				
IWAKUNI				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (36 UNITS).....	11,047	11,047	11,047	11,047
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	4,149	4,149	4,149	4,149
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	94,011	94,011	94,011	94,011
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	56,685	56,685	56,685	56,685
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	12,855	12,855	12,855	12,855
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	51,291	51,291	51,291	51,291
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	364	364	364	364
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	17,457	17,457	17,457	17,457
LEASING.....	54,689	54,689	54,689	54,689
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	81,254	81,254	81,254	81,254
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	26,320	26,320	26,320	26,320
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	300,915	300,915	300,915	300,915
FAMILY HOUSING, AIR FORCE				
JAPAN				
KADENA (CAMP FOSTER)				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (NORTH TOWERS).....	52,307	52,307	52,307	52,307
KADENA				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (KADENA HEIGHTS).....	4,179	4,179	4,179	4,179
SPAIN				
MORON AB				
CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS (UNITS 650 AND 658).....	498	498	498	498
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	4,368	4,368	4,368	4,368
SUBTOTAL, CONSTRUCTION.....	61,352	61,352	61,352	61,352
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
UTILITIES ACCOUNT.....	37,241	37,241	37,241	37,241
MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.....	42,919	42,919	42,919	42,919
SERVICES ACCOUNT.....	13,026	13,026	13,026	13,026
FURNISHINGS ACCOUNT.....	31,690	31,690	31,690	31,690
MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNT.....	1,745	1,745	1,745	1,745

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
LEASING.....	20,530	20,530	20,530	20,530
MAINTENANCE.....	85,469	85,469	85,469	85,469
PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT COSTS.....	41,809	41,809	41,809	41,809
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	274,429	274,429	274,429	274,429
FAMILY HOUSING, DEFENSE-WIDE				
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY				
UTILITIES.....	367	367	367	367
FURNISHING.....	399	399	399	399
LEASING.....	11,044	11,044	11,044	11,044
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	800	800	800	800
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY				
UTILITIES.....	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100
FURNISHINGS.....	500	500	500	500
LEASING.....	40,984	40,984	40,984	40,984
DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY				
UTILITIES.....	174	174	174	174
FURNISHINGS.....	20	20	20	20
SERVICES.....	32	32	32	32
MANAGEMENT.....	388	388	388	388
MAINTENANCE OF REAL PROPERTY.....	349	349	349	349
SUBTOTAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.....	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157
DOD FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND.....	3,258	3,258	3,258	3,258
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT.....	205,237	230,237	205,237	240,237
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY (SEC. 125).....	---	40,500	40,500	40,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (SEC. 125).....	---	293,600	143,000	227,099
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE (SEC. 125).....	---	26,000	195,465	149,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (SEC. 125).....	---	67,500	16,500	67,500
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE (SEC. 125).....	---	86,500	30,000	30,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (S. SEC. 125).....	---	---	64,364	---
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD (SEC. 125).....	---	---	11,000	11,000
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (SEC. 126).....	---	---	---	89,400
FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY (S. SEC. 125).....	---	---	14,400	---
RESCISSIONS FROM PRIOR YEAR UNOBLIGATED BALANCES				
ARMY (SEC. 127).....	---	-25,000	-30,000	-29,602
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS (H. SEC. 126).....	---	-51,848	---	---
AIR FORCE (SEC. 127).....	---	---	-22,340	-51,460
DEFENSE-WIDE (SEC. 127).....	---	-37,377	-132,283	-141,600
DEFENSE-WIDE - PLANNING AND DESIGN (SEC. 127).....	---	---	---	-30,000
AIR NATIONAL GUARD.....	---	---	---	---
42 USC 3374 (SEC. 128).....	---	-25,000	---	-25,000
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (SEC. 127).....	---	-30,000	-15,000	-30,000

TITLE II—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION—
COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$90,119,449,000 for Compensation and Pensions in advance for fiscal year 2018. Of the amount provided, not more than \$17,224,000 is to be transferred to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) and Information Technology Systems for reimbursement of necessary expenses in implementing provisions of title 38.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

The conference agreement provides \$13,708,648,000 for Readjustment Benefits in advance for fiscal year 2018.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

The conference agreement provides \$107,899,000 for Veterans Insurance and Indemnities in advance for fiscal year 2018, as well as an additional \$16,605,000 for fiscal year 2017.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

The conference agreement provides such sums as may be necessary for costs associated with direct and guaranteed loans for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund. The agreement limits obligations for direct loans to not more than \$500,000 and provides that \$198,856,000 shall be available for administrative expenses.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM
ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$36,000 for the cost of direct loans from the Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program Account, plus \$389,000 to be paid to the appropriation for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration. The agreement provides for a direct loan limitation of \$2,517,000.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN
PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The conference agreement provides \$1,163,000 for administrative expenses of the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Program Account.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS
BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement provides \$2,856,160,000 for General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration and makes available not to exceed 5 percent of this funding until the end of fiscal year 2018. The full request for the Veterans Benefits Management System is provided in the agreement, which includes \$37,356,000 from this account and \$143,000,000 from the Information Technology Systems account. The agreement also includes the full budget request of \$26,695,000 for the centralized mail initiative and \$152,924,000 for the Veterans Claim Intake Program (VCIP), which is \$10,000,000 above the request.

The placement of the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account in the bill has been moved from Departmental Administration to Veterans Benefits Administration to align the administrative expenses of VBA with its program activities.

Disability claims backlog.—The conferees commend the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on its efforts to reduce the disability claims backlog and increase the accuracy of claims decisions, and is committed to ensuring that VA maintains its goal of processing all claims within 125 days with 98 percent accuracy. The Committees are also

committed to ensuring there is not a recurrence of any sizeable backlog or a reduction in accuracy and will continue to assert their oversight by monitoring on a monthly and quarterly basis each regional office's timeliness and accuracy performance measures.

The conference agreement includes section 228 which requires VBA to submit a quarterly report with the following data from each VBA regional office: (1) the average time to complete a disability compensation claim; (2) the number of claims pending more than 125 days, disaggregated by initial and supplemental claims; (3) error rates; (4) the number of claims personnel; (5) any corrective action taken within the quarter to address poor performance; (6) training programs undertaken; (7) the number and results of Quality Review Team audits; (8) the number of claims completed by each regional office based on the regional office being the station of jurisdiction; and (9) the number of claims completed by each regional office based on the regional office being the station of origin.

Regional office performance.—The conferees have been disturbed by repeated reports of manipulation of records and benefit data at several VBA regional offices, as well as irregular personnel practices that have jeopardized sound management of the regional offices. The conferees urge VA to monitor regional office performance to make certain that personnel and claims management activities remain fully transparent and comply with overall VA regulations and handbooks.

Equitable relief.—The conferees urge the Secretary to continue to grant or extend equitable relief to eligible veterans initially deemed eligible in instances of administrative error.

Service satisfaction rates among women veterans.—The conferees direct VA to provide to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 an analysis of trends and satisfaction rates among women veterans participating in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program to ensure these services are adapting to the changing demographics of veterans and the needs of women veterans with disabilities.

Disability benefits questionnaires.—The conferees expect VA to meet with Members of Congress to explain their plans to develop additional disability benefits questionnaires (DBQs) for chronic multi-system illnesses experienced by veterans for which DBQs do not exist. Moreover, the conferees urge the Department to make permanent the period for filing Gulf War presumptive claims under 38 CFR 3.317.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL
SERVICES

The conference agreement provides \$44,886,554,000 in advance for fiscal year 2018 for Medical Services and makes \$1,400,000,000 of the advance available through fiscal year 2019. The agreement also provides \$1,078,993,000 for fiscal year 2017 in addition to the advance appropriation provided last year. The fiscal year 2018 advance funding for medical services is \$6,786,446,000 lower than the fiscal year 2017 advance because of Department projections that increased amounts of medical care will be provided through the Medical Community Care account.

Given that there may be significant unfunded liabilities created by the winding down of the Choice Act, the conference agreement includes bill language in section 232 permitting the transfer of funding from multiple VA appropriations accounts to Medical Services to address unfunded needs.

The conference agreement includes bill language requiring the Secretary to ensure that sufficient amounts are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans and to provide access to therapeutic listening devices to veterans with mental health or substance abuse problems or traumatic brain injury.

Curing Hepatitis C within the veteran population.—The Department is to be commended for robustly treating veterans with Hepatitis C (HCV), which is a particular concern because the veteran population is twice as likely to have the virus as the general population. Available HCV drugs have a cure rate of 96 percent, and early, preventative treatments avoid tens of thousands of dollars in future healthcare spending. To that end, the agreement includes funding for the treatment of Hepatitis C of \$1,500,000,000 in fiscal year 2017, which is \$840,000,000 above the President's request. The conferees understand that because of an uneven start to the Hepatitis C campaign due to funding interruptions, VA projects there will be a carry-over of fiscal year 2016 funding that will increase the resources available in fiscal year 2017. The conferees are pleased that recent price reductions in the new Hepatitis C drugs will allow VA to treat patients faster and reach their target goal of treating all veterans with Hepatitis C years earlier than projected.

The conferees encourage VA to work to remove any barriers to timely screening and treatment for veterans with Hepatitis C, including maximizing the use of rapid testing techniques. Rapid testing can be especially helpful in reaching veterans who are medically underserved or who live long distances from VA facilities.

To assist in congressional oversight, VA is directed to continue to report to the Committees in quarterly briefings the number of veterans treated to date, the number of veterans treated each week, the number of veterans pronounced cured to date, the projected number of new cases, and the estimate of veterans likely to be cured during the next quarter. VA is also directed to report quarterly to the Committees obligations for funding Hepatitis C treatments as part of the larger crosscutting VA quarterly financial report required in section 218.

Program priorities.—The conference agreement provides the following fiscal year 2017 funding for these high priority areas: \$243,483,000 for readjustment counseling at Vet Centers; \$535,400,000 for gender-specific healthcare, which is \$20,000,000 higher than the administration request; \$734,628,000 for the caregivers program, which is \$10,000,000 above the request; \$257,477,000 for the homeless grant and per diem program, which is \$10,000,000 above the request; and \$320,000,000 for the homeless supportive services for low income veterans and families, which is \$20,000,000 above the request.

Rural healthcare.—The conference agreement includes the full budget request of \$250,000,000 for the Office of Rural Health (ORH) and the Rural Health Initiative. In addition to any directives contained in the House and Senate reports, the conferees direct that ORH coordinate directly with the Readjustment Counseling Service to develop and implement a strategy to expand the capacity of Vet Centers in order to ensure that the readjustment and psychological counseling needs of veterans in rural and highly rural communities are met. The conferees also direct VA to identify ways to obtain more accurate data on homeless and at-risk veterans in rural areas, as instructed in the

Senate report. The conference agreement includes a one-year extension through fiscal year 2017 of the Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program, which provides care to veterans in areas without extensive access to VA health facilities. This extension is necessary to maintain veterans' access to healthcare during the transition as VA moves to consolidate its non-VA healthcare programs. The conferees encourage VA to expand its use of telehealth for rural areas since the technique has proven particularly helpful in mental health and primary care health delivery.

Mental health.—The conference agreement provides the full budget request for all VA mental health services and programs, with additional resources within Medical Services provided for the Veterans Crisis Line and the National Centers for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. The conference agreement includes \$40,000,000 for the National Centers and \$78,572,000 for the Veterans Crisis Line. Overall, the agreement includes \$173,005,000 for suicide prevention outreach. The conference agreement includes bill language in section 238 similar to that contained in the House bill that requires certain professional standards for the suicide hotline.

Opioid safety.—To respond to the urgency of the opioid overdose epidemic, the Department is directed to continue to comply with the guidance included in the fiscal year 2016 conference report under the paragraph "Opioid Safety." VA is also directed to make public the findings of the Office of Accountability Review investigation into accusations of widespread retaliation against whistleblowers at the Tomah VA Medical Center as well as the outside clinical review. The Department is encouraged to utilize the full spectrum of treatment options for dealing with opioid addiction and expand the use of medication-assisted treatment and other clinically appropriate services to achieve and maintain abstinence from all opioids. The conferees believe it is important for the Department to report necessary information to State-run prescription drug monitoring programs as this will ensure VA providers have the tools they need to better identify at-risk veterans.

The conferees are aware that only 14 States require their physicians to take pain management education credits. The conferees urge VA to ensure that healthcare providers learn the latest pain management techniques, understand safe prescribing practices, and be able to spot the signs of potential substance use disorders. The conferees believe that comprehensive training in the proper use of pain management medications is a vital step in combating the opioid problem.

Choice Program delays.—VA data indicate that the number of veterans waiting more than 30 days for an appointment is actually higher now than when the Veterans Choice Program was initiated. The conferees are concerned that this well-intentioned program was cobbled together quickly given the time constraints, which has contributed to delays. Further, an often-cited problem with the Choice Program is the lack of clear communications regarding the eligibility requirements of the program to both veterans and non-VA providers. The conferees believe that understanding the obstacles to efficient scheduling of appointments of veterans and swift reimbursement for providers would serve as crucial first steps in resolving some of these issues. The conferees urge VA and its third party providers to address the delays and the communication errors plaguing implementation of the Choice Program.

Nursing authority.—The conferees recognize that VA has recently published a proposed rule indicating that it is considering the issue of granting full practice authority to some or all of the four advanced practice nursing disciplines. The proposed rule indicates that decision will be reflected in the final rule, after consideration of all the public comments received. In addition, the Under Secretary for Health has testified that he plans to consider as an important variable whether there are significant shortages of the affiliated physician specialties throughout the VA system, which would validate the need for full practice authority for those advanced practice nurse specialties. The conferees urge VA to carefully and thoughtfully seek additional input from internal and external stakeholders prior to publishing the final rule. The conferees encourage VA to make all possible outreach efforts to communicate the changes contained in the proposed rule, gather public comments, and collaborate with Congress, affected stakeholders, VA physician and nursing staffs, and external organizations.

National Veteran Sports Programs.—The conference agreement includes \$9,005,000, which is the budget request for the Office of the National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events. The conferees concur with the movement of this office to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and the agreement includes necessary bill language in section 257 to permit VHA to carry out the Office's activities.

Patient consults.—The conferees direct VA to report not later than 30 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 on specific quality controls that have been implemented to ensure that patient consults are handled in a timely manner.

Collaboration with historically black health professions schools.—As described in the House and Senate reports, the conferees urge VA to increase its collaboration with the larger, urban hospitals with historically black health professions schools. The Secretary is directed, as in previous conference reports, to convene a symposium where minority collaboration concerns are discussed and addressed.

Leveraging private sector programs.—The conferees encourage VA to integrate into VA settings private sector programs that adapt information technologies and data interoperability capabilities to better coordinate healthcare services for veterans, as described in the House report.

Medical residency positions.—The conferees note that, to date, the Department has not submitted to the Committees a report that was directed in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-113 detailing current coordination with the Direct Graduate Medical Education Program, limitations that may restrict VA's program and ability to expand to underserved areas, and a plan to more effectively carry out VA's graduate medical education program within constraints that exist in the Direct Graduate Medical Education program. The conferees understand that the Department is reviewing comments provided by the Department of Health and Human Services' Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and direct VA to move as expeditiously as possible in its review and submit the report to the Committees. Further, the conferees direct that VA provide an update to the Committees not later than 15 days after enactment of this Act on the status of this report and a timeline for submission.

Rehabilitation equipment.—The conferees are aware that the Department currently

purchases or reimburses veterans for recumbent bicycles or hand cycles used for rehabilitative purposes only and does not cover the cost of upright bicycles. Given the many veterans in physical or mental rehabilitation programs who are able to use upright bicycles, the conferees urge the Department to make upright bicycles eligible for reimbursement to qualifying veterans. In addition, the conferees direct the Department to submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (hereafter "the Committees") a report not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 outlining the steps needed to be taken to make upright bicycles eligible for reimbursement.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

The conference agreement provides \$7,246,181,000 for Medical Community Care, the account created in the Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act to consolidate all the VA programs that provide care for veterans in the community from non-VA providers. Section 217 of the conference agreement rescinds an identical amount from the Medical Services account. The agreement also provides \$9,409,118,000 in advance fiscal year 2018 funding for this account. Of the fiscal year 2017 funding, \$2,000,000,000 is made available until the end of fiscal year 2020; of the fiscal year 2018 funding, \$1,500,000,000 is available until the end of fiscal year 2021.

Extended availability of funding.—The conferees are aware the Department books obligations for non-VA care upon a veteran receiving authorization to obtain medical care outside of the Veterans Health Administration and not upon that authorization actually being filled and the Department billed by the outside provider. Due to the timing of reconciliation between obligations, authorizations, and the number of those authorizations filled through private providers, this accounting procedure has led to the de-obligation of funds past the life of the budget authority, leading to the expiration of millions of dollars that could have been applied to veterans healthcare programs. Therefore, the conferees have provided flexibility to aid the Department in ensuring all appropriations within this account are able to be obligated before expiration. This extended availability within the new Medical Community Care account should allow VA time to correct this problem; however, the conferees also note this longer period of availability is a temporary solution and will not continue unaltered into the future. The Department is expected to work towards identifying changes in execution that will result in a permanent fix, including discussing with the Office of Management and Budget how best to define the point of obligation for these funds. The conferees expect the Department to keep the Committees apprised of its progress towards a permanent solution and request this issue be addressed within the fiscal year 2019 advance appropriations request for this account.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

The conference agreement provides \$6,654,480,000 in advance for fiscal year 2018 for Medical Support and Compliance and makes \$100,000,000 of the advance funding available through fiscal year 2019.

Filling senior position vacancies.—In order for VHA to improve access and increase efficiency within the system, it must fill the critical senior management and clinical vacancies. Therefore, the conferees direct that not less than \$21,000,000, as provided in the

budget request, be used to hire medical center directors and employees for other management and clinical positions within the Veterans Health Administration.

Requirements for the hiring of VA healthcare providers.—The conferees are deeply troubled by recent reports concerning practicing VA providers whose credentials have not been verified or have been misrepresented, and who have previously entered into settlements or completed disciplinary actions in other States where they may hold a medical license. To protect our Nation's veterans, the Department must do more to guarantee that VA providers are of the highest quality and are, at the very least, in good standing with each State medical board with which they hold licenses. The conferees believe VA should be in strict compliance with Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.19 and Directive 2012-030 which require the Department to obtain any and all information on medical license violations from each State medical board where a provider holds or has ever held a license and whether the provider has entered into any settlement agreements with a board for disciplinary charges relating to medical practice. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees not later than 90 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 providing an analysis and an assessment of VA field compliance with Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.19 and Directive 2012-030.

Transmission of VA healthcare providers' information to State medical boards.—Under current VA policy outlined in Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.18, in each instance in which a licensed healthcare professional whose behavior or clinical practice so substantially fails to meet generally-accepted standards of clinical practice as to raise reasonable concern for the safety of patients, the Department is required to provide a report to each State licensure board (SLB) where the professional holds a license.

The conferees are aware, however, that such reports sent to SLBs are typically limited to a generic description of the clinical shortcomings involved, and if the SLB wants more details of the situation it must respond to the report with a formal request for more information. The conferees note SLBs and the Federation of State Medical Boards find it extremely difficult to gain useful information even if they follow VA's exact procedures.

It is critical for VA to improve communication with SLBs and improve transparency surrounding medical practice violations. VA is urged to send promptly to each SLB where a provider holds a license and the SLB in the State where the provider practices, the full information concerning any violations during the provider's practice at VA.

While VA providers do not need to hold a license in the same State where the medical facility resides, the conferees believe such State's medical board should, nonetheless, have access to information about a clinical violation committed at a facility in their State to ensure the board can adequately fulfill its obligation to uphold safe medical practice. The Department is directed to submit a report to the Committees not later than 90 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 providing an assessment of VA field compliance with Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1100.18 and its ability to provide full reporting to SLBs in instances where licensed healthcare professionals' behavior or clinical practice so substantially failed to meet generally-accepted standards

of clinical practice that it needed to be reported in compliance with Handbook 1100.18.

Non-VA care provider reviews.—As the Department continues to increase the scope and size of its non-VA care programs, it is imperative that VA develop policies that ensure that a healthcare provider removed from employment with the Veterans Health Administration due to substandard care, professional misconduct, or violation of the requirements of his or her medical license does not subsequently reemerge as a contracted healthcare provider in the community care programs, including the Choice Program. Therefore, the conferees direct the Department to submit to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 the current VHA policy on entering into contractual agreements with private providers, either directly or through a third-party administrator, and the provisions of that policy which detail how VA ensures that no healthcare providers removed for misconduct subsequently become providers through the VA's community care programs. In addition, the Department is directed to include, with the policy, what enforcement mechanisms are currently in place as a safeguard and any legislative authorities needed to ensure that veterans receive the highest quality of care from healthcare providers on contract to VA.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

The conference agreement provides \$5,434,880,000 in advance for fiscal year 2018 for Medical Facilities, as well as \$247,668,000 in fiscal year 2017 funding, which is in addition to the advance funding provided last year. Of the advance funding, \$250,000,000 is made available through fiscal year 2019.

Medical facility inspections for food service and environmental quality.—The conferees are disturbed by reports of sanitation and insect infestation problems at food service areas and kitchens at VA healthcare facilities, despite existing internal requirements for periodic inspections. In addition, health-threatening mold has been found in some VA facilities, as documented by the VA Inspector General. The conference agreement includes bill language in sections 251 and 252 requiring VA to contract with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations to conduct annual inspections of healthcare facility food service areas, with remediation and re-inspection required. Section 252 includes the requirement for the Joint Commission to conduct similar periodic reviews to inspect mold issues in VA medical facilities.

Improved community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC) capabilities.—The conferees are concerned that VA needs to improve its planning and contracting practices to allow for future expansion needs of CBOCs. In the case of the recently approved Rochester, New York CBOC (Phase I), the conferees have been informed that options to expand for potential future growth could not be included in the original lease contract, warranting procurement of a second facility. The conferees urge the Department to consider economic benefits when considering locations. Furthermore, the Department is directed to provide a report to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal year 2017 addressing the rationale as to why such flexibility cannot be included in lease contracts and identify any barriers, including necessary statutory changes, to ensure such options for flexibility are included in future lease contracts.

Green energy management program.—Given congressional concern with some prior wind energy projects, the conferees believe that

the Committees need a clearer budget presentation of all green energy projects—wind, solar, geothermal, etc.—proposed to be funded in the fiscal year 2018 budget. Because green energy management funding was used to backfill shortfalls in the Denver hospital construction project, the Committees have difficulty discerning the strategic funding plans that remain for VA green energy management.

Budget presentation.—The conferees have found the current budget presentation for Medical Facilities distressingly difficult to interpret. The conferees direct VA in the fiscal year 2018 budget submission and in future years to include a list of the projects that are funded in the request, with the project's Strategic Capital Investment Priorities score identified. Recognizing that the list of funded projects may change during the course of the year, VA is directed to provide quarterly updates to the Committees that identify any changes to the list provided in the budget.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

The conference agreement provides \$675,366,000 for Medical and Prosthetic Research, available until September 30, 2018. Bill language is included to ensure that the Secretary allocates adequate funding for research on gender-appropriate prosthetics and toxic exposures.

Gulf War symptoms study.—The conferees are aware that on March 23, 2015, VA contracted with the Institute of Medicine to fulfill the mandated Gulf War and post-9/11 veterans report as required by Public Law 110-389 and that VA is now in receipt of the report. The conferees direct the Department to review the report in an expeditious manner and transmit it to the appropriate congressional committees of jurisdiction not later than 60 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017.

New research areas.—As indicated in the House report, the conferees encourage VA to create a Center of Innovation for research support and use as candidates for initial research hyperbaric oxygen therapy and magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy.

Study on toxic exposures.—The conferees are aware the Department is finalizing a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to assess the current research available on possible generational health effects that may be the result of toxic exposures experienced by veterans. The conferees are aware NASEM will also assess areas requiring further scientific study on the descendants of veterans with toxic exposures. In addition, NASEM will further assess the scope and methodology required to conduct research on such descendants to identify current or possible health effects in the veterans' descendants. The study will be similar to what is directed in the Senate report. The Committees have been provided a detailed list of the scope of the study and are aware the contract is to be awarded in fiscal year 2017. The conferees intend to monitor the award of this contract closely and expect the Department to finalize the award, as summarized above and presented to the Committees.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

The conference agreement provides \$286,193,000 for the National Cemetery Administration (NCA). Of the amount provided, not to exceed 10 percent is available until September 30, 2018.

Rural veterans burial initiative.—The Department is directed to submit to the Committees not later than the beginning of fiscal

year 2017 a report detailing the progress to date of the Rural Veterans Burial Initiative and the expected timeline for completion of such initiative.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$345,391,000 for General Administration. Of the amount provided, not to exceed 5 percent is available for obligation until September 30, 2018. The agreement continues to include bill language in section 233 permitting the transfer of funds from this account to General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration.

The conference agreement provides \$10,545,000 for the Office of the Secretary. The recommendation fully supports and provides the requested amounts in fiscal year 2017 for the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, the Center for Minority Veterans, the Center for Women Veterans, and the Office of Survivors Assistance. The Office of Government Relations is funded at \$9,146,000, to include not more than \$5,900,000 for functions previously conducted by the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

Within the amounts made available for General Administration, not less than an additional \$1,500,000 shall be specifically reserved for the hiring of Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) directors; these amounts shall supplement and not supplant amounts included in the budget request for the hiring of VISN directors. Savings below the requested level for the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs function and the immediate Office of the Secretary have been repurposed for this initiative, consistent with direction in the Senate report.

Improving the veterans' experience at VA.—The conferees note the Secretary is undertaking a major effort to better understand the myriad of ways veterans and eligible dependents interact with VA and then to measurably improve the veterans experience at the point of service delivery. The current customer experience when interacting with the Department is disjointed, inconsistent, and all too often frustrating for the veteran. For example, the VA has over 500 veteran-facing websites and almost a thousand 1–800 numbers for veterans to contact VA. To make matters worse, there is no consistent, VA-wide performance standard for the many call centers VA operates. In addition, the current process for training and integrating staff at VA is sorely lacking and not on par with commercial equivalents, particularly when it comes to front-line staff who directly interface with veterans. Also, many of VA's business processes (for example, compensation and pension exams) are built to be internal-facing instead of built to put the veteran at the center of the process. The sum of all these limitations has a direct impact on veterans. For example, only 47 percent of veterans surveyed marked "strongly agree or agree" with this statement: "I trust VA to fulfill our country's commitment to veterans." The conferees believe VA can and should redesign, measure, and improve the way VA provides services to veterans nationwide, and note with interest the recent efforts by the Secretary to do that. The conferees are interested in the metrics and data the Department has promised it can provide that will show an increase in veteran satisfaction resulting from the efforts the Secretary's office has put into place over the past year intending to improve the veteran

experience. The Department is directed to report quarterly to the Committees metrics and data that show improvement in customer satisfaction, the veterans experience, and employee training. The conferees did not provide a direct appropriation for this effort in fiscal year 2017; however, the Department is able and expected to continue improving the veterans experience.

Financial management system.—The conference agreement includes \$8,000,000 in this account as well as \$44,300,000 in the Information Technology Systems account for development of a new financial management system. The Department has dithered for years in replacing its antiquated legacy system and suffered the consequences of a near meltdown in the hospital system in 2015 when obligations could not be correctly reported. The conferees urge VA to make a decision in fiscal year 2016 to replace its inadequate system with a 21st century product so that the Committees can rely on financial information from VA and VA can manage its obligations.

VA Patient Protection Act of 2016.—The conferees remain concerned about reports of retaliation against whistleblowers within the Department across the Nation. VA has promised to foster a culture of openness by encouraging employees to report cases of wrongdoing, yet there continue to be reports that after bringing to light cases of wrongdoing, the whistleblowers become subjects of retaliation. The conferees note VA must create an environment that allows employees to openly and safely advocate on behalf of veterans, consistent with direction in the Senate report. The conference agreement includes bill language in section 247 that comprehensively addresses the creation of a formal process for whistleblowers to file disclosures when operations within the Department fail to meet the high standards of care and service veterans deserve. Section 247 establishes a Central Whistleblower Office designed as an independent investigatory body to process VA employee complaints, which will ensure whistleblower disclosures receive the prompt, impartial attention deserved. Section 247 defines what actions constitute prohibited retaliation against whistleblowers, sets forth a process under which supervisors will be punished for handling disclosures inappropriately, and requires VA supervisors to be evaluated on their handling of whistleblower complaints. Further, section 247 requires the Department to report annually to the Committees on the number of whistleblower complaints received and their outcomes and to provide the results of Office of Special Counsel investigations related to whistleblower complaints.

Quarterly reporting.—In section 218 of the conference agreement, the conferees continue to direct VA to provide on a quarterly basis, not later than 30 days after the end of each quarter, a quarterly financial status report that includes, at a minimum, the information identified in this paragraph. Such information shall include:

1. VHA obligations and collections for the four Medical Care accounts, Nonrecurring Maintenance (as a non-add), Medical Research, the VA–DOD Facility Demonstration Fund, and Medical Care Collections Fund (MCCF) collections—actual to date versus plan;
2. Updated 'VA Medical Care Obligations by Program' chart displayed in the fiscal year 2017 budget justification;
3. Choice Act obligations for sections 801 and 802—actual to date versus plan;
4. Hepatitis C obligations, amounts funded through appropriations versus Choice Act, both sources actual to date versus plan;

5. Cumulative tracking of all transfers made under any authority, including each transfer within the Medical Care appropriations accounts;

6. General Administration obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;

7. Board of Veterans Appeals obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;

8. VBA, GOE obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;

9. Compensation and Pensions, Readjustment Benefits, and Veterans Insurance and Indemnities—obligations year-to-date versus plan;

10. NCA obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;

11. Information Technology Systems obligations—personal services versus all other—actual to date versus plan;

12. Major and Minor Construction obligations—actual to date versus plan;

13. Obligations to date for each Major Construction project, broken into design versus construction; and

14. Status of VA full-time equivalent employment—by Administration/IT and revolving funds—by quarter, actual versus plan.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

The conference agreement provides \$156,096,000 for the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018. Bill language is included in section 233 permitting VA to transfer funding between this account and the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account if needed to align funding with the appropriate account to hire staff to address the appeals backlog.

The conference agreement provides the full budget request in recognition of the growing backlog in resolving appeals. However, the conferees are skeptical that, without the necessary legislative changes proposed by the Administration, VA will be able to make a significant dent in the backlog. As one step, the conferees urge the Board to hire additional BVA board members.

Legal assistance.—The conferees request the Board to provide a report not later than 90 days after the beginning of fiscal year 2017 about the possible need for legal assistance by veterans who are appealing their ruling from the Veterans Benefits Administration. The report should include information about: (1) the percentage of appellants who receive free legal counsel from veterans service organizations or others versus those who represent themselves or have paid legal counsel; (2) the Board's estimate of unmet legal need among appellants; (3) possible mechanisms to provide free legal assistance to veterans who do not have and are unable to afford legal assistance; and (4) the legal assistance program provided through the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and whether such a program would be appropriate for the Board, including a description of program structure and cost.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement provides \$4,278,259,000 for Information Technology (IT) Systems. The agreement identifies separately in bill language the funding available for pay (\$1,272,548,000); operations and maintenance (\$2,534,442,000); and systems development, modernization, and enhancement (\$471,269,000). The agreement makes \$37,100,000 of pay funding available until the end of fiscal year 2018; \$180,200,000 of operations and maintenance funding available

until the end of fiscal year 2018; and all IT systems development, modernization and enhancement funding available until the end of fiscal year 2018.

The conference agreement includes \$259,874,000 for VistA Evolution, the modernization of the interoperable electronic health record (EHR) or any successor program; \$143,000,000 in information technology funding for the Veterans Benefits Management System which processes disability claims; \$19,100,000 for the claims appeals modernization effort; \$20,000,000 for Section 508 compliance efforts; \$44,300,000 for development of a new VA financial management system; and \$370,067,000 for the VA information security program, including \$125,000,000 for the Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation program.

As with the fiscal year 2013-2016 appropriations Acts, the fiscal year 2017 agreement includes a prohibition on obligation or expenditure of more than 25 percent of fiscal year 2017 funds provided for development, modernization, and enhancement of the VistA Evolution EHR or a successor program until the Department meets reporting and accountability requirements contained in the conference bill language.

The conference agreement includes language prohibiting the obligation of IT development, modernization, and enhancement funding until VA submits a certification of the amounts to be obligated, in part or in full, for each development project.

The conference agreement includes language permitting funding to be transferred among the three IT subaccounts, subject to approval from the Committees.

The conference agreement includes language providing that funding may be transferred among development projects or to new projects subject to the Committees' approval.

The conference agreement provides funding for IT development, modernization, and enhancement for the projects and in the amounts specified in the following table:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
(in thousands of dollars)

Project	Conference
Electronic Health Record Interoperability/VLER Health ...	17,322
VistA Evolution or successor EHR program	63,339
Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS)	85,288
Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)	17,857
Veteran Customer Experience	73,624
VHA Research IT Support Development	15,066
Other IT Systems Development	198,773
Total, All Development	\$471,269

This table is intended to serve as the Department's approved list of development projects; any requested changes are subject to reprogramming requirements.

Appointment scheduling.—For more than a decade, VA has spent millions in an attempt to replace its antiquated scheduling system. VA has begun to fix some of the worst problems in the system with its rollout of VistA Scheduling Enhancement (VSE). But further efforts to modernize scheduling have been put on hold until VA makes a decision about what direction to take with modernizing the electronic health record. The conferees understand the need to align the two systems, but are distressed about the further delays in the implementation of both. The conferees expect that VA will finalize its strategic approach for both the electronic health record and scheduling before the end of fiscal year 2016.

Expenditure plan.—The conference agreement directs the Department to continue to

provide an IT expenditure plan to the Committees not later than the start of fiscal year 2017, as indicated in both the House and Senate reports. This plan should be in the same format as the table above.

Periodic briefings.—The conferees continue to require VA to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees regarding schedule, milestones, and obligations for VistA Evolution or any successor program. The conferees also require quarterly briefings from the DOD/VA Interagency Program Office on the EHR interoperability project.

Data matching with the Department of Education.—The conferees urge VA to establish a matching program with the Department of Education to identify veterans who are unemployable due to a service-connected disability. Under current law, veterans who have been determined by VA to be unemployable due to a service-connected disability are also eligible for student loan forgiveness. However, given the complexity of the loan discharge process and the seeming lack of communication between the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Education, disabled veterans would stand to benefit from greater coordination between the two Departments.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

The conference agreement provides \$160,106,000 for the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Of the amount provided, not to exceed 10 percent is available for obligation until September 30, 2018. The conference agreement directs that the OIG should post publicly any report or audit not later than 3 days after it is submitted to the Secretary in final form.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

The conference agreement provides \$528,110,000 for Construction, Major Projects, which is the same as the budget request. The agreement makes this funding available for five years, except that \$50,000,000 is made available until expended.

Outside project management.—To ensure the Department will never again mishandle public funds on a construction project in the manner and to the degree the Denver VA Medical Center in Aurora, CO, was mismanaged, the conference agreement directs that \$222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department enters into an agreement with a non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for each major construction project with a total estimated cost of \$100,000,000 or above. The conference agreement makes the funding available for obligation for each project only after VA certifies that the agreement with the non-Department Federal entity is in effect for that project. The two VHA projects affected by the fencing provision are in Reno, Nevada, and Long Beach, California. The requirement to contract with an outside agent for major construction projects was also mandated in Section 502 of the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-58), enacted on September 30, 2015. The law contemplates that the non-Department Federal entity will provide management over all or part of the project design, acquisition, construction, and appropriate contract changes, and the Department will reimburse the entity for all appropriate costs associated with the provision of such services.

The conference agreement funds the following items as requested in the budget submission:

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS
(in thousands of dollars)

Location and description	Conference Agreement
Veterans Health Admin. (VHA):	
Long Beach, CA, seismic corrections for mental health and community living center	\$30,200
Reno, NV, upgrade seismic, life safety, utilities, and expand clinical services	192,420
Advance Planning and Design Fund—various locations	65,000
Major Construction staff—various locations	24,000
Claims Analysis—various locations	5,000
Hazardous Waste—various locations	10,000
Judgment Fund—various locations	9,000
Non-Dept. Fed. Entity Project Management Support	49,490
Total VHA	385,110
National Cemetery Admin. (NCA):	
Elmira, NY—new national cemetery—Western NY	36,000
Las Animas, CO—new national cemetery—Southern CO	36,000
Jacksonville, FL—gravesite expansion	24,000
South Florida, FL—gravesite expansion	31,000
Advance Planning and Design Fund—various locations	10,000
Total NCA	137,000
General Admin.:	
Staff Offices Advance Planning Fund	6,000
Major Construction total	\$528,110

Major construction budget justification documents.—The conferees reiterate their concerns regarding the budget justifications submitted for projects funded in this account. The congressional budget justification materials that accompany the President's Budget require a greater level of detail to enhance oversight of the Department's major construction projects. Therefore, the conference agreement includes a new administrative provision section 258, requiring the Department to submit enhanced budget justification documents for projects for which funds are requested. Pursuant to section 258, such justifications shall include, at a minimum, the following elements for all major construction projects:

1. Project description, to include phases (if applicable) delineated by fiscal year, funding for each phase by fiscal year, and a detailed description of what that funding procures;
2. Project justification and analysis of benefits;
3. A comparison of budget authority with the prior year's President's Budget for budget authority already received and needed in future years;
4. A justification of any cost, schedule, or design change from prior years;
5. Total estimated cost with a detailed breakout by design, construction (differentiated by primary and support facilities), and operating costs;
6. A complete project schedule to include dates indicating design start, 35 percent design completion, award of construction documents, design completion, award of construction contract, and estimated construction completion;
7. Design contract type;
8. An analysis of alternatives with associated costs;
9. Demographic data; and
10. Workload data.

The Department is directed to submit this information in a format resembling the Department of Defense form 1391 (DD 1391). In addition, language is included requiring the Department to submit a proposed budget justification template that complies with this requirement to the Committees within 45 days of enactment of this Act.

Alternative sources of construction funding.—The conferees are aware of the budget challenges with new facility construction at VA. The conferees are pleased that VA has begun to work with the private sector in developing public-private partnerships (P3). P3 projects

take advantage of readily available private sector investment capital, expertise, and entrepreneurial discipline. Where private sector financing has already been identified, and where practical, the conferees urge VA to use a P3 model on future VA construction projects.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

The conference agreement provides \$372,069,000 for Construction, Minor Projects. The agreement makes this funding available for five years. Included within the total is \$285,000,000 for the Veterans Health Administration; \$56,890,000 for the National Cemetery Administration; \$20,000,000 for the Veterans Benefits Administration; and \$10,179,000 for General Administration—Staff Offices.

Expenditure Plan.—The conference agreement includes a directive for the Department to provide an expenditure plan not later than 30 days after the beginning of the fiscal year, as provided in the Senate report. This expenditure plan shall include a complete list of minor construction projects to be supported with the fiscal year 2017 appropriation. The plan shall be updated six months and twelve months after enactment.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

The conference agreement provides \$90,000,000 for Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

The conference agreement provides \$45,000,000 for Grants for Construction of Veterans Cemeteries, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS AND RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

The conference agreement includes section 201 allowing for transfer of funds among the three mandatory accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 202 allowing for the transfer of funds among the four medical accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 203 allowing salaries and expenses funds to be used for related authorized purposes.

The conference agreement includes section 204 restricting the accounts that may be used for the acquisition of land or the construction of any new hospital or home.

The conference agreement includes section 205 limiting the use of funds in the Medical Services account only for entitled beneficiaries unless reimbursement is made to the Department.

The conference agreement includes section 206 allowing for the use of certain mandatory appropriations accounts for payment of prior year accrued obligations for those accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 207 allowing the use of appropriations available in this title to pay prior year obligations.

The conference agreement includes section 208 allowing the Department to use surplus earnings from the National Service Life Insurance Fund, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund to administer these programs.

The conference agreement includes section 209 allowing the Department to cover the administrative expenses of enhanced-use leases and provides authority to obligate these reimbursements in the year in which the proceeds are received.

The conference agreement includes section 210 limiting the amount of reimbursement

the Office of Resolution Management and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication can charge other offices of the Department for services provided.

The conference agreement includes section 211 requiring the Department to collect third-party payer information for persons treated for a non-service-connected disability.

The conference agreement includes section 212 allowing for the use of enhanced-use leasing revenues for Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects.

The conference agreement includes section 213 outlining authorized uses for Medical Services funds.

The conference agreement includes section 214 allowing for funds deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund to be transferred to the Medical Services and Medical Community Care accounts.

The conference agreement includes section 215 which allows Alaskan veterans to use medical facilities of the Indian Health Service or tribal organizations.

The conference agreement includes section 216 permitting the transfer of funds from the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund to the Construction, Major Projects and Construction, Minor Projects accounts and makes those funds available until expended.

The conference agreement includes section 217 rescinding \$7,246,181,000 of fiscal year 2017 Medical Services funds that were provided in advance. This funding is now provided through the Medical Community Care account.

The conference agreement includes section 218 requiring the Secretary to submit financial status quarterly reports for each of the Administrations in the Department. The specific data requested is similar to that requested in the fiscal year 2016 conference report.

The conference agreement includes section 219 requiring the Department to notify and receive approval from the Committees of any proposed transfer of funding to or from the Information Technology Systems account and limits the aggregate annual increase in the account to no more than 10 percent of the funding appropriated to the account in this Act.

The conference agreement includes section 220 prohibiting any funds from being used in a manner that is inconsistent with statutory limitations on outsourcing.

The conference agreement includes section 221 providing up to \$274,731,000 of fiscal year 2017 funds for transfer to the Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 222 which permits up to \$280,802,000 of fiscal year 2018 medical care funding provided in advance to be transferred to the Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 223 which authorizes transfers from the Medical Care Collections Fund to the Joint DOD-VA Medical Facility Demonstration Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 224 which transfers at least \$15,000,000 from VA medical accounts to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

The conference agreement includes section 225 prohibiting funds available to the Department in this or any other Act from being used to replace the current system by which VISNs select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

The conference agreement includes section 226 requiring that the Department notify the Committees of bid savings in a major con-

struction project of at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent, whichever is less, 14 days prior to the obligation of the bid savings and their anticipated use.

The conference agreement includes section 227 which prohibits VA from increasing the scope of work for a major construction project above the scope specified in the original budget request unless the Secretary receives approval from the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 228 requiring a quarterly report from each VBA regional office on pending disability claims, both initial and supplemental; error rates; the number of claims processing personnel; corrective actions taken; training programs; and review team audit results.

The conference agreement includes section 229 limiting the funding from the Medical Services and Medical Support and Compliance accounts for the electronic health record and electronic health record interoperability projects.

The conference agreement includes section 230 requiring VA to notify the Committees 15 days prior to any staff office relocations within VA of 25 or more FTE.

The conference agreement includes section 231 requiring the Secretary to report to the Committees each quarter about any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign exceeding \$2,000,000.

The conference agreement includes section 232 permitting the transfer to the Medical Services account of fiscal year discretionary 2017 funds appropriated in this Act or available from advance fiscal year 2017 funds already appropriated, except for funds appropriated to General Operating Expenses, VBA, to address possible unmet, high priority needs in Medical Services. Such unanticipated demands may result from circumstances such as a greater than projected number of enrollees or higher intensity of use of benefits. Any such transfer requires the approval of the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 233 permitting the transfer of funding between the General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration account and the Board of Veterans Appeals account if necessary to permit the hiring of staffing at the appropriate stage of the appeals process to address mounting claims appeals workload. Any such transfer requires the approval of the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 234 prohibiting the Secretary from reprogramming funds in excess of \$5,000,000 among major construction projects or programs unless the reprogramming is approved by the Committees.

The conference agreement includes section 235 rescinding \$40,000,000 in unobligated balances in the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund.

The conference agreement includes sections 236 and 237 making general rescissions of \$169,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 advance appropriations and reductions of \$23,000,000 in fiscal year 2017 current funded appropriations.

The conference agreement includes section 238 mandating certain professional standards for the veterans crisis hotline.

The conference agreement includes section 239 pertaining to certification of marriage and family therapists.

The conference agreement includes section 240 restricting funds from being used to close certain medical facilities in the absence of a national realignment strategy.

The conference agreement includes section 241 which prohibits funds from being used to

transfer funding from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other VA account.

The conference agreement includes section 242 which provides an extension through fiscal year 2017 of the Access Received Closer to Home (ARCH) program.

The conference agreement includes section 243 which ends a co-payment requirement for opioid antagonists and supports education on the use of opioid antagonists.

The conference agreement includes section 244 requiring the VA Inspector General to make public all work products.

The conference agreement includes section 245 permitting funding to be used in fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to carry out and expand the child care pilot program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163.

The conference agreement includes section 246 making mandatory the reporting to State prescription drug monitoring programs.

The conference agreement includes section 247 which includes the text of the VA Patient Protection Act of 2016 addressing protections for VA whistleblowers.

The conference agreement includes section 248 identifying information which may be used to verify the status of coastwise merchant seamen who served during World War II for the purposes of eligibility for medals, ribbons, or other military decorations.

The conference agreement includes section 249 providing monthly assistance allowances for disabled veterans competing on United States Olympic teams.

The conference agreement includes section 250 which provides coverage under the VA beneficiary travel program for certain types of special disabilities rehabilitation.

The conference agreement includes section 251 which requires VA to conduct annual inspections of kitchens and food service areas of each medical facility, through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations, with required remediation if necessary.

The conference agreement includes section 252 which requires VA to conduct periodic inspections of mold issues at VA medical facilities through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations, along with required remediation if necessary.

The conference agreement includes section 253 reinstating the requirement for a report on the capacity of VA to provide for specialized treatment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans.

The conference agreement includes section 254 permitting the Secretary to use appropriated funds to ensure particular ratios of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any VA program of rehabilitation.

The conference agreement includes section 255 indicating that no funds available in the Act may be used to deny the Inspector General timely access to Department records and documents over which the Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978.

The conference agreement includes section 256 forbidding funds to be used to enter into a settlement that would restrict an individual's freedom to speak to Members of Congress or their staff.

The conference agreement includes section 257 providing authority for the Veterans Health Administration to administer the National Veterans Sports Program.

The conference agreement includes section 258 requiring certain data to be included in budget justifications for Major Construction projects.

The conference agreement includes section 259 which authorizes 8 VA major construction projects that were funded in fiscal year 2016.

The conference agreement includes section 260 allowing the use of Medical Services funding for fertility treatment and adoption reimbursement for veterans and their spouses if the veteran has a service-connected disability that results in being unable to procreate without such fertility treatment.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and publish implementing guidance within 120 days of enactment of this Act. The implementing guidance developed by the Secretary shall not be materially different from, and in no way more expansive than, the implementing guidance promulgated by the Department of Defense in the April 3, 2012 memorandum from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) entitled "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members".

TITLE III—RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$75,100,000 for Salaries and Expenses of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), as requested.

The conferees appreciate and support the meaningful work of the ABMC to preserve commemorative and historical sites and to educate the public about the United States Armed Forces. The conferees further recognize the critical role that African Americans and other minorities played during World War II. The conferees urge the ABMC to partner with Department of Defense historians to ensure that these servicemembers and support staff are properly recognized at ABMC sites. Further, the conferees direct the ABMC to appropriately incorporate the contributions of African Americans and other minorities into ABMC's interpretive exhibits and on the ABMC website.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

The conference agreement includes such sums as necessary for the Foreign Currency Fluctuations Account. However, due to favorable exchange rates, no funds are expected to be required in fiscal year 2017.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR

VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$30,945,000 for Salaries and Expenses for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, as requested.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The conference agreement includes \$70,800,000 for Cemeterial Expenses, Army—Salaries and Expenses, as requested. Within that amount, up to \$15,000,000 in funding is available until September 30, 2019.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME TRUST FUND

The conference agreement includes a total of \$64,300,000 for the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH), as requested, but does not provide the funds in the manner requested. The agreement does not include the indefinite transfer of an estimated \$22,000,000 in funds from the Department of Defense (DOD), Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide Account, as requested. Instead, the conference agreement directs that

\$42,300,000 be derived from the Trust Fund and \$22,000,000 be provided from the General Fund to support AFRH operations.

Trust Fund Solvency.—The conferees are disappointed the Department of Defense did not include with the fiscal year 2017 budget request legislative proposals and administrative actions that can be taken under current law in order to achieve Trust Fund solvency in spite of clear direction to do so in the Explanatory Statement accompanying Public Law 114-113, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. Both legislative and administrative actions are necessary to improve Trust Fund solvency, eliminate AFRH's reliance on the General Fund, and maintain the high-quality services provided to AFRH residents. The conferees again direct DOD, working with AFRH, to take appropriate administrative action and to develop and submit proposed authorizing language with the fiscal year 2018 budget request that addresses the issue of Trust Fund solvency. In addition, AFRH is directed to regularly report to the Committees on efforts to stabilize the Trust Fund and to lease its property at the Washington, D.C. facility.

Study Findings and Proposals.—AFRH's budget request notes that DOD has undertaken an in-depth study to develop mid-term and long-term plans to improve Trust Fund solvency. The study also includes an analysis of AFRH operations to include benchmarking and to identify potential legislative changes to revise AFRH's funding model. The Committees request further information from DOD regarding the study, including a report on its cost, scope of work, deliverables, and timeline, and requests a briefing on the findings and resulting proposals. The conferees are troubled that the study's statement of work seems to be focused on cuts to core AFRH operations as a means of achieving Trust Fund solvency. The conference agreement directs that AFRH and the Department of Defense submit by October 1, 2016, a proposal that ensures the long-term sustainability of the Trust Fund by replenishing the Trust Fund's revenues, not by cutting core AFRH operations.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

The conference agreement includes section 301 permitting funds to be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of a water main located on the Arlington National Cemetery property.

The conference agreement includes section 302 allowing Arlington National Cemetery to deposit and use funds derived from concessions.

TITLE IV—OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The conference agreement includes title IV, Overseas Contingency Operations, for military construction projects related to the Global War on Terrorism, the European Reassurance Initiative and Counterterrorism Support that were requested by the Administration in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

The conference agreement includes \$18,900,000 for "Military Construction, Army", as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for planning and design in support of the European Reassurance Initiative.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

The conference agreement includes \$59,809,000 for "Military Construction, Navy

and Marine Corps”, as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, of which \$21,400,000 is in support of the European Reassurance Initiative and \$38,409,000 is in support of Overseas Contingency Operations.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

The conference agreement includes \$88,291,000 for “Military Construction, Air Force”, as requested in the Fiscal Year 2017

Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, of which \$68,280,000 is in support of the European Reassurance Initiative, \$11,440,000 is in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, and \$8,571,000 is in support of counterterrorism efforts.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

The conference agreement includes \$5,000,000 for “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”, as requested in the Fiscal Year

2017 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request, for unspecified minor military construction for the Joint Staff in support of the European Reassurance Initiative.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

The conference agreement includes section 401 regarding emergency designation for the Overseas Contingency Operations accounts.

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
FY 2017 OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS				
OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS				
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
NAVY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	1,000	1,000	---	1,000
AIR FORCE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	940	940	---	940
DJIBOUTI				
NAVY				
CAMP LEMONIER				
MEDICAL/DENTAL FACILITY.....	37,409	37,409	---	37,409
AIR FORCE				
CHABELLEY AIRFIELD				
ACCESS ROAD.....	3,600	3,600	---	3,600
PARKING APRON AND TAXIWAY.....	6,900	6,900	---	6,900
EUROPEAN REASSURANCE INITIATIVE				
BULGARIA				
AIR FORCE				
GRAF IGNATIEVO				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS/OPERATION ALERT FACILITY.....	3,800	3,800	---	3,800
FIGHTER RAMP EXTENSION.....	7,000	7,000	---	7,000
UPGRADE MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	2,600	2,600	---	---
ESTONIA				
AIR FORCE				
AMARI AB				
BULK FUEL STORAGE.....	6,500	6,500	---	6,500
GERMANY				
AIR FORCE				
SPANGDAHLEM AB				
HIGH CAPACITY TRIM PAD AND HUSH HOUSE.....	1,000	1,000	---	---
F/A-22 LOW OBSERVABLE/COMPOSITE REPAIR FACILITY.....	12,000	12,000	---	18,000
F/A-22 UPGRADE				
INFRASTRUCTURE/COMMUNICATIONS/UTILITIES.....	1,600	1,600	---	580
UPGRADE HARDENED AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FOR F/A-22.....	2,700	2,700	---	2,700
UPGRADE MUNITION STORAGE DOORS.....	1,400	1,400	---	---
ICELAND				
NAVY				
KEFLAVIK				
P-8A AIRCRAFT RINSE FACILITY.....	5,000	5,000	---	5,000
P-8A HANGAR UPGRADE.....	14,600	14,600	---	14,600
LITHUANIA				
AIR FORCE				
SIAULIAI				
MUNITIONS STORAGE.....	3,000	3,000	---	3,000
POLAND				
AIR FORCE				
LASK AIR BASE				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	4,100	4,100	---	4,100
POWIDZ				
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	4,100	4,100	---	4,100

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

	BUDGET REQUEST	HOUSE	SENATE	CONFERENCE AGREEMENT
<hr/>				
ROMANIA				
AIR FORCE				
CAMP TURZII				
MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA.....	3,000	3,000	---	3,000
SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY.....	3,400	3,400	---	3,400
TWO-BAY HANGAR.....	6,100	6,100	---	6,100
EXTEND PARKING APRONS.....	6,000	6,000	---	6,000
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
ARMY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	18,900	18,900	---	18,900
NAVY				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	1,800	1,800	---	1,800
DEFENSE-WIDE				
UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION				
THE JOINT STAFF.....	5,000	5,000	---	5,000
COUNTERTERRORISM SUPPORT				
WORLDWIDE UNSPECIFIED				
AIR FORCE				
PLANNING AND DESIGN.....	9,000	8,551	---	8,571

NOTE: FUNDING FOR OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION WAS REQUESTED AND IS DISPLAYED
IN TITLE IV. THE SENATE PROVIDED FUNDING FOR THESE
PROJECTS IN TITLE I.

TITLE V—GENERAL PROVISIONS

The conference agreement includes section 501 prohibiting the obligation of funds in this Act beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided.

The conference agreement includes section 502 prohibiting the use of the funds in this Act for programs, projects, or activities not in compliance with Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

The conference agreement includes section 503 encouraging all Departments to expand their use of “E-Commerce.”

The conference agreement includes section 504 specifying the congressional committees that are to receive all reports and notifications.

The conference agreement includes section 505 prohibiting the transfer of funds to any instrumentality of the United States Gov-

ernment without authority from an appropriations Act.

The conference agreement includes section 506 prohibiting the use of funds for a project or program named for a serving Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

The conference agreement includes section 507 requiring all reports submitted to Congress to be posted on official web sites of the submitting agency.

The conference agreement includes section 508 prohibiting the use of funds to establish or maintain a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography, except for law enforcement investigation, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

The conference agreement includes section 509 prohibiting the use of funds for the pay-

ment of first-class air travel by an employee of the executive branch.

The conference agreement includes section 510 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act for any contract where the contractor has not complied with E-Verify requirements.

The conference agreement includes section 511 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purchase or lease of a new vehicle except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

The conference agreement includes section 512 prohibiting the use of funds in this Act for the renovation, expansion, or construction of any facility in the continental United States for the purpose of housing any individual who has been detained at the United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Military Construction, Army.....	663,245	503,459	503,459	532,359	513,459	-149,786	+10,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	1,669,239	1,027,763	1,021,580	1,087,572	1,021,580	-647,659	-6,183
Military Construction, Air Force.....	1,389,185	1,481,058	1,398,758	1,579,798	1,491,058	+101,873	+10,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide.....	2,242,867	2,056,091	2,024,643	2,038,980	2,025,444	-217,423	-30,647
Total, Active components.....	5,964,536	5,068,371	4,948,440	5,238,709	5,051,541	-912,995	-16,830
Military Construction, Army National Guard.....	197,237	232,930	232,930	232,930	232,930	+35,693	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard.....	138,738	143,957	143,957	143,957	143,957	+5,219	---
Military Construction, Army Reserve.....	113,595	68,230	68,230	68,230	68,230	-45,365	---
Military Construction, Navy Reserve.....	36,078	38,597	38,597	38,597	38,597	+2,519	---
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve.....	65,021	188,950	188,950	188,950	188,950	+123,929	---
Total, Reserve components.....	550,669	672,664	672,664	672,664	672,664	+121,995	---
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....	135,000	177,932	177,932	177,932	177,932	+42,932	---
Department of Defense Base Closure Account.....	266,334	205,237	230,237	205,237	240,237	-26,097	+35,000
Total, Military Construction.....	6,916,539	6,124,204	6,029,273	6,294,542	6,142,374	-774,165	+18,170
Family Housing Construction, Army.....	108,695	200,735	200,735	200,735	157,172	+48,477	-43,563
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army.....	375,611	325,995	325,995	325,995	325,995	-49,616	---
Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	16,541	94,011	94,011	94,011	94,011	+77,470	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.....	353,036	300,915	300,915	300,915	300,915	-52,121	---
Family Housing Construction, Air Force.....	160,498	61,352	61,352	61,352	61,352	-99,146	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force.....	331,232	274,429	274,429	274,429	274,429	-56,803	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	58,668	59,157	59,157	59,157	59,157	+489	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	---	3,258	3,258	3,258	3,258	+3,258	---
Total, Family Housing.....	1,404,281	1,319,852	1,319,852	1,319,852	1,276,289	-127,992	-43,563
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS							
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 127) (rescission)...	-86,420	---	-25,000	-30,000	-29,602	+56,818	-29,602
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (H. Sec. 126) (rescission).....	---	---	-51,848	---	---	---	---
Defense Access Roads (Sec. 132).....	30,000	---	---	---	---	-30,000	---
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 127) (rescission).....	-46,400	---	---	-22,340	-51,460	-5,060	-51,460
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (Sec. 127) (rescission).....	-134,000	---	-37,377	-132,283	-141,600	-7,600	-141,600
Military Construction, Defense-Wide - Planning and Design (Sec. 127).....	---	---	---	---	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 125).....	34,500	---	40,500	40,500	40,500	+6,000	+40,500
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125).....	34,500	---	293,600	143,000	227,099	+192,599	+227,099
Military Construction, Army National Guard (Sec. 125).....	51,300	---	67,500	16,500	67,500	+16,200	+67,500

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Military Construction, Army Reserve (Sec. 125).....	34,200	---	86,500	30,000	30,000	-4,200	+30,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 127) (Rescission).....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 128).....	---	---	-30,000	-15,000	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 125).....	-105,000	---	-25,000	---	-25,000	+80,000	-25,000
Military Construction, Defense-Wide (S. Sec. 125).....	21,000	---	26,000	195,465	149,500	+128,500	+149,500
Military Construction, Air National Guard (Sec. 125).....	---	---	---	64,364	---	---	---
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125).....	6,100	---	---	11,000	11,000	+4,900	+11,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 126).....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve.....	10,400	---	---	---	---	+89,400	+89,400
Family Housing, Army (S. Sec. 125).....	---	---	---	14,400	---	-10,400	---
Total, Administrative Provisions.....	-149,820	---	344,875	315,606	307,337	+457,157	+307,337
Appropriations.....	(222,000)	---	(514,100)	(515,229)	(614,999)	(+392,999)	(+614,999)
Rescissions.....	(-371,820)	---	(-169,225)	(-199,623)	(-307,662)	(+64,158)	(-307,662)
General Provisions							
Arlington Cemetery Defense Access Road (FY 2016) (S. Sec. 130).....	---	---	---	30,000	---	---	---

DIVISION A. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
(FY 2016, rescission) (S. Sec. 130)	---	---	---	-30,000	---	---	---
Total, General Provisions	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Total, title I, Department of Defense	8,171,000	7,444,056	7,694,000	7,930,000	7,726,000	-445,000	+281,944
Appropriations	(8,542,820)	(7,444,056)	(7,863,225)	(8,129,823)	(8,033,662)	(-509,158)	(+589,606)
Rescissions	(-371,820)	---	(-169,225)	(-199,623)	(-307,662)	(+64,158)	(-307,662)

TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Benefits Administration

Compensation and pensions:							
Advance from prior year	---	(86,083,128)	(86,083,128)	(86,083,128)	(86,083,128)	(+86,083,128)	---
Current year request	76,865,545	---	---	---	---	-76,865,545	---
Subtotal, current year	76,865,545	86,083,128	86,083,128	86,083,128	86,083,128	+9,217,583	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2018	86,083,128	90,119,449	90,119,449	90,119,449	90,119,449	+4,036,321	---
Readjustment benefits:							
Advance from prior year	---	(16,340,828)	(16,340,828)	(16,340,828)	(16,340,828)	(+16,340,828)	---
Current year request	14,313,357	---	---	---	---	-14,313,357	---
Subtotal	14,313,357	16,340,828	16,340,828	16,340,828	16,340,828	+2,027,471	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	16,340,828	13,708,648	13,708,648	13,708,648	13,708,648	-2,632,180	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities:							
Advance from prior year.....	---	(91,920)	(91,920)	(91,920)	(91,920)	(+91,920)	---
Current year request.....	77,160	16,605	16,605	16,605	16,605	-60,555	---
Subtotal.....	77,160	108,525	108,525	108,525	108,525	+31,365	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	91,920	107,899	107,899	107,899	107,899	+15,979	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund:							
(indefinite).....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	164,858	198,856	167,612	198,856	198,856	+34,298	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account:							
(Limitation on direct loans).....	31	36	36	36	36	+5	---
Administrative expenses.....	(2,952)	(2,517)	(2,517)	(2,517)	(2,517)	(-435)	---
Subtotal.....	367	389	389	389	389	+22	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account:							
General operating expenses, VBA.....	1,134	1,163	1,163	1,163	1,163	+29	---
Subtotal.....	2,707,734	2,826,160	2,826,160	2,856,160	2,856,160	+148,426	+30,000
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration.....	196,645,762	106,979,205	106,947,961	107,009,205	107,009,205	-89,636,557	+30,000
Appropriations.....	(94,129,886)	(3,043,209)	(3,011,965)	(3,073,209)	(3,073,209)	(-91,056,677)	(+30,000)
Advance appropriations, FY 2018.....	(102,515,876)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(+1,420,120)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	---	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(+102,515,876)	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Veterans Health Administration							
Medical services:							
Advance from prior year.....	(47,603,202)	(51,673,000)	(51,673,000)	(51,673,000)	(51,673,000)	(+4,069,798)	---
Current year request.....	2,369,158	1,078,993	864,000	1,078,993	1,078,993	-1,290,165	---
Subtotal.....	49,972,360	52,751,993	52,537,000	52,751,993	52,751,993	+2,779,633	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	51,673,000	44,886,554	44,886,554	44,886,554	44,886,554	-6,786,446	---
Medical community care:							
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	---	9,409,118	9,409,118	9,409,118	9,409,118	+9,409,118	---
Transfer from medical care accounts.....	---	(7,246,181)	(7,246,181)	---	---	---	(-7,246,181)
Current year request.....	---	---	---	7,246,181	7,246,181	+7,246,181	+7,246,181
Subtotal.....	---	16,655,299	16,655,299	16,655,299	16,655,299	+16,655,299	---
Medical support and compliance:							
Advance from prior year.....	(6,144,000)	(6,524,000)	(6,524,000)	(6,524,000)	(6,524,000)	(+380,000)	---
Current year request.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Subtotal.....	6,144,000	6,524,000	6,524,000	6,524,000	6,524,000	+380,000	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	6,524,000	6,654,480	6,654,480	6,654,480	6,654,480	+130,480	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H. R. 4974, H. R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Medical facilities:							
Advance from prior year.....	(4,915,000)	(5,074,000)	(5,074,000)	(5,074,000)	(5,074,000)	(+159,000)	---
Current year request.....	105,132	649,000	---	495,100	247,668	+142,536	-401,332
Subtotal.....	5,020,132	5,723,000	5,074,000	5,569,100	5,321,668	+301,536	-401,332
Advance appropriation, FY 2018.....	5,074,000	5,434,880	5,434,880	5,434,880	5,434,880	+360,880	---
Medical and prosthetic research.....	630,735	663,366	663,366	675,366	675,366	+44,631	+12,000
Medical care cost recovery collections:							
Offsetting collections.....	-2,445,000	-2,637,000	-2,637,000	-2,637,000	-2,637,000	-192,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite).....	2,445,000	2,637,000	2,637,000	2,637,000	2,637,000	+192,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out).....	(-286,000)	(-274,731)	(-274,731)	(-274,731)	(-274,731)	(+11,269)	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer).....	(286,000)	(274,731)	(274,731)	(274,731)	(274,731)	(-11,269)	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out).....	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	---	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer).....	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
Total, Veterans Health Administration.....	66,376,025	68,776,391	67,912,398	75,880,672	75,633,240	+9,257,215	+6,856,849
Appropriations.....	(3,105,025)	(2,391,359)	(1,527,366)	(9,495,640)	(9,248,208)	(+6,143,183)	(+6,856,849)
(By transfer).....	(301,000)	(7,535,912)	(7,535,912)	(289,731)	(289,731)	(-11,269)	(-7,246,181)
Advance appropriations, FY 2018.....	(63,271,000)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(+3,114,032)	---

DIVISION A. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+4,608,798)	---
National Cemetery Administration							
National Cemetery Administration.....	271,220	286,193	271,220	286,193	286,193	+14,973	---
Departmental Administration							
General administration.....	336,659	417,959	316,159	417,959	345,391	+8,732	-72,568
Board of Veterans Appeals.....	109,884	156,096	156,096	156,096	156,096	+46,212	---
Information technology systems.....	4,133,363	4,278,259	4,225,869	4,278,259	4,278,259	+144,896	---
Office of Inspector General.....	136,766	160,106	160,106	160,106	160,106	+23,340	---
Construction, major projects.....	1,243,800	528,110	528,110	528,110	528,110	-715,690	---
Construction, minor projects.....	406,200	372,069	372,069	372,069	372,069	-34,131	---
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities.....	120,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	-30,000	+10,000
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries....	46,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	-1,000	---
Total, Departmental Administration.....	6,532,672	6,037,599	5,883,409	6,047,599	5,975,031	-557,641	-82,568
Administrative Provisions							
Section 226 (FY16)							
Medical services.....	1,400,000	---	---	---	---	-1,400,000	---
(Rescission).....	-1,400,000	---	---	---	---	+1,400,000	---

DIVISION A. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Medical support and compliance.....	100,000	---	---	---	---	-100,000	---
(Rescission).....	-100,000	---	---	---	---	+100,000	---
Medical facilities.....	250,000	---	---	---	---	-250,000	---
(Rescission).....	-250,000	---	---	---	---	+250,000	---
JIF rescission (Sec. 235).....	-30,000	---	-30,000	-52,000	-40,000	-10,000	-40,000
General rescission (Sec. 236).....	---	---	-337,382	---	-169,000	-169,000	-169,000
General reduction (Sec. 237).....	---	---	-46,618	---	-23,000	-23,000	-23,000
Medical Services (Sec. 217) (rescission).....	---	---	---	-7,246,181	-7,246,181	-7,246,181	-7,246,181
Total. Administrative Provisions.....	-30,000	---	-414,000	-7,298,181	-7,478,181	-7,448,181	-7,478,181
Total, title II.....	269,795,679	182,079,388	180,600,988	181,925,488	181,425,488	-88,370,191	-653,900
Appropriations.....	(105,788,803)	(11,758,360)	(10,647,342)	(11,656,480)	(11,313,460)	(-94,475,343)	(-444,800)
Rescissions.....	(-1,780,000)	---	(-367,382)	(-52,000)	(-209,000)	(+1,571,000)	(-209,000)
(By transfer).....	(301,000)	(7,535,912)	(7,535,912)	(289,731)	(289,731)	(-11,269)	(-7,246,181)
Advance Appropriations, FY 2018:							
Mandatory.....	(102,515,876)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(103,935,996)	(+1,420,120)	---
Discretionary.....	(63,271,000)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(66,385,032)	(+3,114,032)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations:							
Mandatory.....	---	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(102,515,876)	(+102,515,876)	---
Discretionary.....	(58,662,202)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(63,271,000)	(+4,608,798)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,452)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(-435)	---
Discretionary.....	(76,023,741)	(78,126,787)	(76,648,387)	(77,972,887)	(77,472,887)	(+1,449,146)	(-653,900)

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Advances from prior year less FY 2018 advances	(-4,608,798)	(-3,114,032)	(-3,114,032)	(-3,114,032)	(-3,114,032)	(+1,494,766)	---
Net discretionary.....	(71,414,943)	(75,012,755)	(73,534,355)	(74,858,855)	(74,358,855)	(+2,943,912)	(-653,900)
Mandatory.....	(193,771,938)	(103,952,601)	(103,952,601)	(103,952,601)	(103,952,601)	(-89,819,337)	---
Advances from prior year less FY 2018 advances	(-102,515,876)	(-1,420,120)	(-1,420,120)	(-1,420,120)	(-1,420,120)	(+101,095,756)	---
Net mandatory.....	(91,256,062)	(102,532,481)	(102,532,481)	(102,532,481)	(102,532,481)	(+11,276,419)	---
Total mandatory and discretionary.....	162,671,005	177,545,236	176,066,836	177,391,336	176,891,336	+14,220,331	-653,900

TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES

American Battle Monuments Commission

Salaries and expenses.....	105,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	-30,000	---
Foreign currency fluctuations account.....	2,000	---	---	---	---	-2,000	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission.....	107,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	75,100	-32,000	---
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims							
Salaries and expenses.....	32,141	30,945	30,945	30,945	30,945	-1,196	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
Department of Defense - Civil							
Ceneterial Expenses, Army							
Salaries and expenses.....	79,516	70,800	70,800	70,800	70,800	-8,716	---
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund							
Operation and maintenance.....	43,300	63,300	41,300	41,300	41,300	-2,000	-22,000
Capital program.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Payment from General Fund.....	20,000	---	22,000	22,000	22,000	+2,000	+22,000
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home.....	64,300	64,300	64,300	64,300	64,300	---	---
Total, title III.....	283,057	241,145	241,145	241,145	241,145	-41,912	---
TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS							
Overseas Contingency Operations							
Navy.....	---	38,409	38,409	---	38,409	+38,409	---
Air Force.....	---	11,440	11,440	---	11,440	+11,440	---
Subtotal.....	---	49,849	49,849	---	49,849	+49,849	---

DIVISION A. MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
European Reassurance Initiative							
Army.....	---	18,900	18,900	---	18,900	+18,900	---
Navy.....	---	21,400	21,400	---	21,400	+21,400	---
Air Force.....	---	68,300	68,300	---	68,280	+68,280	-20
Defense-Wide.....	---	5,000	5,000	---	5,000	+5,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	113,600	113,600	---	113,580	+113,580	-20
Counterterrorism Support							
Air Force.....	---	9,000	8,551	---	8,571	+8,571	-429
Total, title IV.....	---	172,449	172,000	---	172,000	+172,000	-449
Grand total.....							
Appropriations.....	278,249,736	189,937,038	188,708,133	190,096,633	189,564,633	-88,685,103	-372,405
Rescissions.....	(114,614,680)	(19,443,561)	(18,751,712)	(20,027,228)	(19,588,267)	(-95,026,413)	(+144,706)
Advance appropriations, FY 2018.....	(-2,151,820)	---	(-536,607)	(-251,623)	(-516,662)	(+1,635,158)	(-516,662)
Overseas contingency operations.....	(165,786,876)	(170,321,028)	(170,321,028)	(170,321,028)	(170,321,028)	(+4,534,152)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(58,662,202)	(165,786,876)	(165,786,876)	(165,786,876)	(165,786,876)	(+107,124,674)	---

DIVISION A, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017 (H.R. 4974, H.R. 2577)
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2017 Request	House	Senate	Conference Agreement	Conference vs Enacted	Conference vs Request
(By transfer).....	(301,000)	(7,535,912)	(7,535,912)	(289,731)	(289,731)	(-11,269)	(-7,246,181)
(Transfer out).....	(-301,000)	(-289,731)	(-289,731)	(-289,731)	(-289,731)	(+11,269)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(3,452)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(3,017)	(-435)	---

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND
PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS

The Act includes \$1,108,094,000 in fiscal year 2016 appropriations for Zika response and preparedness. These funds will provide the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, with additional resources to combat the Zika virus.

Within the funds provided for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a robust level of funding is intended to support mosquito control efforts conducted by State, county, or municipal programs, including mosquito control districts. CDC should consider the risk of active or local transmission of the Zika virus when allocating such funds.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services is encouraged to update the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System to account for specific coding requirements and

adequate reimbursement rates for Zika diagnostic tests recognized by the Food and Drug Administration.

Funds provided in the fifth proviso under the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund shall be administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reimburse for costs of health conditions related to the Zika virus.

A table displaying additional detail for the funding in division B follows:

DIVISION 8: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final vs. Request	Final
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Food and Drug Administration					
Salaries and Expenses (emergency).....	10,000	---	---	---	-10,000
TITLE I					
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES					
Health Resources and Services Administration					
Primary Health Care (emergency).....	---	---	40,000	---	---
Health Workforce (emergency).....	---	---	6,000	---	---
Maternal and Child Health (emergency).....	---	---	5,000	---	---
Total, Health Resources and Services.....	---	---	51,000	---	---

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final vs. Request
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention				
CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support.....	---	170,000	---	---
(emergency).....	828,000	---	449,000	-434,000
Subtotal, CDC-Wide activities and programs.....	828,000	170,000	449,000	-434,000
National Institutes of Health				
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	130,000	230,000	200,000	+22,000
(emergency).....				
Office of the Secretary				
Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund	295,000	103,000	150,000	+92,000
(emergency) 1/				

DIVISION 8: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request

General Provisions					

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Emergency Increase in Territorial Medicaid FMAP (CBO estimate)2/.....	157,000	---	---	---	-157,000
Total, Title I.....	1,410,000	503,000	850,000	933,000	-477,000
=====					
TITLE II					

DEPARTMENT OF STATE					

Administration of Foreign Affairs					
Diplomatic and Consular Programs (emergency).....	14,594	9,100	14,594	14,594	---
Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service (emergency).....	4,000	---	4,000	4,000	---
Repatriation Loans Program Account, Direct loans subsidy (emergency).....	1,000	---	1,000	1,000	---

DIVISION 8: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final	Final vs. Request

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT					
Funds Appropriated to the President					
Operating Expenses, USAID (emergency).....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	---
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE					
Funds Appropriated to the President					
Global Health Programs.....	---	100,000	---	---	---
(emergency).....	325,000	---	211,000	145,500	-179,500
Subtotal, Global health programs.....	325,000	100,000	211,000	145,500	-179,500
International Security Assistance					
Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs (emergency).....	8,000	---	4,000	---	-8,000

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final vs. Request
Multilateral Assistance				
International Organizations and Programs (emergency)..	13,500	---	13,500	-13,500
General Provisions--This Title				
USAID Operating expenses (rescission) (emergency) 3/..	---	---	-10,000	---
Total, Title II.....	376,094	119,100	248,094	-201,000
GENERAL PROVISIONS - THIS ACT				
Unobligated balances (Public Law 113-235) (rescission) (emergency)	---	-352,100	---	---

DIVISION B: ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016
(Amounts in Thousands)

	FY 2016 Request	House	Senate	Final vs. Request
Nonrecurring expenses fund unobligated balances (Public Law 110-161) (rescission).....	---	-270,000	---	---
Total, General Provisions.....	---	-622,100	---	---
GRAND TOTAL.....	1,796,094	---	1,098,094	-688,000
Appropriations.....	---	(270,000)	---	---
Emergency appropriations.....	(1,796,094)	(352,100)	(1,108,094)	(-688,000)
Rescissions.....	---	(-622,100)	---	---
Rescissions of Emergency funding.....	---	(-352,100)	(-10,000)	---

1/ Includes \$46M for Primary Health Services in Puerto Rico and other territories, of which \$6M is used for the National Health Service Corps

2/ OMB estimate is \$246M. FMAP is Federal Medical Assistance Percentage

3/ A rescission of \$7.522M is included in division D of this Act

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The Act includes the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017” as division C.

Section 145 of division C includes an additional \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 for the Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund, for activities related to major disasters. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall publish on a public website information accounting for how all grant funds are used, including the award and expenditure of funds. The Secretary shall update the information on the website on a monthly basis through December 31, 2016, and on a quarterly basis thereafter.

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

The Act includes \$400,001,198 in budgetary savings for fiscal year 2016, as follows:

\$10,000,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs”;

\$13,000,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities”;

\$279,045 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Homeland Security, Departmental Management and Operations, Office of the Secretary and Executive Management”;

\$39,246 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses”;

\$48,075,920 is rescinded from “Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements”;

\$731,790 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrative and Regional Operations”;

\$168,100,000 is rescinded from unobligated amounts available under section 1323(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

\$7,522,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of Ebola response and preparedness funds under “Operating Expenses” of the U.S. Agency for International Development;

\$109,478,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of Ebola response and preparedness funds under “Bilateral Economic Assistance, Funds Appropriated to the President”;

\$5,375,197 is rescinded from unobligated balances of “Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment”; and

\$37,400,000 is rescinded from unobligated balances of the Department of Transportation provided under section 108 of Public Law 101–130.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND MARITIME SECURITY ACT

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, yesterday I joined my colleagues Senators NELSON, THUNE, and FISCHER in introducing the Surface Transportation and Maritime Security Act. The security of our Nation’s ports and rail and surface transportation systems is critical to the daily lives of Americans, as well as to the health of our national economy. I thank my colleagues for joining together on this important legislation and hope that it leads to improved safety for our country.

This legislation comes months after the tragic attack on the Brussels metro and airport which killed 35 and injured over 300, and it comes just days after explosives were detonated in New Jersey and New York, threatening the lives of thousands. The sad reality is that attacks like these occur, and we must do more to protect our citizens.

The fact is mass transit and rail systems are challenging to secure. Meeting this challenge requires us to have a strategy in place that recognizes the evolving threats to surface networks and puts sufficient resources in place to match those risks. Currently, less than 2 percent of the Transportation Security Administration’s, TSA, budget and staff are dedicated to protecting surface transportation networks. While the Federal role has been to support and oversee State and local efforts to secure transit and other surface networks, we need to ask ourselves whether we are doing enough to protect passengers.

The Surface Transportation and Maritime Security Act requires the TSA Administrator to implement risk-based security plans for surface transportation in order to ensure resources are being driven to the most high-risk places. The bill directs TSA to conduct careful analysis to consider risks and provide mitigation strategies using information from global terrorist attacks. Additionally, I thank my colleagues for working with me to include language to the bill that will authorize more bomb-sniffing canines to be utilized to deter threats in our railroad networks and surface transportation. The bill also helps improve the screening of maritime workers and includes further measures to reform and improve port security. The bill includes several other important provisions that will yield new data to help inform future security needs. The bill is a product of compromise with my colleagues, and we will also need to work with our appropriator colleagues to ensure TSA has the resources to take these important security measures.

Again I thank my esteemed colleagues for partnering together on this legislation.

GROWTH DISORDER AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today, on behalf of every child currently living with a growth disorder, I wish to recognize this week—September 19 through 23, 2016—as Growth Disorder Awareness Week.

A child’s growth is a strong indicator of that child’s overall health status. According to the Pictures of Standard Syndromes and Undiagnosed Malformations, POSSUM, database, more than 600 serious diseases and health conditions can cause growth failure. These diseases range from nutritional

disturbances and hormone imbalances, to far more serious conditions that affect the kidneys or even lead to brain tumors. While these conditions affect a child’s growth progress, a stunning 48 percent of children with the most common growth disorders go undiagnosed. To make matters worse, the longer a child with growth failure goes undiagnosed, the greater the potential for long-term health issues and higher costs of treatment. Early detection and diagnosis are, therefore, critical to ensuring a healthy future for these children.

This week, as we recognize Growth Disorder Awareness Week, I want to applaud the MAGIC Foundation for the tremendous work they do to further public awareness of growth failure and to improve the lives and health of the children whom they affect.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIWANIS CLUB OF MILWAUKEE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee. Over the past 100 years, the club and its members have served the families and children of Milwaukee through countless hours of service and commitment meant to better the community. This year, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary, I wish to honor their philanthropic achievements and dedication to this great Wisconsin city.

Founded in 1916 as a charter club, the Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee was the 23rd chapter founded in the United States and is now one of 8,309 worldwide. Although one of many around the globe, the Milwaukee Club has set itself apart through its 100-year tradition of service and advocacy on behalf of Milwaukee children.

One of the first projects members embraced in 1917 was providing coal for families in need. In 1939, they opened a Gaenslen School for handicapped children, and 20 years later, in 1959, they established a Boy Scout troop for 30 handicapped boys. Continuing their aid to children, in 1977, the club started a Children’s Center for Curative Rehabilitation. Elsewhere in their community, they sponsored and directed Milwaukee’s first river clean-up in 1982 and established the Kiwanis Landing community fishing area in 2010. The common thread in all these important programs was creating opportunities for children, regardless of their circumstances.

In all their efforts, Kiwanis members strive to improve the quality of life for all Milwaukee residents. In 2015, they conducted vision tests at 37 Milwaukee public schools, serving 5,550 children. Additionally, they served meals to more than 750 children and their families at the Ronald McDonald House. The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee has spent countless hours tutoring children

in Milwaukee public schools, as well as helping guide college students in organizing volunteer programs at three local colleges. Throughout the year, the club collects items such as hats, mittens, gloves, and personal hygiene products for homeless children, and they work to replenish local food banks.

In honor of their 100th anniversary, the club has taken on additional service projects that revolve around the number 100, including providing 100 Thanksgiving meals, donating 100 backpacks to children in foster care, planting 100 native trees, donating 100 flowering mums to single mothers, and donating 100 U.S. flags to schools and nonprofits.

It is heartwarming to think of the vast number of children and families club members have helped during their 100 years of service. They deserve to be proud of the significant difference they have made in the lives of individuals in need and the collective impact they have had on their community as a whole.

The Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee is a truly wonderful, deserving organization. Members work hard every day to help the world become a better place—one child at a time. I am excited to see what the future holds for this exemplary organization and the families it serves.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOAN ELIEL

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Joan Eliel, investigator/program specialist with the Montana Department of Justice for receiving one of three 2016 Outstanding Crime Victim Advocate of the Year awards. Joan is a dedicated public servant who has been a key DOJ employee for Attorneys General McGrath, Bullock, and Fox covering 14 years.

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court chief judge, Winona Tanner, nominated Joan for the Outstanding Victim Advocate Award due to her leadership as program administrator for Montana's Project Passport, End of Life Registry, and Address Confidentiality Programs. Joan is currently piloting two national projects, including the Hope Card Project, which helps victims of protection order violations on the local, tribal, State, and Federal level. Matthew Dale, director of the Office of Consumer Protection and Victim Services, stated that Joan's work "... is a national model of how Native Americans, the state and the federal government can work together to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable."

Joan is a true innovator and had dedicated her life to making positive and lasting changes for the victims of

domestic violence. I am truly honored to be able to recognize Joan as "Montanan of the Week" for those efforts. Joan is married and the mother of two children and resides in Townsend, MT, in Broadwater County.

Thank you, Joan, for your service, not only to the people of Montana, but our entire Nation. I look forward to hearing about the next innovative work you will lead on and the success of your current projects.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN LYNN SCHAEFFER AND ARVELLA JERGESEN

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Kathleen Lynn Schaeffer and Arvella Jergesen on receiving the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. These awards are truly prestigious, attained by only the most influential educators across the country. The Silver State is fortunate to have both of these successful teachers working at local schools.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are considered the Nation's highest honor for kindergarten through high school mathematics and science educators. These teachers stand as role models to their colleagues and are dedicated to the success of America's future generations, particularly in encouraging students to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math. These educators go above and beyond in their local schools to implement unique, high-quality curriculum to help students excel in their learning. I am thankful to both Ms. Schaeffer and Mrs. Jergesen for their invaluable educational contributions.

Ms. Schaeffer has played an influential role in the lives of students since she started working for the Clark County School District in 1988. As a member of the original staff that opened Bob Miller Middle School, BM, in Henderson, NV, she truly made an everlasting impression on its faculty, staff, and student body. During her time at BM, she established and directed the annual Bobcat Institute to assist each year's sixth grade class through their transition into middle school. Ms. Schaeffer was recognized most for her technology-based teaching methods that triggered educational growth for all of her students. Currently, Ms. Schaeffer works for the Clark County School District and was recently selected to attend the Foundations of Global Education International Research and Exchanges, where she participated in a fellowship in India. Ms. Schaeffer's teaching methods have proven to be truly beneficial to many Clark County School District students. Ms. Schaeffer's work is truly commendable.

Mrs. Jergesen has taught at Fernley Intermediate School, FIS, for 15 years.

She is the anchor of the school's sixth grade math and science team, chairperson of FIS's School Improvement Plan program, and coach of the school's Academic Olympic Team. Mrs. Jergesen is also a pivotal resource that brings guest speakers and educational workshops to FIS that foster students to participate in unique, hands-on learning experiences. Mrs. Jergesen is an outstanding teacher who is dedicated to ensuring all her students succeed. She is highly respected within her community and is very deserving of this award. Mrs. Jergesen's dedication is greatly appreciated in Fernley and throughout the rest of Nevada.

As a father of four children who attended Nevada's public schools and as the husband of a teacher, I understand the important role that teachers play in enriching the lives of Nevada's students. Ensuring that America's youth are prepared to compete in the 21st century is critical for the future of our country. The State of Nevada is fortunate to be home to educators such as Ms. Schaeffer and Mrs. Jergesen.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Ms. Schaeffer and Mrs. Jergesen for their dedication to enriching the lives of Nevada's students and in congratulating them on receiving this incredible award. I wish them well in all of their future endeavors and in creating success for all students who enter their classrooms.●

TRIBUTE TO ALLANA NOYES

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize one of Nevada's brightest students—Allana Noyes—on being selected as a 2015–2016 recipient of the Fulbright scholarship.

The Fulbright Scholar Program was developed shortly after World War II by former U.S. Senator James William Fulbright to promote the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science. Today the program offers 1,900 grants each year for students to study in various fields in more than 140 countries worldwide. As a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship, thousands of students and young professionals apply from across the country. I am proud to congratulate Ms. Noyes on her achievement. She is a shining example of how hard work leads to success and stands as a role model for future members of the Nevada Wolf Pack.

Ms. Noyes graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, or UNR, with bachelor's degrees in linguistics, Spanish, and French. Before deciding for multiple degrees at UNR, Ms. Noyes participated in a study abroad program in Puebla, Mexico. After her time in Puebla, Ms. Noyes followed her passion of language and moved to France to study and practice French. Ms. Noyes returned to UNR to pursue her passion in language and continued studying

French while taking nearly every Spanish class offered at the university. After completing all of her requirements, Ms. Noyes received her Fulbright scholarship, allowing her to spend a year in Mexico with the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program. Ms. Noyes is focusing her efforts on educating students in both Spanish and English, while embedding herself in Mexican culture and lifestyle. After her time in Mexico, Ms. Noyes is expected to enter a graduate program that focuses on translation and creative writing skills. Ultimately, Ms. Noyes plans to become an English and Spanish creative writer and translator.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this exceptional young Nevadan. I am proud to have her representing both Nevada and UNR as a global ambassador through the Fulbright Scholarship Program. Allana Noyes worked hard for this incredible opportunity, and I wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.●

REMEMBERING PAM HILLERY

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of my close friend, Pam Hillery.

On Wednesday, September 14, 2016, Pam passed away, surrounded by her loving family, but leaving behind an unforgettable and inspiring life story. Her legacy is one of tremendous political activism and civic involvement, and it will endure throughout the Treasure State.

Pam, who suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, never let her diagnosis prevent her from lending a helping hand to the community or working tirelessly to improve the lives of those around her. She immersed herself in community service.

Born in Mechanicsburg, PA, in July 1960, Pam graduated high school in Germany in 1978—where her father was stationed with the U.S. Department of Defense—and attended college at the College of William and Mary, eventually gaining her master's degree in environmental studies at the University of Montana. It was there that she met her future husband, Paul. They married in 1989.

In every town or city where they lived, Pam gave back to the community. In Helena, she volunteered for the Solid Waste Task Force, CASA, St. Helena Cathedral, and won a seat on the Helena Citizens Council, in addition to cofounding Trash for Trees.

In Havre, where she and Paul moved in 2000, she volunteered for St. Jude's Catholic Church, the Boys and Girls Club of the Hi-Line, Havre Elementary PTO, Havre-Hill County Crimestoppers, and the Hi-Line/Northern Showcase Concert Association. She served two terms on the city council and launched a run for mayor. Even after being diag-

nosed with ALS, she remained undaunted. Pam was appointed to a 1-year term on the city council after a council member resigned, but this was not simply a caretaker appointment. Pam was no placeholder. She immediately went into action and launched a sweeping plan to fix the city's decaying streets. After leaving office, Pam was concerned the council was dragging its feet, so she showed up at a meeting. Unable to speak, she had her husband, Paul, read a letter urging prompt action. Still frustrated, she followed up with a letter to the editor.

That was Pam. She never gave up. Pam loved Havre and gave 100 percent of herself to make her community and her State a better place.

Pam is survived by her husband, Paul, their two children Dolan and Caroline, her five siblings, several nieces and nephews, and one great-nephew. I know that they are grieving, but I hope they find some comfort in the fact that Pam will be remembered by a grateful community that is better off for having been graced with her enduring and cheerful spirit.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2315. An act to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

H.R. 3438. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to postpone the effective date of high-impact rules pending judicial review.

H.R. 3924. An act to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3957. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily allow expensing of certain costs of replanting citrus plants lost by reason of casualty.

H.R. 4712. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which

a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may require that the United States Postal Service obtain a signature from that person in order to deliver the document, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5064. An act to amend the Small Business Act to allow small business development centers to assist and advise small business concerns on relevant cyber security matters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5094. An act to contain, reverse, and deter Russian aggression in Ukraine, to assist Ukraine's democratic transition, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5147. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities.

H.R. 5461. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the estimated total assets under direct or indirect control by certain senior Iranian leaders and other figures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5613. An act to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2016.

H.R. 5659. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to expanding Medicare Advantage coverage for individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD).

H.R. 5708. An act to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua, other than to address basic human needs or promote democracy, unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5713. An act to provide for the extension of certain long-term care hospital Medicare payment rules, clarify the application of rules on the calculation of hospital length of stay to certain moratorium-excepted long-term care hospitals, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5859. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the major metropolitan area counterterrorism training and exercise grant program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5977. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to provide to the appropriate committees of Congress advance notice of certain announcements, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5995. An act to strike the sunset on certain provisions relating to the authorized protest of a task or delivery order under section 4106 of title 41, United States Code.

H.R. 6007. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include consideration of certain impacts on commercial space launch and reentry activities in a navigable airspace analysis, and for other purposes.

H. R. 6014. An act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally.

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the

Senate to the bill (H.R. 1475) to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

The message further announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2494) to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 4:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2615. An act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

H.R. 5252. An act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, as the "Marcelino Serna Port of Entry".

H.R. 5937. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3438. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to postpone the effective date of high-impact rules pending judicial review; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3924. An act to establish in the United States Agency for International Development an entity to be known as the United States Global Development Lab, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 4712. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide for an option under the Secure Mail Initiative under which a person to whom a document is sent under that initiative may require that the United States Postal Service obtain a signature from that person in order to deliver the document, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5094. An act to contain, reverse, and deter Russian aggression in Ukraine, to assist Ukraine's democratic transition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5461. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the estimated total assets under direct or indirect control by certain senior Iranian leaders and other figures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5613. An act to provide for the extension of the enforcement instruction on supervision requirements for outpatient therapeutic services in critical access and small rural hospitals through 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5659. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to expanding Medicare Advantage coverage for individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD); to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5708. An act to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua, other than to address basic human needs or promote democracy, unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5713. An act to provide for the extension of certain long-term care hospital Medicare payment rules, clarify the application of rules on the calculation of hospital length of stay to certain moratorium-excepted long-term care hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5859. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the major metropolitan area counterterrorism training and exercise grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 6014. An act to allow the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to enter into reimbursable agreements for certain airport projects; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5687. An act to eliminate or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

H.R. 5690. An act to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1040. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Academy of Sciences to study the vehicle handling requirements proposed by the Commission for recreational off-highway vehicles and to prohibit the adoption of any such requirements until the completion of the study, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-357).

S. 650. A bill to extend the positive train control system implementation deadline, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. Kenneth P. Ekman, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Jon T. Thomas, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Col. Alfred F. Abramson III and ending with Col.

David Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 6, 2016. (minus 2 nominees: Col. Mario A. R. Diaz; Col. Michael R. Fenzel)

*Air Force nomination of Gen. John E. Hyten, to be General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Christopher W. Grady, to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Navy nomination of Thomas M. Hearty, to be Commander.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3380. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for accreditation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 3381. A bill to establish a program to accurately document vehicles that were significant in the history of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3382. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. CORKER):

S. 3383. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 719 Church Street in Nashville, Tennessee, as the "Fred. D. Thompson Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3384. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for middle-income housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3385. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to provide bankruptcy protections for medically distressed debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 3386. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May 1 as "Silver Star Service Banner Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON:

S. 3387. A bill to provide for the fast track review of certain generic drugs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 3388. A bill to make improvements to certain wildfire and disaster recovery programs of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 3389. A bill to authorize State-sponsored multiple employer plans and State payroll deduction savings programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3390. A bill to ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3391. A bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3392. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby Medicare Administrative Contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 613

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Hawaii

(Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 827

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 1473

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to authorize the appropriation of funds to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for conducting or supporting research on firearms safety or gun violence prevention.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2028

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2028, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act, to advance the ability of credit unions to promote small business growth and economic development opportunities, and for other purposes.

S. 2066

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2066, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise

the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 2071

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2071, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize payments for ambulatory surgical centers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2253, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by closures of educational institutions certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2385

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2385, a bill to strengthen protections for the remaining populations of wild elephants, rhinoceroses, and other imperiled species through country-specific anti-poaching efforts and anti-trafficking strategies, to promote the value of wildlife and natural resources, to curtail the demand for illegal wildlife products in consumer countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2420

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2420, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the exception to the work requirement.

S. 2424

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 2628

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2628, a bill to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

S. 2841

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2841, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil-, gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and Straits of Florida planning areas of the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes.

S. 2892

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2892, a bill to accelerate the use of wood in buildings, especially tall wood buildings, and for other purposes.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2912, a bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2979

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2979, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require candidates of major parties for the office of President to disclose recent tax return information.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3056, a bill to provide for certain causes of action relating to delays of generic drugs and biosimilar biological products.

S. 3130

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3130, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a permanent Independence at Home medical practice program under the Medicare program.

S. 3179

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3179, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.

S. 3223

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3223, a bill to increase funding to reduce opioid use disorders and overdose, and for other purposes.

S. 3242

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3242, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide the opportunity for responsible health savings to all American families.

S. 3260

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3260, a bill to provide liability protection for volunteer pilots who fly for the public benefit, and for other purposes.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 3367

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3367, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility leases of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3379

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3379, a bill to improve surface transportation and maritime security.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution to provide limitations on the transfer of certain United States munitions from the United States to Saudi Arabia.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 3381. A bill to establish a program to accurately document vehicles that were significant in the history of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, few American innovations have changed the modern world like the automobile. Cars and trucks are now woven into the very fabric of American life and culture. As a Senator from the State of Michigan, as well as a car and motor-

cycle enthusiast, I am especially proud of our State's leading role in the American auto industry.

The history of the automobile is really a history of American workers, innovators, and entrepreneurs, and it must be preserved. Right before me are two pictures of two really iconic vehicles, vehicles such as the 1964 Shelby Cobra at the top and a 1967 Chevrolet Camaro. These two cars helped spark a lifelong love of cars for millions of Americans. Fifty years later, these vehicles still inspire today's innovators and engineers as they work to develop cars and trucks of the future to be smarter, safer, more reliable, and more efficient than ever before. However, there is currently no dedicated Federal register to document historically significant automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, and commercial vehicles for future generations of Americans to appreciate and to enjoy.

Today I am introducing the National Historic Vehicle Register Act, which will establish a Federal register of historic vehicles and document and preserve records of these vehicles for our Nation's history. This legislation will ensure that the engineering drawings, photos, and stories of historically important vehicles will be available to inspire Americans and celebrate the accomplishments of the American auto industry.

The National Historic Vehicle Register Act would build on efforts of the Historic Vehicle Association to help document and preserve the legacy of some of our most historic vehicles. I recently had the opportunity to see two of the autos that have already been documented by the Historic Vehicle Association. I saw this vehicle right here at the bottom. This is President Taft's 1909 White Steam Car. It was the very first Presidential limousine. It is a beautiful and fascinating example of steam car technology from the early days of the automobile and could reach astonishing speeds up to 60 miles an hour. In addition to being a pleasant way to get around, President Taft's use of automobiles helped encourage other Americans to adopt the new technology as their favorite mode of transportation.

I also had the honor to see the Jeep up on the top photo, which is President Reagan's 1962 Willys Jeep CJ-6. It was a Christmas gift from his wife Nancy. Standing next to the Jeep, I could not help but have a vivid picture of President Reagan driving it on his ranch in California, often accompanied by his dogs Lucky, Freebo, and Victory. The register would work to preserve these memories, with members of the historic vehicles community selecting automobiles and motorcycles to include in the register and establishing collaborative partnerships to carry out the register's activities.

Our Nation's rich automotive history belongs to the American people, and it

is worthy of its own dedicated register. I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues, the historic vehicle community, and car enthusiasts across the country to preserve our motor heritage.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3390. A bill to ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, throughout his life, the late Senator Paul Simon believed that for the United States to be a true world leader, our country and its citizens needed to strengthen our international understanding. In a 1995 floor speech, he posed the question "Can someone really be considered educated if, upon graduation as an engineer or physician or teacher or journalist or accountant or architect, he or she does not have the most minimal understanding of the rest of the world?" At the heart of this question was his aspiration for our country to become more internationally aware.

Following the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001—an event that is now 15 years in our past, Senator Simon shared his vision of a world in which peace and security is fostered through mutual understanding and global awareness. He believed the best way to develop this understanding and awareness was through full immersion oneself in another culture. Senator Simon saw that the opportunity for this already existed on college campuses through study abroad programs. Study abroad helps students make a connection with another part of the world and begin to develop insight into the perspectives of other nations. By exposing young adults to study abroad, today's students will become more globally aware future leaders.

Unfortunately, as a country, we are falling short of achieving the great vision set forth by Senator Simon. Currently, less than 2 percent of enrolled post-secondary students in the United States study abroad. Furthermore, the students who do study abroad are not reflective of post-secondary enrollment in the United States. Minority students, first generation college students, and community college students are significantly underrepresented among those who do study abroad. These groups of students disproportionately lose out on the remarkable educational opportunities that come along with studying abroad—engaging with other cultures, enhancing foreign language skills, and expanding inter-

national knowledge through firsthand experience.

Further, the students who study abroad do so overwhelmingly in just one part of the world. Of all students who study abroad, 40 percent study in just four countries: the United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, and France. An additional 13 percent study in other European countries, meaning that over half of all U.S. students who study abroad do so in Europe. Europe has many valuable and important educational experiences to offer American students. But, increasing the diversity of study abroad destinations allows students to expand their horizons and make connections that will help them develop a global perspective and deeper understanding of the challenges we face in the 21st Century.

In 2004, Congress took the first step towards expanding study abroad when it authorized the Commission on Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program to provide recommendations to Congress and the President on expanding study abroad programs.

Today, I am honored to carry on the vision laid out by Senator Simon as Senator WICKER and I introduce the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act. This legislation takes an important step towards making the vision of Senator Simon a reality based on the recommendations made by the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Commission.

It establishes a competitive grant program for institutions of higher education to encourage the sustainable expansion of study abroad opportunities for students in the United States. Over the next 10 years, this grant program aims to increase the overall number of undergraduate students studying abroad each year to one million students. It will place a special emphasis on increasing opportunities for nontraditional and minority students, so that the demographics of students who study abroad more closely reflect the population of current undergraduate students.

This bill will also emphasize getting students to study abroad in nontraditional destinations particularly in developing countries. We need to send more students to developing nations because these are the places that America needs to better understand—countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, South America, and the Middle East. This legislation takes important steps toward expanding and diversifying participation in study abroad.

I am pleased that several organizations have endorsed this bill including the American Public and Land-grant Universities, Association of International Educators, Partners of the Americas, American Council on Education, the American Association of Community Colleges, the Forum on Education Abroad, the Hispanic Asso-

ciation of Colleges and Universities, and the Association of American Universities.

In today's global society, an undergraduate education that includes a meaningful study abroad experience is more important than ever. Expanded participation in study abroad is necessary to prepare the next generation of Americans with the global knowledge and skills needed for success in an increasingly interconnected world. I thank Senator WICKER for standing with me in this effort and I hope my colleagues will join us.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3390

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) To prepare students for success in the modern global economy, opportunities for study abroad should be included as part of a well-rounded education.

(2) Study abroad programs provide students with unparalleled access to international knowledge, an unmatched opportunity to learn foreign languages, and a unique environment for developing cultural understanding, all of which are knowledge and skills needed in today's global economy.

(3) Less than 2 percent of all enrolled post-secondary students in the United States study abroad for credit in any given year, and minority students, first generation college students, and community college students are significantly underrepresented in study abroad participation.

(4) Congress authorized the establishment of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program pursuant to section 104 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108-199). Pursuant to its mandate, the Lincoln Commission submitted to Congress and the President a report of its recommendations for greatly expanding the opportunity for students at institutions of higher education in the United States to study abroad, with special emphasis on studying in developing nations.

(5) According to the Lincoln Commission, "[e]xperience shows that leadership from administrators and faculty will drive the number of study abroad participants higher and improve the quality of programs. Such leadership is the only way that study abroad will become an integral part of the undergraduate experience." A competitive grant program is necessary to encourage and support such leadership.

SEC. 3. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to ensure that significantly more students have access to quality study abroad opportunities;

(2) to ensure that the diversity of students studying abroad reflects the diversity of students and institutions of higher education in the United States;

(3) to encourage greater diversity in study abroad destinations by increasing the portion of study abroad that takes place in non-traditional study abroad destinations, especially in developing countries; and

(4) to encourage a greater commitment by institutions of higher education to expand study abroad opportunities.

SEC. 4. SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.

Section 741 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1138) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (12) and (13) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) awarding grants under the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program described in subsection (g);” and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given the term in section 101(a).

“(B) NATIONAL OF THE UNITED STATES.—The term ‘national of the United States’ means a national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)).

“(C) NONTRADITIONAL STUDY ABROAD DESTINATION.—The term ‘nontraditional study abroad destination’ means a location that is determined by the Secretary to be a less common destination for students who study abroad.

“(D) STUDENT.—The term ‘student’ means a national of the United States who is enrolled at an institution of higher education located within the United States.

“(E) STUDY ABROAD.—The term ‘study abroad’ means an educational program of study, work, research, internship, or combination thereof that is conducted outside the United States and that carries academic credit.

“(2) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be called the ‘Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program’.

“(B) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the program established under subparagraph (A) are, that not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act of 2016—

“(i) not less than 1,000,000 undergraduate students will study abroad annually;

“(ii) the demographics of study abroad participation will reflect the demographics of the United States undergraduate population; and

“(iii) an increasing portion of study abroad will take place in nontraditional study abroad destinations, with a substantial portion of such increases in developing countries.

“(C) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In order to accomplish the objectives set forth in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to institutions of higher education, individually or in a consortium, based on applications by the institutions that—

“(i) set forth detailed plans for using grant funds to further such objectives;

“(ii) include an institutional commitment to expanding access to study abroad;

“(iii) include plans for evaluating progress made in increasing access to study abroad;

“(iv) describe how increases in study abroad participation achieved through the grant will be sustained in subsequent years; and

“(v) demonstrate that the programs have established health and safety guidelines and procedures.

“(D) NONGOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.—Consortia of institutions of higher education applying for grants described in subparagraph (C) may include nongovernmental institutions that provide and promote study abroad opportunities for students.

“(E) COMMISSION ON THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN STUDY ABROAD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—In administering the program, the Secretary shall take fully into account the recommendations of the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program, established pursuant to section 104 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act, 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199).

“(F) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary shall consult with representatives of diverse institutions of higher education, educational policy organizations, and others with appropriate expertise.

“(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31 of each year following the date of enactment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act of 2016, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this subsection during the prior fiscal year.

“(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year.”.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3391. A bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by Senators COLLINS, COCHRAN, and GILLIBRAND in introducing legislation to renew the law that expands the reach of libraries and museums and enables them to better serve their communities. These vital institutions educate, inform, engage, and connect people from all walks of life.

This year marks several milestones for library and museum programs at the Federal level. Sixty years ago, in 1956, Congress passed legislation to establish the first Federal program of direct support to public libraries, with the goal of expanding access. Forty years ago, in 1976, Congress established the Institute of Museum Services to provide assistance to museums, including for exhibits and conservation, educational programs, and professional curatorial training. In the following years, the programs were updated and renewed many times to address evolving needs for library and museum

services. Twenty years ago, in 1996, Congress passed the Museum and Library Services Act, establishing the Institute of Museum and Library Services, IMLS, to house the library and museum programs together for the first time. My predecessor, the late Senator Claiborne Pell, a great champion for expanding educational and cultural opportunities to all communities, was instrumental in passage of this law. The Senate Committee report for this bill noted the “great potential in an Institute that is focused on the combined roles that libraries and museums play in our community life, in support of research, learning, and entertainment, and in support of American culture and history.”

We have seen this borne out over the last 20 years. Through a relatively modest Federal investment, IMLS has helped build capacity to support and expand access to library and museum services at the State and local levels. IMLS has been the source of major Federal support for the full range of libraries, including public, academic, research, special, and tribal libraries—123,000 across the country—and the full range of museums, including art, history, science and technology, children’s, historical societies, tribal, planetariums, botanic gardens, and zoos—35,000 across the country. We have seen access to libraries and museums increase all the while these institutions have striven to meet the ever-evolving needs of their communities.

In Rhode Island, IMLS funding for the grants to States program under the Library Services and Technology Act, LSTA, has supported improved online resources; literacy initiatives, including a summer reading program; and the provision of talking books to residents with visual impairments and disabilities. This year, Providence Public Library was awarded a nearly \$530,000 National Leadership Grant to provide underserved teens with learning opportunities, leading to digital credentials, academic credit, exposure to work, and entry into education and career pathways. IMLS has also supported and elevated the work of Rhode Island museums. I was so pleased that the Tomaquag Museum in Exeter was one of ten recipients nationally to be recognized with a 2016 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The Providence Children’s Museum and the Preservation Society of Newport County also received grants to support their work this year.

I have been proud to continue the work of Senator Pell in supporting robust funding for libraries and museums and authoring the last two renewals of the Museum and Library Services Act. I have seen firsthand the impact libraries and museums have had on our communities in Rhode Island and the residents and visitors they serve, making

our State stronger because of the services and experiences that these institutions provide.

The museum and library communities have provided invaluable input in helping us craft this bipartisan legislation. I would especially like to thank the Rhode Island library community for hosting me at libraries across the state and convening a roundtable discussion in June to delve deeper into the programs libraries are providing and ways to improve how they serve their communities.

In response to the input and insight offered by the library and museum communities, the bill we are introducing today, the Museum and Library Services Act of 2016, requires the use of data-driven tools to measure the impact and maximize the effectiveness of library and museum services and better tailor services to address and meet community needs. The legislation provides for technical support and assistance to help the library and museum fields with their data collection responsibilities. It also enhances IMLS's collaborative efforts with an expanded number of Federal agencies in order to fully leverage the benefits libraries and museums provide to Americans.

This legislation also amends LSTA to highlight the role of libraries as community hubs, through services and programming in such areas as literacy, education, lifelong learning, workforce development, economic and business development, digital literacy skills, critical thinking, financial literacy skills, and new and emerging technology. The bill provides greater emphasis on recruiting and training of the next generation of library and information science professionals from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds. Additionally, it seeks to focus leadership grant funds on activities that serve a range of library types and geographically diverse areas; have evaluation, analysis, and dissemination components; and involve, impact, or have future applicability in libraries.

In 1964, when signing an expansion of library programs into law, President Lyndon Baines Johnson remarked, "Libraries are not just for the young and the curious about an exciting world. They are not just for our youth preparing for their careers. They are not just for busy people looking for information to do their jobs. Libraries are for everyone and therein lies their real value." The changes we are contemplating in this reauthorization bill are designed to continue fulfilling this promise and update the law not only to account for activities that are currently underway but also to look ahead and provide flexibility for libraries to constantly respond to changing demands and missions.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 also builds on the 40-year legacy of Federal support for improv-

ing and expanding access to museum services. It addresses the critical need for professional development and recruiting and preparing the next generation of museum professionals, emphasizing diversity so that museums better reflect the communities they serve. The legislation also highlights the educational role of museums and the diverse ways that museums engage their communities, and it encourages partnerships with other agencies, professional networks, and community-based organizations to expand and enhance access to museum services.

At this year's National Medal for Museum and Library Service ceremony, First Lady Michelle Obama captured why it is so vital that we continue to support libraries and museums on a national level: "Day after day, year after year, our nation's libraries and museums are here for our communities. And at the end of the day, you all don't measure your impact by the number of books on your shelves or pieces in your exhibits, but by the young people you inspire, the lives you transform, and the impact you have every single day on your communities."

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2016 will continue our tradition of supporting our communities through their museums and libraries. It has the support of the American Library Association and the American Alliance of Museums and many of their affiliated associations. I thank my colleagues for supporting this endeavor and look forward to more joining us as we work together to urge swift action to adopt this important legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE BAYS, HARBORS, AND TERRITORIAL SEAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 9, 1962, AND ENDING ON MAY 7, 1975, SHOULD BE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE TOXIN AGENT ORANGE AND SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ALL RELATED FEDERAL BENEFITS THAT COME WITH SUCH PRESUMPTION UNDER THE AGENT ORANGE ACT OF 1991

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 51

Whereas section 1116(f) of title 38, United States Code, states that "For the purposes of establishing service connection for a disability or death resulting from exposure to a herbicide agent, including a presumption of

service-connection under this section, a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to have been exposed during such service to an herbicide agent containing dioxin or 2,4 dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, and may be presumed to have been exposed during such service to any other chemical compound in an herbicide agent, unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that service.";

Whereas the international definition and United States recognized borders of the Republic of Vietnam includes the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of that Republic;

Whereas multiple scientific and medical sources, including studies done by the government of Australia, have shown evidence of exposure to herbicide agents such as Agent Orange by those serving in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas veterans who served in the Armed Forces in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, were exposed to this toxin through their ships' distillation processes, air and water currents, and the use of exposed water from inland sources, such as water from near heavily-sprayed Monkey Mountain, delivered by exposed water barges;

Whereas such veterans experience and significantly higher percentage of medical conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure compared to those in the regular populace;

Whereas when passing the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4), Congress did not differentiate between those who served on the inland waterways and on land versus those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of that Republic;

Whereas the purpose behind providing presumptive coverage for medical conditions associated with exposure to Agent Orange is because proving such exposure decades after its occurrence is not scientifically or medically possible; and

Whereas thousands of veterans who served in the Armed Forces in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, die at increasing rates every year; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the intent of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4) included the presumption that those veterans who served in the Armed Forces in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, were exposed to the Agent Orange dioxin;

(2) intends for those veterans who served in the Armed Forces during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, in the bays, harbors, territorial seas, inland waterways, on the ground in the Republic of Vietnam, and other areas exposed to Agent Orange, and having been diagnosed with connected medical conditions to be equally recognized for such exposure through equitable benefits and coverage; and

(3) calls on the Department of Veterans' Affairs to acknowledge this intent of Congress, rescind the VA Adjudication Procedure Manual M21-1, Part IV, Subpart II,

Chapter 1, Section H, Topic 28.h, and reissue guidance extending presumptive coverage for exposure to agent orange to veterans described in paragraph (1).

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5082. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

SA 5083. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5084. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5083 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5085. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5086. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5085 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5087. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5088. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5087 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5089. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5088 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5087 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*.

SA 5090. Mr. COATS (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1878, to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

SA 5091. Mr. COATS (for Ms. HIRONO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2683, to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5082. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert in lieu thereof:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Statement of appropriations.
- Sec. 5. Availability of funds.
- Sec. 6. Explanatory statement.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs

Title III—Related agencies

Title IV—Overseas contingency operations

Title V—General provisions

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 6. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

(a) The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about September 22, 2016, by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through D of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

(b) Any reference to the “joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act” contained in division A of this Act shall be considered to be a reference to the explanatory statement described in subsection (a).

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$513,459,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$98,159,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$1,021,580,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$88,230,000 shall

be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$1,491,058,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$143,582,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be for construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 3, at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, unless authorized in an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military construction.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$2,025,444,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$180,775,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$232,930,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$8,729,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$143,957,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$10,462,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$68,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$7,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$38,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$3,783,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$188,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$4,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international

military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$240,237,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$157,172,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$325,995,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$94,011,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$300,915,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$61,352,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$274,429,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$59,157,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$3,258,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments

under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section

shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5-10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 125. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2021:

"Military Construction, Army", \$40,500,000;

"Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$227,099,000;

"Military Construction, Air Force", \$149,500,000;

"Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$67,500,000;

"Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$11,000,000;

"Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$30,000,000;

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2017 submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 126. For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$89,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified by the Department of the Navy in its June 8, 2016, unfunded priority list submission to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing unfunded reprogramming and emergency construction requirements: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 127. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense from prior appropriation Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

"Military Construction, Army", \$29,602,000;

"Military Construction, Air Force", \$51,460,000;

"Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$171,600,000, of which \$30,000,000 are to be derived from amounts made available for Missile Defense Agency planning and design; and

"North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program", \$30,000,000:

Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the

Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 128. Of the unobligated balances made available in prior appropriation Acts for the fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$25,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 129. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional defense committees” means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 130. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to consolidate or relocate any element of a United States Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) outside of the United States until the Secretary of the Air Force (1) completes an analysis and comparison of the cost and infrastructure investment required to consolidate or relocate a RED HORSE squadron outside of the United States versus within the United States; (2) provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (“the Committees”) a report detailing the findings of the cost analysis; and (3) certifies in writing to the Committees that the preferred site for the consolidation or relocation yields the greatest savings for the Air Force: *Provided*, That the term “United States” in this section does not include any territory or possession of the United States.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,119,449,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$17,224,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2018 under this head-

ing shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$13,708,648,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, \$124,504,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$107,899,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2017, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$198,856,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$36,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,517,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$389,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,163,000.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not other-

wise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,856,160,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$1,078,993,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$44,886,554,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans:

Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide access to therapeutic listening devices to veterans struggling with mental health related problems, substance abuse, or traumatic brain injury.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$7,246,181,000, plus reimbursements, of which \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020; and, in addition, \$9,409,118,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, \$1,500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$6,654,480,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$247,668,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$5,434,880,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$675,366,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, in-

cluding uniforms or allowances therefor; cemetery expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemetery operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$286,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$345,391,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$156,096,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$4,278,259,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,272,548,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed \$37,100,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That \$2,534,442,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$180,200,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That \$471,269,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development, mod-

ernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution or any successor program, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(1) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the VistA Evolution Business Case and supporting documents regarding continuation of VistA Evolution or alternatives to VistA Evolution, including an analysis of necessary or desired capabilities, technical and security requirements, the plan for modernizing the platform framework, and all associated costs;

(2) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes a strategic plan for VistA Evolution, or any successor program, and the associated implementation plan including metrics and timelines; a master schedule and lifecycle cost estimate for VistA Evolution or any successor; and an implementation plan for the transition from the Project Management Accountability System to a new project delivery framework, the Veteran-focused Integration Process, that includes the methodology by which projects will be tracked, progress measured, and deliverables evaluated;

(3) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report outlining the strategic plan to reach interoperability with private sector healthcare providers, the timeline for reaching "meaningful use" as defined by the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for each data domain covered under the VistA Evolution program, and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs leverages the State Health Information Exchanges to share health data with private sector providers;

(4) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes the extent to which VistA Evolution, or any successor program, maximizes the use of commercially available software used by DoD and the private sector, requires an open architecture that leverages best practices and rapidly adapts to technologies produced by the private sector, enhances full interoperability between the VA and DoD and between VA and the private sector, and ensures the security of personally identifiable information of veterans and beneficiaries; and

(5) certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has met the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) which require that electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have reached

interoperability, comply with national standards and architectural requirements identified by the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office in collaboration with the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology:

Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$160,106,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$528,110,000, of which \$478,110,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and of which \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account and contracting officers who manage specific major construction projects, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2017, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2017; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report

on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, \$222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(1) enters into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for any Veterans Health Administration major construction project with a Total Estimated Cost of \$100,000,000 or above by providing full project management services, including management of the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes, consistent with section 502 of Public Law 114-58; and

(2) certifies in writing that such an agreement is executed and intended to minimize or prevent subsequent major construction project cost overruns and provides a copy of the agreement entered into and any required supplementary information to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$372,069,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2017 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facilities" account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the

corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2017 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2017 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$47,668,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and \$3,932,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party

reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Of the amounts appropriated in title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 under the heading "Medical Services" which become available on October 1, 2016, \$7,246,181,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 218. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled "Quar-

terly reporting", under the heading "General Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", "General Administration", and "National Cemetery Administration" accounts for fiscal year 2017 may be transferred to or from the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 220. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Construction, Minor Projects", and "Information Technology Systems", up to \$274,731,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 223 of title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2017, for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", up to \$280,802,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009

(Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Of the amounts available in this title for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 225. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 228. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled "Disability claims back-

log", under the heading "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

SEC. 229. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for "Medical Support and Compliance" a maximum of \$40,000,000 may be obligated from the "Medical Support and Compliance" account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: *Provided*, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$2,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the "Medical Services" account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2017 in this title (except appropriations made to the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2017, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, under the "Board of Veterans Appeals" and the "General Operating Expenses,

Veterans Benefits Administration" accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 234. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 235. Of the unobligated balances available within the "DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund", \$40,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 236. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 114-113 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, \$134,000,000 are rescinded from "Medical Services", \$26,000,000 are rescinded from "Medical Support and Compliance", and \$9,000,000 are rescinded from "Medical Facilities".

SEC. 237. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

- (1) "Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research", \$2,000,000.
- (2) "Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals", \$500,000.
- (3) "Veterans Benefits Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", \$12,000,000.
- (4) "Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems", \$8,000,000.
- (5) "Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General", \$500,000.

SEC. 238. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

SEC. 239. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall treat a marriage and family therapist described in subsection (b) as qualified to serve as a marriage and family therapist in the Department of Veterans Affairs, regardless of any requirements established by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

(b) A marriage and family therapist described in this subsection is a therapist who meets each of the following criteria:

- (1) Has a masters or higher degree in marriage and family therapy, or a related field, from a regionally accredited institution.
- (2) Is licensed as a marriage and family therapist in a State (as defined in section 101(20) of title 38, United States Code) and possesses the highest level of licensure offered from the State.
- (3) Has passed the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board Examination in Marital and Family Therapy or a related examination for licensure administered by a State (as so defined).

SEC. 240. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliarys, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans

Integrated Service Network 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;

(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;

(3) a cost vs. benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;

(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a VA medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care;

(5) an inventory of VA buildings with historic designation and the methodology used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;

(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and

(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: *Provided*, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 242. Paragraph (3) of section 403(a) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) DURATION.—A veteran may receive health services under this section during the period beginning on the date specified in paragraph (2) and ending on September 30, 2017.”

SEC. 243. (a) Section 1722A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to opioid antagonists furnished under this chapter to a veteran who is at high risk for overdose of a specific medication or substance in order to reverse the effect of such an overdose.”

(b) Section 1710(g)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “with respect to home health services” and inserting “with respect to the following:”

“(A) Home health services”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Education on the use of opioid antagonists to reverse the effects of overdoses of specific medications or substances.”

SEC. 244. Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection (c)(1) by striking the phrase “that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action.”

SEC. 245. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for “Medical Services”, funds may be used in each year to

carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 246. Section 5701(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

VA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SEC. 247. (a) PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“§ 731. Whistleblower complaint defined

“In this subchapter, the term ‘whistleblower complaint’ means a complaint by an employee of the Department disclosing, or assisting another employee to disclose, a potential violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

“§ 732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints

“(a) FILING.—(1) In addition to any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint, an employee of the Department may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with a supervisor of the employee.

“(2) Except as provided by subsection (d)(1), in making a whistleblower complaint under paragraph (1), an employee shall file the initial complaint with the immediate supervisor of the employee.

“(b) NOTIFICATION.—(1)(A) Not later than four business days after the date on which a supervisor receives a whistleblower complaint by an employee under this section, the supervisor shall notify, in writing, the employee of whether the supervisor determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that the complaint discloses a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

“(B) The supervisor shall retain written documentation regarding the whistleblower complaint and shall submit to the next-level supervisor and the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h) a written report on the complaint.

“(2)(A) On a monthly basis, the supervisor shall submit to the appropriate director or other official who is superior to the supervisor a written report that includes the number of whistleblower complaints received by the supervisor under this section during the month covered by the report, the disposition of such complaints, and any actions taken because of such complaints pursuant to subsection (c).

“(B) In the case in which such a director or official carries out this paragraph, the director or official shall submit such monthly report to the supervisor of the director or official and to the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h).

“(c) POSITIVE DETERMINATION.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint of an employee, the supervisor shall include in the notification to the employee under such subsection the specific actions that the supervisor will take to address the complaint.

“(d) FILING COMPLAINT WITH NEXT-LEVEL SUPERVISORS.—(1) If any circumstance de-

scribed in paragraph (3) is met, an employee may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with the next-level supervisor who shall treat such complaint in accordance with this section.

“(2) An employee may file a whistleblower complaint with the Secretary if the employee has filed the whistleblower complaint to each level of supervisors between the employee and the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(3) A circumstance described in this paragraph is any of the following circumstances:

“(A) A supervisor does not make a timely determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint.

“(B) The employee who made a whistleblower complaint determines that the supervisor did not adequately address the complaint pursuant to subsection (c).

“(C) The immediate supervisor of the employee is the basis of the whistleblower complaint.

“(e) TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE WHO FILES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint filed by an employee, the Secretary shall—

“(1) inform the employee of the ability to volunteer for a transfer in accordance with section 3352 of title 5; and

“(2) give preference to the employee for such a transfer in accordance with such section.

“(f) PROHIBITION ON EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may not exempt any employee of the Department from being covered by this section.

“(g) WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT FORM.—(1) A whistleblower complaint filed by an employee under subsection (a) or (d) shall consist of the form described in paragraph (2) and any supporting materials or documentation the employee determines necessary.

“(2) The form described in this paragraph is a form developed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, that includes the following:

“(A) An explanation of the purpose of the whistleblower complaint form.

“(B) Instructions for filing a whistleblower complaint as described in this section.

“(C) An explanation that filing a whistleblower complaint under this section does not preclude the employee from any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint.

“(D) A statement directing the employee to information accessible on the Internet website of the Department as described in section 735(d).

“(E) Fields for the employee to provide—

“(i) the date that the form is submitted;

“(ii) the name of the employee;

“(iii) the contact information of the employee;

“(iv) a summary of the whistleblower complaint (including the option to append supporting documents pursuant to paragraph (1)); and

“(v) proposed solutions to the complaint.

“(F) Any other information or fields that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, shall develop the form described in paragraph (2) by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(h) CENTRAL WHISTLEBLOWER OFFICE.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office—

“(A) is not an element of the Office of the General Counsel;

“(B) is not headed by an official who reports to the General Counsel;

“(C) does not provide, or receive from, the General Counsel any information regarding a whistleblower complaint except pursuant to an action regarding the complaint before an administrative body or court; and

“(D) does not provide advice to the General Counsel.

“(2) The central whistleblower office shall be responsible for investigating all whistleblower complaints of the Department, regardless of whether such complaints are made by or against an employee who is not a member of the Senior Executive Service.

“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office maintains a toll-free hotline to anonymously receive whistleblower complaints.

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office has such staff and resources as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the functions of the central whistleblower office.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘central whistleblower office’ means the Office of Accountability Review or a successor office that is established or designated by the Secretary to investigate whistleblower complaints filed under this section or any other method established by law.

“§ 733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints

“(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse actions against supervisory employees (as defined in section 7103(a) of title 5) whom the Secretary, an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the Inspector General of the Department determines committed a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):

“(A) With respect to the first offense, an adverse action that is not less than a 12-day suspension and not more than removal.

“(B) With respect to the second offense, removal.

“(2)(A) An employee against whom an adverse action under paragraph (1) is proposed is entitled to written notice.

“(B)(i) An employee who is notified under subparagraph (A) of being the subject of a proposed adverse action under paragraph (1) is entitled to 14 days following such notification to answer and furnish evidence in support of the answer.

“(ii) If the employee does not furnish any such evidence as described in clause (i) or if the Secretary determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the determination to propose the adverse action, the Secretary shall carry out the adverse action following such 14-day period.

“(C) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7513 of title 5, subsection (c) of such section, paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7543 of such title, and subsection (c) of such section shall not apply with respect to an adverse action carried out under paragraph (1).

“(b) LIMITATION ON OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS.—With respect to a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c), if the Secretary carries out an adverse action against a supervisory employee, the Secretary may carry out an additional adverse action under this section based on the same prohibited personnel action if the total severity of the adverse actions do not exceed the level specified in subsection (a).

“(c) PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION DESCRIBED.—A prohibited personnel action described in this subsection is any of the following actions:

“(1) Taking or failing to take a personnel action in violation of section 2302 of title 5 against an employee relating to the employee—

“(A) filing a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(B) filing a whistleblower complaint with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(C) providing information or participating as a witness in an investigation of a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 or with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(D) participating in an audit or investigation by the Comptroller General of the United States;

“(E) refusing to perform an action that is unlawful or prohibited by the Department; or

“(F) engaging in communications that are related to the duties of the position or are otherwise protected.

“(2) Preventing or restricting an employee from making an action described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

“(3) Conducting a negative peer review or opening a retaliatory investigation because of an activity of an employee that is protected by section 2302 of title 5.

“(4) Requesting a contractor to carry out an action that is prohibited by section 4705(b) or section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, as the case may be.

“§ 734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses

“(a) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—(1) In evaluating the performance of supervisors of the Department, the Secretary shall include the criteria described in paragraph (2).

“(2) The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

“(A) Whether the supervisor treats whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title.

“(B) Whether the appropriate deciding official, performance review board, or performance review committee determines that the supervisor was found to have committed a prohibited personnel action described in section 733(b) of this title by an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or, in the case of a settlement of a whistleblower complaint (regardless of whether any fault was assigned under such settlement), the Secretary.

“(b) BONUSES.—(1) The Secretary may not pay to a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) an award or bonus under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the determination was made under such subsection.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue an order directing a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) to repay the amount of any award or bonus paid under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, if—

“(A) such award or bonus was paid for performance during a period in which the supervisor committed a prohibited personnel action as determined pursuant to such subsection (a)(2)(B);

“(B) the Secretary determines such repayment appropriate pursuant to regulations

prescribed by the Secretary to carry out this section; and

“(C) the supervisor is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing before making such repayment.

“§ 735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints

“(a) TRAINING.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary, in coordination with the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman designated under section 3(d)(1)(C) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), shall provide to each employee of the Department training regarding whistleblower complaints, including—

“(1) an explanation of each method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint;

“(2) an explanation of prohibited personnel actions described by section 733(c) of this title;

“(3) with respect to supervisors, how to treat whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(4) the right of the employee to petition Congress regarding a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 7211 of title 5;

“(5) an explanation that the employee may not be prosecuted or reprised against for disclosing information to Congress, the Inspector General, or another investigatory agency in instances where such disclosure is permitted by law, including under sections 5701, 5705, and 7732 of this title, under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), under chapter 93 of title 18, and pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191);

“(6) an explanation of the language that is required to be included in all nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements pursuant to section 115(a)(1) of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (5 U.S.C. 2302 note); and

“(7) the right of contractors to be protected from reprisal for the disclosure of certain information under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41.

“(b) MANNER TRAINING IS PROVIDED.—The Secretary shall ensure that training provided under subsection (a) is provided in person.

“(c) CERTIFICATION.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall provide training on merit system protection in a manner that the Special Counsel certifies as being satisfactory.

“(d) PUBLICATION.—(1) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, and display prominently at each facility of the Department, the rights of an employee to file a whistleblower complaint, including the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a).

“(2) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, the whistleblower complaint form described in section 732(g)(2).

“§ 736. Reports to Congress

“(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

“(1) with respect to whistleblower complaints filed under section 732 of this title during the year covered by the report—

“(A) the number of such complaints filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints in which a positive

determination was made by a supervisor under subsection (b)(1) of such section;

“(2) the number of whistleblower complaints filed during the year covered by the report that are not included under paragraph (1), including—

“(A) the method in which such complaints were filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints; and

“(3) with respect to disclosures made by a contractor under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41—

“(A) the number of complaints relating to such disclosures that were investigated by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the year covered by the report;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints.

“(b) NOTICE OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives from the Special Counsel information relating to a whistleblower complaint pursuant to section 1213 of title 5, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such information, including the determination made by the Special Counsel.

“(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.”.

(2) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such chapter is further amended by inserting before section 701 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended—

(i) by inserting before the item relating to section 701 the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“731. Whistleblower complaint defined.

“732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints.

“733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints.

“734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses.

“735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints.

“736. Reports to Congress.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES AS OFFICIAL DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, as designated by section 2(a)(2)(A), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty

“(a) CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.—An employee of the Department is performing official duty during the period with respect to which the employee is testifying in an official capacity in front of either chamber of Congress, a committee of either chamber of Congress, or a joint or select committee of Congress.

“(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall provide travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, to any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs performing official duty described under subsection (a).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 2(a)(2)(B), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

“715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty.”.

SEC. 248. (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of verifying that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who is recognized pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as having performed active duty service for the purposes described in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall accept the following:

(1) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom no applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record is available, the Secretary of Defense shall provide such recognition on the basis of applicable Social Security Administration records submitted for or by the individual, together with validated testimony given by the individual or the primary next of kin of the individual that the individual performed such service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(2) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom the applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record has been destroyed or otherwise become unavailable by reason of any action committed by a person responsible for the control and maintenance of such form, logbook, or record, the Secretary of Defense shall accept other official documentation demonstrating that the individual performed such service during period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, the Secretary shall recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other officers in command of similarly organized groups as agents of the United States who were authorized to document any individual for purposes of hiring the individual to perform service in the merchant marine or discharging an individual from such service.

(b) TREATMENT OF OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Other documentation accepted by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during the period beginning

on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(c) BENEFITS ALLOWED.—

(1) MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND DECORATIONS.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) may be awarded an appropriate medal, ribbon, or other military decoration based on such service.

(2) STATUS OF VETERAN.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such recognized service to any benefit that is not described in this subsection.

SEC. 249. Section 322(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “allowance to a veteran” and inserting the following: “allowance to—“(A) a veteran”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rated as 30 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs who is selected by the United States Olympic Committee for the United States Olympic Team for any month in which the veteran is competing in any event sanctioned by the National Governing Bodies of the United States Olympic Sports.”.

SEC. 250. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) A veteran with vision impairment, a veteran with a spinal cord injury or disorder, or a veteran with double or multiple amputations whose travel is in connection with care provided through a special disabilities rehabilitation program of the Department (including programs provided by spinal cord injury centers, blind rehabilitation centers, and prosthetics rehabilitation centers) if such care is provided—

“(i) on an in-patient basis; or

“(ii) during a period in which the Secretary provides the veteran with temporary lodging at a facility of the Department to make such care more accessible to the veteran.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the beneficiary travel program under section 111 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), that includes the following:

(1) The cost of the program.

(2) The number of veterans served by the program.

(3) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 251. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct inspections of kitchens and food service areas at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such inspections shall occur not less frequently than annually. The program’s goal is to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at

hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) INITIAL FAILURE.—If a kitchen or food service area of a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) not to meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector, that medical facility fails the inspection and the Secretary shall—

(A) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 72 hours; and

(B) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 14 days of the failed inspection.

(2) SECOND FAILURE.—If a medical facility of the Department fails the second inspection conducted under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall close the kitchen or food service area at that medical facility that did not meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector until full remediation is completed and all kitchens and food service areas at that medical facility meet such standards.

(3) PROVISION OF FOOD.—If a kitchen or food service area is closed at a medical facility of the Department pursuant to paragraph (2), the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which the medical facility is located shall enter into a contract with a vendor approved by the General Services Administration to provide food at the medical facility.

(d) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary of Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 252. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct risk-based inspections for mold and mold issues at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such facilities will be rated high, medium, or low risk for mold. Such inspections at facilities rated high risk shall occur not less frequently than annually, and such inspections at facilities rated medium or low risk shall occur not less frequently than biennially.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) REMEDIATION PLAN.—If a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) to have a mold issue, the Secretary shall—

(1) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 7 days; and

(2) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 90 days of the initial inspection.

(d) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary for Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 253. Section 1706(b)(5)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “through 2008”.

SEC. 254. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 255. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 256. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 257. Appropriations made available in this Act under the heading “Medical Services” shall be available to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, to include the payment of the administrative expenses necessary to carry out such sections. Of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2017, up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to \$8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A. Of the amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2018, up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to \$8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A.

SEC. 258. (a) In fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year hereafter, beginning with the fiscal year 2018 budget request submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the budget justification documents submitted for the “Construction, Major Projects” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall include, at a minimum, the information required under subsection (b).

(b) The budget justification documents submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, for each project—

(1) the estimated total cost of the project;

(2) the funding provided for each fiscal year prior to the budget year;

(3) the amount requested for the budget year;

(4) the estimated funding required for the project for each of the 4 fiscal years succeeding the budget year; and

(5) such additional information as is enumerated under the heading relating to the “Construction, Major Projects” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(c) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a proposed budget justification template that complies with the requirements of this section.

SEC. 259. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings, in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to exceed \$180,480,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including facilities to support homeless veterans, at the medical center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$105,500,000.

(3) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$287,100,000.

(4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, administrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed \$87,332,000.

(5) Realignment of medical facilities in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed \$194,430,000.

(6) Construction of a medical center in Louisville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,000.

(7) Construction of a replacement community living center in Perry Point, Maryland, in an amount not to exceed \$92,700,000.

(8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to several buildings and construction of a specialty care building in American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$16,260,000.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, \$1,113,802,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 260. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “service-connected” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term “assisted reproductive technology” means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member.

(4) The term “adoption reimbursement” means reimbursement for the adoption-re-

lated expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$30,945,000: *Provided*, That \$2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERY EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$70,800,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds

available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$64,300,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading “Department of Defense—Civil, Cemetery Expenses, Army”, may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Army”, \$18,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$59,809,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force” \$88,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 401. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control

Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—
(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017”.

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$394,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the Public Health Service (“PHS”) Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: *Provided further*, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be appropriate: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at State and local laboratories: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated in this paragraph, \$44,000,000 is included to supplement either fiscal year 2016 or fiscal year 2017 funds for the Public Health Emergency Pre-

paredness cooperative agreement program to restore fiscal year 2016 funds that were reprogrammed for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$152,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for research on the virology, natural history, and pathogenesis of the Zika virus infection and preclinical and clinical development of vaccines and other medical countermeasures for the Zika virus and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) to other accounts of the NIH for the purposes provided in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$387,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out section 501 of the Social Security Act; and for carrying out sections 330 through 336 and 338 of the PHS Act: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F–2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act): *Provided further*, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F–2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to the fund authorized by section 319F–4 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$75,000,000, in addition to the purposes specified above, shall also be available for necessary expenses for support to States, territories, tribes, or tribal organizations with active or local transmission cases of the Zika virus, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to reimburse the costs of health care for health conditions related to the Zika virus, other than costs that are covered by private health insurance, of which not less than \$60,000,000 shall be for territories with the highest rates

of Zika transmission: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be awarded, notwithstanding section 502 of the Social Security Act, for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$40,000,000 shall be used to expand the delivery of primary health services authorized by section 330 of the PHS Act in Puerto Rico and other territories: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$6,000,000 shall, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus or other vector-borne diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps ("NHSC") members to Puerto Rico and other territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: *Provided further*, That for purposes of the previous proviso, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term "primary health services" included health services regarding pediatric subspecialists: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

DIRECT HIRES

SEC. 101. Funds appropriated by this title may be used by the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development to appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5 of the United States Code, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work relating to Zika response for which—

- (1) public notice has been given; and
- (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated by this title may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention", "Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund", and "National Institutes of Health" for the purposes specified in this title following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this title may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 205 of division H of Public Law 114-113 or section 241(a) of the PHS Act.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such plans shall be updated and sub-

mitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 104. Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading "Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund", up to—

(1) \$500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the heading "Office of the Secretary, Office of Inspector General", and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and

(2) \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Comptroller General shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for "Diplomatic and Consular Programs", \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: *Provided*, That such funds may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other department or agency of the United States under Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such department or agency for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for "Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service", \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for "Repatriation Loans Program Account" for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That such costs, including costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency re-

quirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for "Operating Expenses", \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for "Global Health Programs", \$145,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for vector control activities, vaccines, diagnostics, and vector control technologies: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available as contributions to the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Food and Agriculture Organization: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for the Grand Challenges for Development program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings "Diplomatic and Consular Programs", "Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service", "Repatriation Loans Program Account", and "Operating Expenses" may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(c) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

(d) No funds shall be transferred pursuant to this section unless at least 5 days prior to making such transfer the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the details of any such transfer.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 202. Funds appropriated by this title shall only be available for obligation if the

Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation.

CONSOLIDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 203. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a consolidated report to the Committees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of such funds on a country and project basis, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: *Provided*, That such report shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 204. Of the funds appropriated by this title, up to—

(1) \$500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds available under the heading “United States Agency for International Development, Funds Appropriated to the President, Office of Inspector General”, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and

(2) \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary of State and the Comptroller General, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS DIVISION

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Unless otherwise provided for by this division, the additional amounts appropriated pursuant to this division are subject to the requirements for funds contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. 302. Funds made available by this division may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) to support the purposes of titles I and II of this division, within the United States and abroad, subject to prior consultation with, and the notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management: *Provided further*, That the authority made available pursuant to this section shall expire on September 30, 2017.

DESIGNATION RETENTION

SEC. 303. Any amount appropriated by this division, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this division shall retain such designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 304. This division shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the “Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act, 2016”.

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2016, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division A of Public Law 114-113), except section 728.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division B of Public Law 114-113).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016 (division C of Public Law 114-113).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division D of Public Law 114-113).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114-113), which for purposes of this Act shall be treated as including section 707 of division O of Public Law 114-113.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114-113).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division G of Public Law 114-113).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division H of Public Law 114-113).

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016 (division I of Public Law 114-113).

(10) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114-113), except title IX.

(11) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division L of Public Law 114-113), except section 420.

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.496 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2016 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2016 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element,

and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 9, 2016.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2017 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year

2016, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2016 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section;

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division H of Public Law 114-113; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division H of Public Law 114-113.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 114-113 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2017 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts covered by section 101 of this Act shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. (a) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198), at a rate for operations of \$17,000,000.

(b) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding

section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Attorney General to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198), at a rate for operations of \$20,000,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the purposes otherwise provided for amounts that become available on October 1, 2016, under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services” in division J of Public Law 114-113, such amounts shall be used to implement the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act (title IX of Public Law 114-198) and the amendments made by that Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$310,139,000, of which \$236,120,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 118. Amounts provided by section 111 to the Department of Agriculture for “Corporations—Commodity Credit Corporation Fund—Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses” may be used, prior to the completion of the report described in section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11), to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, as reflected in the June 2016 report of its financial condition.

SEC. 119. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485).

SEC. 120. Section 529(b)(5) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)(5)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 102, within amounts provided for “Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” and “Department of Defense—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, except for amounts designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Secretary of Defense may develop, replace, and sustain Federal Government security and suitability background investigation information technology system requirements of the Office of Personnel Management at a rate for operations of \$95,000,000.

SEC. 122. Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), shall be applied by substituting “2017” for “2016” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2016 (title IV of division E of Public Law 114-113) at the rate set forth under “Part A—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Local Budget Act of 2016 (D.C. Act 21-414), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) During the period in which this Act is in effect, the authority and conditions provided in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114-113) which were applicable to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia for any program, project, or activity during fiscal year 2016 shall apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia with respect to such program, project, or activity under any authority.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition” for necessary expenses to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), at a rate for operations of \$9,500,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 is for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred and credited to the “Acquisition Services Fund” or “Federal Buildings Fund” to reimburse obligations incurred prior to enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein related to the Presidential election in 2016: *Provided further*, That amounts available under this section shall be in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “General Services Administration—Pre-Election Presidential Transition”.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, for expenses of the Office of Administration to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and similar expenses, in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated by law, amounts are provided to “Presidential Transition Administrative Support” at a rate for operations of \$7,582,000: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to other accounts that provide funding for offices within the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President in this Act or any other Act, to carry out such purposes.

SEC. 127. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia” for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration, at a rate for operations of \$19,995,000.

SEC. 128. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “National Archives and Records Administration—Operating Expenses” to carry out the Presidential transition responsibilities of the Archivist of the United States under sections 2201 through 2207 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Presidential Records Act of 1978”), at a rate for operations of \$4,850,000.

SEC. 129. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 130. Amounts provided by section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated in the account and budget structure set forth in the table provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Department to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to the end of fiscal year 2016 pursuant to section 563(e) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114–113).

SEC. 131. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of staff achieved on September 30, 2016.

(b) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of screeners achieved on September 30, 2016.

SEC. 132. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 134. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106–79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) Section 419(b) of division G of Public Law 114–113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, subsection 35(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(d)) shall be applied, at a rate for operations, through the date specified in section 106(3), as if the following new paragraph were added at the end—

“(5) There is appropriated to the Fee Account established in subsection (c)(3)(B)(ii) of this section, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and transferred to such Fee Account pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(A)(ii) of this section, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.”.

SEC. 136. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System” for security and visitor safety activities related to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies, at a rate for operations of \$4,200,000.

SEC. 137. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, amounts are provided for “Environmental Protection Agency—Environmental Programs and Management” at a rate for operations of \$3,000,000, to remain

available until expended, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations needed, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): *Provided*, That fees collected pursuant to such section of such Act and deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses under the above heading and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum provided by this section of this Act from the general fund for fiscal year 2017 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2017, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed \$3,000,000, those amounts in excess of \$3,000,000 shall be deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading by section 101, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees made available, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

SEC. 138. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 139. The first proviso under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant” in title II of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 140. (a) The second proviso under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs” in title II of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act as if the following were struck from such proviso: “, of which \$141,000,000 shall be available for a cost of living adjustment notwithstanding section 640(a)(3)(A) of such Act”.

(b) Amounts made available in the third proviso under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs” in title II of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall not be included in the calculation of the “base grant”, as such term is used in section 640(a)(7)(A) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(7)(A)), during the period described in section 106 of this Act.

SEC. 141. (a) Section 529 of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall be applied by substituting “in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from the appropriation to the Fund for the first semi-annual allotment period for fiscal year 2017 under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act” for “or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act”; and

(b) Section 530 of division H of Public Law 114–113 shall be applied by substituting “\$541,900,000” for “\$4,678,500,000” and by adding at the end the following: “and of the

funds made available for the purposes of carrying out section 2105(a)(3) of the Social Security Act, \$5,669,100,000 are hereby rescinded”.

SEC. 142. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Sami A. Takai, widow of Kyle Mark Takai, late a Representative from the State of Hawaii, \$174,000.

SEC. 143. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” and “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” shall be obligated in the account and budget structure, and under the authorities and conditions, set forth for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” and “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” in H.R. 5394 and S. 2844, as introduced in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(b) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) are provided for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” at a rate for operations of \$235,000,000, to remain available until expended, and for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” at a rate for operations of \$1,155,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 144. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Maritime Administration—Maritime Security Program” shall be allocated at an annual rate across all vessels covered by operating agreements, as that term is used in chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, and the Secretary shall distribute equally all such funds for payments due under all operating agreements in equal amounts notwithstanding title 46, United States Code, section 53106: *Provided*, That no payment shall exceed an annual rate of \$3,500,000 per operating agreement.

SEC. 145. (a) In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for the “Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund”, there is appropriated \$500,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared in 2016, and which the disaster occurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That funds shall be awarded directly to the State or unit of general local government at the discretion of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That as a condition of making any grant, the Secretary shall certify in advance that such grantee has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster

Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds: *Provided further*, That prior to the obligation of funds a grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, including criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas: *Provided further*, That such funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers: *Provided further*, That funds allocated under this heading shall not be considered relevant to the non-disaster formula allocations made pursuant to section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306): *Provided further*, That a State or subdivision thereof may use up to 5 percent of its allocation for administrative costs: *Provided further*, That in administering the funds under this heading, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the recipient of these funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), if the Secretary finds that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement and such waiver or alternative requirement would not be inconsistent with the overall purpose of title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, recipients of funds provided under this heading that use such funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval or permit: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 104(g)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)(2)), the Secretary may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project assisted under this heading if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval or permit under the preceding proviso or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish via notice in the Federal Register any waiver, or alternative requirement, to any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 no later than 5 days before the effective date of such waiver or alternative requirement: *Provided further*, That amounts provided under this section shall be designated by Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Unobligated balances, including recapitulations and carryover, remaining from funds

appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for administrative costs of the Office of Community Planning and Development associated with funds appropriated to the Department for specific disaster relief and related purposes and designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, including information technology costs and costs for administering and overseeing such specific disaster related funds, shall be transferred to the Program Office Salaries and Expenses, Community Planning and Development account for the Department, shall remain available until expended, and may be used for such administrative costs for administering any funds appropriated to the Department for any disaster relief and related purposes in any prior or future act, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided*, That the amounts transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be transferred only if the President subsequently so designates the entire transfer and transmits such designation to the Congress.

(c) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017”.

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 101. (a) Of the unobligated balances available from prior year appropriations under the heading “Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs” designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, \$10,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities” in title II of Public Law 111-212 for responding to economic impacts of fisherman and fishery dependent businesses, \$13,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Secretary and Executive Management” in Public Law 109-148, \$279,045 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(d) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Homeland

Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses” from emergency funds in Public Law 107-206 and earlier laws transferred to the Department of Homeland Security when it was created in 2003, \$39,246 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(e) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” in Public Law 110-329, Public Law 109-148 and Public Law 109-234, \$48,075,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrative and Regional Operations” in Public Law 109-234, \$731,790 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(g) Of the unobligated amounts made available under section 1323(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18043(c)(1)), \$168,100,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(h) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Operating Expenses” in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), \$7,522,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(i) Of the unobligated balances of appropriations made available under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance, Funds Appropriated to the President” in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), \$109,478,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(j) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment” in Public Law 109-148, \$4,384,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(k) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment” in Public Law 102-368, \$990,277 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(1) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Transportation from amounts provided under section 108 of Public Law 101-130, \$37,400,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SA 5083. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.

SA 5084. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5083 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

SA 5085. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.

SA 5086. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5085 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

SA 5087. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following:

This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.

SA 5088. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5087 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike "5" and insert "6".

SA 5089. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 5088 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the amendment SA 5087 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative

Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike "6" and insert "7".

SA 5090. Mr. COATS (for Mr. SANDERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1878, to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program; as follows:

On page 7, strike lines 7 through 17 and insert the following:

"(5) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may not award any priority review vouchers under paragraph (1) after December 31, 2016."; and

SA 5091. Mr. COATS (for Ms. HIRONO) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2683, to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration; as follows:

On page 2, line 11, strike "paragraph (4)" and insert "paragraph (4) of this subsection".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Exploring Current Practices in Cosmetic Development and Safety."

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled

"Exploring a Right to Try for Terminally Ill Patients."

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the HUD Inspection Process."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 22, 2016, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Continued Review of Agency Regulatory Guidance, Part III."

ADVANCING HOPE ACT OF 2015

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 415, S. 1878.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1878) to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Advancing Hope Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM FOR PRIORITY REVIEW TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

"(A) The disease is a serious or life-threatening disease in which the serious or life-threatening manifestations primarily affect individuals aged from birth to 18 years, including age groups often called neonates, infants, children, and adolescents."; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking "Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012" and inserting "Advancing Hope Act of 2016";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

"(4) NOTIFICATION.—

"(A) SPONSOR OF A RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRODUCT.—

“(i) *IN GENERAL*.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016, the sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application that intends to request a priority review voucher under this section shall notify the Secretary of such intent upon submission of the rare pediatric disease product application that is the basis of the request for a priority review voucher.

“(ii) *APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BUT NOT YET APPROVED*.—The sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application that was submitted and that has not been approved as of the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016 shall be considered eligible for a priority review voucher, if—

“(I) such sponsor has submitted such rare pediatric disease product application—

“(aa) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012; and

“(bb) on or before the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016; and

“(II) such application otherwise meets the criteria for a priority review voucher under this section.

“(B) *SPONSOR OF A DRUG APPLICATION USING A PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER*.—

“(i) *IN GENERAL*.—The sponsor of a human drug application shall notify the Secretary not later than 90 days prior to submission of the human drug application that is the subject of a priority review voucher of an intent to submit the human drug application, including the date on which the sponsor intends to submit the application. Such notification shall be a legally binding commitment to pay the user fee to be assessed in accordance with this section.

“(ii) *TRANSFER AFTER NOTICE*.—The sponsor of a human drug application that provides notification of the intent of such sponsor to use the voucher for the human drug application under clause (i) may transfer the voucher after such notification is provided, if such sponsor has not yet submitted the human drug application described in the notification.”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) *TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY*.—The Secretary may not award any priority review vouchers under paragraph (1) after September 30, 2022, unless the rare pediatric disease product application—

“(A) is for a drug that, not later than September 30, 2022, is designated under subsection (d) as a drug for a rare pediatric disease; and

“(B) is, not later than September 30, 2027, approved under section 505(b)(1) of this Act or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act.”; and

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting before the period “, except that no sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application may receive more than one priority review voucher issued under any section of this Act with respect to the drug for which the application is made.”

(b) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION*.—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to affect the validity of a priority review voucher that was issued under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

(a) *STUDY*.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of awarding priority review vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) in providing incentives for the development of drugs that treat or prevent rare pediatric diseases (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of such section) that would not otherwise have been developed. In conducting such study, the Comptroller General shall examine the following:

(1) The indications for which each drug for which a priority review voucher was awarded under such section 529 was approved under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1)) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)).

(2) Whether the priority review voucher impacted sponsors' decisions to invest in developing a drug to treat or prevent a rare pediatric disease.

(3) An analysis of the drugs for which such priority review vouchers were used, which shall include—

(A) the indications for which such drugs were approved under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1)) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a));

(B) whether unmet medical needs were addressed through the approval of such drugs, including, for each such drug—

(i) if an alternative therapy was previously available to treat the indication; and

(ii) if the drug provided a benefit or advantage over another available therapy;

(C) the number of patients potentially treated by such drugs;

(D) the value of the priority review voucher if transferred; and

(E) the length of time between the date on which a priority review voucher was awarded and the date on which it was used.

(4) With respect to the priority review voucher program under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff)—

(A) the resources used by the Food and Drug Administration in implementing such program, including the effect of such program on the Food and Drug Administration's review of drugs for which a priority review voucher was not awarded or used;

(B) the impact of the program on the public health as a result of the review and approval of drugs that received a priority review voucher and products that were the subject of a re-deemed priority review voucher; and

(C) alternative approaches to improving such program so that the program is appropriately targeted toward providing incentives for the development of clinically important drugs that—

(i) prevent or treat rare pediatric diseases; and

(ii) would likely not otherwise have been developed to prevent or treat such diseases.

(b) *REPORT*.—Not later than January 31, 2022, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study of conducted under subsection (a).

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sanders amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5090) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 7, strike lines 7 through 17 and insert the following:

“(5) *TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY*.—The Secretary may not award any priority review vouchers under paragraph (1) after December 31, 2016.”; and

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1878), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1878

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Hope Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM FOR PRIORITY REVIEW TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES.

(a) *IN GENERAL*.—Section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) The disease is a serious or life-threatening disease in which the serious or life-threatening manifestations primarily affect individuals aged from birth to 18 years, including age groups often called neonates, infants, children, and adolescents.”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking “Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012” and inserting “Advancing Hope Act of 2016”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) *NOTIFICATION*.—

“(A) *SPONSOR OF A RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRODUCT*.—

“(i) *IN GENERAL*.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016, the sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application that intends to request a priority review voucher under this section shall notify the Secretary of such intent upon submission of the rare pediatric disease product application that is the basis of the request for a priority review voucher.

“(ii) *APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BUT NOT YET APPROVED*.—The sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application that was submitted and that has not been approved as of the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016 shall be considered eligible for a priority review voucher, if—

“(I) such sponsor has submitted such rare pediatric disease product application—

“(aa) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012; and

“(bb) on or before the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016; and

“(II) such application otherwise meets the criteria for a priority review voucher under this section.

“(B) *SPONSOR OF A DRUG APPLICATION USING A PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER*.—

“(i) *IN GENERAL*.—The sponsor of a human drug application shall notify the Secretary not later than 90 days prior to submission of the human drug application that is the subject of a priority review voucher of an intent to submit the human drug application, including the date on which the sponsor intends to submit the application. Such notification shall be a legally binding commitment to pay the user fee to be assessed in accordance with this section.

“(ii) *TRANSFER AFTER NOTICE*.—The sponsor of a human drug application that provides notification of the intent of such sponsor to

use the voucher for the human drug application under clause (i) may transfer the voucher after such notification is provided, if such sponsor has not yet submitted the human drug application described in the notification.”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may not award any priority review vouchers under paragraph (1) after December 31, 2016.”; and

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting before the period “, except that no sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application may receive more than one priority review voucher issued under any section of this Act with respect to the drug for which the application is made.”

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to affect the validity of a priority review voucher that was issued under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of awarding priority review vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) in providing incentives for the development of drugs that treat or prevent rare pediatric diseases (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of such section) that would not otherwise have been developed. In conducting such study, the Comptroller General shall examine the following:

(1) The indications for which each drug for which a priority review voucher was awarded under such section 529 was approved under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1)) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)).

(2) Whether the priority review voucher impacted sponsors’ decisions to invest in developing a drug to treat or prevent a rare pediatric disease.

(3) An analysis of the drugs for which such priority review vouchers were used, which shall include—

(A) the indications for which such drugs were approved under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1)) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a));

(B) whether unmet medical needs were addressed through the approval of such drugs, including, for each such drug—

(i) if an alternative therapy was previously available to treat the indication; and

(ii) if the drug provided a benefit or advantage over another available therapy;

(C) the number of patients potentially treated by such drugs;

(D) the value of the priority review voucher if transferred; and

(E) the length of time between the date on which a priority review voucher was awarded and the date on which it was used.

(4) With respect to the priority review voucher program under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff)—

(A) the resources used by the Food and Drug Administration in implementing such program, including the effect of such program on the Food and Drug Administration’s review of drugs for which a priority review voucher was not awarded or used;

(B) the impact of the program on the public health as a result of the review and ap-

proval of drugs that received a priority review voucher and products that were the subject of a redeemed priority review voucher; and

(C) alternative approaches to improving such program so that the program is appropriately targeted toward providing incentives for the development of clinically important drugs that—

(i) prevent or treat rare pediatric diseases; and

(ii) would likely not otherwise have been developed to prevent or treat such diseases.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than January 31, 2022, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study of conducted under subsection (a).

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION VETERAN TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2683 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2683) to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I further ask that the Hirono amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5091) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 2, line 11, strike “paragraph (4)” and insert “paragraph (4) of this subsection”.

The bill (S. 2683), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2683

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Aviation Administration Veteran Transition Improvement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE IN FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 40122(g)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (I)(iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, section 6329, relating to disabled veteran leave.”.

(b) **CERTIFICATION OF LEAVE.**—Section 40122(g) of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **CERTIFICATION OF DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE.**—In order to verify that leave credited to an employee pursuant to paragraph (2)(J) is used for treating a service-connected disability, that employee shall, notwithstanding section 6329(c) of title 5, submit to the Assistant Administrator for Human Resource Management of the Federal Aviation Administration certification, in such form and manner as the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may prescribe, that the employee used that leave for purposes of being furnished treatment for that disability by a health care provider.”.

(c) **APPLICATION.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to any employee of the Federal Aviation Administration hired on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall prescribe policies and procedures to carry out the amendments made by this section that are comparable, to the maximum extent practicable, to the regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management under section 6329 of title 5, United States Code.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-315, appoints the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Steven VanAusdile of Washington.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 5325; finally, that the filing deadline for the cloture motions filed today be at 4 p.m., Monday, September 26 for first-degree amendments and for second-degree amendments at 12 p.m., Tuesday, September 27.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the

Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5 p.m., adjourned until Monday, September 26, 2016, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

NATHAN BRUCE DUTHU, OF VERMONT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022. VICE CHRISTOPHER MERRILL, TERM EXPIRED.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

JOHN D. MINTON, JR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

CHASE ROGERS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2018. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TULINABO SALAMA MUSHINGI, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN F. THOMPSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. MCMURRY, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. REYNOLD N. HOOVER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. KELLY A. AESCHBACH

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

SCOTT E. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

JOHN D. CINNAMON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

ALFRED G. TRAYLOR II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

MARK C. ANARUMO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 9333(B) AND 9336(A):

To be colonel

STEVEN C. M. HASSTEDT

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KARL E. NELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

TODD D. WOLFORD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

LANCE L. JELKS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

MATTHEW A. LEVINE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DANIEL J. DONOVAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DONNA A. MCDERMOTT

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JORDAN M. ADLER
CHRISTOPHER S. BANNON
DUSTY P. BARTLETT
REHETT Z. BEGLEY
RICHARD H. BURTON
JACOB A. CARLSEN
SARAH M. COOPER
BOBBY L. COWART
JEFFREY A. DAWSON
JOSHUA C. DENNIS
JONATHAN D. DIETER
BRIAN C. FIELDS
STEPHEN N. GAETKE
BRENDAN J. GEOGHEGAN
STEFAN E. GILLETTE
DAVID GRIMALDO
JASON R. HANEY
MICHAEL M. HANNA
BRYAN K. HARRIS
LINDSAY M. HELGY
JOSEPH K. HELKER
LINDSEY HENRY III
BRUCE W. HILL
PHILIP B. IBBITSON
KEVIN D. JACK
YASMINE N. JOHNSON
NICHOLAS J. LAKOMCIC
BRIAN J. LEE
DANIEL S. LINTZER
MATTHEW K. MORSE
ALEJANDRO D. MUSQUIZ
JOSEPH SIMON
ADAM R. SINSEL
MARK W. STEWART
JAY B. TYLOR
NATHANIEL R. THOMSON
SCOTT C. TOLLEFSON
RYAN T. WADINGTON
CHRISTOPHER D. WEDDELL
RICHARD C. WONG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOHN A. ALLEN
LANCE A. ALT
ROBERT J. BEBBER
JENEAN R. BEERS

MARK J. BERGEM
CHRISTOPHER D. BJORNES
CHRISTOPHER B. BONINE
MILES J. BOZARTH
WILLIAM D. BRINKMEYER
DEVON A. BRUMBAUGH
DONALD M. COATES
DAVID W. COURTNEY
ANDREA M. CURRY
JACOB F. DAVIS
JAMIE J. DAVIS
JOSHUA J. DUGAN
JOSHUA G. DYE
SAMUEL B. FLEMING
WILLIAM R. FLEMING
DEREK C. GILBERT
MATTHEW D. GRAY
MICHAEL D. GRIMSHAW
JOHN D. HORTON
TRACY JONES
DAVID J. KING
AARON M. LAWSONGRADLE
JAMES L. LEGG
MARCUS L. LONG
SONDRA A. LONGWORTH
STEVEN T. MAKI
DEVIN J. MAYER
ASHLEY S. M. MCABEE
SEANN D. MCKENNA
KYLE E. MILLER
TANGIE I. MONTGOMERY
MATTHEW I. MORAN
NATHANIEL S. NEWSOM
KEVIN D. OBRIEN
WILLIAM A. PARKER
BENJAMIN D. PARKS
STEPHANIE R. PENDINO
ANN M. PETERS
MICHAEL A. PFAEFFLIN
ALEXIS M. POSPISCHIL
SHELLEY D. PULLIAM
RICHARD H. PYFROM
SARAH M. QUEMADA
DANIEL S. RHAME, JR.
ALEXANDER RIOS
AUSTIN H. RUTKOWSKI
WILFREDO SANTIAGO, JR.
MICHAEL A. SCHMIDT
RYAN W. SHROYER
KURT M. SHULKITAS
KELLY J. STEELE
JOHN W. STUCKEY
SEAN D. R. THOMPSON
KENNETH S. TUMA II
TIMBERON C. VANZANT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER D. AYALA
CHARLOTTE A. BENBOW
KEVIN I. BREACH
ROBERT B. CARTER
SEAN P. CAULFIELD
WESTON R. COBY
SABRINA L. CUMMINGS
THOMAS M. FREISMUTH, JR.
CHAD E. GEIS
DAVID W. E. HERRMANN
DUSTIN D. HOCKING
CORIANDE T. JOHNSON
DAVID J. LORFELD
MARK C. MITCHELL
ZACHARY E. MOODY
AARON M. MORRONE
THOMAS P. NEWMAN
MATT A. PAULSON
DYANNA L. RODRIGUEZ
JEFFREY K. SEIBOLD
WILLIAM D. TUBBS
NICOLAAS A. VERHOEVEN
ANDREW S. WEST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

FRANCIS B. CARNABY
JUN Y. CHEN
CHRISTOPHER W. CRAZYBULL
ANDREW B. DRODDY
DANIEL L. JUSTICE
SAMUEL S. T. KIM
SIMON Y. KWAK
CHRISTOPHER J. R. MCCOOK
DANIEL J. MILLER
VICTORIA E. MOORE
BRENT H. OGLESBY
VICTOR ROMANENKOV
REBECCA I. SUMMERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

BENJAMIN R. ADDISON
KEVIN L. CHAMBERS
ADAM R. COLE
MATTHEW A. COMER

DANIEL L. DAY
SHAWN P. EKLUND
DESIREE E. F. FRAME
CHRISTINE B. GARGAN
JULIANNE J. HOLLAND
LESLIE L. HUBBELL
AMELIA E. K. A. LAWTON
JACQUELINE E. PAU
STEPHANIE A. H. TURO
RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

JOSHUA C. ALCAZAR
TODD M. ANDERSON
THOMAS E. BEGNAL
TIMOTHY J. DEAL
KRISTOFFER C. DREW
JESSE C. EPP
KEVIN B. FLEESE
KEVIN L. HICKS
VAN J. HOWARD
NATHANIEL H. HURT III
DANIEL J. HUTTON
JASON JACEDDT
COURTNEY A. JOHNSON
STEPHANIE M. KNIGHT
CARLOS R. MARCIA
SHAWN J. MARLOWE
ORLANDO A. MARTINEZ
BRIAN E. MCKEE
MATTHEW G. OMIRE
BRYAN S. RAYMOND, JR.
MICHAEL C. SHAFFER
BARRY O. SMITH
DANNIE T. STIMSON
PHILIP D. TOREM
VICTOR E. VEGUILLADEJESUS
JESSE L. WHITFIELD
JULI I. YANG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

SILAS O. CARPENTER
EVAN A. KARLIK
MARK L. MORRISON
CHRISTOPHER E. WELLS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

GALO A. CAVALCANTI
MELANIE S. CHAMBERS
SAMUEL L. H. CHEN
RYAN T. DAILEY
CHRISTINA M. DEES
AUREL N. DEHOLLAN
MICHAEL R. DICKENSON
ALFONSO DUARTE
JUSTIN R. FITZJARRALD
AMANDA J. GRIFFITH
DAVID A. HOOPER
ROY M. KLOTZBACH
KYRA D. LASSITER
LISA W. LEE
ERIK E. MOSS
JEROD A. TABER
AUDRA M. VANCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTOPHER T. ABPLANALP
KRISTIN P. ACTON
DAVID J. ADAMEK
STEPHEN W. ADAMS
ANDRE M. AGRAVIADOR
RAYMOND J. AHAUS
JULIO A. ALARCON
RICHARD A. ALI
JEREMY R. ALLEY
JONATHAN R. ALLMOND
JOSEPH J. AMES
AARON M. ANDERSON
CHRISTOPHER D. ANDERSON
JONANDREW D. ANDERSON
NATHAN B. ANDERSON
RAFAEL ANDRADE, JR.
BENJAMIN M. ANDROS
PAUL J. A. ANDRUZZI
JAMES A. ANGEL
JOSEPH W. ANGLIN
JOHN D. ANHALT
CHRISTINA C. APPELMAN
ERNESTO A. ARBOLEDA
ANTHONY S. ARDITO
STEVEN E. ASPHOLM
RAYMOND B. AUBUCHON
MICHAEL J. AUSTIN
TRAVIS AVANT
TRISTAN A. AYSON
JONATHAN C. BACON
WAYNE M. BACON
DEREK L. BADER

JAKE R. BAKER
JORGE R. BALARES, JR.
JEFFREY G. BALISTRERI
RAYMOND T. BALL, JR.
VICTOR A. BARGER
JAMES A. BARKLEY
JENNIFER L. BARKLEY
PETER D. BARKLEY
WARREN A. BARLOW
TIMOTHY L. BARNIKEL
ADAM J. BARRERAS
TIMOTHY S. BARRY
JOHN J. BARTIS
DEVIN J. BASTEMEYER
TRAVIS K. BATEMAN
BRUCE BATTESON
DOUGLAS C. BATTIG
JOHN T. BAXTER
CALVIN S. BEADS
ANDREW W. BEASLEY
TODD M. BEATTY
ROBERT G. BEAUCHAMP
BRETT R. BELL
LANDON K. BELL
MICHAEL B. BELL
MATTHEW F. BELLASSAI
CHRISTINE C. BENEDICT
ROBERT T. BENEDICT
CHARLES E. BENNETT
MATTHEW P. BENNETT
LANCE M. BENSON
ANDREA L. BENVENUTO
JONATHAN A. BERGSTRAND
BRIAN A. BERUMEN
MATTHEW E. BEZOLD
ROLAND M. BIEHLE
KEITH A. BIERMAN
JASON E. BILBRO
MITCHELL T. BLACKBURN
SEAN T. BLACKMAN
RYAN P. BLAKE
MATHEW K. BLANDIN
PAIGE M. BLOK
GREGORY M. BOBICH
ERIC R. BOND
JOHNATHAN W. BOSCH
CHAD T. BOSER
ADAM H. BOSMA
TIMOTHY J. BOSTON
CAMERON M. BOUTON
VINCENT A. BOVE
QUINCY L. BOWLES
TYRCHRA A. J. BOWMAN
RYAN J. BRACK
MATTHEW R. BRADEN
MICHAEL D. BRAMMER
PATRICK J. BRAY
JOSEPH A. BREEDEN
TIMOTHY E. BREEN
ROBERT E. BREISCH III
JASON D. BRETHAUER
ANDREW M. BRETT
JEFFREY P. BRIDGE
CHRISTOPHER R. BRIDGES
WILLIAM R. BRIDGES
ROBERT B. BRIDGMAN
MATHEW BRIDWELL
JOSEPH M. BRISCO, JR.
BRANT J. BROCK
BENJAMIN A. BROOKS
MATTHEW S. BROOKS
JANET M. BROOME
ADAM W. BROOS
BERRY T. BROWN
JAMES D. BROWN
MICHAEL R. BROWN
THOMAS M. BROWN
JERAMY J. BRUX
ANTHONY T. BRYANT
JORDAN A. BRYE
MICHAEL BUBULKA
NICHOLAS D. BULARZIK
AMANDA K. BURD
JOSEPH BURNS
SCOTT B. BURRILL
ERIC BURTNERABT
GEORGE M. BURTON
KENNETH P. BUTRYM
LISA M. BYDAIRK
PAUL M. BYRNE III
ALAN P. CABILING
ROBERT J. CADY
JOSHUA M. CALDWELL
SHAWN R. CALLIHAN
ANDREW P. CAMDEN
ALLISON CAMERON
BRETT S. CAMERON
JESSICA CAMERON
LARRY E. CAMP, JR.
JOSEPH M. CAMPBELL
JOSEPH M. CAMPBELL
KEVIN M. CAMPBELL
CHRISTOPHER A. CANALES
RUSSELL S. CANTY
CHRISTOPHER D. CARAWAY
JAMES C. CARBAUGH
ANDREW D. CARLSON
TODD W. S. CARLSON
BRIAN M. CARNES
REBEKAH CARR
RYAN L. CARR
JEREMY K. CARROLL

ADAM B. CARTER
DAVID H. CARTER
JOHN D. CARTER
KASEY W. CARTER
JONATHAN D. CARTLEDGE
PATRICK C. CASHIN
ROBERT J. CASTOR, JR.
AARON J. CASTRO
MICHAEL M. CATALANO
JUSTIN R. CAUDLE
TIMOTHY T. CHADWICK
RYAN P. CHAMBERLAIN
ANDREW M. CHAMBERS
FRANCIS C. CHAPELLE
WILLIAM C. CHAPMAN
MATTHEW E. CHARLES
LEE J. CHASCO
JOEL D. CHASE
SCOTT C. CHASE
JOHN J. CHESTER, JR.
KYLER Z. K. CHONG
COREY J. CHONSKY
JUSTIN J. CHRISTENSEN
MICHAEL D. CHRISTOPH
JASON CHUMA
DANIEL CIULLO
ANTHONY J. CLAY
SAMUEL M. CLEMENT
ANDRE D. CLEVELAND
GRAHAM E. CLEVELAND
HARRISON L. COLEMAN II
ROBERT A. COLVIN, JR.
ROSS F. CONLEY
JOHN S. CONNER
DANIEL B. COOPER
AMANDO S. COPE, JR.
BENJAMIN J. CORDLE
NICHOLAS D. CORNWELL
BETTINA J. CORY
ERIC M. COTE
MATTHEW J. COUSINS
WILLIAM D. COUTS
ADAM E. COWAN
ADAM L. CRAIG
DENNIS J. CRUMP
GARRETT R. CRYSLER
THOMAS A. CUNNINGHAM
ROBERT J. DALTON
WILLIAM E. DANN
CLAIRE F. DANTONIO
ANDREW C. DARJANY
MICHAEL E. DARK
TRAVIS F. DAUGHERTY
WILLIAM L. DAVIDSON
BRIAN P. DEADMON
ZACHARY C. DEAN
SCOTT T. DEARDEN
CRAIG L. DEAVOURS
MICHAEL E. DEBOER
MICHAEL K. DELOACH
JEFFREY R. DELONGPRE
LOUIS E. DEMARCO
SCOTT C. DEMARCO
BRIAN R. DEMELL
HEATHER S. DENT
BENJAMIN A. DESMOND
ANTHONY K. DEVOTO
CHRISTOPHER T. DIBBLE
DANIEL C. DIDIER
KIMBERLY R. DILLON
ERIK J. DIPPOLD
SAM E. DIRICKSON
TREY J. DITTBERNER
NICOLAS A. DOCKINS
JAMES J. DOHERTY
LUKE T. DONAHUE
RYAN C. DOOT
RYAN A. DORN
MITCHELL R. DOW
CHRISTOPHER M. DOWDELL
MARGARET L. DOYLE
JONATHAN T. DUENAS
ALEX G. DULUDE
PATRICK L. DUNN
TIMOTHY M. DUNTON
DOUGLAS W. DURHAM
JOSEPH F. DYCKMAN
WILLISTON L. DYE III
DAVID P. ECKARDT
BRETT N. ECKERT
JAMES A. EDMINISTER
SCOTT A. EDMINSTER
JENNIFER M. EDWARDS
DANIEL L. ELFGUINN
JEFFREY M. ELLER, JR.
DEREK H. ELLIS
JENNA A. EPIFANIO
DEREK W. ESCALANTE
PAUL K. EVANS
STEVEN L. EVANS, JR.
ASHLEY J. FAIRES
JESSICA L. FEATHER
CHRISTOPHER W. FEAY
JONATHAN C. FEINS
JOSEPH D. FELDER II
KEITH W. FERRELL
DANIAL L. FICKLING
FREDERICK FIELDS, JR.
COLIN P. FINNegan
JACOB A. FISCHER
JOSEPH E. FITZGERALD
TIMOTHY FITZGERALD, JR.

JENNIFER S. FLEMING
 MICHAEL W. FLICK
 ROBERT J. FLOYD II
 ZACHARY F. FLYNN
 ELIJAH C. FORD
 KATE M. FORD
 RYAN B. FORSMO
 CHAD R. FORTIN
 ROBERT L. FOSTER
 MASON B. FOX
 ERIC M. FRANK
 COURTNEY B. FREEMAN
 MICHAEL W. FRITTS
 JUSTIN T. FUJIMURA
 MICHAEL FURLAN
 TODD M. GALVIN
 PAUL A. GARCIA
 DANIEL E. GARDNER
 JAMES M. GARRETT
 DALLAS C. GATES
 ANDREW T. GAY
 ANDREW T. GAYNOR
 GREGORY E. GEHL
 BRYAN T. GEIGER
 SEAN A. GENIS
 EKON A. GEORGE
 MARK A. GEORGE
 MATTHEW T. GEORGES
 LOUIS P. GERARD
 DAVID J. GERDA
 BRIAN K. GERVAIS
 ANDREW P. GIACOMUCCI
 NAOTOMO K. GIBSON
 JAMES E. GILES
 ANDREW E. GILLASPIE
 BRETT G. GILLIES
 JOHN W. GILLIGAN
 ANDREA M. GIULIANO
 ALEXANDER D. GLASS
 JASON A. GOELLER
 MATTHEW J. GOODAVISH
 MARK R. GORDON
 MICHAEL J. GOSSETT
 MEGHAN C. GRAY
 JONATHAN B. GREENWALD
 GRANT D. J. GREENWELL
 GLEN C. GREGORY
 STEVEN E. GREY, JR.
 DOUGLAS W. GROTHUES
 BRIAN A. GUEST
 RUBEN H. GUEVARA
 CHAD J. GUILLERAULT
 STEPHEN C. GUNGGOILL
 CLAIRE B. GUNNISON
 JOHN M. GUTIERREZ
 MARK GUTIERREZ
 PATRICK T. GUTIERREZ
 JOSHUA B. HAGGARD
 ALEX HALBERSTADT
 JEFFREY D. HALE
 MATHEW J. HALFERTY
 JEREMY S. HALL
 RICHARD M. HALL
 BRUCE D. HALLETT
 THOMAS C. J. HAM
 ANDREW C. HAMLEN
 HURSEL B. HANKS
 JIMMY A. HARMON
 SEAN F. HARNER
 JASON S. HARREL
 BRIAN M. HARRINGTON
 JANIS J. HARRINGTON
 JOHN P. HARRINGTON
 AUBREY R. HARRIS
 MATTHEW A. HARRIS
 NICOLE M. HARRIS
 RAVON D. HARRIS
 NICHOLAS R. J. HAUBRICH
 ALEX W. HAUPT
 JOSEPH P. HAVERTY
 MITCHELL J. HAYS
 MICHAEL R. HAYTASINGH
 MATTHEW A. HEADLEY
 MICHAEL J. HEARON
 JASON H. HEATH
 AARON A. HEIL
 JUSTIN S. HEITMAN
 TIMOTHY P. HENKEN
 AUSTIN L. HENNE
 MATTHEW M. HENRICH
 DONALD J. HENSHAW
 MATTHEW A. HEPPFINGER
 LAWRENCE A. HERMAN
 ERIC R. HERNANDEZ
 AUDREY L. HERRINGTON
 RYAN D. HEYKENS
 MELISSA L. HIATT
 KALEN P. HICKEY
 JASON R. HIGHLEY
 JONATHAN W. HIGHTOWER
 RYAN P. HILGER
 JAMES F. HINDS
 JASON P. HOCH
 THOMAS J. HOFFMAN
 BRYCE C. HOLDEN
 DANIEL J. HOLIAN
 BRENT J. HOLLOWAY
 JENNIFER E. HOLSCLOW
 MARCUS A. HOOGWIND
 CHRISTOPHER L. HORNUNG
 ROBERT H. HOUTMAN
 ANSON W. HOWARD

GUILLERMO H. HOWELL
 ANDREW HOWERTON
 CECILIA X. L. HU
 JOHN TA R. HUDSON
 MICHAEL J. HUMARA
 DAVID P. HUSCHER
 ALAN J. HYTONEN
 SERGIO L. IBARRA
 ANDREW J. INGRAM
 CHRISTOPHER D. IVEY
 KIRK J. JACKSON
 PAUL A. JACOBS
 JEREMY R. JANNEY
 JAMES S. JENKINS, JR.
 PHILLIP D. JENKINS
 RONALD JENKINS
 BRYAN V. JENNINGS
 MICHAEL T. JENNINGS
 ADAM E. JENSEN
 JARED R. JEVONS
 CLAYTON A. JOHNSON
 DAMIAN M. JOHNSON
 JEREMIAH A. JOHNSON
 ROBERT A. JOHNSON
 ANDRIA M. JONES
 BRIAN C. JONES
 MARVIN L. JOSEPH
 DAVID A. JOSLEYN
 JESSE A. JOYCE
 NATHANIEL C. JUCKETT
 SEAN M. JURGENSEN
 MATTHEW R. JUSTISON
 JOHN T. KADZ
 DAVID N. KAHKONEN
 BRITTANY B. KALUSCAK
 JONATHAN R. KANE
 FARROKH K. KAPADIA
 LOGAN V. KARSHNER
 MAGDALENA M. KEEL
 MATTHEW H. KEIDEL
 JOHN G. KEITH
 THOMAS L. KELLNER
 PETER J. KELLY
 RYAN P. KELLY
 JOSH R. KEMPINSKI
 SHANECE L. KENDALL
 JOHN P. KENNEDY
 LINCOLN E. KERGER
 KEVIN M. KERNO
 JEFFREY J. KERR
 KYLE W. KILLINGBECK
 CAL A. KIMES
 RYAN E. KIMMEL
 CHRISTOPHER M. KINGERY
 SEAN M. KINNEY
 BRIAN P. KIRK
 GLENN A. KIRKPATRICK
 GABRIEL M. KISLER
 MARK S. KLEIN
 CHRISTOPHER R. KNAPP
 JAMES P. KOBYRA
 DANIEL R. KOBZA
 MICHAEL R. KOCH
 CHRISTOPHER P. KOFOED
 MATTHEW B. KOHLMANN
 JOHN E. KOHUT
 MICAH A. KOLCUN
 MARK A. KONDRAT
 ANDREW KONOWICZ
 ANNA M. KOPP
 ADAMANTIOS M. KOULOUMOUNDRAS
 CHRISTOPHER M. KOWALCZYK
 MICHAEL KRASNIEWSKI
 MIRANDA L. KRASSELT
 RUSSELL A. KRATOVILLE, JR.
 PETER C. KRAVCHONOK
 CHARLES R. KREUZ
 BENJAMIN P. KROLL
 KEITH R. KROUCHICK
 ROBERT S. KURLAND
 ADAM C. KYLE
 TIMOTHY F. LABRESH
 JOSHUA K. LAIL
 JOEL A. LAKEY
 PATRICK J. LAKUSTA
 CHRISTOPHER W. LAMBERT
 JOSH T. LANG
 MATTHEW S. LANGFORD
 SCOTT W. LANUM
 EMILY A. LAPP
 ANDREW J. LATHROP
 ANDREW J. LAWRENCE
 CHRISTOPHER J. LAWSON
 MOLLY L. LAWTON
 DANIEL M. LEAHEY
 BRETT H. LEARNER
 ROBERT G. LECLERC
 ROBERT V. LEE
 BRIAN LEGARE
 JONATHAN R. LEONARDO
 SCOTT M. LESCENSKI
 MATTHEW J. LESZCZYNSKI
 LUIS A. LEVINE
 GREGORY J. LEWIS
 JOHN A. LEWIS
 KIRTLAN V. LEWIS
 MATTHEW R. LEWIS
 JOCELYN K. LIBERG
 WINSTON J. LIKERT
 JOSEPH T. LILES
 MYRON E. LIND
 NEL S. LINDBERG

MICHAEL A. LINDER, JR.
 CAMERON M. LINDSAY
 MICHAEL L. LINN
 ROBERT M. LLOYD
 LEIGH K. LOESEL
 STEWART C. LONG
 SAMUEL LOPEZ, JR.
 JEREMY A. LORD
 KEVIN A. LOUGHMILLER
 NOLAN D. LUCAS
 TODD M. J. LUCHT
 BERNARD W. LUTZ
 PAUL N. L. LWIN
 MALCOLM R. LYBECK
 SARAH K. LYNCH
 NICHOLAS C. LYONS
 JACOB M. MADDOX
 PATRICK T. MAGNO
 BRIAN F. MAHLER
 JASON A. MAIER
 LOUIS S. MAJERCHIN
 MICHAEL R. MALIN
 DAVID MANGES
 BRITTANY A. MANLEY
 HERU K. MANSELL
 WILLIAM L. MARDEN
 SAMUEL M. MARRONE
 CHRISTOPHER L. MARSH
 DOUGLAS L. MARSH
 ROBERT D. MARSHALL
 TIMOTHY S. MARSHALL
 NICHOLAS C. MARSTON
 ANDREW J. MARTIN
 JONATHAN R. MARTIN
 MARK MARTIN
 MICHELLE M. MARTINEZ
 VICTORIA MARUM
 JONATHAN R. MASON
 KYLE C. MASON
 CAMERON H. MASSEY
 MARK J. MATKOVICH
 BENJAMIN A. MATTES
 MICHELLE A. MATTHEWS
 ZACHARY A. MATTHEWS
 CHARLES E. MATYKIEWICZ
 ROBERT W. MAUL
 JONATHAN R. MAURUS
 CORY L. MAYER
 MICHAEL T. MCARAW
 ERIC K. MCBEE
 MICHAEL J. MCBRYAR
 NOAH L. MCBURNETT
 KEVIN K. MCCADDEN
 BRENT W. MCCAMMON
 PATRICK M. MCCASKY
 JAMESON D. MCCORT
 DAMON C. MCCULLAR
 ANDREW F. MCDONALD
 MICHAEL J. MCDONALD
 JOSHUA J. MCDONOUGH
 MICHAEL D. MCGHAN
 RYAN D. MCGINN
 RYAN O. MCGOLDRICK
 BRENDAN J. MCGUNIGLE
 MICHAEL A. MCCLAUGHLIN
 PRECIOUS S. W. MCQUADE
 RENE J. MEDRANO
 MATTHEW J. MEEKS
 KEVIN M. MEIER
 GREGORY C. MEISINGER
 LEO L. MENDOZA, JR.
 JOSHUA W. MERDES
 ROBERT A. MERIN
 GRANT A. MESTNIK
 WILLIAM A. MEYER
 JOSHUA A. MEYERS
 ANTONIA E. MIGGINS
 AMANDA R. MILLER
 BENJAMIN O. MILLER
 JAMES R. MILLER, JR.
 PATRICK E. MILLER
 ROBERT E. V. MILLER
 SCOTT R. MILLER
 JACE D. MIRMAK
 GREGORY A. MISCHLER
 ANDREW N. MITCHELL
 SAMARA Y. J. MITCHELL
 NATHAN W. MITCH
 ROBERT W. MIZE
 SAMUEL A. MOFFETT
 STEVEN R. MOFFITT
 WILLIAM H. MOHR
 MICHAEL O. MOLLOY
 JACOB M. MONTOLA
 CHRISTOPHER J. MOORE
 PATRICK J. MOORE
 JAIME A. MORENO
 DARRELL J. MORGAN
 DAVID H. MORGAN
 TIMOTHY E. MORGAN
 CHARLES G. MORRIS
 JEREMY D. MORTIMER
 ADAM P. MOSLEY
 NICHOLAS J. MOTTOLA
 MATTHEW H. MOURNING
 RABB O. MUHAMMAD
 WILLIAM P. MURPHY
 RICHARD A. MURRAY
 ANDREW F. MURTAUGH
 JOSEPH S. NAVARRE
 ADAM H. NEBENZAHL
 ADAM H. NELSON

JONATHAN NELSON
JOHN L. NEUBERT
DAVID M. NEW
NGUA V. NGUYEN
MICHAEL G. NIEMI
CHRISTOPHER A. NIGUS
JONATHAN T. NODA
JOEL C. NOGLE
CHRISTOPHER A. NORRIS
DAVID D. NOVOTNEY
JAKUB NOWAKOWSKI
JOSEPH W. NUTTING
BRENT A. NYHEIM
KEITH J. OBRIEN
SEAMUS N. OBRIEN
THOMAS J. OBRIEN
MATTHEW J. OCONNELL
JAMES R. OLSEN
AUSTIN P. ORDWAY
KORHAN M. ORGUN
BRYAN M. ORLOWSKI
TIMOTHY J. ORTH
BRANDON M. OSWALD
JOSHUA A. OVERN
MATTHEW D. OWENS
ALEXANDER J. OWRE
JOSHUA S. PACE
JUSTIN H. PACHECO
DAVID B. PADGETT
MATTHEW D. PAINTER
ANTHONY J. PALLADINO
JASON C. PALLOTTA
MICHAEL J. PANOS
TRAVIS W. PANTALEO
JAMES R. PAQUETTE
JON E. PARIS, JR.
JOHN W. PARKS
JASON R. PATTON
ROBERT A. PAUL
KATHLEEN E. PAULS
GREGORY A. PAULUS
BENJAMIN C. PEARLSWIG
RYAN K. PECK
HAMLET M. PEGUERO
BRAD E. PENLEY
SCOTT C. PENNOYER
LUKE W. PENROSE
ROBERT W. PERRIS
ANDREW S. PETERSON
KENNETH J. PETKUNAS
RYAN D. PETTEPHER
JEREMY C. PHILLIPS
JOSEPH D. PHILLIPS
TIMOTHY R. PHILLIPS
NICHOLAS J. PIETRZAK
GREGORY J. PIORUN, JR.
CHRIS R. PLAPPERT
ZACHARY M. PLEIS
ANDREW J. PLUMB
WALTER G. POINT
PATRICK E. POLK
KARL R. POPEJOY
SURAVUT PORNPANIT
BEAU S. PORTILLO
MICHAEL D. POSMOGA
ANDREW J. POTTS
JOHN M. PRENDERGAST
ASHLEY T. PRESTON
PHILIP D. PRETZINGER
ERIC M. PRIEST
KENNETH J. PRINDLE
MICHAEL L. PTACEK
JOHN J. PUCKETT
CHRISTOPHER T. RAGSDALE
SHAUN A. RANDELL
NICHOLAS J. RANK
JAKE L. RANKINEN
CODY H. RAPP
JOHN E. RASHAP
ROBERT J. RAZZANO
WILL O. READ
ANDREW J. RECAME
KYLE E. RECKER
JACOB R. REED
JARRAD D. REEVES
ANDREW REGALADO
JONATHAN R. REICHEL
PATRICK J. REILLY
BENJAMIN L. REUST
JOSE J. REYES
EMILY J. REYNOLDS
SCOTT M. REYNOLDS
SEAN P. RICE
ROBERT F. RICHARDS
NICKLIS E. RICHARDSON
SUSAN V. RICHARDSON
STEPHEN P. RICHTER
KEVIN L. RINGELSTEIN
RYAN A. RIOUFF
JADEN J. RISNER
RICHARD R. RIVAS
BRIAN M. ROBERTS
JASON M. ROBINSON
JONATHAN D. ROBINSON
BRADLEY J. ROBY
STEVEN V. ROCKWELL
ALEXANDER B. RODECK
MICHAEL A. RODRIGUEZ
DANIEL E. ROGERS
BRENDAN K. ROK
JORGE E. ROLDAN
KRISTINA F. ROMERO

NATHANIAL O. ROSENBERG
DYLAN B. ROSS
JOHN C. ROSS
MARK G. ROSTEDT
GEORGE J. ROTH
BENJAMIN ROTHENBURG
MARK J. ROTHSCHILD
JAMES C. ROWE, JR.
ADAM J. RUCKMAN
MATTHEW N. RYAN
KURT E. SACKS
JOHN M. SADLER
JONATHAN D. SAEWERT
JASON M. SAKASH
CHRISTOPHER M. SALLIOTTE
SHANE A. SALVATORE
PATRICK S. SALVITTI
JOSEPH W. A. SAMMUR
ANDREW B. SAMPLE
BRIAN C. SANCHEZ
CURTIS R. SANDERS
MATTHEW M. SANDRETTO
ALEXANDER M. SANDRONI
LAURA B. SANTIAGO
THOMAS B. SAUER
KARL Q. SAULT
REBEKAH E. SAXON
BRENDAN A. SCHAAF
JUSTIN J. SCHADE
CHARLES W. SCHELLHORN
NICOLE M. SCHERER
BRANT H. SCHMALL
JENNIFER M. SCHMIDT
ROBERT S. SCHMIDT
JARED A. SCHMITT
CHRISTOPHER M. SCHNAPPINGER
JOHN C. SCHNEPPER
PETER C. SCHUNK
NATHAN E. SCOTT
LUCAS R. SCRUBY
CRAIG K. SEARLES
CHRISTOPHER D. SEDLAK
SEAN P. SEEBERGER
JOHN H. SEEBODE
MATTHEW C. SEIBERT
GREGORY J. SEITZ
JOHN G. SHAFFO
DANIEL C. SHEA
THOMAS R. SHELLY
RICHARD W. SHENE
PATRICK D. SHOVLIN
PHILIP B. SHRADER
DAVID K. SHULTZ
JEREMIAH S. SHUMWAY
KAI B. SIEGELE
JOSHUA J. SILVA
RICHARD P. SILVA, JR.
MATTHEW S. SIMMONS
RONALD R. SIMMONS, JR.
DOMINIC J. SIMONE
ELLIOTT P. SKILES
KEITH W. SKILLIN, JR.
KELLEY SLAUGHTER
MICHAEL D. SLEDGE
CHRISTIAN L. SMITH
ERIK T. SMITH
JOSHUA M. SMITH
KRISTEN L. SMITH
LEX A. SMITH
LYNNWOOD C. SMITH
MICHAEL F. SMITH
NICHOLAS D. SMITH
SARAH M. SMITH
STEPHEN W. SMITH
REID W. SMYTHE
WILLIAM M. SNEAD
JOEL P. SNEDEKER
DEVIN T. SNIDER
DANIEL A. SOLFELT
RYAN L. SOLOMON
CHARLES C. SONNTAG
DAVID M. SOUZA
MATTHEW W. SPENCE
BERYL R. STEFANIC
KATRINA L. STEGNER
NATHAN A. STEIN
KEVIN L. STEINBRECHER
MICHELE K. STEINER
DARIN L. STOCKMAN
BYRON STOCKS
BRYAN D. STONIECKI
ALBERT J. STORRS
ANDREW T. STREENAN
MICHAEL G. STRITTMATTER
JOEL D. STRONG
SCOTT F. SULICH
MATTHEW F. SULLIVAN
PATRICK T. SULLIVAN
MICHAEL R. SWANSON, JR.
STEPHEN D. SZACHTA, JR.
AARON N. SZECHTMAN
RACHEL E. SZECHTMAN
ALEXANDER B. TAFRESHI
SHAWN T. TAGAN
DAVID L. TARR
BENJAMIN G. TARTELL
KEVIN F. TAYLOR
SCOTT J. TEDRICK
ALAN A. TEELE
MATTHEW I. TENNIS
RICHARD J. TERRIO II
KYLE L. TERWILLIGER

DANIELLE THIRIOT
JAMES G. THOMAS
ROSS J. THOMAS
ANDREW E. TIMPNER
CHRISTOPHER R. TOCKEY
ANDREW W. TOM
JOSEPH R. TRAGER
IAN X. TRAINOR
BRIAN L. TRIBBITT
BRENT L. TROST
SEAN M. TUOHY
JAMIE A. TURF
CLINTON K. TURNER
DAMON Y. TURNER
ANDREW J. TURO
JAC O. ULLMAN III
MICHAEL J. UMHOLTZ
SCOTT E. URBASHICH
PAUL J. VALCKE, JR.
EMILIO J. VALDEZ
MICHAEL VALLIANOS, JR.
NATHANIEL B. VANDEVENTER
KYLE E. VANNATTA
TROY H. VANTREASE
PATRICK E. VEILLETTE
BRIAN M. VIETHS
VAUGHN A. VILLARREAL
JOSHUA R. VIRGADAMO
JONATHAN M. VOLKLE
STEPHEN M. VOLPE
DANIEL E. VROMAN
GERALD D. VUOLO
JONATHAN G. WACHTEL
ADAM R. WAGLER
JOHN W. WALKER
VALON B. WALKER
WILLIAM J. WALKER III
MARK D. WALLIS
LEIF E. WALROTH
MARCUS T. WALTERS
BLAKE M. WANIER
TIMOTHY R. WARBURTON
MATTHEW P. WARNECKE
JUSTIN M. WASH
TIMOTHY C. WASHBURN
ERIC B. WATT
ROBERT M. WAYLAND
JOSHUA T. WEBB
BRAD C. WEILAND
JASON I. WELLS
JUSTIN T. WELLS
MICHAEL S. WELLS
CHRISTOPHER A. WENZEL
JAROD B. WHEELER
JEREMY W. WHEELIS
CURTIS W. WHITE
DUSTIN L. WHITE
ROOSEVELT B. WHITE, JR.
JEREMIAH W. WIESNER
CHRISTOPHER A. WILLIAMS
MATTHEW R. WILLIAMSON
FRANK D. WILLIS, JR.
NOAH D. WILLKOM
TROY M. WILLMAN
ANDREW R. WILSNACK
TYLER H. WILSON
CALEB P. WINES
MICHAEL P. WOLCHKO
TRAVIS B. WOLF
EVAN R. WOLFE
ANTHONY K. WOLVERTON
JEREMY D. WOODALL
GARRETT M. WOODS
CHARLES D. WORKMAN II
BRYON T. YAMAJI
XAI YANG
JACOB B. YANOFISKY
CHRISTOPHER H. YATES
ROGER L. YOUNG
JONATHAN M. ZANG
MICHAEL D. ZARRAONANDIA
JOSEPH ZERRA
DAVID E. ZIEROTH
JOHN G. ZILAI
MICHAEL J. ZIMMERMAN
RYAN E. ZYVITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

STEVEN M. ARBOGAST
KYLE A. BAKER
TIMOTHY M. BEACH
BIX A. BEIDERBECKE
RYAN S. BOHNING
NATHANIEL J. BYRD
JOSEPH L. CAPRIO
CHRISTINA D. CARINO
DANIEL A. CARY
GREGORY A. CASKEY
AMAKA E. CHIDOZIE
RYAN P. CONNER
GREGORY M. CONTRERAS
ANTHONY L. CULWELL
LEON A. FAISON
ROBERT T. FAUCI III
CHRISTOPHER R. FLORES
VICTOR R. FOULK
ANDREW D. FREEMAN
JORDAN K. GOFF
BENJAMIN L. HALL

JOHN M. HALLWORTH
KEENAN S. HARMAN
MARISSA C. HOBBS
ROY T. JOHNSTON
LEVI C. JONES
JOON H. KIM
ADRIAN S. LANEY
SCOTT F. LORD
CHRISTOPHER G. MACLEAN
WILLIAM J. MARPLE
DILLAN A. MASELLAS
CHAD S. MILTENBERGER
CASSANDRA C. MITCHELL
MICAH D. MUNDEN
LUKE C. OZECK
TIMOTHY D. PHILLIPS
JASON K. PONDER
DAVID C. REINHARDT
VERONIKA J. RICE
BRIAN E. SCOTT
JOSEPH M. STARK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DORIAN R. ACKER
MARCO P. AGRICOLI
CHABONNIE R. ALEXANDER
ERIC L. ALEXANDER
STEVEN D. ALEXANDER
JASON A. ALLNUTT
PETER D. ANDREW
JAMES L. ARKADIE, JR.
MICHAEL J. ARNOLD
BOWEN B. BOLSTAD
RICHARD S. S. BOSTIC
LANCE BREEDING
ERIC D. BROOKS
JASON M. BUERGER
THOMAS J. BUMPASS
ALAN L. BUSH
GARY L. CALLAHAN
ARON E. CALLIPO
MARIO E. CANAS
JOHNNY M. J. CAPORUSCIO
STACEY M. CARFLEY
RALPH J. CARLTON, JR.
SCOTT L. CARPENTER
CHARLES H. CARTER, JR.
PAUL S. CASTILLO
DARREN L. CATLOW
DAVID C. CHANDLER
NICHOLAS D. CHIUDIONI
DAVID J. CHUMLEY
CHAD C. COLLINS
JACK R. COLLINS
ALLEN L. CORDOVA
RICHARD J. COSENDINE
TODD E. COVINGTON
MICHAEL J. DASCH
DENISE T. DAVIS
JONATHAN R. DAVIS
THOMAS L. DEMPSEY
JEFFREY A. DOODY II
DUSTIN S. DOOLEY
PAUL S. DUBOSE
ADRIAN R. ECHEVARRIA
ALAN D. EGGEMEYER
TONI R. FADDEN
VINCENTSUNDAY C. FALCON
BRIAN M. FINGER
JAMES M. FLAHERTY
GEOFFREY W. FLOWERS
KARLA V. FUENTES
MICHAEL GALARZA II
JESUS A. GARCIA
TRAVIS S. GARLAND
JESSE W. GASKELL
FRANK J. GATES II
SCOTT T. GEBEL
TIMOTHY K. GEILENFELDT
BRIAN S. GIBSON
MICHAEL B. GNACINSKI

JASON GONZALEZ
CHAD A. GROSS
MARCO M. GUIDI
ARISTILE S. GUIDRY
DAVID B. HADAWAY
GREGORY R. HAND
DARBY D. HARVILLE
MATTHEW A. HATLEVIG
PRESTON S. HOOPS
MARK A. HOVAN
CHRISTOPHER M. JOHNSON
LARRY L. JOHNSON II
TANYA S. JONES
WILLIE J. JORDAN
ANITRA W. JOSEPH
JASON B. KAPLAN
DENNIS A. KEE
DAVID R. KESSLER
TERRY J. KHAN
JEFFREY S. KING
LEMONT L. KING
RODNEY M. KING
TIMOTHY E. KING
JASON S. KNEELAND
RICHARD L. KRIENER
ALEXANDER N. LAMIS
SEAN P. LENNON
MICHAEL F. LEONE
GERALD A. LILLY II
JASON C. LOVELL
SCOTT A. LUDWIG
JOSEPH H. LUTHY
ZACHARY A. MACDONALD
JAMES F. MANNING
DOUGLAS E. MARTIN
KEVIN L. MARTIN
FREDRICK W. MASTEN, JR.
NATHAN M. R. MCCOY
LAVEDA C. MCDANIEL
DERMOT P. MCKENNA
SHANNON D. MCNIEL
SCOTT A. METCALF
GREGORY S. MILLER
JACOB A. MONN
DAVID P. MOSES
DAVID E. NELSON
MICHAEL M. NEWBY
BRIAN E. NEWCOMB
JASON J. NORVILLE
JOHN J. ORAVITZ, JR.
JIMMY J. PAVELKA
MICHAEL E. PEARNE
JOHN PETERS
SHELTRIC PETERSON
JUSTIN M. PORTZ
MATTHEW D. POST
BRIAN C. PROUT
JASON E. RACE
MARLON J. RAMSEY
CHRISTOPHER J. RASTRELLI
JASON D. REDMAN
JAVIER T. RIVERA
DANA P. ROCKOT
TIMOTHY W. ROE
DEREK S. SADZINSKI
MICHAEL J. SALSGIVER
MATTHEW T. SCHELL
LAWRENCE G. SCOTT, JR.
JOSE SELLES
TRAVIS W. SEMONES
JASON M. SETLIFF
JEREMY J. SHIPLOV
BRIAN K. SNYDER
THEODOSIUS SOILES II
WAYLON P. SOMMER
JOSHUA D. STEHR
JEFFREY N. SUEKOFF
ABDOULAYE SYLLA
HOLLY R. TAYLOR
JAMES D. TAYLOR
ROBERT K. TAYLOR
CLAIBORN B. THOMPSON
JERRY R. TOFTE, JR.
EDGAR V. TOVAR

SEAN D. TRIPLETT
CHINUAH A. TWITTY
RAFAEL M. VILLARREAL
JOHN L. VINCENT
TRAVIS L. WADE
MICHAEL K. WILLIAMS
JULIAN G. WILSON III
CHARLES A. WOOD
JOHN A. WOODS
CAROL A. YEISER
NIGEL S. YODER
JASON YORK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL A. AMMENDOLA
KYLE C. BACHMAN
ANN C. BEDNASH
COLIN R. BOYLE
STEPHEN J. BREMER
JUSTINE A. CACCAMO
BRIA R. CHAMBERS
DEAK C. CHILDRESS
JEANPAUL CHRISTOPHE
ELIZABETH D. CLARKEGLYNN
BENJAMIN E. CLICK
PAUL A. COLON
LEWIS J. COOPER
RHIANNON L. CROTHERS
SETH I. EPHRUSSI
CHRISTOPHER R. EUBANKS
DANIEL R. FLEMMING
JAMES A. FOX, JR.
ERIC W. GARDNER
MICHAEL C. GARTNER
REBEKAH D. GERBER
LISA T. GREEN
JASON K. GREGOIRE
ERIN L. HALKIN
FREDRICK N. HARLAMBAKIS
KEVIN A. HOADLEY
AMY E. HOUGH
ADAM P. HUDSON
JEFFREY B. HUNTER
RICHARD F. JENSEN
DANIEL G. KERN
KEVIN N. LAMPING
KURTIS A. LOBAUGH
ADRIENNE A. MAESER
PETER C. MAKI
DOUGLAS M. MARKS
KRISTIAN S. MATTSOON
DANIEL W. MCILVAINE
ABBY K. MENNERICH
SAMUEL A. MORGAN III
LAURA M. NICHOLS
TIMOTHY R. OCONNOR
EDSEL W. PATE
CHRISTOPHER J. PUTKO, JR.
MI K. D. QWYN
KEITH L. RINNE
SARA J. RUBIN
JOSEPH E. SANDERS
MATTHEW C. SCHOMAKER
EVAN K. SCOTT
LUCAS H. SEEGER
CAROLINE M. SEIDER
LAWRENCE W. SHREVE
KWASI R. SNEED
JOHN L. THOMAS
ANDREW P. THOMPSON
CASEY W. TWOBARS
JACQUELINE E. VALAMOTAMED
BENJAMIN WANG
JOANNA L. WEST
GEORGE T. WHITTLE
STEVEN W. WILBUR
HASHIM A. WILLIAMS
ROSS E. WOLTJER
MICHAEL B. ZIMET

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING JOAN MURPHY, LONG-TIME PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joan Murphy, a public servant for more than 4 decades, who passed away on September 18, 2016 at the age of 79. She had been fighting breast cancer since 2012 while bravely continuing to serve as a Commissioner on the Cook County Board. During her long service, she was known as a champion for working families and an advocate for greater involvement for women in government.

Born in South Boston, Commissioner Murphy graduated from Massachusetts State Teacher's College. Early in her career she was a flight attendant for United Airlines as well as a real estate broker. She began her long career in public service when she was elected Crestwood's Village Clerk in 1965. She was the first woman elected to that office, and became the first woman elected to be Worth Township Clerk in 1977, a position she held for two terms. She would go on to serve as the Worth Township Supervisor. In 2002 she was elected to represent the 6th District on the Cook County Board of Commissioners and served as the Chairperson for the Labor Committee and the Asset Management Committee.

Commissioner Murphy is survived by her daughter Tricia, her sons, Tim and Tony, and five grandchildren. Her husband Donald passed away from leukemia after 43 years of marriage. She lost her son Donald, Jr. a decade ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commissioner Joan Murphy, a truly committed public servant. Her long career in government demonstrated her connection to her community and her passion for improving the lives of those she worked for. She will be greatly missed.

HONORING KINDALL HENNING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kindall Henning. Kindall is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 43, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kindall has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kindall has been involved with

scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Kindall has led his troop as the Senior Patrol Leader. Kindall has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Kindall constructed a Veterans Memorial at the Faucett Community Center in Faucett, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kindall Henning for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW ENGLAND HONOR FLIGHT

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New England Honor Flight organization from Hooksett, New Hampshire. This great organization is our local branch of the National Honor Flight organization that provides our most senior veterans with an expense paid trip to Washington, DC to visit our national war monuments.

The work done by this organization is truly outstanding. So many of our nation's veterans have not had the opportunity to visit Washington, DC to visit the monuments erected to pay honor to their service, and the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives to protect the freedoms and liberties of our great country. Many veterans serve their country and do so humbly and quietly. They seek nothing more than the benefits promised to them by our forefathers, and many do not even pursue that which is entitled to them.

To date, the New England Honor Flight has led 42 flights to Washington, DC, serving 1,474 veterans. Those veterans served include 37 Prisoners of War, 61 women, 21 sets of brothers, and 7 husband and wife couples. Their next flight is scheduled for September 18th and their remaining flights for the year are currently booked with veterans that they will share this emotional experience with.

I am proud to join with my fellow Granite Staters in recognizing the outstanding work the New England Honor Flight is doing to help support and recognize our veterans, and wish them all the best on future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF ALEJANDRO DURAN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remember a prominent Long Beach resident, Mr. Alejandro Duran. He was respected and liked by many in the community, known best for his work at the restaurant, Chianina, in Naples. As an experienced chef, sommelier, and general manager, Alejandro's extensive background and personality made him a popular figure within Long Beach's culinary community.

Alejandro's experience with cooking spans over several years. Prior to moving to Long Beach, he worked in Austin, Texas as a chef at the Latin American restaurant, Malaga. Alejandro's entrepreneurial and culinary skills helped project Malaga to prominent success. In 2013, he moved to Long Beach, California and joined the Michael's Restaurant Group as general manager of Chianina.

Alejandro was an active and energetic manager who often enjoyed engaging with customers. He was a respected leader amongst the restaurant staff for constantly motivating and supporting them. Alejandro's devotion to Chianina helped make it one of the top ten steak restaurants in the United States.

The sudden loss of Alejandro has been a devastating blow to the community, Chianina, and his family. He is survived by his wife, Dana—to whom he was happily married for eight years—and two daughters, Isabella and Sofia—to whom he was devoted to raising. Alejandro Duran's passing was sudden and shocking, but he will be remembered for the lasting impact he left on the Long Beach community.

IN MEMORY OF DUANE ACKLIE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Duane Acklie of Lincoln, Nebraska, who passed away on September 17, 2016.

Duane was a successful entrepreneur who built one of America's largest privately-owned trucking companies, but he was even more well-known for his commitment to his community, his state, and his country. Through numerous board memberships, appointments, and philanthropic ventures, he continually gave of himself to benefit the state he loved.

Duane worked tirelessly and humbly at all levels of Nebraska politics for more than 50

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

years. His influence will undoubtedly be felt for generations to come.

On behalf of all Nebraskans, I extend condolences to Duane's loving wife of 62 years, Phyllis, and their family. Duane will be deeply missed.

CONGRATULATING THE DELANEY FAMILY ON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FAMILY BUSINESS AWARD

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Delaney family of the Delaney Automotive Group in Indiana, PA on earning the Distinguished Family Business Award granted by the Indiana University of Pennsylvania Center for Family Business.

The Distinguished Family Business Award is presented annually to a family that has excelled in industry, contributed to the community, and passed the business to the second generation or beyond. This award was created to increase awareness of the critical role that family-owned businesses play in our communities. As such, it helps honor those who have truly made a difference.

Jack and Susan (Snell) Delaney opened Delaney Chevrolet on July 19, 1971, and have since grown the family business to include a number of other dealerships in the Indiana area. What's more, they have shared their personal successes with the community, as the Delaney Automotive Group now employs more than 360 people across its locations.

Taking over as dealer operators at the Indiana and Greensburg locations were sons Jack and Tom, respectively. The Delaneys also have a daughter, Beth, who is an attorney in Philadelphia. With six grandchildren and a seventh on the way, it's possible the business will stay with the Delaneys for some time to come.

It is my pleasure to highlight the hard work and commitment that the whole family has contributed to the successes of the Delaney Automotive Group. The Delaney family and their business will surely continue to benefit the greater Indiana, PA community for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO GARY YAMAUCHI

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gary Yamauchi for his many years of dedicated public service to the City of Alhambra and the greater Los Angeles community. After twelve years serving as a city council member, which includes three-terms as mayor of Alhambra, Mr. Yamauchi has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and commitment to improving the lives of residents.

Before Gary served on the Alhambra City Council, he founded Tri-Star Vending, a suc-

cessful, full-service vending business, which operates more than 600 machines and proudly serves major San Gabriel Valley institutions such as the California Institute of Technology and East Los Angeles College. Mr. Yamauchi's business is admired for its high-quality service, and the opportunity it has afforded to individuals rebuilding their lives through employment. A quarter of Tri-Star Vending's employees are former gang members who received job training through Homeboy Industries.

Mr. Yamauchi's strong desire to assist others and improve his community pushed him to run for public office and in 2004 he was elected to the Alhambra City Council. His success and loyalty to the Alhambra community assured his re-election and he served as mayor twice more in 2008 and in 2012.

Besides his involvement on the city council, Gary has demonstrated his commitment to the Alhambra community serving as President and board member of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, the Alhambra Rotary Club, and the West San Gabriel Valley YMCA. Mr. Yamauchi has also served as Vice President of the Alhambra Planning Commission, member of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Development Council, and board member of the Go For Broke National Education Center.

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I congratulate Mr. Gary Yamauchi today for his many years of service to the City of Alhambra. The time and energy Mr. Yamauchi has put into improving the lives of others is exemplary and greatly appreciated by Alhambra's residents. I now ask all Members to join me in congratulating Gary Yamauchi, successful businessman and devoted public servant.

RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE RICK WOMICK

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tennessee State Representative Rick Womick, a constituent of Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District who has distinguished himself through outstanding public service to the people of the 34th House District and all Tennesseans. He has faithfully served in the Tennessee General Assembly from 2010 to 2016.

As a staunch conservative, Representative Womick's Christian faith has guided him to safeguard the values we treasure: the United States Constitution, the Tennessee Constitution, the constitutional amendment prohibiting a state income tax in Tennessee, preserving states' rights, the right to keep and bear arms, recognizing the serious threat of radical Islam to America, and supporting Tennessee values.

Representative Womick has a lifelong record of preserving freedom and protecting our country, having served in the United States Air Force as an officer and an F-15 Fighter Pilot during the Gulf War. He has also served as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer and presently serves as an international commercial airline pilot.

This commendation is presented as recognition of Representative Rick Womick's honored service to the people of Tennessee. I thank you for your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication that epitomize our state slogan: "Tennessee . . . America at its Best."

Best wishes to you and your family for great success in the future.

HONORING ETHEL SEIDERMAN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Ethel Seiderman, who passed away on July 26, 2016, after a lifetime of service to her community. The daughter of Jewish immigrants from Poland, Ethel developed a passion for children and social justice from growing up in a working-class Bronx childhood.

While studying at Brooklyn College she met and married Stanley Seiderman. In 1963 they left New York and made their home in San Francisco, moving to Marin four years later. Mr. Seiderman, a family counselor, died in 2005.

After founding the pioneering Fairfax-San Anselmo Children's Center in 1973, Ethel went on to become nationally known as a passionate advocate for early childhood education and social justice for needy children and families. In later years, on behalf of the Parent Services Project, Mrs. Seiderman traveled widely, teaching and lecturing in a dozen states. In Marin, she advised child-care centers as well as a dozen elementary and high schools. In 2006, she was honored with the Beryl H. Buck Award for "community giving in action."

After running a nursery school in Terra Linda and working in child care centers in San Francisco's African-American Fillmore District, Mrs. Seiderman battled the state bureaucracy to get funding for the Fairfax-San Anselmo Child Care Center, the first low-cost child care center founded by a community member.

Mr. Speaker, the depth of Mrs. Seiderman's commitment to the children, education, and social justice has left an indelible mark not just on the community of Marin, but on children and families far and wide. She was a formidable force whose presence will be missed by many. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to her today and honor her memory.

HONORING ASSUMPTION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the parishioners of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of Homer Glen, Illinois, who are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of their parish.

Established by the first Greek Settlement to come to Chicago Heights in 1916, the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church has been an institution in the community since its inception. The church was dedicated on December 3, 1916, making it the first Greek Orthodox Church in Chicagoland to be located outside the city limits. The church moved to Olympia Fields, then temporarily to Orland Park, before settling in its current location in Homer Glen.

In addition to liturgies and other church services, Assumption holds many community and educational events. The church offers weekly Greek classes as well as Sunday school and women's and young adult philanthropy programs to foster a vibrant parish community. I would like to commend Assumption for going above and beyond by being active in the local community and expanding its reach to include education and community work.

The hard work of Reverend Father Sotirios Dimitriou, or "Father Sam" as he is affectionately known, has been integral to the success of the parish. He is well deserving of praise along with the outstanding parishioners who strive to improve the strength of the church and its worshippers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to congratulate Father Sam and all the parishioners of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church on one hundred wonderful years of withstanding the test of time and continuing to minister to the faithful.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABINGDON RURITAN CLUB

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the Abingdon Ruritan Club located in Gloucester County, Virginia. The club was chartered on October 8, 1956 by only 29 members who came together to support fellowship, goodwill, and community service. After 60 years, the Abingdon Club has become the third largest of all Ruritan Clubs in the country.

Throughout the Abingdon Club's 60 years, it has stayed committed to its founding principles of contributing to the public good. The Club has shown its support of the veterans of the First District by delivering care packages to VA Hospitals. Club members have also dedicated time to protecting our environment and natural resources. They participate regularly in the Gloucester County Clean Up and plant Sea Grass to help preserve our Virginia coastline.

Moreover, the Abingdon Club has donated its time and membership to helping the children of Gloucester by giving gifts at Christmas time, supplying stuffed Rudy Bears to the Sheriff's Department for children in vulnerable situations, and offering college scholarships.

The Abingdon Ruritan Club has made our community in the First District of Virginia a better place. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating them on 60 years of service and wish them many more to come.

RETIREMENT OF MR. HOWARD L. DONALDSON FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American on his "third and final" federal service retirement. Mr. Howard L. Donaldson achieved an impressive career serving our nation in both military and civilian capacities for almost 44 years. His superb military service began as an ROTC Army Artillery Officer in 1969, and continued following a break to earn a Juris Doctor degree (with Honors) from Golden Gate University, becoming barred in California. Mr. Donaldson returned to duty as an Air Force Staff Judge Advocate, serving in three Air Force wings, 16th Air Force, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Air Force and United States Special Operations Commands. He was a noted civil law instructor at the Air Force Judge Advocate General School, and a barred U.S. Supreme Court lawyer. Mr. Donaldson garnered several awards, including two "Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year" command citations. As 16th Air Force Staff Judge Advocate Mr. Donaldson helped enforce the Dayton Peace Accords in the former Yugoslavian Republic air conflicts.

After 28 years of active duty service, Colonel Donaldson postponed his retirement to take a final assignment as the HQ US Special Operations Command Staff Judge Advocate. He served until a mandatory retirement date, retiring the "first" time only to be recalled to active duty. His "second" military retirement occurred in June 2003, with nearly 31 years of military commissioned service to the nation. In June 2003 Mr. Donaldson then embarked on civilian service as counsel to NORAD/USNORTHCOM. He received the Armed Forces Civilian Service medal for his participation in the support of the Global War on Terrorism. He also provided invaluable legal advice to the commander during hurricane KATRINA, the Haiti earthquake, Russian Long-Range Aviation threat responses, North Korean missile launches, pandemic preparation, CONUS Natural Disaster coordination, and countless USNORTHCOM National Special Security Events.

Howard and his supportive wife Sally have traveled the world and sacrificed in and out of uniform while serving our country. I salute this modern American patriot who has provided over four decades of federal contribution. Godspeed Howard and Sally in your "final" government retirement.

HONORING NATHAN JACOB

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Jacob. Nathan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and

leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nathan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nathan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Nathan has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and become an Ordeal Member of the Order of the Arrow. Nathan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Nathan erected and installed two poles with directional signage for the Fountain Bluff Sports Complex in Liberty, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nathan Jacob for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING REX KAUP'S SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO HIS COMMUNITY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rex Kaup on receiving the Kiwanis Club of Altoona's Distinguished Citizen Award.

The award is given by the Altoona Kiwanis Club each year to recognize the recipient's outstanding service and longstanding commitment to the community. Mr. Kaup is a partner of Young, Oakes, Brown & Company P.C. in Altoona, Pennsylvania, where he has had an impactful involvement with various business and community organizations. He has also served on the Penn State Altoona Alumni Society Board of Directors and has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Altoona for 30 years, never missing an opportunity to be of assistance to his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Rex is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and Pennsylvania sets him apart as an outstanding individual and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Rex for this achievement and wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE U.S.-REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA PARTNERSHIP

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Georgia is a trusted friend and partner of the United States. I firmly support Georgia's sovereignty, security and prosperity, and I wish to

congratulate Georgians on the remarkable democratic and economic progress they have achieved in 25 years of independence since the fall of the Soviet Union.

I would particularly like to call attention to the United States' unwavering security partnership with Georgia, whose armed forces participate in international missions worldwide, including the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan where Georgia is contributing more personnel than any other non-NATO member. I know the United States deeply appreciates Georgia's contributions to these missions and honors its sacrifices. Our important security relationship with Georgia continues to grow through ongoing regional efforts like the European Readiness Initiative and expanded bilateral cooperation. And our two countries are working closely to boost our mutual security, build Georgia's resilience and self-defense capabilities and create a safer region and world. In this context, I remain deeply concerned about Russia's continued occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and believe Russia must fulfill its obligations under the 2008 ceasefire agreement. The United States is steadfast in our support for Georgia's sovereignty and remains committed to helping Georgia achieve its goal of NATO and European Union membership and full integration into European institutions.

Georgia is preparing for parliamentary elections in October, an important test of the country's civic institutions and democratic practices. Georgia's continued democratic maturation depends on free and fair elections in a pluralistic media environment. And it is critical for Georgia to sustain progress in enacting its reform agenda, particularly in the justice sector, which will both further strengthen our bilateral partnership and prove to Georgians that their government is working for them. Progress has not come without difficulty, but the commitment of the Georgian people has made Georgia a true standout in a difficult region and an important partner of the United States.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Georgia on reaching this significant milestone and recognize the importance of our continued close partnership.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the Congressional Progressive Caucus in strong opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

When it comes to trade deals and American jobs, Congress should NEVER be a rubber stamp.

As the representative from California's beautiful 13th Congressional district, I have the honor and privilege of representing the Port of Oakland, one of our nation's busiest sea and airport facilities.

I support trade because it is critical to the economy of my district and our nation.

But trade is only good when it's fair, open, transparent and creates good-paying Amer-

ican jobs. The TPP fails to meet even one of these standards.

Quite simply, TPP is a bad deal that would ship American jobs overseas and help the 1 percent reap even greater profits.

The American people aren't fooled by TPP. The vast majority of Americans—including people from both parties—oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In particular, I'd like to highlight how previous bad trade deals have hurt American workers, families and businesses, especially in communities of color.

Since 1994, one in four manufacturing jobs in my home state of California has been lost because of NAFTA and other WTO agreements.

But this didn't just happen in California. From 1998 through 2012, under NAFTA:

79,000 manufacturing jobs, nearly half of manufacturing jobs, were lost in St. Louis,

82,000 manufacturing jobs, also nearly half of manufacturing jobs, were lost in Cleveland, and

25,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in Baltimore.

Given the large number of people of color in these cities, these jobs lost took a particular toll on these communities.

In fact—nationwide, thirty-five percent of jobs lost because of our trade deficit with China came from communities of color.

For those that lost their jobs, the situation went from bad to worse—when they finally found a new job, not an easy task in many communities of color, their paychecks were cut by nearly 30 percent.

This is outrageous. These lost jobs and wages cost these communities of color more than 10 million dollars each and every year.

As Members of Congress, we simply cannot allow another, even worse trade deal to drive these communities deeper into poverty.

But it isn't just jobs and paychecks that will suffer under the TPP; critical labor standards, environmental protections and human rights would be eroded as well.

It would also restrict access to lifesaving drugs and artificially inflate drug prices.

As co-chair of the bipartisan HIV/AIDS Caucus, I want to highlight that in July 2015, UNAIDS warned against the TPP's TRIPS-plus (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) measures because of negative impact on developing countries.

This is why my colleagues and I are here saying NO to the TPP.

It was negotiated in secret back rooms by special interests and multinational corporations. Nothing in this deal is good for the American people.

Far from being the most progressive trade deal ever—this deal will ship American jobs overseas and create a race to the bottom for wages, environmental protections, labor standards and human rights.

Let me be clear, the American people deserve better.

We need a fair deal that creates U.S. jobs and grows our economy. We will continue to fight against this bad deal.

IN CELEBRATION OF MR. LIONEL LEBLANC'S 91ST BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Lionel Leblanc in celebration of reaching his 91st birthday.

As he reflects on the great memories that have highlighted the past ninety-one years, I know he will think fondly on all that he's accomplished and the positive impact he's had on New Hampshire.

Mr. Leblanc is an ardent patriot who proudly served his country with the Army Air Corps during World War II. As a member of the greatest generation he continued to serve his country for 38 years in what would later become the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Master Sergeant and specialist in Weapons Systems Maintenance. Once separated from the Air Force, Lionel continued to serve his fellow veterans as a Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and remains to this day a strong supporter of numerous veterans groups and charities in the state. His dedication to his fellow veterans has not been forgotten and I know they all join with me in wishing him a very happy birthday.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Mr. Leblanc on achieving this wonderful milestone, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT JOHN C. FISHER, OHIO FARM BUREAU

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize John C. "Jack" Fisher, the Executive Vice President of the Ohio Farm Bureau for his dedicated service to Ohio agriculture.

Throughout his career, Jack worked tirelessly to make agriculture a true asset and economic driver for the state of Ohio. His vision has allowed Ohio to continue to be at the forefront of agriculture, which is vital for American and global success. Jack's ability to bring different groups together for productive dialogue has helped ensure the continued fostering of innovation and collaboration. His management has been invaluable to the agricultural community in the state.

Ohio, the agricultural community, and the Farm Bureau will truly miss his leadership, and I extend my deepest thanks to Jack for his service and I wish him well in retirement.

HONORING 60 YEARS OF CAULKINS
JEWELERS**HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge my constituent, Stanley Caulkins, and his jewelry store, Caulkins Jewelers, on celebrating 60 years of business in Leesburg, Virginia.

Before opening his own store, Mr. Caulkins' life took him down many paths. During the Second World War, Mr. Caulkins served his nation as a radio operator on a B-17 Bomber, upon returning home he attended Montgomery Jr. College and the Peter School of Horology in Washington, DC. In 1950, Stanley began working for a local jeweler on South King Street repairing watches and jewelry before buying his own store in 1956. Ever since, Caulkins Jewelers has been a fixture of the Leesburg community.

Mr. Caulkins has also been an active in the Leesburg community. In addition to being the longest serving individual retailer in town, in 1962 he started the Downtown Renaissance in an effort to beautify downtown Leesburg. Mr. Caulkins has also served on the town council, the airport commission, and as Secretary, Treasurer, and President of the Leesburg Rotary Club. At 90 years of age, Stanley continues to diligently serve his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Stanley Caulkins and Caulkins Jewelers as they celebrate this milestone. His dedication to both Caulkins Jewelers and Leesburg, Virginia has made him a friendly face in the Leesburg community. I wish Mr. Caulkins all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF
AUDRA McDONALD**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Audra McDonald as she is recognized with the National Medal of Arts award, presented by the President of the United States.

The National Medal of Arts award is the highest award given to artists by the United States government, and Audra has undoubtedly earned the prestigious award.

Audra's successful acting and singing career began in her hometown, Fresno, California. Audra grew up in California's San Joaquin Valley and was raised by her mother, Anna, and late father, Stanley. Her parents taught Audra and her sister, Allison, the importance of hard work and dedication. At age 9, Audra joined the Good Company Players' junior company, and soon after, landed a role with Dan Pessano and the Good Company Players.

Audra is a graduate of Roosevelt High's School of Arts program. She continued her

education in the arts at Juilliard School and graduated in 1993. Audra has seen great success on Broadway and in the Opera. In addition to having won three Tony Awards by the age of 28, Audra is the recipient of two Grammy Awards, an Emmy Award, Drama Desk Awards and Outer Critics Circle Awards.

Most notably, Audra is the recipient of six Tony Awards, making her the most statue-laden Tony Award winner. Audra's most recent Tony Award was for her incredible portrayal of Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*.

Not only is Audra an exceptional actress, but also a wonderful person who is involved in various philanthropic endeavors. She actively gives back to her community and seeks to improve the lives of those around her. Audra is a strong champion for the LGBTQ community, ensuring that all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are treated equally.

Audra is a source of inspiration and pride for the San Joaquin Valley and our entire nation. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Audra McDonald as she receives the National Medal of Arts for her lifelong career as a singer and actress.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH
OF NOAH ALEXANDER CORTS**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my constituents Stephanie Corts and her husband, Alexander Corts, on the birth of their son. Noah Alexander Corts was born at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, at Lakes Region General Hospital in Laconia, New Hampshire. Noah weighed seven pounds and five ounces and measured 19 inches. He is the first child for the happy couple and I look forward to watching him grow as he is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to his well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Noah's grandparents, Adam and Michelle Downs of Meredith, New Hampshire, and Irene and Jochen Corts of Remscheid, Germany. Congratulations to the entire Downs and Corts families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

PROTECTING REFUGEES: CAMP
LIBERTY**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, an estimated 1,200 Iranian dissidents remain in Camp Liberty in Iraq at the mercies of the pro-Iranian government in Baghdad. These refugees, mainly members of the People's Mujahedin of Iran (otherwise known as the MEK) are unarmed, innocent people who have

been forced to flee their homes because of their opposition to the tyrannical theocratic regime in Tehran. They have endured decades of exile outside of Iran marked by continuous suffering and persecution.

Since 2013, seven rocket attacks have targeted Camp Liberty, wounding hundreds and killing at least 139 residents. All of these attacks are believed to have been carried out either by Shiite militias in Iraq linked to the Iranian regime or by agents of the Iranian Quds Force. No one has been held accountable for these attacks. In fact, no one has even been arrested. Despite the fact that the Iraqi government signed a Memorandum of Understanding ensuring the safety and security of the residents of Camp Liberty, it appears that the Iraqi government's subservience to Iran takes precedence.

These dissidents are not safe in Iraq and must be relocated as soon as possible to some other country. Thankfully, 1,800 residents have already been resettled outside of the country, particularly in Albania, which took in the most recent batches of refugees leaving Camp Liberty in early August. However, recent reports from MEK sources within Tehran now suggest that the Quds Force is contemplating another major strike on Camp Liberty before the remaining refugees are allowed to leave. At the same time, Quds Force-linked paramilitary forces have been increasing their presence in Baghdad International Airport—a troubling sign that could presage another strike on the camp that is located not too far from the airport.

The Iranian government would like to extend the reign of terror it wages at home against any and all people who speak out against it—including the dissidents in neighboring Iraq. How many more people have to die? How many more times will unarmed refugees be attacked by rockets? The Iraqi government must live up to its commitment and protect these refugees until every last one of them finds his or her way to safety.

And that's just the way it is.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,524,335,895,543.03. We've added \$8,897,448,846,729.95 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$8.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF A FARM LESS
ORDINARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci of A Farm Less Ordinary in Loudoun County for the creation of this extremely important organization. A Farm Less Ordinary strives to provide a compassionate and useful service through the agricultural industry to both Loudoun County and the Commonwealth as a whole.

Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci moved to Loudoun after buying a family farm, where they sought to provide a safe and calm environment to raise their family. After seeing the positive impact the farm had on their autistic son Max, Maya and Greg decided to learn more about farming and to establish a place for others who faced disabilities to learn valuable work skills. Their farm has grown into an organization that is able to provide a sympathetic place of work and competitive compensation for their workers, who come from their partner organizations in Loudoun and Clarke County.

Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci strongly believe in being good stewards of the land and caring for the environment. Perhaps most of all, the couple firmly believes in giving back to the community through their organization and their Community Supported Agriculture network. The success of Maya and Greg is a tremendous accomplishment and their aspirations for expansion are admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Maya Weschler and Greg Masucci for their service to the community through A Farm Less Ordinary. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
BROTHER DABNEY NAPOLEON
MONTGOMERY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor to join our Nation, New York State and The Village of Harlem as we celebrate the life of and pay tribute to our beloved American Hero, Brother Dabney N. Montgomery, who made his transition to his Lord and Savior on Saturday, September 3, 2016. A fellow member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and patriarch of Harlem's historic Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Dabney N. Montgomery was a member of the ground crew of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and served as a bodyguard for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the historic 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Dabney N. Montgomery was born in Selma, Alabama on April 18, 1923 to Dred and Lula Anderson Montgomery. Brother Montgomery was drafted into the Army Air Corps during

World War II and served in the 1051st Quartermaster Trucking Company of the 96th Air Service Group, attached to the 332nd Air Fighter Group, as a ground crewman with the Tuskegee Airmen in southern Italy from 1943 to 1945. During his heroic service, Brother Montgomery was awarded a Good Conduct Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, a Service Award, the Honorable Service Medal, and a Basic Driver and Mechanic Medal.

After the War, he enrolled into Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina, and received a B.A. degree in Religious Education. He served as a Charter Member of the Sphinx Club and was one of the first to be admitted into the Gamma Mu Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In 1955, Brother Montgomery joined Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church—the oldest Black Church in the State of New York, organized in 1796 in Harlem, New York, and immediately began to serve as Sunday School Teacher.

To give you some content and background, Tuskegee University was awarded the U.S. Army Air Corps contract to help train America's first Black military aviators because it had already invested in the development of an airfield, had a proven civilian pilot training program and its graduates performed highest on flight aptitude exams. What makes the story of prominent New Yorkers such as Captain Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Intelligence Officer Percy Sutton, Lieutenant Colonel Lee Archer, Jr., Armorer Joseph Herman Spooner and Grounds Crewman Dabney N. Montgomery remarkable, is their selflessness and devotion to a country, despite the segregation and barriers they faced. They were willing to put their lives on the line for American values and freedoms even when discrimination compromised their own rights and liberties. Through their patriotism, the walls of segregation were finally removed from our Armed Forces on July 26, 1948.

The great exploits and historic successful missions carried out by Grounds Crewman Dabney N. Montgomery and the Tuskegee Airman fighting group, who never lost a bomber on their watch, was never properly recognized by this United States government until I introduced and proudly sponsored Bill H.R.—1259. This bill, passed by Congress in 2006, awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, our highest civilian honor, to the Tuskegee Airmen. On March 29, 2007, my good friend attended the ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, where he and the other Tuskegee Airmen, collectively, not individually, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their service.

Brother Dabney Napoleon Montgomery left his indelible mark on this earth as a war hero, Veteran, moral leader, educator, husband and godfather to many devoting his life to the betterment of all humankind, community, and country. In honor of Brother Montgomery's Civil Rights legacy, "The Heels" from the shoes he wore in the 1965 historic march from Selma to Montgomery will hang in the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC, which opens September 24, 2016.

I join my colleagues and the rest of the nation as we say goodbye and pay tribute to our

beloved brother, Dabney Napoleon Montgomery, a true American hero.

CELEBRATING THE KIWANIS CLUB
OF TOLEDO'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial celebration of the Kiwanis Club of Toledo. Members will gather in downtown Toledo on Friday, September 23 to celebrate this milestone.

Only the ninth club in the United States, the Toledo club was chartered on May 8, 1916. Originally thought of as a "businessmen's club" to promote local business, World War 1 changed the focus to that of community service with the members raising funds for the American Red Cross' wartime services. Club membership grew as community service became firmly established. Its focus was on children, with many activities for the youth of Toledo, orphans and Boy Scouts.

According to the club's history, "The name 'Kiwanis' comes from a Native American term 'Nun Keewanis' which means 'I make noise.' The Kiwanis International motto is 'We build.' The Kiwanis Club of Toledo has taken these two expressions to heart . . . As a thriving organization of men, women and youth; we are dedicated to serving the children of Toledo and improving the quality of life worldwide."

The Kiwanis Club's commitment to Toledo and its young people runs deep. The Club sponsors scholarships for high school seniors, adopted central city schools and provides fun and opportunities for the children in those schools, financed the facility housing Assistance Dogs of America, provides for after school tutoring at the Boys and Girls Club and an annual fishing derby and Punt, Pass & Kick program, donated an elephant and the Living Stream at the Toledo Zoo, and supported various activities at Woodward High School in Toledo, the University of Toledo, the YMCA, Easter Seals Summer Camp, Toledo Hearing & Speech Center, and Bethany House shelter for women and their children. By no means complete, this list illustrates the many contributions made by members of the Kiwanis Club and their passion for service to our youth. In keeping with the spirit of giving to Toledo's children, the Kiwanis Club of Toledo has initiated a Centennial Project, partnering with the Toledo Mud Hens baseball club in ventures which will enhance the ballpark experience for families.

The members of Toledo Kiwanis have led by example for a century of service. Members have passed on a strong sense of community through the decades, demonstrating by word and deed the high ideals of Kiwanis and the dedication of its members. To the men, women and families of the Toledo Kiwanis Club, we take the opportunity of this centennial celebration to say "Thank you." Let us express our gratitude as we reflect on the past century of Kiwanis' constancy of service and leadership for community betterment. May this new century yield committed citizens of equal

measure who rise above self to promote the common good.

CONGRATULATING GINNY THRASHER ON RECEIVING OLYMPIC GOLD IN THE 10 METER AIR RIFLE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Ginny Thrasher of Springfield, Virginia, on winning Olympic Gold at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Her dedication, hard work, and athletic prowess earned her the highest honor in the women's 10 meter air rifle event. This achievement is reserved for the most elite athletes in the world, and I am proud one of Virginia's own has joined their ranks.

Ms. Thrasher's hard work, perseverance, and excellence are exemplified in her winning this medal. Winning the first Gold of the tournament, Ms. Thrasher led the way as the United States dominated their competition, winning 46 Gold medals during the 2016 Rio Olympics. We need to recognize and encourage the dedication that athletes like Ms. Thrasher display toward their sports. It is this dedication that creates the level of excellence that Ms. Thrasher has achieved.

In addition to her Olympic greatness, Ms. Thrasher also helped the West Virginia Mountaineers win a fourth consecutive NCAA championship as she won the individual small-bore and air rifle titles at the event. She also holds more than 20 national and international records in her sport.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to highlight the importance of this award and what it represents for Ms. Thrasher, our great nation, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Thrasher on winning Olympic Gold in the women's 10 meter air rifle. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present and voting on Roll Call Number 496, I would have voted AYE.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call Number 497, I would have voted AYE.

COMMEMORATING DOUBLE TEN DAY

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, Monday, October 10 is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a long-standing relationship that stems from our shared values: democracy, the rule of law, and free elections. Taiwan is an increasingly important partner for our national security, and it is also one of our strongest economic partners. In fact, it was our ninth largest trading partner in 2015. Additionally, Taiwan is California's fifth largest export market in Asia, and seventh largest export market in the world.

As Taiwan celebrates Double Ten Day, I would like to take the opportunity to support Taiwan's participation in the international community. The 39th Triennial Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization will take place next week. Three years ago, Congress enacted a law instructing the U.S. Government to facilitate Taiwan's participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization assembly as an observer. I am pleased to see that Taiwan is invited again this year.

I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day, and I look forward to many more years of the friendship with Taiwanese people.

IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT L. WRIGHT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a talented businessman, philanthropist, and civil rights activist, Dr. Robert Lee Wright, who served as Chairman of the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) Plan for Action Presidential Commission. Dr. Wright played an integral role in the development of this nation's greatest tribute to the tragic but triumphant story of the African-American community. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a crucial patch that has finally and rightfully been sewn into the quilt of American history. Though the seams may be laden by injustice and oppression, the focal point is the recognition of the vital role African Americans played in the establishment and evolution of this nation and its culture, all of which would not be possible without the valuable contributions of Dr. Robert Wright.

Dr. Wright's remarkable journey began in a segregated Columbus, Georgia sweltering with the heat of racial injustice. He was the son of a bricklayer and nurse. He graduated from Spencer High School in 1955, after which he left Georgia to escape the systemic discrimination of the South to pursue a degree in optometry from Ohio State University. However, he was not gone for long. Upon his return to Columbus to practice as a medical professional, Dr. Wright became active in the Civil Rights Movement and participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. In 1968, he was elected to the Columbus City Council and served until he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as Associate Administrator for Minority Small Business and Capital Ownership Development. In 1985, after his time in the Reagan Administration, Dr. Wright created Dimensions International, a successful defense contracting firm.

In 2001, the NMAAHC Plan for Action Presidential Commission was established, and Dr. Wright was recommended by Congressman J.C. Watts of Oklahoma to serve on the commission and when the commission was organized, the members elected him Chairman. As the Chairman, he was tasked by law to provide President George W. Bush and Congress with an implementation plan for the museum. Wasting no time in engaging this charge, Dr. Wright and his panel produced "The Time Has Come," a 2003 report that expressed the vision and enumerated the administrative details for the \$540 million facility. This report led Congress to enact that same year the NMAAHC Act, which established the museum within the Smithsonian Institution. Even after this victory, the process often faltered as opposition to the museum forced several debates on funding, location, and even the need for such a museum. But through it all, Dr. Robert Wright and his team succeeded in bringing to life the Smithsonian's 19th museum right where Dr. Wright and so many others feel it belongs—on the National Mall.

The National Museum of African American History and Culture will candidly display the brutal horrors of the international slave trade and its unquantifiable and lingering effects. The museum will also celebrate the tenacity and advancement of African Americans as they remained steadfast in the belief of their worth as human beings. The museum's juxtaposition of pain and tragedy with perseverance and triumph mirrors the "Horatio Alger" story of Dr. Robert L. Wright's life in achieving success in the face of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the millions of African Americans nationwide in recognizing Dr. Robert Lee Wright for his immeasurable contributions to the creation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. We will soon celebrate the grand opening of this remarkable Museum, where people from all walks of life can gather to remember a dark period in our nation's history, rejoice at how far we have come as a society, and reflect upon how far we have yet to go.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University (GMU), of Fairfax, Virginia on their 25th anniversary. This is an important milestone for this wonderful educational institution. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at GMU celebrated this anniversary in the district on the 6th of September, and it is my pleasure to briefly highlight the impact this school has had on my constituents.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at GMU has had a terrific history of success since first opening its doors in 1991. OLLI has

stood as a pillar of education for those it serves by providing mature adults with an opportunity to continue their learning and intellectual growth. OLLI offers numerous low-cost and tremendously accessible courses to their members, as they do not require participants to do homework assignments or have a college degree in order to enroll.

OLLI not only offers elderly residents of my district an opportunity to attend academic courses through the traditional lecture and classroom setting, but other chances to learn through a myriad of additional educational and cultural events. I truly believe that organizations such as OLLI serve as an integral part of our communities by providing services that foster lifelong learning.

I come from a family of educators, so I have seen firsthand how important a proper education is to the future of our nation. It is institutions like Osher Lifelong Learning Institute that will continue to help shape the United States' role in the world, through offering scholastic services to our citizens. The success of this institution is a tremendous accomplishment that should make past and present faculty proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Osher Lifelong Institute at George Mason University for 25 years of serving citizens in my district. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 5TH ANNUAL GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Golden Goose Award, which recognizes researchers whose seemingly obscure, federally funded research has returned significant benefits to society.

In particular, I rise today to congratulate Cornell University biologist Dr. Tom Seeley and his colleagues from the Georgia Institute of Technology, John Bartholdi, Sunil Nakrani, Craig Tovey, and John Vande Vate, who will be receiving a 2016 Golden Goose Award for their research on honey bee foraging and computer servers. Dr. Seeley, like me, is a Dartmouth College alumnus, and he has gone on to become one of the world's leading experts on bees. Working with his Georgia Tech colleagues, who are actually all engineers, Dr. Seeley conducted basic research to understand how honey bees forage. While some might have questioned the worth of their initial research, these researchers eventually adapted their model on honey bee foraging into an innovative algorithm for assigning computer servers that is being used by Web hosting companies, impacting a rapidly expanding global market worth \$50 billion.

Supported in part by funding from the National Science Foundation and the Office of Naval Research, they created a model predicting how honey bees would allocate themselves in their ever-changing environment based on their known behaviors. By drawing parallels between server allocation challenges

and the honey bees, they developed an algorithm that more efficiently, and profitably, allocates servers to the variable demands of the Internet than any algorithm then in use.

Today, Web hosting services are utilizing algorithms like Tovey and Nakrani's that mimic the behavior of natural systems to boost profits and more efficiently operate server farms in a rapidly growing \$50 billion global marketplace.

The work of these scientists demonstrates the importance of continued federal investment in scientific research. As a proud member of the bipartisan Science and National Labs Caucus, which seeks to encourage scientific advancement through federal investment in research, I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support innovation.

I am pleased to congratulate these scientists on their valuable work to our society.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX C. McDONALD

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, San Diego and the state of California recently and suddenly lost a legal giant. I lost a friend and a neighbor.

Alex C. McDonald loved the law. While his initial area of expertise was in real estate law, his legal knowledge of multiple fields was expansive.

In a public service record that stretched more than two decades, Alex served on the state's 4th District Court of Appeals.

His mark on the law and how it impacted the people of California are indelible.

Alex played key roles in rulings that would affect public safety, civil liberties and voting rights.

But to those who were fortunate enough to know Alex his wry sense of humor would be among their strongest memories.

My husband, Steve, and I had a front row seat to his challenging and caring nature, as our families were friends and neighbors for over 40 years.

For many people service on the court would have been enough, but Alex's impact on his community went beyond the bench.

Through his role as President of the downtown San Diego Lion's Club, Alex was instrumental in creating Lions Community Manor. The Manor is a lifeline that provides housing for seniors, low-income families, and those living with disabilities. His legacy will continue to help those in need.

He will be missed greatly in the community, but the greatest loss will be felt in the lives of his extraordinary and close knit family where his greatest pride and passion was focused.

His wife, Judy, his four daughters—Katy, Annie, Margie, and Elizabeth—his sons-in-law, and his seven grandchildren are mourning the loss of a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

I'm sure I speak for the people of San Diego and California as we thank Alex for his years of service and extend our deepest condolences to his family.

IN HONOR OF DYLAN KURTZ'S CHARITY WORK

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dylan Kurtz, of Great Falls, Virginia, for his tireless efforts to help those in need throughout Virginia's 10th Congressional District. Serving others is a core value of American culture; and Dylan has taken this to heart.

At the young age of 12 years old, Dylan has devoted much of his life to serving charitable causes throughout his community. Last year, Dylan focused his efforts on hunger related charities. He volunteered at food pantries, packed lunches for children who did not have food on weekends, and helped StopHungerNow! with their efforts to end world hunger. This year, Dylan decided to combine his love for charitable work and animals by helping paws4people by organizing fundraisers and events to promote this organization.

Paws4people was founded in 1999 with the purpose of using dogs to help improve the lives of both children with disabilities and veterans suffering from Chronic Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The organization has 500 trained dogs which have made more than 1 million therapeutic contacts. Dylan's work is helping make this possible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in recognizing Dylan Kurtz of Great Falls, Virginia, for his unrelenting dedication to helping out those in his community. He serves as a shining example of what it means to be an American and I am proud to have him as a constituent. I commend him for his outstanding effort, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANDY KHAWAJA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Dr. Andy Khawaja, a dynamic and accomplished entrepreneur and a dedicated community philanthropist. A natural born entrepreneur, Dr. Khawaja's vision, philosophy, and inherent ability to innovate and lead are remarkable. Dr. Khawaja's philosophy is "Do what you love and do it well. Don't quit and you'll have the keys to success."

In early adulthood, Dr. Khawaja achieved initial success in the high-end fashion industry as a Vice President and Buyer for the company 'Bernini.' In just nine years, Dr. Khawaja grew 'Bernini' from a million dollar business to a 100 million dollar business and expanded from two stores to more than sixty stores.

In 2005, Dr. Khawaja founded Allied Wallet, a venture that connects global buyers and sellers. For more than a decade, Dr. Khawaja's bold and proactive leadership has

catapulted Allied Wallet to the forefront of innovation and advancement in the payment industry and into a multi-billion dollar company. With rapid growth every year, Allied Wallet is repeatedly recognized as one of the "Fastest Growing Private Companies."

Andy's fluency in five languages—English, French, Spanish, German, and Arabic—enables him to deliver payment tools internationally to diverse cultures and countries.

Over the last 10 years, Dr. Khawaja drove the expansion of Allied Wallet from its headquarters in Los Angeles to Germany, India, Macau, Hong Kong, and London. Allied Wallet now supports 164 currencies worldwide and serves over 125 million customers in 190 countries.

Dr. Khawaja has been awarded with the US American Genius Award, CEO of the Year 2015 Award, Gamechanger of the Year Award, and UK Entrepreneurship of the Year 2015. Dr. Khawaja's achievements have been recognized by dozens of major publications such as Forbes, Time Magazine, Bloomberg, Fortune, The Guardian, LA Business Journal, and Wired Magazine.

His business ventures have earned major awards including Top 100 Fast Growing Companies, Global Payment Processing Solution of the Year, Best Workplaces for Millennials, United States Excellence Award, 500 Fastest Growing Companies 2012/2015, Guiding Hand—International Award 2014, and #1 Online Payment Solutions Provider 2013.

However, Dr. Khawaja's achievements aren't limited to only business. Through his generous philanthropy to the Brent Shapiro Foundation for Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Dr. Khawaja has demonstrated a tireless commitment to keeping Los Angeles youth safe and educated about the risks of drug and alcohol abuse.

Recently, the Lebanese American University has honored Andy with a doctorate degree in Humanitarian Studies for his meaningful philanthropy worldwide. Dr. Khawaja keeps leading Allied Wallet towards persistent growth and success while simultaneously juggling multiple demanding projects, including directing and executive producing a reality television series, "Model Turned Superstar."

I commend Dr. Khawaja for his impressive achievements and consistent commitment to making Southern California a better place for all.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Monday, October 10 is Taiwan's National Day—also known as Double Ten Day. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my early best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

The United States and Taiwan enjoy a longstanding friendship based on shared values. I visited Taiwan earlier this year to witness the democratic process and the peaceful transfer of power. I applaud Taiwan's embrace of individual political freedom.

Taiwan is also a strong economic partner. In 2015, Taiwan became the United States' 9th largest trading partner, and is my home state of Arkansas' 6th largest export market in Asia. Our economic ties help us to foster our relationship with Taiwan, and ensure an atmosphere of cooperation.

Additionally, the 39th Triennial Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will take place in Montreal, Canada, beginning on September 27, 2016. Three years ago, the U.S. Congress passed a bill, later signed into law, supporting Taiwan's inclusion in the ICAO as an observer state. Taiwan was first invited to the assembly in 2013, and I am happy to see that Taiwan will be invited again this year. The Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR), administered by Taiwan, provided over 1.53 million instances of air traffic control services. FIR also handled 58 million incoming and outgoing passengers in 2015, serving as an indispensable part of the global air transport network.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a happy Double Ten Day. I would like to congratulate Taiwan on the occasion of Double Ten Day, and I hope the friendship between our two nations continues to grow in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA BENGALI ASSOCIATION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the Northern Virginia Bengali Association (NVBA), which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. A quarter of a century ago, the first Bengali residents of Virginia felt a need to have their own organization. Distance was barring their participation in Sanskriti, Maryland, which is the oldest Bengali association in the Washington, DC area. After extensive discussion and planning, the then Virginia residents decided to form a new organization of their own and called it Northern Virginia Bengali Association, with the broad vision of nurturing and promoting Bengali and Indian culture through education, cultural, spiritual, and charitable activities. In 1990, the first community event, Saraswati Puja, was held in McLean Hall.

Bengal, India, is a crucible of art and culture. The Bengalis of Virginia, who have their roots in Bengal, expectedly, have a penchant for art, culture, music, and community life and strive to preserve their unique identity while intermingling with diverse ethos. They endeavor to strike a balance between indigenous traditions and cosmopolitan influences in their lifestyle and that of the next generation. The above values shape the foundation of NVBA's mission and are reflected in its major events.

The following are among NVBA's significant achievements. They have sustained a rapid growth of members in the community in the past few years and have accommodated their social needs. They have increased the number, scale, and quality of the social/cultural events organized around the year. They have

improved community relations by engaging with community leaders and officials, keeping communication channels open for dialogue, and also giving them the opportunity to experience Bengali culture. They have held several charitable events to help fellow citizens in the community and created a wing called 'NVBA Cares' to administer such initiatives. Some of the recent activities of NVBA Cares include participating in food drives by partnering with Food for Others to help struggling families. There is also an initiative to support fellow members in severe health and financial distress until they are back on their feet again. NVBA has also participated in feeding the underprivileged in homeless shelters and helping in soup kitchens.

In 2014, The Commonwealth of Virginia awarded a commendation plaque to NVBA for sharing their unique traditions with the people of this region and their positive impact on society. NVBA's contributions were also acknowledged on the Virginia House of Delegates' floor.

From the founding fathers to the current board members, and countless volunteers, many individuals have worked selflessly to bring NVBA to its current stature in its 25th year since inception, relying on the simple principles of social and cultural enrichment of its members and promoting the spirit of harmony and goodwill in the community.

Mr. Speaker, this is an organization which helps the citizens of Virginia's 10th Congressional District to thrive. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Northern Virginia Bengali Association and wishing it a happy 25th anniversary. I wish this institution continued success in the future.

PAKISTAN: FRIEND OR FOE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM?

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. POE OF Texas. Mr. Speaker, on May 21, 2016, a U.S. drone strike killed the leader of the Afghan Taliban, Mullah Mansour. To no one's surprise, at the time of his death Mansour was in southwestern Pakistan. The drone strike Pakistan's longstanding support for terrorist groups. For example, Pakistan openly supported the Afghan Taliban both before and after the extremists took control of Kabul in 1996.

Islamabad's connection to terrorist groups is so close that in 2011 Admiral Mike Mullen, then chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff testified before the Senate that "the Haqqani network acts as a veritable arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency." The Inter-Services Intelligence Agency or the "ISI" is Pakistan's version of the CIA. The Haqqani Network is not a nice group of people. They have killed more Americans in the region than any other terrorist group.

A leaked NATO report in 2012 detailed Pakistan's ongoing relationship with the Taliban. The report described Pakistan's "manipulation of the Taliban senior leadership" and claimed that the government was aware

of locations of senior Taliban leaders, including some who lived in the vicinity of the ISI headquarters in Islamabad.

The laundry list of evidence of Pakistan's support for terrorists goes on and on. We all remember where al-Qaeda's leader and America's most wanted terrorist Osama bin Laden was found: in Pakistan, of course. In response to the bin Laden raid, Pakistan put the doctor who helped us in jail and closed the U.S. military's supply route from Karachi port to Afghanistan for 7 months.

While Pakistan has been harboring and supporting terrorists with American blood on their hands, it also has been receiving billions in U.S. foreign assistance. In fact, Pakistan is one of the leading recipients of U.S. aid in the last 14 years. Congress has appropriated more than \$33 billion to Pakistan since fiscal year 2002.

One of the ways we have given Pakistan money over the years is by reimbursing them for efforts they take to fight terrorists. But a GAO study from 2008 found that the Department of Defense could not verify the validity of Pakistan's claims. The GAO study concluded that some reimbursed costs were potentially duplicative or not based on actual activity. In 2010, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Ambassador Richard Holbrook said that roughly 40 percent of Pakistan's reimbursement requests were rejected.

Each year we say that Pakistan is at the crossroads and needs to decide whether it is going to fight terrorists or fight on our side. In fact, just two months ago the State Department's Ambassador Richard Olson, used this very line. But the United States has been using this line for the last 15 years. Enough is enough. Pakistan is playing us. They are trying to have it both ways. They want our money and they keep supporting terrorists who target Americans.

I invited Ambassador Olson to come testify before us and explain himself, but he refused. Instead, the State Department said this was a "particularly sensitive time in our relationship with Pakistan". In other words, he was afraid Pakistan would come away looking bad. Well that might be just because Pakistan is bad.

Now we have put conditions on aid to Pakistan before, requiring them to really go after terrorists if they want our money. But those conditions have always had a waiver attached to them and every year, the President has exercised that waiver. In other words, we paid Pakistan even though it did not go after terrorist groups. Well, for the first time last year, we did not include a waiver on \$300 million of money for Pakistan. And guess what? Pakistan did not get the money because it had not gone after the terrorist groups. Even when there are hundreds of millions of dollars on the line, Pakistan refuses to go after terrorist groups.

The reality is that Pakistan has chosen sides. And it isn't ours. It is time to change our policy towards Pakistan. We do not need to pay Pakistan to betray us. They will do it for free.

And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE McLEAN
PROJECT FOR THE ARTS 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
MPAARTFEST

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the McLean Project for the Arts in Loudoun County for the 10th anniversary of their MPAartfest. Established in 1962, the McLean Project for the Arts has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for local and regional artists to showcase their work, to foster appreciation of contemporary art, and to offer instruction and teaching in the visual arts in many communities. The MPAartfest is an annual celebration in the form of an outdoor gallery experience highlighting the work of 52 artists from the area, as well as offering many other interactive activities that expose eventgoers to the arts.

Some of this year's exhibits will include the Children's ArtWalk, an open-air gallery of elementary school children's artwork, and the Hands-On Art Studio, which gives artists of all levels the opportunity to further develop their passion. Additionally, this year's MPAartfest will host a new branch of exciting activities in their STEAM Center. This innovative program combines STEM and the Arts for those interested in architecture, robotics, and math.

The hard work done by the men and women of the McLean Project for the Arts in organizing and putting on this event has helped ensure an excellent opportunity for many of my constituents to escape from life's many stresses by providing them with a time to unwind and enjoy the visual arts in their community. This event in McLean Central Park will be filled with great food, live music and many remarkable and interesting works of art.

I am proud to have such an excellent group in my District, which is one that has been servicing local and regional communities for over 50 years. The McLean Project for the Arts has been such a positive force in teaching young people about the visual arts and in instructing them in how to become artists themselves. I would like to applaud this organization's dedication to the cultural enrichment of our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join in recognizing the 10th anniversary of the MPAartfest in Loudoun County, Virginia. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING MS. BEA MCPHERSON

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Bea McPherson for her service to the United States of America during World War II as a Cartographer for the Army Map Service.

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, America's Greatest Generation answered the

call to combat the Axis Powers in the European and Pacific Theaters. As personnel were reassigned to all fronts, the Army Map Service found itself in need of more patriots.

Upon graduating from Kent State University, Ms. McPherson selflessly joined the Army Map Service, where she was assigned to Montgomery County, Maryland. As a Cartographer, Ms. McPherson created maps used in preparation for military operations throughout Fiume, Italy and the famed Battle of the Bulge. During her service, Ms. McPherson also served as a recruiter, returning to Ohio to recruit other females into the Army Mapping Service.

Nicknamed the "Military Mapping Maidens," Ms. McPherson and other female cartographers played a vital role in defense of America and our allies abroad. Shortly after the Allies declared victory over Nazi Germany and Japan, Ms. McPherson resigned from the Army Mapping Service.

On October 4, 2016, Ms. McPherson will be inducted into the Geospatial Intelligence Hall of Fame for making significant and transformative contributions to the Army Mapping Service.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent Ms. Bea McPherson in the United States Congress. She established a patriotic example for all Americans to emulate and I am humbled to stand before this body to recognize Ms. McPherson's service to our great nation.

HONORING THE 80TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF SAM AND EVA JONES

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 80th Wedding Anniversary of Sam and Eva Jones of Marion, Illinois.

Sam and Eva Jones were married on September 27, 1936. They are lifelong residents of Southern Illinois and have remained active members of their community.

The proud parents of two sons and the grandparents of three, Sam and Eva farmed and raised livestock in Williamson County, where Sam served as President of the county fair board. Additionally, Sam worked in mining and for power companies for over 30 years, while Eva worked with local youth in the county school district. Sam and Eva are also recognized for their talent in square dancing, participating in dances at county fairs, community gatherings, and national events for more than 60 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing a Happy 80th Wedding Anniversary to Sam and Eva Jones and thank them for their contributions and service to Southern Illinois.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. DARLENE E. WEIR

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the life of Mrs. Darlene E. Weir, of Leesburg, Virginia. On September 7, 2016, Mrs. Weir passed away at home surrounded by her loving husband of 57 years, Charles, and with her children, beloved grandchildren, and her great-granddaughter.

Mrs. Weir was born May 4, 1933, in Eugene, Oregon and was the daughter of the late Oscar M. Briggs and Essie Elizabeth Cruzan Briggs. She was known for her love of children and her dedication to teaching primary grade students in Fairfax County public schools for 26 years. Coming from a family of educators, I understand the importance of Americans like Mrs. Weir who help shape the future of our nation. Mrs. Weir made a great impact in her community that will not soon be forgotten.

Once Mrs. Weir retired from teaching, she traveled around the globe with her husband visiting all seven continents. Mrs. Weir understood the importance of civic engagement and was active in grassroots politics. Both inside and outside her career, Mrs. Weir worked with conviction to preserve our country for future generations.

Mrs. Weir will be sincerely missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing her both on a personal and a professional level. I know that she has impacted many lives over the years, and we are all grateful for having known her. She is survived by her husband, Charles J. Weir, her four children, daughters, Sue Ellen Jones, and Maureen Kay Wood; her sons, Gregory Allen Weir and Jeffrey Charles Weir; and eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Through them, I'm sure, her values and legacy will be assured.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of Mrs. Darlene E. Weir. May she rest in peace, and her family be comforted.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
EUGENE "GENE" GISCOMBE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor to join The Village of Harlem and New York City in paying tribute to our beloved friend, Eugene Giscombe, known affectionately by many as "Gene" and the "Mayor of 125th Street," who made his transition to his Lord and Savior on Sunday, July 10, 2016. In 1982, he founded Giscombe Realty Group, LLC one of Harlem's leading commercial real estate management, consulting, leasing, development and brokerage firms. The company was a major player in the Harlem Renaissance that helped to reverse years of decline and turn the area into one of Manhattan's most popular places to live, work, play and raise a family.

Gene Giscombe began his real estate career as a sales agent at Webb & Booker, rising to become head of sales and representing major banks, such as Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, and managing office buildings such as the C.A.V. Building at 55 West 125th Street, where former president Bill Clinton maintains an office. Inspired by his grandfather Lawrence Giscombe, a successful builder-owner in Harlem in the 1930s and 1940s, Eugene Giscombe became a beloved community leader as he grew his own company to serve a wide range of clients, including property owners, developers, financial institutions, not-for-profits, pension funds and government agencies looking to buy, lease or manage space in Harlem and New York City. Giscombe Realty Group's headquarters, for over 35 years, was located in one of Harlem's most iconic office buildings, the 12-story Lee Building at 1825 Park Avenue on East 125th Street, adjacent to the Metro North train station in East Harlem.

Over the years, Giscombe Realty Group's acquisitions, developments, re-locations and management ventures on the legendary 125th Street corridor included Chase Manhattan Bank, Fourth Federal Savings and Loan, New York State Supreme Court, Bechtel Infrastructure, Beth Israel Medical Center, the Harlem Commonwealth Council, New York College of Podiatric Medicine, and The Jewish Theological Seminary, to name a few. Gene's associates nicknamed him the "Mayor of 125th Street", celebrating him for his many successful ventures including the biggest retail sale in Harlem's history—the sale of 16 retail buildings along West 125th and 126th Street Corridor on Frederick Douglass Boulevard for \$50 million in 2007. He was also the recipient of the Business Person of the Year award from the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. presented by Mr. Walter Edwards.

Gene Giscombe was a former chairman of the 125th Street Business Improvement District, Community Board 10 and The Greater Harlem Real Estate Board. He was also a member of the Harlem YMCA Board of Directors/Property Management Committee where he oversaw all construction and renovation work at twenty-one New York YMCA branches and three summer camps. He served on the Board of Directors of City National Bank of New Jersey/New York, and was the vice chairman of the Greater Harlem Nursing Home and North General Hospital Board of Directors. In addition to his love for Harlem and real estate, Eugene Giscombe was a big-game hunter who hunted on five continents and traveled on over 17 African safaris. Always concerned about the responsibility of hunters, he became the first African-American president of the New York Tri-State Chapter of Safari Club International which is very involved in conservation projects. Gene's memory is survived by his wife Shirley and their children Lesley, Susan and Lasalve; and brothers Gary and Ronald Giscombe.

Eugene "Gene" Giscombe left his indelible mark as a real estate magnate and developer, community leader, philanthropist, entrepreneur, family man and big-game hunter devoting his life to the betterment of all humankind, community, and country. I join my constituents and rest of the nation as we say

goodbye and pay tribute to our beloved friend, The Mayor of 125th Street, Eugene "Gene" Giscombe, a true American hero.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE SENATOR CHARLES "CHUCK" J. COLGAN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Honorable Senator Charles "Chuck" J. Colgan for turning 90 years old on September 25, 2016. I am honored to celebrate the many accomplishments of one of the Commonwealth's most dedicated civil servants.

Senator Colgan is best known for his time in office as the longest serving Senator in the history of the Virginia General Assembly, where he has represented the citizens of Virginia's 29th District since 1975. Senator Colgan is an example to all legislators on how to work tirelessly for the interests of your constituents. Chuck was able to achieve many undertakings over his ten term tenure in the Virginia State Senate, most notably in the areas of transportation and education.

Senator Colgan's life and legislative legacy is certainly one to be recognized as it was one full of service to his constituents, commonwealth, and country. His commitment to seeing practical legislation enacted to benefit the Commonwealth of Virginia and its citizens is extremely commendable. Senator Colgan was not afraid to work with both sides of the aisle while in office. This spirit of the political sensibility is without a doubt why he was able to attain such great success in his endeavors.

It is also important to distinguish Senator Colgan's efforts as a private citizen through his businesses in the air travel industry. Colgan Airways and Colgan Air provided not only a valuable service to Americans, but were also a source of jobs and economic growth in the communities they were based in. Senator Colgan truly embodies the ideals a citizen-politician should aspire to exemplify.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the Honorable Senator Charles "Chuck" J. Colgan for turning 90 years old, and to thank him for the outstanding services he provided to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States throughout his long-lasting career. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PROTECTING OUR WATER FROM
MICROCYSTIN TOXINS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill addressing the threat to human health posed by microcystin toxins. Two summers ago, a massive algal bloom exploded in

western Lake Erie, generating microcystin, a bacterium causing liver damage, skin blemishes, and nausea. This public health threat necessitated the shutdown of the public water system for 3 days—drastically disrupting the lives of over half a million Americans.

As elected officials, our first priority must always be the safety and security of our constituents. This bill ensures that microcystin will no longer be a public health threat.

It amends the Safe Drinking Water Act by requiring the EPA to determine the maximum safe contaminant level and to promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation for microcystin toxin within 2 years of its enactment.

In realizing the threat posed by microcystin, the old adage "Mother Nature Doesn't Lie" is more meaningful than ever. I commend the EPA's work to date on generating a strategic plan for dealing with algal toxins and for publishing an interim standard for microcystin.

The strategic plan and current health advisory from the EPA released are a good start, but we need a finalized standard for microcystin which endangers the people of Toledo with our recurring algal bloom problem.

In addition to the public health threat, this bacterium casts a huge economic shadow over our vital and beautiful coast. Toledo's Water Crisis cost the city government over \$200,000 in cleanup costs alone, not counting untold millions in lost business and tax revenue.

This concern is not isolated to Lake Erie. Millions of Americans across the country rely on drinking water similarly threatened by increasing levels of nutrient runoff, and the resulting toxic algal growth. A recent study from the USGS showed that algal toxins are present in over 1/3 of all lakes nationwide. Additionally, the Environmental Protection Agency recognizes harmful algal blooms as a major environmental problem in all 50 states, with severe impacts on human health.

No one should ever have to worry that the water coming from their tap is unclear and unsafe, no matter if you're in Toledo, Ohio, Flint, Michigan, or anywhere else in this country. This bill will make us all safer.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, both of my parents fled Soviet-bloc Communism for the promise of a better and freer life here in America. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Ronald Reagan once said, "Communism only works in two places: Heaven where they don't need it, and hell where they already have it." The Hungarian people, as much as anybody, know this to be true. The movement began on October 23rd, 1956 as a student demonstration against Soviet-imposed communist policies. The demonstration quickly

spread, attracting thousands. When a group of student protestors were fired on by the State Security Police, and one of the demonstrators killed, the revolution began. Thousands organized into militias, battling the police and Soviet troops in Budapest and across the country. The communist government quickly collapsed and impromptu "workers' councils" assumed governance of the country. Though Soviet forces eventually re-took control of the country, the Hungarian Revolution was the first major threat to Soviet control since the fall of the Nazis, and signaled the beginning of the end of the reign of Communism in Europe. That is why I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to commend the Hungarian people for their fight, and ultimate victory, against Communism, and commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I was one of the earliest supporters of President Obama's negotiations with Iran to prevent them from acquiring nuclear weapons. I supported the conclusion of those negotiations which resulted in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a historic international agreement which has already limited Iran's nuclear activities. I strongly appreciate the President's robust enforcement and monitoring of Iran's compliance with the JCPOA. During a long vote series I mistakenly voted yes on H.R. 5461 when my intention was to vote against this legislation. I oppose H.R. 5461 and any other effort to undermine the JCPOA.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT BUTT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Butt who passed away at the age of 92 on September 18th, 2016.

Robert, a World War II flight engineer and tailgunner on B-24 bombers, chose to devote his life to education after serving his nation. He received his bachelor's degree from Davidson College and his master's in education administration from William & Mary. His first teaching experience came as a high school teacher in Georgia before he moved north to Virginia to continue his career. His time in education culminated with serving 19 years as the superintendent of schools in Loudoun County.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that educators play in inspiring our students. Robert's long career in education allowed him to touch countless minds and aid them in pursuing their dreams. Furthermore, because of his success as su-

perintendent, his legacy will continue to have an impact on young men and women in Loudoun County for many years to come.

Robert will be sincerely missed by all those who had the pleasure of knowing him both on a personal and a professional level. I know that he has impacted many in his life, and we are all grateful for having known him. He is survived by his wife, Elinor; their daughter, Karen Broadus, his grandchildren Aaron, Anna, Jessica and Eliza, and his six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Robert Butt. May he rest in peace, and his family be comforted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on roll call Number 522, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING JUNE BLACK FOR TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my District Director, June Black, who has been a steadfast member of my district staff for the past nine years.

Tomorrow marks June's 20th year in public service, having spent 9 years working in my office, and 11 years working for Marty Meehan, who previously represented this district.

In 2007, June was nominated by then-Congressman Marty Meehan for the 2007 Congressman John Joseph Moakley Award for Exemplary Public Service, which she won thanks to her years of dedication and service. The award is presented annually to a staff member from the New England congressional delegation "who works steadfastly on behalf of local constituents and significant issues and demonstrates the ideals of public service exemplified by Congressman Moakley himself."

Since she joined my office at the end of 2007, June has served with skill in a variety of roles as a member of my Congressional staff and a dedicated public servant. June joined my staff as regional director and ran my office in Lawrence, Massachusetts, a similar role to the one she held in Rep. Meehan's office. She also served as a guide and mentor to all of the caseworkers and economic development staff in the office. In recognition of her remarkable contributions and the relationships she has developed across the district, June subsequently has taken on the roles of Constituent Services Director and District Director where she has helped to ensure that constituents are well served and that the companies and communities I represent have an accessible federal partner.

June has been key to ensuring that accessibility to the people we represent is a hallmark of my office and that we provide prompt, respectful and excellent service to our constituents. During her tenure, she has overseen a casework operation that has responded to thousands of individual concerns and delivered millions of dollars back to my constituents, and she has played a principal role in helping the communities I represent see their economic development vision realized. She is an effective and knowledgeable federal liaison who helps constituents and communities better navigate and access the wide array of services provided by the federal government.

June is well-known and very well respected in the communities she represents; a reputation that is well earned after two decades of service to this region. That service and experience brings institutional knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the social and economic challenges facing our constituents. It also gives her a unique understanding of how to navigate federal services and long-standing familiarity of many of the district's economic development projects. She has deep and meaningful relationships with key stakeholders and elected officials throughout Essex County in the Northern part of my district and beyond.

As a native of Lawrence, Massachusetts, June's affinity for this region is evident in her commitment to her work and the mutual respect she shares with the constituents and community leaders with whom she interacts. She is someone who has dedicated her career to public service, particularly to having an impact on the city of Lawrence, and helping that city realize its potential.

Every day, June demonstrates a sincere commitment to the constituents of this district as well as to innovative methods of serving her community and our country. I am honored to have her on my staff and appreciate the opportunity to recognize a truly remarkable member of my staff, whose individual achievements are so deserving, on this notable milestone.

TRIBUTE TO JIM AMDOR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jim Amdor of Corning, Iowa, for being selected as Adams County's 2016 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Jim has been involved with 4-H since becoming a member of the Adams County Jasper Specialists in the 1950s. His family has a long history of volunteering with 4-H and Jim has carried on that family tradition well. He has lent his expertise in livestock to 4-H events by judging and speaking at various county fairs all throughout the state. The commitment that Jim has shown young people involved in 4-H is unparalleled. The entire 4-H organization is lucky to have someone of Jim's caliber inducted into their hall of fame.

Mr. Speaker, Jim's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my

colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jim for his achievements and wish him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING CEDAR HILL COLLEGIATE'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of Cedar Hill Collegiate for their commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The teachers at Cedar Hill Collegiate are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, Cedar Hill Collegiate is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this school's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBI AND JIM WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bobbi and Jim Williams of Greenfield, Iowa, for being selected as Adair County's 2016 inductees into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Bobbi Williams began her career in 4-H as a member of the Lee Blue Ribbons, the club her great-grandmother organized. She enjoyed home improvement and food and nutrition projects, but most wanted to show livestock. She joined the boys' 4-H club and began showing Hereford steers at the county and state fair. She was leader of her daughter's club, Adair County Wing Walkers, and was honored as a 4-H Alumna in 2010.

Jim Williams has volunteered with a number of 4-H committees and events throughout the years. He has been especially committed to the youth of Adair County, and has dedicated his time to Adair County 4-H Youth Action Committee. He promotes and supports youth activities by encouraging local businesses and individuals to provide whatever support they can.

Mr. Speaker, Bobbi and Jim Williams' efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to

represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bobbi and Jim for their achievements and wish them nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING C-STEM TEACHER AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of C-Stem Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. for their commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The faculty at C-Stem Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, C-Stem Teacher and Student Support Services, Inc. is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this organization's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S HUNGER FUND ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TONY CÁRDENAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Children's Hunger Fund on the celebration of their 25th anniversary.

I am proud of what this organization has accomplished over their long tenure of service to our community. Children's Hunger Fund was established in 1991 by president and founder Dave Phillips. Since then, CHF has delivered food and, ultimately, hope to children and families in need in the U.S. and around the world for 25 years.

Children's Hunger Fund located in Sylmar, is in my district in the San Fernando Valley, the neighborhood right next door to Pacoima, where I grew up.

After the Northridge earthquake struck in 1994, Children's Hunger Fund was instrumental in making sure Valley families had blankets and food.

The help provided by Children's Hunger Fund is felt at home and also around the world. In 1998, CHF sent aid to Chernobyl children and boots and blankets to boys in Siberian prisons.

CHF helped victims and families after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, and after the 2004 tsunami.

The vision started in the San Fernando Valley has been replicated all around the country. In just 25 years, CHF has built a global network of aid, while never forgetting the need in our local communities.

While I regret not being able to attend in person, I am honored to congratulate Children's Hunger Fund on their 25th Anniversary Celebration this Saturday, September 24, 2016.

I hope they will continue their record of delivering food and hope to children and families in the San Fernando Valley and across the world.

TRIBUTE TO TED BENSHOOF

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ted Benshoof of Winterset, Iowa for being selected as Madison County's 2016 inductee into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame. The Iowa 4-H Foundation hosts the 4-H Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Iowa State Fair each year.

Iowa counties select Hall of Fame inductees for their contributions to the lives of 4-H members and the overall 4-H program. Ted has left a lasting impact on the Madison County 4-H program through his unwavering commitment as a volunteer. On pig weigh-in days at the Madison County 4-H/FFA show, he has been known to go around to each member's home, making sure those who are unable to make it still have the opportunity to weigh-in their entries. His actions are a testament to his dedication to the 4-H youth of Madison County.

Mr. Speaker, Ted's efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ted for his achievements and wish him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING H.D. WOODSON ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING HIGH SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of H.D. Woodson Academy of Engineering High School for their commitment to science, technology, engi-

neering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The teachers at H.D. Woodson Academy of Engineering are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, H.D. Woodson Academy of Engineering is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this school's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

HON. GARY J. PALMER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Phyllis Schlafly America lost one of its greatest women leaders. I first met Phyllis around 1990 shortly after I began work with the Alabama Family Alliance, which later became the Alabama Policy Institute. I was tremendously impressed with her intellect and clarity on American culture and politics.

She ranks with William F. Buckley as one of the intellectual giants who helped launch the modern conservative movement. Phyllis had the clarity of thought and the communication skills of Reagan that gave her the ability to connect with women and men from all walks of life. In many respects, she was America's version of Margaret Thatcher. Her self-published book, "A Choice, Not An Echo," had an enormous impact on the 1964 Republican Convention that resulted in Barry Goldwater winning the party's nomination for president. That book eventually sold over 3 million copies and launched her nationally as one of the most influential conservatives in American history. Mrs. Schlafly was a prolific writer with 18 more books, as well as a gifted speaker.

In 1972 Phyllis founded Eagle Forum and successfully led the effort to prevent the ratification of the so-called Equal Rights Amendment. The Ladies Home Journal ranked her among the 100 most influential women of the 20th Century. Frankly, she should be ranked among the 100 most influential leaders of the 20th Century regardless of gender. I am proud to have had the opportunity to know her and work with her and her colleagues at Eagle Forum. Phyllis Schlafly lived by her faith and values to the very end and left a great legacy as an American leader for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA AND GLEN STOVER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sandra and Glen Stover of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 30, 1966 in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Sandra and Glen's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, grandchildren, and great-granddaughter truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING JEFFERSON ACADEMY'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of Jefferson Academy for their commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The teachers at Jefferson Academy are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, Jefferson Academy is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this school's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROCKO RODRIGUEZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2016, Air Force Major

Rocko Rodriguez was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. I was then grateful to participate in his promotion ceremony on September 23rd.

Rocko has been serving in my office as an In-Resident Intermediate Development Education Student attending the Air Force Legislation Liaison Fellowship Program.

Rocko was commissioned in 2001 through the Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama. He distinguished himself early as a leader, holding various positions in special operations, space operations, and cyber operations. Rocko has also honorably served in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch and Deny Flight.

This year, Rocko will receive his Masters of Science degree from Georgetown University Government Affairs Institute. When he finishes in my office he will transition to work at the U.S. Cyber Command Legislative Affairs Branch.

I would also like to offer best wishes to his wife, Sarah, and daughters Kaitlyn and Natalie and sons Troy and Timothy with his father Michael Rodriguez and mother-in-law Susan Burke, because behind every man and woman in uniform is a dedicated family.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

TRIBUTE TO PAT AND RICHARD PERKINS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pat and Richard Perkins of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 6, 1966.

Pat and Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING MCKINLEY TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of McKinley

Technology High School for their commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The teachers at McKinley Technology High School are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, McKinley Technology High School is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this school's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

ON H.R. 5719

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House voted on another unpaid-for tax cut by approving H.R. 5719, which would increase the deficit by more than \$1 billion. I believe the bill's purpose has merit. It can encourage companies to share more profits with their employees and help create more new businesses. If we could vote on the fully-offset Senate version, it would certainly have my support. But I opposed this bill because Republicans have our priorities backwards. While Republicans refuse to provide aid to national emergencies—like helping stop the spread of the Zika virus, or providing funds for the people of Flint, Michigan—unless every dollar is offset by cuts in other parts of the budget, we continue to vote on more billion-dollar tax cuts without offsetting a single penny.

TRIBUTE TO ELOISE AND HAROLD DINSMORE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Eloise and Harold Dinsmore of Farragut, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 3, 1956.

Eloise and Harold's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the

United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

"VAN JONES: HOW TPP THREATENS OUR PROGRESS ON CLIMATE CHANGE" ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following op-ed.

In the past month, wildfires forced tens of thousands of people across California to evacuate their homes. Over the same period, historic floods in Louisiana destroyed or damaged more than 60,000 homes, uprooting families and ruining lives.

Whether fire or water, we know that human-induced climate change is making natural disasters more frequent and more intense.

So why are some in Washington pushing hard for a policy that would make climate change considerably worse?

This fall, Congress is likely to vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership—an agreement among 12 nations along the Pacific Rim. While billed as a "free trade" deal, most of the TPP is actually about creating new rights for multinational corporations, including the big polluters most responsible for the climate emergency.

Under the TPP, the biggest global firms—including many responsible for offshore drilling and fracking—would be able to sue American taxpayers over laws and regulations that are meant to protect public health and the environment. Rather than suing in regular courts, these corporations would, through the TPP, be able to sue before unaccountable arbitration panels—each panel made up of three corporate lawyers—who could award unlimited cash compensation. Similar rules in other trade deals have already made possible nearly 700 such lawsuits—including efforts to challenge the U.S. rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline and a moratorium on fracking in Quebec.

What does this mean for California?

TPP would allow multinational corporations that own gas-fired power plants from Alameda County to San Diego County to threaten state restrictions on carbon emissions—including some of the new world-leading standards recently passed in Sacramento. The deal would also vastly increase the number of fracking firms and offshore drilling companies that could challenge our protections.

But it's not about just dirtier air and water or more susceptibility to climate risks. It's also about jobs.

Because TPP would threaten a successful California rebate program for green technologies that are made in-state, the deal could result in the elimination of good-paying green jobs in fields like solar and wind manufacturing and energy efficiency. Green jobs employ all kinds of people—truck drivers, welders, secretaries, scientists—all across the state. These jobs can pull people out of poverty while protecting the planet.

Given that California has lost an estimated 413,000 manufacturing jobs since America entered NAFTA and the World Trade Organization, we can't afford to pass a new trade deal and again undermine people's livelihoods.

But there's good news. Labor, environmental and social justice leaders now oppose the TPP, as do both major presidential nominees, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid.

Still, some in Washington are scheming to pass the TPP during Congress's "lame duck" session after the election. While most members of California's Congressional delegation firmly oppose the deal, some remain on the fence.

As the consequences of climate change get clearer, the case against the TPP gets stronger.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL CITY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL, BRIGHTWOOD CAMPUS'S COMMITMENT TO STEM EDUCATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the students, parents, and faculty of Central City Public Charter School, Brightwood Campus for their commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics enrichment, and for participating in my annual Science and Technology Braintrust.

The teachers at Central City Public Charter School, Brightwood Campus are committed to ensuring that our country's youth is exposed to a STEM curriculum, which is paramount to the future of our country. A prevalent theme amongst successful STEM professionals is the curiosity and drive instilled by their teachers at a young age. We must continue to invest in schools that highlight a STEM education, so that all students will have an opportunity to one day be an astrophysicist, doctor, engineer, or a geologist.

Mr. Speaker, Central City Public Charter School, Brightwood Campus is a true advocate of STEM education and deserves recognition for its work. With great pride I can say that because of this school's commitment to STEM education, our country's youth is gaining the skills needed to compete in a rapidly globalizing world.

TRIBUTE TO JAN AND JOHN HUSMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jan and John Husmann of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on July 30, 2016.

Jan and John's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture this Saturday, September 24, 2016.

As the nineteenth museum to join the Smithsonian Institution, the National Museum of African American History and Culture joins the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. It is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture.

When the Smithsonian was founded in 1846, the United States was a far less perfect union than the one we live in today, and the idea of a museum that would tell the story of African Americans could hardly have been imagined. Yet there can be no denying that the story of America and its vitality, resilience, and optimism are rooted and reflected in the African American experience.

In the words of Lonnie G. Bunch III, founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, "there are few things as powerful and as important as a people, as a nation that is steeped in its history."

As Members of Congress, we have the privilege of representing the entirety of the American people and working in the "People's House" and under the glorious dome of our U.S. Capitol and its crowning feature, the Statue of Freedom. In the pages of history, you will find extensive information about the architect of the Capitol, the artist who designed the Statue of Freedom, and the foundry owner who was commissioned for the casting of the statue. What is less known is the story of Philip Reid, the enslaved laborer of the foundry owner who was the only known slave working on Freedom and instrumental to its successful casting in bronze.

Philip Reid worked on the casting of Freedom from 1860 through 1862, despite the beginning of the Civil War and its toll on construction of the Capitol. When the statue was finally completed and placed atop the Capitol Dome in 1863, Reid had become a free man thanks to the Compensated Emancipation Act signed by President Lincoln.

The story of Philip Reid is the story of America, and only one of the many histories and cultural contributions that will be shared with the American public at the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Like the building of the U.S. Capitol, the creation of this museum has taken almost a century, but its time has finally come.

Today, we celebrate its opening and its tribute to generations of Americans past, present and future and the defining way in which our

country has been shaped by our African American brothers and sisters.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I recall the words of the Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes who wrote that "America is a dream . . . not my dream alone, but our dream. Not my world alone, but your world and my world." Let us all share in this great dream made real together.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a bipartisan resolution which recognizes the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on Saturday, September 24, 2016. I am so proud that over 110 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me as original cosponsors.

This weekend will mark a historic moment in our Nation's history. Hundreds of thousands of people will convene in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall to celebrate and welcome this historic institution which is dedicated to documenting African American life, history, art, and culture. Many people in this body, across the nation, and around the world shall celebrate this great day.

Tonight, I applaud Dr. Lonnie Bunch, III, the Founding Director, Kinshasha Holman Conwell, the Deputy Director, Cheryl Smith, Chief of Staff, and the hundreds and thousands of people who worked so hard to make this dream a reality. For over 10 years, they have toiled day in and day out to prepare for the opening and operation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I know that the leadership and staff of the Museum have labored tirelessly for years and years—designing the building, raising funds, envisioning the exhibits, collecting artifacts, conducting research, and meeting with the many people across this country and around the world who are so excited about this historic moment. Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every one of them for their hard work, dedication, and determination to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of African American History and Culture took over 100 years to evolve from a dream to a reality in the Nation's Capital on the National Mall. The most recent congressional effort began with the late former Congressman Thomas "Mickey" Leland from Texas who revitalized the legislation in 1985. I was proud to continue his work and fought for 15 years for the bill to pass the House and Senate before finally being signed into law by President George W. Bush.

It was a long, hard, labor of love, and there were so many wonderful Members on both sides of the aisle and the dome, who helped

accomplish this mission which spanned generations, decades, and movements. In 1993, the late Senator Paul Martin Simon from Illinois introduced a companion to the House legislation. Beginning in 2001, former Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas, former Senator Max Cleland from Georgia, and former Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut joined the House coalition which included Representatives William "Bill" Clay from Missouri, J.C. Watts, Jr. from Oklahoma, and Jack Kingston from Georgia who helped take this bipartisan, bicameral effort across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also thank some of the former congressional staff who worked for so many years to pass the legislation which authorized the Museum—Tammy Boyd in my office; Kern Watson with former Rep. J.C. Watts; LaRochelle Young with former Sen. Sam Brownback; and Donni Turner with former Sen. Max Cleland. They refused to give up; they refused to give in, and we thank them for their hard work and service.

On the eve of this long-awaited day, I join with more than 110 of my colleagues in congratulating Smithsonian Institution's family, the countless staff, and many volunteers of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on their persistence, their determination, and—very, very soon—on their success.

Tonight, we should all be proud, and each and every one of us must take the necessary hours, days, weeks, and months to visit, learn, explore, and reflect on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and all that it signifies and entails.

TRIBUTE TO THE CLARINDA LIONS CLUB

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Clarinda Lions Club of Clarinda, Iowa. The members of this service club exemplify the Lions motto: "We Serve." The Clarinda Lions Club members demonstrate this philosophy of selfless volunteer service each and every day.

The Clarinda Lions Club was chartered by Lions International in June 1946. Lions International began in 1917, when a Chicago businessman encouraged his local business club to go beyond business and focus on improving their communities and the world. After contacting other service groups to join this new effort, Lions International was born. Lions Clubs offer a number of services to the communities they serve. The Clarinda Lions Club puts on an annual pancake meal to raise funds to benefit the community, sponsors the Santa House during the holiday season, and participates in the SightFirst international program to help restore sight and prevent blindness. They also assist local residents with repurposing unwanted prescription glasses and send glasses overseas to people who have limited vision care.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate the Clarinda Lions Club for the difference they

continue to make in their community. Over the past 70 years, their members have been dedicated to helping and serving others, and it is a great honor to recognize them today. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Clarinda Lions Club for their many accomplishments. I wish them nothing but continued success in all their future endeavors.

H.R. 5461 & H.R. 5931

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding H.R. 5461, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act and H.R. 5931, the misleadingly named Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act.

Regional stability in the Middle East and ensuring that Iran is prevented from acquiring a nuclear weapon are top national security priorities of the United States and they are the reasons that, after very careful consideration, I chose to support the JCPOA. That agreement has already dramatically reduced Iran's stockpile of enriched nuclear material and subjects the country to a strenuous verification regime. For all these reasons, I will support the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act and oppose H.R. 5931.

Iran's hugely wealthy and powerful Revolutionary Guard has been identified by leading international institutions, including the State Department, as a driving force behind Iran's sponsorship of terrorism around the world. The Los Angeles Times estimated in 2007 that the IRGC, which was tasked with rebuilding the country after the Iran-Iraq War, "now has ties to more than one hundred companies that control roughly \$12 billion in construction and engineering capital." In a 2012 country report on terrorism, the State Department noted "a marked resurgence of Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Quds Force, its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's ally Hezbollah."

H.R. 5461 will help illuminate the IRGC's control of a wide array of Iran's assets. The Treasury Secretary will be required to develop and post online in English, and the three main languages used in that country, a list of assets held by Iran's political and military leaders. The list will include a description of how these assets were acquired and how they have been employed. The bill will not only help make Iran's citizens more aware of how corrupt their government is, the reporting requirements may help to shed additional light on the ways Iran's Revolutionary Guard funds terrorism.

By contrast, H.R. 5931 would provide Iran with an excuse to abandon its JCPOA obligations and resume its nuclear enrichment activities. The bill purports to codify the long held position of the U.S. not to pay ransoms to terrorists, but the bill is much more than that. H.R. 5931 would prohibit the U.S. Government from making cash payments of any kind to Iran, even ones the U.S. is legally obligated to make. The most recent payment made to Iran

by the U.S., for example, was owed to it as a result of a weapons sale that occurred in the days before the revolution. The U.S. was certainly not going to fulfill this obligation by sending Iran weapons, so the U.S. agreed to fulfill the contract instead with cash. Additionally, because the U.S. is a signatory to the Algiers Accords, there will be more payments in the future. Under that agreement, the U.S. is legally obligated to comply with the determinations of the Iran/U.S. Claims Tribunal. The recent payment made to Iran was a part of the settlement reached by that body. There are over a thousand more claims pending before the Tribunal.

The JCPOA is not based on trust. It is based on verification. According to the IAEA, Iran has, so far, complied with its obligations under the JCPOA. Faithfully observing the obligations of that agreement, especially the verification protocols, are in the national security interest of the United States and we must avoid providing the Iranians with an excuse not to uphold their side of the bargain. For that reason, I cannot support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA AND DARWIN BROCKMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Viola and Darwin Brockman of Hancock, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 24, 1956.

Viola and Darwin's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCING THE "APOLLO 1" MEMORIAL BILL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Apollo 1 Memorial Act". The Nation's success in human spaceflight is well documented. Astronauts are American heroes. John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Sally Ride. These are some of the familiar names that our children read about in their textbooks.

Unfortunately, success in human spaceflight has come at a high cost. Brave men and women have paid the ultimate cost in the name of space exploration.

On January 27, 1967, Astronauts Command Pilot Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Senior Pilot Edward H. White II, and Pilot Roger B. Chaffee were killed in an electrical fire that broke out inside their *Apollo 1* Command Module on Launch Pad 34 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Although all three astronauts were posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, it is surprising that we do not have a memorial to honor the lives of the crew of *Apollo 1* as was done for the Space Shuttle *Challenger* and *Columbia* crews.

This bill would redress that unfortunate omission. As Arlington National Cemetery is where we recognize heroes who have passed in the service of the Nation, it is fitting on the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 1* accident that we acknowledge these astronauts by building a memorial in their honor. This bill would direct the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to construct at an appropriate place in Arlington National Cemetery, a memorial marker honoring these fine men.

In addition to \$500,000 from the Army's fiscal year 2017 operations and maintenance appropriated funds, the bill provides the NASA Administrator with the authority to accept donations of services, money, and property for the memorial marker.

In closing Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo* accident, we have the opportunity to honor these three brave men and their contribution to America's preeminence in human spaceflight. It is time to build a memorial so that current and future Americans never forget their sacrifice.

I am pleased to be joined by Chairman JEFF MILLER and Representatives MARK TAKANO, CORRINE BROWN, DONNA EDWARDS and GUS BILIRAKIS as an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I hope that it can be swiftly enacted into law.

TRIBUTE TO LEONA AND TOM
STUART

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Leona and Tom Stuart of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 15, 1956 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neola, Iowa.

Leona and Tom's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

SENATE—Monday, September 26, 2016

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the fountain of all of our blessings, we rejoice because of the majesty of Your Name and power, for Your glory fills the Earth. We see Your handiwork in the beauty of spacious skies and in the splendor of amber waves of grain. Today, inspire our Senators so that the thoughts they think, the words they speak, and the deeds they do will please You.

Lord, as our lawmakers strive to live worthy of Your blessings, continue to surround them with the shield of Your favor and prompt them to strive to find common ground. As we all experience Your favor, help us to remember the needy and those crushed by the iron feet of injustice. May we strive to stay within the circle of Your providential will, remembering Your promise to supply all of our needs.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. ERNST thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT—VETO

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, is there a message at the desk in reference to S. 2040?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Senate regarding that matter.

The clerk will read the communication.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday, September 23, 2016, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate dated September 23, 2016, said to contain a veto message on the bill S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act." The Senate not being in session on the last day which the President had for the return of this bill under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, in order to protect the interests of the Senate so that it might have the opportunity to reconsider the bill, I accepted the message at 3:45 p.m., and I now present to you the President's veto message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, is the veto message with the papers attached at the desk?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. It is.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S. 2040 be considered as having been read; that it be printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The veto message ordered to be printed in the RECORD is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" (JASTA), which would, among other things, remove sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated state sponsors of terrorism.

I have deep sympathy for the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11), who have suffered grievously. I also have a deep appreciation of these families' desire to pursue justice and am strongly committed to assisting them in their efforts.

Consistent with this commitment, over the past 8 years, I have directed my Administration to pursue relentlessly al-Qa'ida, the terrorist group that planned the 9/11 attacks. The heroic efforts of our military and counterterrorism professionals have decimated al-Qa'ida's leadership and killed Osama bin Laden. My Administration also strongly supported, and I signed into law, legislation which ensured that those who bravely responded on that terrible day and other survivors of the attacks will be able to receive treatment for any injuries resulting from the attacks. And my Administration also directed the Intelligence Community to perform a declassification review of "Part Four of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11," so that the families of 9/11 victims and broader public can better understand the information investigators gathered following that dark day of our history.

Notwithstanding these significant efforts, I recognize that there is nothing that could ever erase the grief the 9/11 families have endured. My Administration therefore remains resolute in its commitment to assist these families in their pursuit of justice and do whatever we can to prevent another attack in the United States. Enacting JASTA into law, however, would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. As drafted, JASTA would allow private litigation against foreign governments in U.S. courts based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil. This legislation would permit litigation against countries that have neither been designated by the executive branch as state sponsors of terrorism nor taken direct actions in the United States to carry out an attack here. The JASTA would be detrimental to U.S. national interests more broadly, which is why I am returning it without my approval.

First, JASTA threatens to reduce the effectiveness of our response to indications that a foreign government has taken steps outside our borders to provide support for terrorism, by taking

such matters out of the hands of national security and foreign policy professionals and placing them in the hands of private litigants and courts.

Any indication that a foreign government played a role in a terrorist attack on U.S. soil is a matter of deep concern and merits a forceful, unified Federal Government response that considers the wide range of important and effective tools available. One of these tools is designating the foreign government in question as a state sponsor of terrorism, which carries with it a litany of repercussions, including the foreign government being stripped of its sovereign immunity before U.S. courts in certain terrorism-related cases and subjected to a range of sanctions. Given these serious consequences, state sponsor of terrorism designations are made only after national security, foreign policy, and intelligence professionals carefully review all available information to determine whether a country meets the criteria that the Congress established.

In contrast, JASTA departs from longstanding standards and practice under our Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and threatens to strip all foreign governments of immunity from judicial process in the United States based solely upon allegations by private litigants that a foreign government's overseas conduct had some role or connection to a group or person that carried out a terrorist attack inside the United States. This would invite consequential decisions to be made based upon incomplete information and risk having different courts reaching different conclusions about the culpability of individual foreign governments and their role in terrorist activities directed against the United States—which is neither an effective nor a coordinated way for us to respond to indications that a foreign government might have been behind a terrorist attack.

Second, JASTA would upset longstanding international principles regarding sovereign immunity, putting in place rules that, if applied globally, could have serious implications for U.S. national interests. The United States has a larger international presence, by far, than any other country, and sovereign immunity principles protect our Nation and its Armed Forces, officials, and assistance professionals, from foreign court proceedings. These principles also protect U.S. Government assets from attempted seizure by private litigants abroad. Removing sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated as state sponsors of terrorism, based solely on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad had a connection to terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil, threatens to undermine these longstanding principles that protect the United States, our forces, and our personnel.

Indeed, reciprocity plays a substantial role in foreign relations, and numerous other countries already have laws that allow for the adjustment of a foreign state's immunities based on the treatment their governments receive in the courts of the other state. Enactment of JASTA could encourage foreign governments to act reciprocally and allow their domestic courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials—including our men and women in uniform—for allegedly causing injuries overseas via U.S. support to third parties. This could lead to suits against the United States or U.S. officials for actions taken by members of an armed group that received U.S. assistance, misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces, or abuses committed by police units that received U.S. training, even if the allegations at issue ultimately would be without merit. And if any of these litigants were to win judgments—based on foreign domestic laws as applied by foreign courts—they would begin to look to the assets of the U.S. Government held abroad to satisfy those judgments, with potentially serious financial consequences for the United States.

Third, JASTA threatens to create complications in our relationships with even our closest partners. If JASTA were enacted, courts could potentially consider even minimal allegations accusing U.S. allies or partners of complicity in a particular terrorist attack in the United States to be sufficient to open the door to litigation and wide-ranging discovery against a foreign country—for example, the country where an individual who later committed a terrorist act traveled from or became radicalized. A number of our allies and partners have already contacted us with serious concerns about the bill. By exposing these allies and partners to this sort of litigation in U.S. courts, JASTA threatens to limit their cooperation on key national security issues, including counterterrorism initiatives, at a crucial time when we are trying to build coalitions, not create divisions.

The 9/11 attacks were the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil, and they were met with an unprecedented U.S. Government response. The United States has taken robust and wide-ranging actions to provide justice for the victims of the 9/11 attacks and keep Americans safe, from providing financial compensation for victims and their families to conducting worldwide counterterrorism programs to bringing criminal charges against culpable individuals. I have continued and expanded upon these efforts, both to help victims of terrorism gain justice for the loss and suffering of their loved ones and to protect the United States from future attacks. The JASTA, however, does not contribute to these goals, does not en-

hance the safety of Americans from terrorist attacks, and undermines core U.S. interests.

For these reasons, I must veto the bill.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 23, 2016.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the veto message be held at the desk, and at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader on Wednesday, September 28, the Senate proceed to the veto message on S. 2040; that there be 2 hours of debate, divided between the leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on passage of the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the 10-week clean CR the Senate will vote on tomorrow is pretty simple. It keeps the government funded at the same agreed-upon, bipartisan spending levels as today. It contains zero controversial riders, it funds the fight against Zika, and it ensures that veterans and the victims of severe flooding and the heroin and prescription opioid crisis are not left behind. It is clean. It is fair. We should pass it.

Now, it is true that some in the Democratic leadership would like to turn this simple 10-week funding bill into some unnecessary partisan food fight. They think it is good election-year politics, but they have struggled to explain how they might even justify a vote against it. They can't do it on spending levels; they already agreed to those. They can't do it on controversial riders; there are none. They can't do it on Zika; we have a bipartisan compromise there. Both Democrats and Republicans agree on the need to help vets, flood victims, and those suffering from the heroin and prescription opioid crisis.

So if both parties support what is actually in the clean CR-Zika package, then just what in this bill are Democratic leaders opposed to? It turns out they are trying to take our country to the brink, not based on something that is in this bill but something that isn't, and it is something the Senate already addressed in the appropriate vehicle to do so.

On September 15, the Senate voted to pass the Water Resources Development Act, which includes assistance for the families affected by lead poisoning in Flint. As Chairman INHOFE has pointed out, WRDA is not only the proper vehicle to address the situation facing

Flint now, it is also the proper vehicle to help prevent water infrastructure crises in the future. The House is now prepared this week to pass WRDA as well, and Chairman INHOFE has pledged he will continue to pursue resources for Flint once the bill goes to conference.

We know it is important to help the victims of recent severe flooding. Democrats are now suggesting, however, that we not provide that relief unless they get an unrelated rider in this clean CR-Zika package. Is their solution then to remove help for flood victims? If their solution is to remove help for flood victims, they should say so.

So let's be clear. It would be cruel for any Senator who just voted to help Flint to now turn around and filibuster the victims of floods, the heroin and prescription opioid crisis, and Zika as part of some partisan game.

Senators in both parties know this. I know our Democratic friends understand this, especially when we consider their calls to do more to address the heroin and prescription opioid crisis, and especially when we consider the letter they just wrote on Zika this month.

Let me read some of what they had to say: "Zika is now well established in the United States with cases of local transmission by mosquitoes being reported in multiple areas of Florida, as well as the U.S. territories," Democratic Senators wrote. It is causing "babies [to] die, pregnant women and communities [to] suffer, [and] adults [to] worry about future long-term neurological risks from Zika. . . ."

These Senate Democrats called for immediate passage of a bipartisan Zika package because "[t]he longer we delay, the greater the . . . irreparable human harm from Zika."

This is what they said: "The time for partisan games is over."

Now, that is a letter Senate Democrats wrote just this month. The bill before us contains a compromise Zika package that both parties support.

Senator NELSON, a Democrat from Florida, understands the urgency of addressing Zika, and that is why he supports this bill which, as he noted, represents a "clean \$1.1 billion to help stop the spread of the Zika virus with no political riders."

Senator SCHATZ, a Democrat from Hawaii, also voiced his support for the Zika compromise in this bill. Just last week, he said it is good for his State and urged that we "move forward with providing the CDC with the resources it needs."

Senator NELSON and Senator SCHATZ are just 2 Democratic Senators out of nearly 30 who penned the letter earlier this month calling for quick congressional action on Zika. I ask all of them to join us and act now.

Just as we joined together to help Flint earlier this month in the appro-

priate vehicle, now it is time for Democrats to join with Republicans to ensure veterans and those impacted by Zika, flooding, and the heroin and prescription opioid crisis do not fall victim to a partisan filibuster.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DONALD TRUMP

Mr. REID. Madam President, virtually every time Donald Trump says or does something discriminatory—and that is often—the media relies upon a catalog of buzzwords to describe his actions. The press uses words like hateful, intolerant, bigot, extremist, prejudice, to name but a few. Yet there is always one word that many of the press conspicuously avoid: Racist. They never label Trump as a racist, but he is a racist. Donald Trump is a racist. "Racist" is a term I don't really like.

We have all, with rare exception—I don't know who it would be—said things that are not politically correct, but I don't know of anyone, when that happens, who doesn't acknowledge it and, if necessary, apologizes quickly, but Donald Trump doesn't believe the racist things he does and says are wrong. He says them with the full intent to demean and to denigrate. That is who he is.

Each time Trump is given a chance to apologize and make amends, he refuses, and then he doubles down on what he said before. The media is not holding Donald Trump accountable at all. He is not being held accountable.

So why do reporters and pundits abstain from calling Trump what he is—a racist? It is not as if Trump's racism is new. His bigotry has been on display since the early days of his business career.

When Donald Trump was still working at his father's side as second in command, the Department of Justice slapped their company with a civil rights lawsuit. Why? Because they deserved it. Undercover Federal officers in New York found that the Trumps discriminated against potential tenants by rejecting applications for housing from African Americans and Puerto Ricans.

Trump has even had a secret system for discriminatory practices. As the Washington Post reported:

Trump employees have secretly marked the applications of minorities with codes, such as 'No. 9' and 'C' for colored. . . . The employees allegedly directed blacks and Puerto Ricans away from buildings with mostly white tenants and steered them toward properties that had many minorities.

In the 1980s, Trump took his racism to Atlantic City. This is Donald Trump

at his best. He cheated, coerced, filed bankruptcy, did anything he could to cheat people out of money. In the process, his racism came to the forefront in Atlantic City. Trump was accused of making his African-American employees move off the casino floor when he didn't want to see them, which was any time he came to the casino. One employee, Kip Brown, said:

When Donald and Ivana came to the casino, the bosses would order all the black people off the floor. It was the eighties, I was a teenager, but I remember it: they put us all in the back.

Trump was later fined \$200,000 by the New Jersey Casino Control Commission for that act of disgusting racism.

In the 1990s, John O'Donnell, the former president of Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino, wrote a book about his time working with Donald Trump. O'Donnell reported that Trump frequently denigrated African Americans. He remembers a lot, but he specifically remembers Trump saying of his accountants:

I've got black accountants at Trump Castle and Trump Plaza. Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.

How about that?

I've got black accountants at Trump Castle and Trump Plaza. Black guys counting my money! I hate it.

Those are words from Donald Trump's mouth.

The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.

That is what he said.

Speaking of another African-American employee, Trump told O'Donnell:

I think the guy is lazy. And it's probably not his fault because laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is. I believe that.

That is Donald Trump. He thinks that Blacks are lazy and that they can't help it because it is one of their traits. Trump didn't deny it. He later admitted: "The stuff O'Donnell wrote about me is probably true."

But since Donald Trump became involved in Presidential politics, his racism has reached even new heights. Trump led the so-called birther movement to delegitimize our first African-American President. Last year, announcing his candidacy for President, Trump denounced Mexican immigrants as "criminals, drug dealers, rapists."

Consider all of the despicable racist things he has done this year alone. He has repeatedly called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States. Trump attacked a Gold Star dad and a Gold Star mother. They are Muslims. Their son, CPT Humayun Khan, was killed in battle, but Donald Trump didn't only question Mr. Khan, he questioned Mrs. Khan. She was sitting there, and he said: I guess she is not talking because she is forbidden to speak by Islam.

Donald Trump refused to condemn former KKK grand wizard David Duke, who is still in politics.

Donald Trump has retweeted messages from Nazi sympathizers and White supremacists.

Donald Trump launched a racist attack on U.S. District Court Judge Curiel, a man born in Indiana, but Trump didn't like that because his mom and dad were of Mexican heritage. He said he should be disqualified from hearing the case. Speaker RYAN called Trump's offensive attack "a textbook definition of a racist comment." This is the U.S. House of Representatives Speaker, who acknowledges that his Republican Presidential nominee is a racist. Yet here we are, 7 weeks from election day, and the Speaker of the House and the Senate Republican leader are both endorsing this racist man.

Republicans should not support a man for President who by their Speaker's own admission is the textbook definition of a racist. Think of the example Republicans are setting for our Nation's youth. Republicans are normalizing this racist behavior. This will be their legacy—one of them. They have plenty to add to that. Those who refuse to denounce Donald Trump's actions as racism are complicit in propagating and normalizing his hate.

It is time for reporters and journalists to be honest with the American people. They owe Americans the truth: Through his words and deeds, Donald Trump is a racist.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I want to make a few comments on the CR. Senator MCCONNELL has given a great statement, but about whom? It is a straw man argument. We don't oppose the Zika legislation. We don't oppose helping flood victims. But we want more. We think it should be taken care of, but it hasn't been in this bill, that is for sure.

On opioids, we think it should be really funded, not this pitter path that doesn't do anything. What it does is allow you to spend money that is not here. We think we should do the Shaheen legislation and pay for it. We do believe we should not leave Flint behind, though.

The CR proposed by the Republicans is short on a number of issues, and I will talk only about two of them this afternoon.

I was especially disappointed to see the Republicans' proposal regarding another disaster—a disaster that has been ongoing for well over a year. This CR, this funding measure, does not put a single penny toward Flint, MI—not a penny. The people of Flint, MI, have been waiting for emergency assistance to clean up poison water for more than a year. There are 100,000 people—children—lead-poisoned already.

Senate Republicans claim they will address the needs of Flint when we return after the election. Well, we have heard that before, haven't we? That has been the Republicans go-to move in stalling funding for Flint—they always claim they will do it at a later time. Flint has heard this and heard this and heard this. In the meantime, the people of Flint, if they are fortunate, can take a drink of water out of a bottle and bathe in bottled water.

We ran out of time months ago. We ran out of time when the Republicans decided to take a 7-week vacation, which is something that was remarkable in history, in more than 60 years. With the time we are going to have off before December 9 with the funding resolution, it will be the longest break the Senate has had going back, we believe, to before the Depression—the Great Depression, not the Bush depression.

The crisis has been going on for a long time. Two and a half years ago, Flint learned that its water was not safe. Nine months ago, Republican Governor Snyder and President Obama declared the Flint, MI, water crisis an emergency. Five months ago, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed water infrastructure legislation with a bipartisan aid package for Flint. I commend the chairman of that committee, Senator INHOFE, over and over for agreeing to do the fair thing. That package was voted out of the Senate less than 2 weeks ago on a vote of 95 to 3 as part of the so-called WRDA Act, but the House Republicans made it clear they have no intention of putting funding for Flint in that bill. Still the people of Flint wait for assistance.

I have heard all the happy talk: Well, the Republicans are going to take care of this. Call and tell me you are going to take care of it. Give me some assurances that you are going to take care of it because 100,000 Flint residents continue to struggle with having safe water to drink. In fact, 40 percent of the people of Flint live below the poverty line.

Flint, MI, is a community of color—African Americans. The junior Senator from Louisiana was especially callous in dismissing the people of Flint. It is hard to acknowledge what he said, but I am going to do it. He called the residents of Flint "other people's grief." Well, using his analogy, the things we have done over the years with all the problems that Louisiana has had—hurricanes, floods, wind storms, and this latest ravaging rain they got—in Nevada, I guess that is somebody else's problem—the people of Louisiana. The many problems we have had in Texas over the last decade—they are everybody's problem, but not by the definition of the Senator from Louisiana. They are not other people's grief.

I would suggest the relatively new Senator from Louisiana needs to figure out what the name of his job is. It is United States Senator—not State senator from Louisiana, United States Senator. He can look out for the people of Louisiana and yet turn a cold shoulder to fellow Americans in Michigan. Congress must act to address emergencies whenever and wherever they occur, especially to help vulnerable Americans, because every one of these emergencies is creating lots of vulnerable Americans.

The people of Flint deserve justice, and 90,000 children who have been lead-poisoned deserve justice. But instead of helping the people of Flint, they promise to use this government funding measure to feed their addiction to undisclosed and unaccountable dark money. What the Republican leader stuck in this funding resolution is a provision to prevent the Securities and Exchange Commission from telling corporations that they must disclose campaign contributions. If ever there were legislation contained in a resolution that didn't deserve to be there, it would be that. Shadowy interest groups are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on trying to elect hand-picked political candidates.

What is this dark money? It is all these advertisements with all these phony front groups, most of which are funded by the Koch brothers. You won't see their name on anything other than something to divert your attention—a public service announcement about how good Koch Industries is for creating jobs. Well, Koch Industries is great for trying to get richer and richer and trying to enrich these two wealthy, Republican, rightwing men who are doing everything they can to buy America. They are doing pretty well, I have to give them credit for that. If they continue the way they are, they are going to be first in line. They are going to be the No. 1 oligarch in America, and they can match to see if they are entitled to be even a notch higher than the No. 1 oligarch in Russia. Russia is an oligarchy, and because of the Koch brothers, America is turning into one. And what does the Republican leader do? He sticks a provision in this legislation to protect them even further.

Current Federal law requires publicly traded corporations to disclose financial details on their annual report to shareholders, such as how much they are paying their executive officers and others, but shareholders—the true owners of corporations—have no idea how much money is being spent on politics, being directed by a few in the corporations. The Securities and Exchange Commission does not require this to be reported.

Last August, 44 Democratic Senators sent a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission in support of adding political disclosures in their annual

shareholder reports. The Republican leader wants to stop this. He wants to do everything he can to protect the Koch brothers. But the Securities and Exchange Commission received 1 million public comments in support of disclosure because it protects the interests of investors—1 million comments. That is unheard of.

The Republicans in the Senate are opposed to disclosure. That is why the Republican leader has attached this so-called rider to the government funding bill to prevent shareholders from knowing how their money is spent and being used in the political process. Republicans are holding the government hostage because they want to keep the political system awash in dark money. They want to give contributions to the Chamber of Commerce, the National Rifle Association, and on and on—millions and millions of dollars.

The Senate Republicans need to rethink their priorities. Republicans need to spend less time worrying about the balance in their campaign accounts and more time protecting their fellow Americans, especially those in Flint, MI.

Madam President, I see my friend the senior Senator from Iowa on the floor. Before he speaks, will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 5082, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 5083 (to amend—amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5084 (to amend—amendment No. 5083), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5085 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5086 (to amend—amendment No. 5085), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5087, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5088 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 5087), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5089 (to amend—amendment No. 5088), of a perfecting nature.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

IOWA FLOODS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, natural disasters happen. Eight years ago, Senator Harkin and I had to deal with flooding in Eastern Iowa. Today Senator ERNST and I are called upon to observe—as we did this past weekend—a great amount of flooding in Eastern Iowa. Earlier this year, we also heard the Senators from West Virginia and the Senators from Louisiana speak about the natural disasters in their State. It was only 8 years ago that I was on the floor talking about the record devastation caused by severe storms and floods. Many of the same places are currently experiencing similar flooding as rivers are cresting at record or near-record levels.

On Saturday, I toured several cities with the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and Members of the Iowa congressional delegation, including Senator ERNST. We saw debris and damage left by receding floodwaters, many homes underwater, and great flood fight preparations.

Many businesses and individual volunteers have been working tirelessly to help prevent damage to both public and private property and to help clean up. Today I had a discussion with the mayor of Greene, IA, about the numbers of high schools that are closed in that area, but the kids are coming in to help clean up in the city of Greene, IA. This is the Iowa way. I thank those who have helped and will provide assistance in the future.

Since the floods of 2008, many lessons have been learned. Plans and training to protect Iowa communities are in place. I am pleased to report that the mitigation through Federal, State, and local resources that has taken place throughout Iowa since the floods of 2008 has been beneficial. This has already proven effective and will lessen the impact of this year's floods. It is estimated that more than \$50 million of reduced impact will be experienced because of previous mitigation efforts. However, as we learned this weekend, so much remains to be done.

Iowa's second largest city, Cedar Rapids, experienced massive devastation, with more than 1,300 city blocks covered in water and over \$32 billion worth of damages from the floods of 2008. Today, as a result of massive amounts of rain upstream over the last few days, the city of Cedar Rapids is fighting to prepare for the high crest on the Cedar River, second only to 2008. Cedar Rapids is doing everything it can to protect its citizens by using HESCO barriers, earthen levees, and berms. However, a permanent solution through permanent flood control structures is still very much needed.

Even prior to the 2008 floods, the protection of the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids was identified as needing evaluation. In 2006, Congress authorized a flood risk management feasibility

study with the feasibility cost share arrangement being signed on May 30, 2008. Since then, the feasibility study was completed and alternatives were chosen, although this Federal project protects only a portion of Cedar Rapids. I worked to get the construction of the project authorized in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. That happened to be the first WRDA bill since 2007. However, funding has been difficult to obtain since the benefit-cost ratio is just over one from the point of view of the Corps of Engineers' scoring.

I am pleased the Senate instructed the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite this and three other flood damage reduction and flood risk management projects in the recently passed Water Resources Development Act.

Also in this year's act, the Senate passed an amendment to the bill that I was pleased to cosponsor with my colleague, Senator ERNST, requiring the Government Accountability Office to study the Army Corps of Engineers' methodology and performance metrics used to calculate benefit-cost ratios when evaluating construction projects.

I have heard from Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and several other places in Iowa regarding their concerns about how the Corps calculates the benefit of structures and that mitigation and future savings is not a strong factor in determining flood risk management.

Let me say that as I talk to people in Iowa—but particularly in Cedar Rapids, IA—about the cost-benefit ratio, mitigation, and future savings not being taken so much into consideration, it is something that they just do not understand. I recognize that this is a complex issue and that the Corps rarely gets enough funding to maintain and operate what it owns, let alone start numerous construction projects. I also recognize the need to have a rationale on how to prioritize projects when there are scarce resources, and I have been supportive of these efforts.

However, a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work when dealing with flood protection. This is the most difficult thing to explain to people in Cedar Rapids, IA. It is a necessity to more accurately quantify future benefits and the protection of citizens when making benefit-cost ratios. We also need to find a way to expedite these flood projects so it doesn't take 20 to 40 years to study, design, and build—and it seems as if it takes forever to get completed.

Again, Iowans—especially the people of Cedar Rapids—when they are faced with severe, repeated flooding, don't understand why the Federal Government does not prioritize flood risk management and mitigation instead of spending emergency money to fight, recover, and then put them back in the same position as they were before. That money was spent in 2008—maybe

not as much money, but still a great deal of money was spent this year—and still they are in the same position. That is what is not seemed to be understood. This money would be better spent actually mitigating the problem and protecting citizens and their property.

I have heard of similar concerns all across the United States, not just in Iowa. My staff has surveyed articles from Louisiana, Texas, New Jersey, and Idaho, all stating similar concerns. I am sure that if we continued to look, we would find others as well.

I call on the Army Corps of Engineers to carefully evaluate how they can improve their areas of flood control policy. Reforms have taken place to expedite the study, planning, and report process, but reforms are needed to how they make these determinations.

I also call on the Office of Management and Budget and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to change the way the Army Corps of Engineers receives its funding. Every part of the Corps' budget could be considered an earmark under Senate rules. Therefore, it is very hard to advocate for the needs of the Corps' districts and projects within Congress without violating the earmark ban. As a result, the primary decision about what is included in the Corps' budget rests with the President's budget each year. I am not advocating to bring back earmarks for specific projects but to fund the Corps in a programmatic way or by district to allow Congress to exercise its oversight over funding decisions. All branches need to be held accountable for spending decisions, including the Federal bureaucracy. Congress should have the power of the purse for funding decisions of such importance to the people we represent, not just some bureaucrat.

Retired MG Tom Sands, who was a commanding General of the Army Corps of Engineers' Lower Mississippi Valley Division and president of the Mississippi River Commission, in a blog for *The Hill* newspaper on September 7 of this year, wrote:

No doubt the rationale for the current uniform approach [at the Corps] is to foster "fairness." But federal water policy would be better focused on how to quantify and achieve superior outcomes. This new approach needs to focus more on common sense than on bureaucratic decisions.

As I have based my work as a public servant on Iowa's common sense, not bureaucratic nonsense, I couldn't have said it better than General Sands, so I associate myself with his remarks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD A. PAUL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been said that nations that forget its defenders will be itself forgotten. Well, I would like to take a moment to recognize one of those defenders who fought for and secured our freedom during World War II. First, I want to commend Richard Paul for his brave actions and quiet courage—and thank him for a debt that we can never fully repay. I also want to wish him an early happy birthday. On October 23, Richard Paul, first lieutenant of the 13th Army Air Force—from Quincy, IL—will turn 100 years old. What an achievement.

Today, I am honored to share his story. Let me take you back to November 29, 1942. On that November day, in the midst of World War II, rather than waiting to have his draft number called, Richard drove down to the nearest Army Air Force Cadet Training Program in Peoria, IL, and volunteered to serve. The next day, he was sworn into the program and told to await further orders. In January 1943, Richard received his orders and reported to Decatur, IL.

After stints in Jefferson Barracks, MO, and Galesburg, IL, Richard found himself in Texas for pilot training. On March 12, 1944, Richard graduated from flight school and spent the next 7 weeks in Liberal, KS, learning to fly the B-24 Liberator, an American bomber with the greatest bomb load carrying capacity and longest range of its time. By the spring of 1944, First Lieutenant Richard Paul and his crew flew B-24 Liberators on 36 combat missions, including two recon missions in the South Pacific theater. Richard also received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating and supporting military operations in an aerial flight.

Although he didn't know it at the time, on March 20, 1945, Richard flew his final mission. The following day, he was told he was going back to the States. For all his wartime accomplishments, I think Richard would agree that his greatest achievement happened in flight school, marrying Esther Viola Jewell, who he simply called Vi. After getting permission from his base commander, the chaplain picked Richard and his bride up from the hotel

she was staying at in Independence, KS. There was one problem: Richard and Vi didn't have witnesses. So Richard rushed back to the barracks and found two cadets to fill in. Disaster averted. And on Christmas Eve 1943, Richard and Vi were married. They would spend the next 64 Christmases together before Vi passed on December 14, 2008.

We owe a great debt to veterans like Richard, who came home after the war and built this Nation. When the war ended, Richard first looked for work as a pilot at a Minneapolis airline. But despite his incredible experience, he was told they received nearly 100 applications from former Army pilots every day and did not have enough jobs. Well, it was the airline's loss and a blessing for the people of Quincy. The following year, Richard became a pharmacist and spent the next 44 years working in Quincy at the Brown Drug Company—the same Brown Drug Company Vi worked at in 1940.

There are many advantages of having 100 years on Earth, but on top of the list may be the ability to spread love in so many ways. Whether it was through love of country—while serving as first lieutenant in the 13th Air Force during World War II; love of community—spending 44 years as a pharmacist at the Brown Drug Company; or love of family, raising 4 daughters with his wife, Vi, 8 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren—what an extraordinary legacy.

I will close with this: I have heard the first 100 years are the hardest. But I am reminded of what an old ball player once said: "Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter." So when the big day arrives, I hope Richard celebrates with friends and family—and enjoys it. He has earned it.

Thank you, Richard, for your service and sacrifice, and congratulations on an outstanding milestone.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will soon consider S. amendment No. 5082, which provides for continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, full-year appropriations for military construction and veterans programs, and funding for the Federal response to the Zika virus.

This amendment provides funding to combat the Zika virus. For these efforts, the amendment provides \$876

million in budget authority for fiscal year 2016 and \$310 million in outlays for fiscal year 2017, respectively. These figures include rescissions of emergency funds in division D of the amendment that provide a partial offset. This legislation includes language that would designate these provisions as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. The inclusion of these designations makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

The amendment also includes funding for military construction outside of the United States that is designated as overseas contingency operations funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of BBEDCA. These provisions provide \$172 million in budget authority and \$1 million in outlays for fiscal year 2017. The inclusion of the overseas contingency operations designations in these provisions makes this spending eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act.

Previously, I made adjustments to enforceable budgetary levels to accommodate the conference report to accompany H.R. 2577, which included

both the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2017 and supplemental Zika funding. The adjustments I make today take these prior adjustments into consideration and reflect the appropriate level for overall adjustments for considering the Zika and overseas contingency operations funding of this amendment.

Further, on May 12, 2016, I filed an adjustment to accommodate emergency spending in S. amendment No. 3896, which included the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017. This emergency provision, which increased outlays by \$1 million in fiscal year 2017, is now included in division C of S. amendment 5082, and I am taking my previous adjustment into account for processing this amendment.

Finally, division C includes \$500 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 and \$10 million in outlays in fiscal year 2017 for the Community Development Block Grant program to respond to major natural disasters. This provision is designated as being for disaster

relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of BBEDCA and as such makes adjustments possible to accommodate this spending.

As a result, I am increasing the budgetary aggregate for fiscal year 2016 by \$385 million in budget authority and decreasing related outlays by \$39 million. I am decreasing the budgetary aggregate for fiscal year 2017 by \$62 million in outlays. Further, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing revised non-security budget authority by \$385 million and reducing outlays by \$39 million in fiscal year 2016. Finally, I am revising the outlay allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by reducing outlays by \$62 million in fiscal year 2017.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016)

	\$s in millions	2016
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,070,820
Outlays		3,091,285
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority		385
Outlays		— 39
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,071,205
Outlays		3,091,246

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$s in millions	2016
Current Allocation: *		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		548,091
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		528,848
General Purpose Outlays		1,173,106
Adjustments:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		385
General Purpose Outlays		— 39
Revised Allocation: *		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		548,091
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		529,233
General Purpose Outlays		1,173,067

* Excludes amounts designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to Section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Memorandum: Above Adjustments by Designation	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Total
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	500	— 115	385
General Purpose Outlays	0	0	— 39	— 39

REVISION TO BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and Section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015)

	\$s in millions	2017
Current Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,212,522
Outlays		3,219,575
Adjustments:		
Budget Authority		0
Outlays		— 62
Revised Spending Aggregates:		
Budget Authority		3,212,522
Outlays		3,219,513

REVISION TO SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

(Pursuant to Sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

	\$s in millions	2017
Current Allocation:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		551,240
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		518,531
General Purpose Outlays		1,182,184
Adjustments:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		0
General Purpose Outlays		-62
Revised Allocation:		
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority		551,240
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		518,531
General Purpose Outlays		1,182,122
Memorandum: Detail of Adjustments Made Above		
	OCO	Program Integrity
	Disaster Relief	Emergency
	Total	
Revised Security Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	0	0
General Purpose Outlays	0	10
		-72
		-62

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH BOARDMAN

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the dedication of Joseph Boardman, the president and chief executive officer of Amtrak. After nearly 8 years of service, Mr. Boardman will retire from Amtrak this month. He is the second longest serving leader in Amtrak's history.

Mr. Boardman has spent his life in transportation and public service. As a boy, Mr. Boardman would watch the buses passing on Route 69 as he was working in the fields on his family farm. His father persuaded him of the importance of transportation and started him down to the road to a career in public transportation. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1966 and served the United States in Vietnam. He received his bachelor's degree at Cornell and his master's from SUNY Binghamton.

Mr. Boardman's transportation career began as a bus driver. Later, he went on to manage the transportation authorities for the cities of Rome and Utica. He also worked in Broome County as the commission of transportation services, before starting his own transportation company in 1995. Mr. Boardman later went on to serve as the longest serving Commissioner of Transportation in New York State's history. In 2005, he became the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

During his transportation career, Mr. Boardman has been a fierce advocate for improving safety. At the Federal Railroad Administration, he played a particularly important role in the development and passage of the 2008 Rail Safety Improve Act. This bill mandated the implementation of positive train control technology to help prevent crashes and fatalities on America's railroads. Under Mr. Boardman's leadership at Amtrak, the railroad led the Nation in implementing this life-saving technology.

At Amtrak, Mr. Boardman has also made improvements in how Amtrak operates. He has been responsible for a

host of financial, technical, and safety improvements at the railroad, as well as numerous investments in infrastructure improvements. During Mr. Boardman's tenure, Amtrak has hit its highest ridership levels; annual ridership reached and passed 30 million passengers per year. Amtrak's debt dropped to a third of the 2002 level, which allowed the railroad to replace its aging elective locomotive fleet and improve service on the Northeast corridor. Amtrak has made numerous improvements to its infrastructure thanks to Mr. Boardman's careful stewardship of the Federal investment in Amtrak. In my State, we know just how important that is, as Amtrak works to build the Gateway Project, connecting New Jersey and New York via a new tunnel under the Hudson River.

Finally, it goes without saying that Joe Boardman has been the heart and soul of Amtrak. He has been a passionate advocate for maintaining nationwide Amtrak service, for increasing passenger rail service around the country and for providing the best possible service to Amtrak riders. His dedication to the railroad will be sorely missed. I congratulate Mr. Boardman on his service and wish him well in his retirement.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TRISHA PRABHU

• Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a member of my student leadership advisory board, a very remarkable student from Naperville, IL, Trisha Prabhu. Miss Prabhu is the founder of ReThink, an award winning anticyberbullying platform that effectively prevents cyberbullying proactively, at the source, before the damage is done. The app, which acts as a keyboard on your smartphone, recognizes an inappropriate text and prompts the user with a message ask-

ing them to rethink their text. Miss Prabhu crafted the premise of the app and its algorithms in 2014 and has been recognized as a global finalist for the Google Science Fair and was awarded the Inspire 2016 Aristotle Award by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT. She made Illinois proud when ReThink was an exhibitor at the White House Science Fair in March 2015.

Yesterday, ReThink was featured on the popular entrepreneur show, "Shark Tank." Thoroughly impressed with her accomplishments and the comprehensive app, Miss Prabhu agreed to a \$100,000 business deal with Mark Cuban and Lori Greiner.

Miss Prabhu is an outstanding example of Illinois innovation and uses her innovative spirit to better her community and promote STEM education throughout the country. She has deservedly received a number of awards for her work to stop bullying, including the "Global Anti-Bullying Hero" award from Auburn University. I share a common goal with Miss Prabhu: to end bullying once and for all.

I want to congratulate Trisha Prabhu on her recent accomplishment and wish her and ReThink the best of luck.●

REMEMBERING RAYMOND BUSHLAND

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is with a great deal of pride that I honor the life and accomplishments of Dr. Raymond Bushland. This year, Dr. Bushland, along with his close friend and research partner Dr. Edward F. Knipling, posthumously received the Golden Goose award for his essential research into the reproductive cycle of the screwworm fly.

Dr. Bushland was born in our neighboring State of Minnesota and was raised and educated in my home State of South Dakota. He earned both his bachelor's degree and master's degree in entomology from South Dakota State University. After completing these degrees, he pursued a doctorate from Kansas State University and

began a long and fruitful career as a research scientist.

During the 38 years Dr. Bushland worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research program, he authored over 70 scientific papers on the science and management of insects. He is most noted for working toward eradication of the screwworm fly. This scourge of man and beast had an annual economic impact of well over \$1.8 billion, in today's money, to the livestock industry. Thanks to the research of Dr. Bushland and Dr. Knipling, most Americans have never heard of the screwworm fly, let alone ever dealt personally with its negative impacts.

Dr. Knipling and Dr. Bushland were jointly awarded some of the highest honors that anyone involved in agricultural research can earn: the Hoblitzelle National Award, the John F. Scotte Medal, and the World Food Prize. Dr. Bushland is currently the only graduate of South Dakota State to hold a World Food Prize.

For his life's work and service to humanity, I would like to remember Dr. Raymond Bushland.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S. 2040, THE JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2016—PM 56

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" (JASTA), which would, among other things, remove sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated state sponsors of terrorism.

I have deep sympathy for the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11), who have suffered grievously. I also have a deep appreciation of these families' desire to pursue justice and am strongly committed to assisting them in their efforts.

Consistent with this commitment, over the past 8 years, I have directed my Administration to pursue relentlessly al-Qa'ida, the terrorist group that planned the 9/11 attacks. The heroic efforts of our military and counterterrorism professionals have decimated al-Qa'ida's leadership and killed Osama bin Laden. My Administration also strongly supported, and I signed into law, legislation which ensured that those who bravely responded

on that terrible day and other survivors of the attacks will be able to receive treatment for any injuries resulting from the attacks. And my Administration also directed the Intelligence Community to perform a declassification review of "Part Four of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11," so that the families of 9/11 victims and broader public can better understand the information investigators gathered following that dark day of our history.

Notwithstanding these significant efforts, I recognize that there is nothing that could ever erase the grief the 9/11 families have endured. My Administration therefore remains resolute in its commitment to assist these families in their pursuit of justice and do whatever we can to prevent another attack in the United States. Enacting JASTA into law, however, would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. As drafted, JASTA would allow private litigation against foreign governments in U.S. courts based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil. This legislation would permit litigation against countries that have neither been designated by the executive branch as state sponsors of terrorism nor taken direct actions in the United States to carry out an attack here. The JASTA would be detrimental to U.S. national interests more broadly, which is why I am returning it without my approval.

First, JASTA threatens to reduce the effectiveness of our response to indications that a foreign government has taken steps outside our borders to provide support for terrorism, by taking such matters out of the hands of national security and foreign policy professionals and placing them in the hands of private litigants and courts.

Any indication that a foreign government played a role in a terrorist attack on U.S. soil is a matter of deep concern and merits a forceful, unified Federal Government response that considers the wide range of important and effective tools available. One of these tools is designating the foreign government in question as a state sponsor of terrorism, which carries with it a litany of repercussions, including the foreign government being stripped of its sovereign immunity before U.S. courts in certain terrorism-related cases and subjected to a range of sanctions. Given these serious consequences, state sponsor of terrorism designations are made only after national security, foreign policy, and intelligence professionals carefully review all available information to determine whether a country meets the criteria that the Congress established.

In contrast, JASTA departs from longstanding standards and practice under our Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and threatens to strip all foreign governments of immunity from judicial process in the United States based solely upon allegations by private litigants that a foreign government's overseas conduct had some role or connection to a group or person that carried out a terrorist attack inside the United States. This would invite consequential decisions to be made based upon incomplete information and risk having different courts reaching different conclusions about the culpability of individual foreign governments and their role in terrorist activities directed against the United States—which is neither an effective nor a coordinated way for us to respond to indications that a foreign government might have been behind a terrorist attack.

Second, JASTA would upset longstanding international principles regarding sovereign immunity, putting in place rules that, if applied globally, could have serious implications for U.S. national interests. The United States has a larger international presence, by far, than any other country, and sovereign immunity principles protect our Nation and its Armed Forces, officials, and assistance professionals, from foreign court proceedings. These principles also protect U.S. Government assets from attempted seizure by private litigants abroad. Removing sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated as state sponsors of terrorism, based solely on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad had a connection to terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil, threatens to undermine these longstanding principles that protect the United States, our forces, and our personnel.

Indeed, reciprocity plays a substantial role in foreign relations, and numerous other countries already have laws that allow for the adjustment of a foreign state's immunities based on the treatment their governments receive in the courts of the other state. Enactment of JASTA could encourage foreign governments to act reciprocally and allow their domestic courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials—including our men and women in uniform—for allegedly causing injuries overseas via U.S. support to third parties. This could lead to suits against the United States or U.S. officials for actions taken by members of an armed group that received U.S. assistance, misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces, or abuses committed by police units that received U.S. training, even if the allegations at issue ultimately would be without merit. And if any of these litigants were to win judgments—based on foreign domestic laws as applied by

foreign courts—they would begin to look to the assets of the U.S. Government held abroad to satisfy those judgments, with potentially serious financial consequences for the United States.

Third, JASTA threatens to create complications in our relationships with even our closest partners. If JASTA were enacted, courts could potentially consider even minimal allegations accusing U.S. allies or partners of complicity in a particular terrorist attack in the United States to be sufficient to open the door to litigation and wide-ranging discovery against a foreign country—for example, the country where an individual who later committed a terrorist act traveled from or became radicalized. A number of our allies and partners have already contacted us with serious concerns about the bill. By exposing these allies and partners to this sort of litigation in U.S. courts, JASTA threatens to limit their cooperation on key national security issues, including counterterrorism initiatives, at a crucial time when we are trying to build coalitions, not create divisions.

The 9/11 attacks were the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil, and they were met with an unprecedented U.S. Government response. The United States has taken robust and wide-ranging actions to provide justice for the victims of the 9/11 attacks and keep Americans safe, from providing financial compensation for victims and their families to conducting worldwide counterterrorism programs to bringing criminal charges against culpable individuals. I have continued and expanded upon these efforts, both to help victims of terrorism gain justice for the loss and suffering of their loved ones and to protect the United States from future attacks. The JASTA, however, does not contribute to these goals, does not enhance the safety of Americans from terrorist attacks, and undermines core U.S. interests.

For these reasons, I must veto the bill.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 23, 2016.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate on January 6, 2015, the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on September 23, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH):

H.R. 2615. An act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

H.R. 5252. An act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, as the “Marcelino Serna Port of Entry”.

H.R. 5937. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1550. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1296. An act to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2285. An act to improve enforcement against trafficking in cultural property and prevent stolen or illicit cultural property from financing terrorist and criminal networks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4419. An act to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts and to make other improvements to the District of Columbia courts.

H.R. 4564. An act to redesignate the small triangular property located in Washington, DC, and designated by the National Park Service as reservation 302 as “Robert Emmet Park”, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5037. An act to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service.

H.R. 5320. An act to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5523. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to require notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5625. An act to provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5719. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax treatment of certain equity grants.

H.R. 5798. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the “Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5931. An act to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5946. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

H.R. 5963. An act to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6004. An act to modernize Government information technology, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2285. An act to improve enforcement against trafficking in cultural property and prevent stolen or illicit cultural property from financing terrorist and criminal networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5037. An act to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5320. An act to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Social Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5625. An act to provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5798. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the “Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5931. An act to provide for the prohibition on cash payments to the Government of Iran, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6004. An act to modernize Government information technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals For Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017” (Rept. No. 114-358).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

H.R. 4742. A bill to authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women.

H.R. 4755. A bill to inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 3393. A bill to prevent terrorists and criminals from obtaining explosives and firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. 3394. A bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to modify provisions relating to protection of the employees of the Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 573. A resolution designating October 8, 2016, as "National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. Kaine, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 574. A resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Latinos in the United States and the immense contributions of Latinos and Latinas to the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 575. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Retirement Security Week, including raising public awareness of the various tax-preferred retirement vehicles, increasing personal financial literacy, and engaging the people of the United States on the keys to success in achieving and maintaining retirement security throughout their lifetimes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 576. A resolution calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed and designating October 2016 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 577. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Alaska Federation of Natives; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 578. A resolution supporting Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 579. A resolution recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the first class of women admitted to the Coast Guard Academy; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 275

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 275, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home as a site of care for infusion therapy under the Medicare program.

S. 743

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 743, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize the service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces of certain persons by honoring them with status as veterans under law, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 827

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

S. 924

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 924, a bill to require the National Credit Union Administration to hold public hearings and receive comments from the public on its budget, and for other purposes.

S. 1127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1127, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1327

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1327, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude a loan secured by a non-owner occupied 1- to 4-family dwelling from the definition of a member business loan, and for other purposes.

S. 1605

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1605, a bill to amend the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003 to authorize concurrent compacts for purposes of regional economic integration and cross-border collaborations, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1605, *supra*.

S. 2126

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2126, a bill to reauthorize the women's business center program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 2208

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to promote the economic security and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2553

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2553, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require multi-line telephone systems to have a default configuration that permits users to directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2702

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals with disabilities to save additional amounts in their ABLE accounts above the current annual maximum contribution if they work and earn income.

S. 2703

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2703, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rollovers between 529 programs and ABLE accounts.

S. 2704

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2704, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 2869

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2869, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve college savings under section 529 programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2912, a bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 3065, *supra*.

S. 3081

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3081, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide certain em-

ployees of Members of Congress with access to case-tracking information of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 3279

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3279, a bill to realign structures and reallocate resources in the Federal Government in keeping with the core belief that families are the best protection for children and the bedrock of any society to bolster United States diplomacy targeted at ensuring that every child can grow up in a permanent, safe, nurturing, and loving family, and to ensure that intercountry adoption to the United States becomes a viable and fully developed option for providing families for children in need, and for other purposes.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3369, a bill to amend section 2709 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that the Government may obtain a specified set of electronic communication transactional records under that section, and to make permanent the authority for individual terrorists to be treated as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

S. 3371

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3371, a bill to amend titles II, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the affordability and enrollment procedures of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 527

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 527, a resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the opening of the National Gallery of Art.

S. RES. 535

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 535, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.

S. RES. 570

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added

as cosponsors of S. Res. 570, a resolution recognizing the importance of substance abuse disorder treatment and recovery in the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 573—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 8, 2016, AS “NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY”

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 573

Whereas hydrogen, which has an atomic mass of 1.008, is the most abundant chemical substance in the universe;

Whereas the United States is a world leader in the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cells played an instrumental role in the United States space program, helping the United States achieve the mission of landing a man on the moon;

Whereas private industry, Federal and State governments, national laboratories, and institutions of higher education continue to improve fuel cell and hydrogen technologies to address the most pressing energy, environmental, and economic issues of the United States;

Whereas fuel cells utilizing hydrogen and hydrogen-rich fuels to generate electricity are clean, efficient, and resilient technologies being sold for stationary and backup power, zero-emission light duty motor vehicles and buses, industrial vehicles, and portable power;

Whereas stationary fuel cells are being placed in service for continuous and backup power to provide business and energy consumers with reliable power in the event of grid outages;

Whereas stationary fuel cells can help reduce water use, as compared to traditional power generation technologies;

Whereas fuel cell electric light duty motor vehicles and buses that utilize hydrogen can completely replicate the experience of internal combustion vehicles, including comparable range and refueling times;

Whereas hydrogen fuel cell industrial vehicles are being deployed at logistical hubs and warehouses across the United States and exported to facilities in Europe and Asia;

Whereas hydrogen is a nontoxic gas that can be derived from a variety of domestically available traditional and renewable resources, including solar, wind, biogas, and the abundant supply of natural gas in the United States;

Whereas hydrogen and fuel cells can store energy to help enhance the grid and maximize opportunities to deploy renewable energy;

Whereas the United States produces and uses more than 11,000,000 metric tons of hydrogen per year; and

Whereas engineers and safety code and standard professionals have developed consensus-based protocols for safe delivery, handling, and use of hydrogen: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 8, 2016, as “National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 574—RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LATINOS AND LATINAS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 574

Whereas the United States will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2016, through October 15, 2016;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau estimates the Hispanic population in the United States at more than 56,500,000 people, making Hispanic Americans 17.6 percent of the population of the United States and the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States;

Whereas, in 2015, there were 1,000,000 or more Latino residents in Puerto Rico and each of the following 9 States: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, and Texas;

Whereas Latinos grew the United States population by more than 1,215,000 people between July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2015, accounting for nearly ½ of all population growth during that period;

Whereas the Latino population in the United States is projected to grow to 119,000,000 people by 2060, at which point the Latino population will comprise more than 28.6 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the Latino population in the United States is currently the third largest worldwide, exceeding the size of the population in every Latin American and Caribbean country except Mexico and Brazil;

Whereas, in 2015, there were 15,062,452 Latino households in the United States and more than 18,000,000 Latino children younger than 18 years of age, representing approximately ⅓ of the total Latino population in the United States;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 public school students in the United States is Latino and the share of Latino students is expected to rise to nearly 30 percent in the next decade;

Whereas 19 percent of all college students between 18 and 24 years of age are Latino, making Latinos the largest racial or ethnic minority group on college campuses in the United States, including both 2-year community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities;

Whereas a record 11,200,000 Latinos voted in the 2012 Presidential election, representing a record 8.4 percent of the electorate in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 27,300,000 Latinos will be eligible to vote in the 2016 Presidential election and the number of eligible Latino voters is expected to rise to 40,000,000 by 2030, accounting for 40 percent of the growth in the eligible electorate in the United States over the next 15 years;

Whereas more than 2,000 Latino citizens in the United States reach 18 years of age and become eligible to vote every day and an estimated 1,000,000 Latino citizens in the United States will turn 18 and become eligible to vote every year by 2024;

Whereas, in 2015, the annual purchasing power of Hispanic Americans was an estimated \$1,500,000,000,000, which is larger than the economy of all but 15 countries in the world;

Whereas there are more than 4,700,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and contributing more than \$600,000,000,000 in revenue to the economy of the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-owned businesses represent the fastest-growing segment of small businesses in the United States, with Latino owned businesses growing at more than 15 times the national rate;

Whereas, as of August 2016, almost 27,000,000 Latino workers represented 16.9 percent of the total civilian labor force in the United States;

Whereas the share of the Latino labor force participation is expected to grow to 28 percent by 2024, with the Latino population accounting for more than 40 percent of the increase in employment in the United States over the next 5 years;

Whereas Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of any racial or ethnic group at 66.1 percent, compared to 62.7 percent overall;

Whereas, in 2015, there were 267,920 Latino elementary and middle school teachers, 83,435 Latino chief executives of businesses, 63,800 Latino lawyers, 64,448 Latino physicians and surgeons, and 11,194 Latino psychologists contributing to the United States through their professions;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have bravely fought in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas, as of July 31, 2015, more than 164,000 Hispanic active duty service members had served with distinction in the Armed Forces;

Whereas, as of July 31, 2016, approximately 284,000 Latinos have served in post-September 11, 2001, overseas contingency operations, including more than 9,870 Latinos currently serving in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of September 2016, not fewer than 680 fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan were members of the Armed Forces who were Hispanic;

Whereas an estimated 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for World War I and about 500,000 Hispanics served during World War II;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the conflict, even though Hispanics comprised only 4.5 percent of the population of the United States at the time;

Whereas approximately 148,000 Hispanic members of the Armed Forces served in the Korean War, including Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment known as the "Borinqueneers", the only active duty segregated Latino military unit in the history of the United States;

Whereas, as of September 2015, there are an estimated 1,500,000 living Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas 61 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an

enemy force that can be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the Federal Government, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, 3 seats in the Senate, 34 seats in the House of Representatives, and 4 seats in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2016, through October 15, 2016;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritage of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Latinos to life in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL RETIREMENT SECURITY WEEK, INCLUDING RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE VARIOUS TAX-PREFERRED RETIREMENT VEHICLES, INCREASING PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND ENGAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE KEYS TO SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING RETIREMENT SECURITY THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFETIMES

Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 575

Whereas people in the United States are living longer and the cost of retirement is increasing significantly;

Whereas Social Security remains the bedrock of retirement income for the great majority of the people of the United States but was never intended by Congress to be the sole source of retirement income for families;

Whereas recent data from the Employee Benefit Research Institute indicates that, in the United States—

(1) only approximately ⅔ of workers or the spouses of those workers are saving for retirement; and

(2) the amount that workers have saved for retirement is much less than the amount those workers need to adequately fund their retirement years;

Whereas the financial literacy of workers in the United States is important so that those workers understand the need to save for retirement;

Whereas saving for retirement is a key component of overall financial health and security during retirement years and the importance of financial literacy in planning for retirement must be advocated;

Whereas many workers may not—

(1) be aware of the various options in saving for retirement; or

(2) have focused on the importance of, and need for, saving for retirement and successfully achieving retirement security;

Whereas, although many employees have access through their employers to defined benefit and defined contribution plans to assist the employees in preparing for retirement, many of those employees may not be taking advantage of those plans at all or to the full extent allowed by Federal law;

Whereas saving for retirement is necessary even during economic downturns or market declines, which makes continued contributions all the more important;

Whereas all workers, including public and private sector employees, employees of tax-exempt organizations, and self-employed individuals, can benefit from developing personal budgets and financial plans that include retirement savings strategies that take advantage of tax-preferred retirement savings vehicles;

Whereas effectively and sustainably withdrawing retirement resources throughout the retirement years of an individual is as important and crucial as saving and accumulating funds for retirement; and

Whereas the week of October 16 through October 22, 2016, has been designated as "National Retirement Security Week": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Retirement Security Week, including raising public awareness of the importance of saving adequately for retirement;

(2) acknowledges the need to raise public awareness of a variety of tax-preferred retirement vehicles that are used by many people in the United States but could be used by more; and

(3) calls on States, localities, schools, universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe National Retirement Security Week with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing the retirement savings and personal financial literacy of all people in the United States, thereby enhancing the retirement security of the people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 576—CALLING ON CONGRESS, SCHOOLS, AND STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DYSLEXIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2016 AS "NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 576

Whereas dyslexia is—

(1) defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and

(2) most commonly due to a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and often, learn a second language;

Whereas dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 percent to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;

Whereas dyslexia is highly prevalent, affecting as many as 1 out of 5 individuals, and persistent;

Whereas dyslexia is a paradox such that an individual with dyslexia may have—

(1) weaknesses in decoding that results in difficulties in accurate or fluent word recognition; and

(2) strengths in higher-level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, or problem solving;

Whereas great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiology and cognitive and neurobiological bases of dyslexia; and

Whereas early diagnosis of dyslexia is critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment and the provision of necessary accommodations so as to ensure school and life success: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; and

(2) designates October 2016 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month".

SENATE RESOLUTION 577—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 577

Whereas the Alaska Federation of Natives was established as the Alaska Federation of Native Associations at a historic 3-day meeting that began on October 18, 1966, which was the 99th anniversary of the transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States;

Whereas the establishment of the Alaska Federation of Natives as a statewide voice for the Alaska Native community was necessary—

(1) to achieve a united stand relating to the settlement of Alaska Native land claims; and

(2) to establish the Alaska Native community as a significant political force in the State of Alaska;

Whereas that 3-day initial meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives, which was largely funded by Chief Albert Kaloa, Jr., of the Native Village of Tyonek, was—

(1) chaired by Emil Notti, a 34-year-old Athabascan Indian from Ruby, Alaska, who served as president of the Cook Inlet Native Association; and

(2) attended by approximately 250 individuals representing 17 Native Associations;

Whereas the attendees of that first meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives unanimously adopted the recommendations of a land claims committee chaired by Willie Hensley, including 3 fundamental recommendations that—

(1) a land freeze be imposed on the transfer of all Federal land until Alaska Native land claims were resolved;

(2) Congress enact legislation to enable settlement of the Alaska Native land claims; and

(3) the Federal Government engage in substantial consultation with Alaska Natives, including holding congressional hearings in

the State of Alaska, before any action was taken on Alaska Native land claims settlement legislation;

Whereas in early 1967, a second meeting of the Alaska Federation of Natives was held at which—

(1) the name of the organization was changed to the Alaska Federation of Natives;

(2) Flore Lekanof, an Aleut from St. George, Alaska, was elected chairman; and

(3) Emil Notti was elected president;

Whereas the Alaska Federation of Natives diligently pursued legislation for the settlement of Alaska Native land claims, assisted by eminent legal experts, including former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Arthur J. Goldberg and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark;

Whereas in 1970, the Yakima Nation provided critical financial support, in the form of a substantial loan to the Alaska Federation of Natives, to the effort to settle Alaska Native land claims;

Whereas on December 18, 1971, with the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Alaska Federation of Natives achieved victory in its goal of settling Alaska Native land claims;

Whereas the Alaska Federation of Natives led a successful effort to enact the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Amendments of 1987 (43 U.S.C. 1601 note; Public Law 100-241) (commonly known as the "1991 Amendments"), which amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

Whereas for 50 years, the Alaska Federation of Natives has effectively represented the interests of the Alaska Native community on a broad range of significant issues, including Alaska Native self-governance, subsistence, economic development, human development, public safety, and the interests of Alaska Native elders and Alaska Native youth;

Whereas the Alaska Federation of Natives continues to be the principal forum and voice of Alaska Natives in dealing with critical issues of public policy and government;

Whereas the Alaska Federation of Natives will conduct its 50th anniversary convention from October 20 through 22, 2016, at the Carlson Center in Fairbanks, Alaska;

Whereas the Alaska Federation of Natives convention is the largest representative annual gathering of Native peoples in the United States and the largest convention in the State of Alaska; and

Whereas the theme of the Alaska Federation of Natives 2016 convention is "50 Years: Reflect, Refresh, Renew", which—

(1) reflects on the challenges, innovations, and successes of the Alaska Native community over the past 50 years;

(2) refreshes collective accomplishments, achievements, and aspirations; and

(3) renews the commitment and dedication of the Alaska Federation of Natives to enriching the future of Native peoples: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Alaska Federation of Natives on its 50th anniversary;

(2) commends the past and present officers, board members, delegates, and staff of the Alaska Federation of Natives for 50 years of dedication to the advancement of the Native peoples of the State of Alaska; and

(3) congratulates the Alaska Federation of Natives on 50 years of enhancing and promoting the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

SENATE RESOLUTION 578—SUPPORTING LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2016

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 578

Whereas more than 28,000,000 children in the United States have parents who work outside the home;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including experiences that encourage science, technology, engineering, and math, that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning opportunities provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days, and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating the school with the larger community;

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities programs, held on October 20, 2016, highlights the critical importance of those high-quality programs to children, their families, and their communities; and

Whereas nearly 2 in 5 afterschool programs report that their budgets are in worse condition in 2016 than at the height of the recession in 2008, and more than 3 in 5 afterschool programs report that their level of funding is lower than it was in 2013, making it difficult for afterschool programs across the United States to keep their doors open and their lights on: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 20, 2016.

SENATE RESOLUTION 579—RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CLASS OF WOMEN ADMITTED TO THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 579

Whereas, on August 11, 1975, the Department of Transportation announced Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Siler's decision to admit women to the Coast Guard Academy, making it the first military service academy open to women;

Whereas, on October 7, 1975, President Ford signed the Department of Defense Appropriation Authorization Act, 1976 (Public Law 94-106; 89 Stat. 531) which authorized the admission of women into the remaining three military service academies, two months after the Coast Guard Academy's decision to do so;

Whereas, on February 3, 1976, the Coast Guard Academy was the first military service academy to issue appointments to women;

Whereas, on June 28, 1976, 38 women joined the Class of 1980 as freshmen and reported to the Coast Guard Academy for Swab Summer training;

Whereas, in 1980, the first fourteen women were honored at the Coast Guard Academy's 99th graduation;

Whereas, since the Coast Guard Academy's Class of 1980, more than 1,500 women have graduated from the Coast Guard Academy;

Whereas, in June 2016, the Coast Guard Academy's Class of 2020 hit a record of 38 percent female enrollment, an enrollment rate higher than any other military service academy;

Whereas the Coast Guard has been at the forefront of expanding opportunities for women and setting a precedent for the advancement of women in the Armed Forces; and

Whereas women serving in the Coast Guard have played vital roles in maritime law enforcement, search and rescue missions, and environmental protection initiatives and women continue to carry out an array of civil and military responsibilities that ensure the maritime security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the Coast Guard Academy on the 40th Anniversary of the Academy enrolling female cadets and recognizes the Coast Guard Academy as the first military service academy to admit female cadets;

(2) recognizes the contribution women have made through their leadership, honor, and devotion to duty as members of the Coast Guard; and

(3) commends the Coast Guard Academy for breaking barriers and creating equal opportunities for women in the Armed Forces.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5092. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5093. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5094. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5095. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5096. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5097. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5098. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5099. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5100. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5101. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5102. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5092. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NEED FOR EXPLICIT AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST ISIS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that neither the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) or the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) authorize the use of military force against the Islamic State in Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President, unless acting out of self-defense or to address an imminent threat to the United States, is not authorized to conduct military operations against ISIS without explicit authorization for the use of such force, and Congress should debate and pass such an authorization.

SA 5093. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division C, add the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to implement any restriction on motorized boating at Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Arizona, that is not covered by the memorandum of understanding entitled "To Facilitate Collaborative Regional Administration of Lake Havasu" (Bureau of Land Management agreement numbered BLM MOU AZ-2014-13).

SA 5094. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 9 days after enactment.

SA 5095. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “7” and insert “8”.

SA 5096. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 7 days after enactment.

SA 5097. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “5” and insert “6”.

SA 5098. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 5 days after enactment.

SA 5099. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “3” and insert “4”.

SA 5100. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 3 days after enactment.

SA 5101. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 5102. Mr. REID submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 1 day after enactment.

COORDINATED OCEAN MONITORING AND RESEARCH ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 636, S. 1886.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1886) to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

Section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12302. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subtitle are—

“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated system of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of Regional Coastal Observing Systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—

“(A) to the public;

“(B) to support national defense, search and rescue operations, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach and education;

“(C) to promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation’s ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare;

“(D) to provide easy access to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and promote data sharing between Federal and non-Federal sources and promote public data sharing;

“(E) to enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding of

healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and

“(F) to monitor and model changes in ocean chemistry;

“(2) to improve the Nation’s capability to measure, track, observe, understand, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate change, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes; and

“(3) to authorize activities—

“(A) to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, including advanced observing technologies needed to address critical data gaps, modeling systems, other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal and Great Lakes environments; and

“(B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 12303 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3602) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector.” and inserting “the regional coastal observing systems, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.”;

(2) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEM.—

The term ‘regional coastal observing system’ means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) and coordinates State, Federal, local, tribal, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal and ocean observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.”; and

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.” and inserting “Administrator.”.

SEC. 4. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.

(a) SYSTEM ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12304(b) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—

“(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;

“(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional coastal observing systems identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional and national observation missions and priorities;

“(C) data management, communication, and modeling systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System;

“(D) a product development system to transform observations into products in a format that may be readily used and understood; and

“(E) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—

“(i) basic and applied research and technology development—

“(I) to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities; and

“(II) to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies, and information and data processing and management technologies;

“(ii) an advanced observing technology development program to fill gaps in technology;

“(iii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of coastal and ocean processes;

“(iv) models to improve regional weather forecasting capabilities and regional weather forecasting products; and

“(v) reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean observation, applied research, and weather forecasting needs.”.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—Paragraph (3) of section 12304(b) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “for research and for use in the development of products to address societal needs.”.

(3) COORDINATION OF NON-FEDERAL ASSETS.—Paragraph (4) of section 12304(b) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “NON-FEDERAL” and inserting “COORDINATION OF NON-FEDERAL”; and

(B) by inserting “, the regional coastal observing system,” after “Interagency Ocean Observing Committee”.

(b) POLICY OVERSIGHT, ADMINISTRATION, AND REGIONAL COORDINATION.—Section 12304(c) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), and inserting the following:

“(2) INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATION COMMITTEE.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Council shall establish or designate a committee which shall be known as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee.

“(B) DUTIES.—The Interagency Ocean Observing Committee shall—

“(i) prepare annual and long-term plans for consideration and approval by the Council for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the System to meet the objectives of this chapter and the System Plan;

“(ii) develop and transmit to Congress, along with the budget submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an annual coordinated, comprehensive budget—

“(I) to operate all elements of the System identified in subsection (b); and

“(II) to ensure continuity of data streams from Federal and non-Federal assets;

“(iii) establish requirements for observation data variables to be gathered by both Federal and non-Federal assets and identify, in consultation with regional information coordination entities, priorities for System observations;

“(iv) establish and define protocols and standards for System data processing, management, collection, configuration standards, formats, and communication for new and existing assets throughout the Integrated Ocean Observing System network;

“(v) develop contract requirements for each Regional Coastal Observing System—

“(I) to establish eligibility for integration into the System;

“(II) to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council; and

“(III) to ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis;

“(vi) identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;

“(vii) subject to the availability of appropriations, establish through 1 or more participating Federal agencies, in consultation with the System advisory committee established under subsection (d), a competitive matching grant or other programs—

“(I) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and

“(II) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;

“(viii) periodically—

“(I) review the System Plan; and

“(II) submit to the Council such recommendations as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;

“(ix) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the activities of the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(x) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.

“(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System.

“(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the Regional Coastal Observing Systems.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and operate an Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

“(I) that utilizes, to the extent necessary, personnel from member agencies participating on the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(II) oversees daily operations and coordination of the System;

“(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(iii) promulgate program guidelines—

“(I) to certify and integrate regional associations into the System; and

“(II) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;

“(iv) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional information coordination entities, to support the purposes of this chapter on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;

“(v) implement and maintain a merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a network of Regional Coastal Observing Systems, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional associations;

“(vi) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, maintain, and support components of the System;

“(vii) establish and maintain efficient and effective administrative procedures for the timely allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional associations;

“(viii) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the Regional Coastal Observing Systems;

“(ix) formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are—

“(I) identified by the regional associations described in the System Plan, the Administrator, or other members of the System; and

“(II) submitted to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee;

“(x) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;

“(xi) not less frequently than once each year, submit to the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee a report on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i);

“(xii) develop and periodically update a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the System and which will fulfill the purposes of this chapter and the System Plan; and

“(xiii) work with users and Regional Associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.

“(4) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Coastal Observing System operated by a Regional Association described in the System Plan may not be certified or established under this subtitle unless it—

“(i) has been or shall be certified or established by contract or agreement by the Administrator;

“(ii) meets—

“(I) the certification standards and compliance procedure guidelines issued by the Administrator; and

“(II) the information needs of user groups in the region while adhering to national standards;

“(iii) demonstrates an organizational structure, that under funding limitations is capable of—

“(I) gathering required System observation data;

“(II) supporting and integrating all aspects of coastal and ocean observing and information programs within a region; and

“(III) reflecting the needs of State, local, and tribal governments, commercial interests, and other users and beneficiaries of the System and other requirements specified under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(iv) identifies—

“(I) gaps in observation coverage needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System; and

“(II) other recommendations to assist in the development of the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i) and transmits such information to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee via the Program Office established under paragraph (3)(C)(i);

“(v) develops and operates under a strategic operational plan that will ensure the efficient and effective administration of programs and

assets to support daily data observations for integration into the System, pursuant to the standards approved by the Council;

“(vi) works cooperatively with governmental and nongovernmental entities at all levels to identify and provide information products of the System for multiple users within the service area of the regional coastal observing system; and

“(vii) complies with all financial oversight requirements established by the Administrator, including requirements relating to audits.

“(B) PARTICIPATION.—For the purposes of this title, employees of Federal agencies are permitted to be members of the governing body for the Regional Coastal Observing Systems and may participate in the functions of the regional information coordination entities.”.

(c) SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 12304(d) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Interagency Ocean Observing Observation Committee.” and inserting “or the Council under this subtitle”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, data sharing,” after “data management”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) additional priorities, including—

“(i) a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that—

“(I) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by regional associations; and

“(II) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and

“(III) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models; and

“(ii) fleet acquisition for autonomous underwater and surface vehicles for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of the Act;

“(iii) an integrative survey program for application of manned and unmanned vehicles to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of seafloor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;

“(iv) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the Integrated Ocean Observing System into hydrodynamic models;

“(v) integrated, multistate monitoring to assess sources, movement and fate of sediments in coastal regions; and

“(vi) a multiregion marine sound monitoring system to be—

“(I) planned in consultation with the International Ocean Observing Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “The Administrator has the ability to stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members.” before “Members”; and

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Observing” and inserting “Observation”.

(d) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Section 12304(e) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “information coordination entity” and inserting “coastal observing system”; and

(2) by striking “non-Federal asset or regional information coordination entity,” and inserting “Regional Coastal Observing System.”.

SEC. 5. INTERAGENCY FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.

Section 12305(a) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3604(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out interagency activities under this subtitle, the Secretary of Commerce may execute an agreement, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, with any State or subdivision thereof, any Federal agency, or any public or private organization, or individual to carry out interagency activities under this subtitle.”.

SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 12307 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3606) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12307. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 2 years after March 30, 2009, and every 3 years thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare and the President acting through the Council shall approve and transmit to the Congress a report on progress made in implementing this subtitle.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) a description of activities carried out under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the System, including an evaluation of progress made by the Council to achieve the goals identified under the System Plan;

“(3) identification of Federal and non-Federal assets as determined by the Council that have been integrated into the System, including assets essential to the gathering of required observation data variables necessary to meet the respective missions of Council agencies;

“(4) a review of procurements, planned or initiated, by each Council agency to enhance, expand, or modernize the observation capabilities and data products provided by the System, including data management and communication subsystems;

“(5) a summary of the existing gaps in observation infrastructure and monitoring data collection, including—

“(A) priorities considered by the System advisory committee;

“(B) the national sea surface current mapping network;

“(C) coastal buoys, and;

“(D) ocean chemistry monitoring;

“(6) an assessment regarding activities to integrate Federal and non-Federal assets, nationally and on the regional level, and discussion of the performance and effectiveness of regional information coordination entities to coordinate regional observation operations;

“(7) a description of benefits of the program to users of data products resulting from the System (including the general public, industries, scientists, resource managers, emergency responders, policy makers, and educators);

“(8) recommendations concerning—

“(A) modifications to the System; and

“(B) funding levels for the System in subsequent fiscal years; and

“(9) the results of a periodic external independent programmatic audit of the System.”.

SEC. 7. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

Section 12308 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3607) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12308. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

“The Council shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional information coordination entities, the academic community, and the private sector in providing to end-user communities environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Council regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the Regional Coastal Observing Systems, the academic communities, and the private sector in providing the end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.”.

SEC. 8. REPEAL OF INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 is amended by striking section 12309 (33 U.S.C. 3608).

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item related to section 12309.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 12311 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3610) is amended by striking “2013” and inserting “2019”.

SEC. 10. REPORTS AND RESEARCH PLANS.

Section 12404(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Coordinated Ocean Monitoring and Research Act, and every 5 years thereafter, the Subcommittee shall transmit to appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

“(i) is named ‘The Ocean Chemistry Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment’;

“(ii) identifies gaps in ocean acidification monitoring by public, academic, and private assets in the network of regional coastal observing systems;

“(iii) identifies geographic areas which have gaps in ocean acidification research;

“(iv) identifies United States coastal communities, including fishing communities, low-population rural communities, tribal and subsistence communities, and island communities, that may be impacted by ocean acidification;

“(v) identifies impacts of changing ocean carbonate chemistry on the communities described in clause (iv), including impacts from changes in ocean and coastal marine resources that are not managed by the Federal Government;

“(vi) identifies gaps in understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification on economically or commercially important species, particularly those which support United States commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries and aquaculture;

“(vii) identifies habitats that may be particularly vulnerable to corrosive sea water, including areas experiencing multiple stressors such as hypoxia, sedimentation, and harmful algal blooms;

“(viii) identifies areas in which existing Integrated Ocean Observing System assets, including buoys and gliders, may be leveraged as platforms for the deployment of new sensors or other applicable observing technologies; and

“(ix) is written in collaboration with the agencies responsible for carrying out this Act.

“(B) FORM OF REPORT.—

“(i) INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the information described in clauses (i) through (ix) on a national level.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) after the initial report—

“(I) may describe the information described in clauses (i) through (ix) on a national level; or

“(II) may consist of separate reports for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(iii) REGIONAL REPORTS.—If the Subcommittee opts to prepare a report required by subparagraph (A) as separate regional reports under clause (ii)(II), the Subcommittee shall submit a report for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration not less often than once during each 5-year reporting period.

“(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this paragraph and in paragraph (5), the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(5) MONITORING PRIORITIZATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the initial report required by paragraph (4)(A), the Subcommittee shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that develops a plan to deploy new sensors or other applicable observing technologies—

“(A) based on such initial report;

“(B) prioritized by—

“(i) the threat to coastal economies and ecosystems;

“(ii) gaps in data; and

“(iii) research needs; and

“(C) that leverage existing platforms, where possible.”.

SEC. 11. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.

(a) CONTENTS.—Section 12405(b) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and “and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) make recommendations for research to be conducted, including in the social sciences and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps identified in the economic vulnerability report conducted under section 12404(c).”.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 12405(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) Research to understand combined effects of changes in ocean chemistry, sediment delivery, hypoxia, and harmful algal blooms and the impact these processes have on each other, and how these multiple stressors impact living marine resources and coastal ecosystems.

“(7) Applied research to identify adaptation strategies for species impacted by changes in ocean chemistry including vegetation-based systems, shell recycling, species and genetic diversity, applied technologies, aquaculture methodologies, and management recommendations.”.

SEC. 12. STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON MONITORING.

Section 12406(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and “and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) includes an ongoing mechanism that allows potentially affected industry members, coastal stakeholders, fishery management councils and commissions, non-Federal resource managers, and scientific experts to provide input on monitoring needs that are necessary to support on the ground management, decision making, and adaptation related to ocean acidification.”.

SEC. 13. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

Section 12407(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to carry out research activities on ocean acidification which shall support competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed proposals for research, observatories and monitoring of ocean acidification and its impacts, including—

“(1) impacts on marine organisms and marine ecosystems;

“(2) impacts on ocean, coastal, and estuarine biogeochemistry;

“(3) the development of methodologies and technologies to evaluate ocean acidification and its impacts; and;

“(4) impacts of multiple stressors on ecosystems exhibiting hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, or sediment delivery, combined with changes in ocean chemistry.”.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1886), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 573, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 573) designating October 8, 2016, as “National Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 573) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 574, S. Res. 575, S. Res. 576, and S. Res. 577.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 99-661, appoints the following individual to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: the Honorable JACK REED of Rhode Island.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 5325; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if
there is no further business to come be-

fore the Senate, I ask unanimous con-
sent that it stand adjourned under the
previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate,
at 5:27 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday,
September 27, 2016, at 10 a.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, September 26, 2016

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 26, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RIGELL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

You alone can trace the deepest fault lines of history and read the highest aspirations of the human heart. You fulfill Your promises day by day and lead Your people to greatness. You are the one who asks each of us to live a life worthy of our calling. Be with the Members of the people's House this day. Give them sound judgment and make them as practical and 'street wise' as the American people who sent them here as their representatives.

Help them to withstand open criticism when they know what is right before You and conscience. Often they

are characterized by half-truths and attributed motives that are far beneath them. Uphold them at such times, with personal integrity and compassion for those most in need.

Having called them to serve others to the best of their ability, lift them even higher by Your grace and power to live and work for Your greater honor and glory, both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

STOPPING PRESIDENT FROM CIRCUMVENTING CONGRESS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was grateful to join Senator TOM COTTON from Arkansas to introduce a bill which would stop the President from circumventing Congress by signing the U.S. onto the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty without the required Senate approval.

This legislation is clear. Matters related to nuclear deterrence and national security should be the job of Congress and not an unaccountable, international body. Nuclear deterrence is the basis for preserving peace through strength to protect American families. That is why the legislation pledged to defund the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization Preparatory Commission if the President relinquished sovereignty over testing of nuclear weapons, putting American families at risk of attack.

Just days after introducing the legislation, the U.N. Security Council ap-

proved a meaningless resolution that merely encourages all nations to sign the ban on nuclear testing weapons around the world. This bill reinforces the Senate's constitutional authority to approve all international treaties.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

AID FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Republicans introduced a bill that would fund the government for 2½ months but does not include any help whatsoever for my home community of Flint, Michigan, struggling with water that was poisoned by State government—no help from Congress, despite the fact that Members of Congress, in both parties, on both sides of the aisle, have expressed their concern, have asked what they can do, and have traveled to Flint.

The majority held hearings that concluded that there was clearly Federal responsibility—this is according to Republicans on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee—Federal responsibility for what took place in Flint. Yet, despite the fact that we are including important provisions to keep the government open and providing relief to people in Louisiana who are struggling, which I support, no help for Flint—despite, also, the fact that the language that we are asking to be included is language that passed the Senate 95-3 and is fully paid for.

So those that oppose helping Flint can't say it is because we can't afford it, because it is fully paid for, and can't say it is a local problem, because Republicans and Democrats have already concluded that there was a Federal role. The only cost to the Federal Government is the cost of printing ink on paper to include this legislation in the continuing resolution. We have to include Flint.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF STUDENTS' DISAPPEARANCE IN MEXICO

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 2-year anniversary of

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the disappearance of 43 students from the Raul Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' School in Ayotzinapa, Mexico.

Sadly, Mexican authorities have yet to secure any criminal convictions or to uncover the whereabouts of these disappeared students. I strongly urge the Mexican authorities to continue to search for the students, to bring to justice those responsible for the disappearance, and to investigate the possible obstruction of justice by public officials.

Two years is too long—too long for the students' grieving families and too long for those of us who care about justice and human rights in Mexico. Let's not let another anniversary pass without answers.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE CASCADE MALL SHOOTING IN BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the five individuals who were killed this past weekend in a mass shooting at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, Washington.

Sarai Lara was a 16-year-old sophomore at Mount Vernon High School, a cancer survivor, and her mother described her as her "right hand."

Chuck Eagan was a Boeing maintenance worker from Lake Stevens, Washington. He had two daughters. He was planning on retiring next year.

Shayla Martin was a 52-year-old from Mount Vernon and a makeup artist at the Macy's where the shooting took place.

Belinda Galde was a 64-year-old from Arlington, Washington. She had served the public for more than two decades as a probation officer at the Snohomish County District Courts.

Beatrice Dotson was Belinda's mother. She was 95 years old.

I honor these five individuals and express my condolences to their families and their friends, and I honor and I thank the law enforcement officials whose quick investigation led to the capture of the suspected shooter in less than 24 hours.

Finally, I offer condolences to the community of Burlington, Washington, which is undoubtedly struggling to make sense of this senseless gun violence that was brought to their doorstep.

SMALL-SCALE WEATHER RADARS IMPROVE STORM DETECTION

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the scientists at the

University of Massachusetts Amherst on their development of small-scale weather radars to improve storm detection. With funding from the National Science Foundation, these researchers developed neighborhood weather radars that have the ability to sense hazards on a street-by-street scale.

These devices automatically adapt scans to focus on the most powerful parts of a storm. This innovative system will save money and lives as it alerts citizens and emergency personnel of impending danger before storms arrive.

The researchers developed algorithms that pinpoint the exact location and velocity profile of a tornado by converting the information in the time series data on successive radar pulses into velocity data. The real-time information produced by this system will give researchers clues about weather patterns that will make weather detection even more sophisticated and accurate.

This and other lifesaving technologies should be the priority of Congress and the continued work of scientists through the National Science Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1877) to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1877

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mental Health First Aid Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING GRANTS.

Section 520J of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb-41) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS" before "TRAINING"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "ILLNESS" and inserting "HEALTH";

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting "veterans, law enforcement, and other categories

of individuals, as determined by the Secretary," after "emergency services personnel";

(C) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "to" and inserting "for evidence-based programs that provide education to teachers, personnel, and other categories of individuals described in paragraph (1) on at least"; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following:

"(A) recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental illness; and

"(B) either—

"(i) resources available in the community for individuals with a mental illness and other relevant resources; or

"(ii) the safe de-escalation of crisis situations involving individuals with a mental illness.";

(D) in paragraph (7), by striking "\$25,000,000" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "\$14,963,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1877, the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2016, introduced by the gentlewoman from Kansas, Representative LYNN JENKINS, and the gentlewoman from California, Representative DORIS MATSUI. This legislation enjoyed broad support on the Energy and Commerce Committee, passing through a full committee markup on a voice vote.

The program we are reauthorizing today is an important one. It is a grant program that helps families and individuals in the community, including pastors, first responders, emergency personnel, nurses, teachers, and others to recognize the signs of mental illness. They are also learning how to deescalate a mental health crisis situation and how to help their neighbors in need connect with resources available for mental health treatment in the community. Finally, H.R. 1877 is fully CutGo compliant.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 1877, the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2016. This important legislation would bolster our Nation's efforts to respond to

individuals suffering from mental health disorders and crises. It would reauthorize a grant program to train individuals such as teachers, law enforcement, and veterans, who are likely to encounter people with mental illness. The training would provide tools to help those individuals detect mental illness and provide the initial response, including connecting individuals with mental illness to mental health treatment and service providers in their community.

Mental illness can lead to harmful outcomes, and that includes things such as suicide, homelessness, and involvement with the criminal justice system. However, access to early intervention and treatment services can help an individual recover from their condition and lead a productive life.

Despite the availability of evidence-based interventions, we know that there are long delays in individuals seeking treatment after the first onset of a mental health condition, and this legislation hopes to reverse that trend. Mental health awareness training will equip more individuals with the ability to identify the signs and symptoms of mental illness and connect people with mental health treatment and support services. This would help decrease the time from the first onset of mental illness to an individual obtaining the treatment and services that they need.

I also encourage my colleagues to support this legislation; but I would like to reiterate that, just like with H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act which awaits action in the Senate, this is a necessary step, rather than a solution, to improving the mental health system in this country. If we are truly serious about fixing our broken mental health system, we have to work together to expand access and make sustained investments.

So again, I want to thank Representatives MATSUI and JENKINS for their leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS).

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. I thank my friend, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1877, the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2016.

The first step to help someone suffering with a mental illness get the help he or she needs is to be able to quickly spot the signs of mental illness and know where to point that friend, colleague, neighbor, or family member. H.R. 1877 will help police, first responders, veterans' advocates, teachers, and others spot the signs and get people the help they need.

It authorizes a grant program that has been included in appropriations

bills the past few years and enjoyed great support from Congress and the public. The grant money will go to fund State Bureaus of Prisons, veterans' advocacy groups, EMT and EMS teams, police officers, and firefighters. These important groups will be educated in spotting signs of mental illness in the people they work and live with so they can find help for these individuals.

We hear about the state of our mental health system every day and the state of the VA dealing with injured veterans. We hear about police and first responders called to a scene where someone has become dangerous and they are not sure the best way to respond. H.R. 1877 will help those people know how to respond so that the situation can stay in control and the risk of harm to folks is lessened.

□ 1415

The kinds of education programs that this legislation will provide authorization for have been shown to be effective and efficient at teaching people the signs of mental illness and how to drop the stigma of that illness so that someone in need can get help. I am glad that we have decided to take action here today.

It is well known that this piece of legislation has been one of my top priorities since coming to Congress, and I am thankful to my colleagues on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Chairman UPTON and Congresswoman MATSUI, for taking it up and supporting it. Congresswoman MATSUI and I worked on this bill because we both saw the need for training in communities so that people in a position to do so could help those suffering with mental illness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, again, I encourage support of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, many Americans know someone who is struggling with a mental illness . . . but we often do not know how to help. For too long . . . stigma has prevented us from seeking the lifesaving information we need to best help someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

By equipping our first responders . . . law enforcement personnel . . . and educators with training and knowledge . . . Mental Health First Aid courses are helping break down barriers and de-escalate crises in our communities.

We have seen positive results from these courses in Sacramento . . . and across the country. By passing H.R. 1877 today . . . we reauthorize important grant funding that will allow for the implementation of the Mental Health First Aid model nationally.

I want to thank Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS for her work on this important legislation.

Today represents one step forward in our efforts to address the mental health crisis in this country. Yet . . . the need for comprehensive reform remains.

We need to put adequate resources toward our behavioral health workforce . . . and ensure parity between physical and mental health care for all Americans. I will continue to strongly advocate for a legislative framework that supports this entire spectrum of care . . . and I urge my colleagues to join me in those efforts.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1877, the Mental Health First Aid Act of 2015. This act would amend the Public Health Service Act to finance, through grants, mental health first aid programs and would codify the type of training to be included as part of those programs. Mental health is an issue that Congress has attempted to address for years, and this is a great step in the right direction. As a healthcare professional, I have seen firsthand the multitude of issues plaguing mental health patients and the lack of training associated with properly addressing those symptoms and ailments.

This bill also addresses the personnel who should be trained under this program to include law enforcement, first responders, teachers, human resources professionals, religious leaders, nurses and other primary care personnel. By training and assisting those people who would be the first to help someone who is experiencing mental health issues, they can diagnose and properly refer them to professional mental health care providers.

Learning to de-escalate situation is an integral part of this legislation, and to helping those with mental health issues because it prepares first responders on how to safely look after both the patient and others in the immediate area. Mental health is an issue that often flies under the radar, but one we can make serious advances in taking up. I want to thank Congresswoman JENKINS and the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work and for bringing this to the floor for a vote. Together, we can shine a light on mental health needs. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1877, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DANGEROUS SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2016

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3537) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3537

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DESIGNER DRUGS AS SCHEDULE I CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

(a) CANNABIMIMETIC AGENTS.—Schedule I, as set forth in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)), is amended in subsection (d)(2)(B)—

(1) in clause (xiv) by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in clause (xv) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(xvi) 2-(2-methylphenyl)-1-(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethanone (JWH-251);

“(xvii) (1-butyl-1H-indol-3-yl)(4-methylnaphthalen-1-yl)methanone (4'-methyl JWH-073);

“(xviii) 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-1-(1-pentyl-1H-indol-3-yl)ethanone (JWH-302);

“(xix) N-(adamantan-1-yl)-1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxamide (5F-APICA);

“(xx) quinolin-8-yl 1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indole-3-carboxylate (5F-PB-22);

“(xxi) N-(1-amino-3-methyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (AB-PINACA);

“(xxii) N-(naphthalen-1-yl)-1-pentyl-1H-indole-3-carboxamide (MN-24);

“(xxiii) (1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazol-3-yl)(naphthalen-1-yl)methanone (THJ-2201);

“(xxiv) N-(1-amino-3,3-dimethyl-1-oxobutan-2-yl)-1-pentyl-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide (ADBICA);

“(xxv) methyl 2-(1-(5-fluoropentyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3-methylbutanoate (5F-AMB); and

“(xxvi) methyl 2-(1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamido)-3-methylbutanoate (MA-CHMINACA).”

(b) SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS.—Schedule I, as set forth in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)), is amended in subsection (a) by adding at the end the following:

“(43) Butyryl fentanyl.

“(44) beta-Hydroxythiofentanyl.

“(45) Acetyl fentanyl.”

(c) OTHER DRUGS.—Schedule I, as set forth in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)), is amended in subsection (c) by adding at the end the following:

“(29) 1-(naphthalen-1-yl)-2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)pentan-1-one (α-naphyrone).

“(30) 1-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)propan-2-amine (5-APDB).

“(31) 1-(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-6-yl)propan-2-amine (6-APDB).

“(32) 6,7-dihydro-5H-indeno[5,6-d][1,3]dioxol-6-amine (MDAI).

“(33) 5-iodo-2,3-dihydro-1H-inden-2-amine (5-IAI).

“(34) 1-(4-bromofuro[2,3-f]benzofuran-8-yl)propan-2-amine (bromo-dragonfly).

“(35) 1-(4-chloro-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)propan-2-amine (DOC).

“(36) 1-(4-ethoxy-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)propan-2-amine (MEM).”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016. I want to specifically acknowledge Congressman DENT from Pennsylvania and Congressman KATKO from New York for their tireless leadership on this issue and the teamwork it took to get this bill through the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the floor today.

According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the DEA, abuse and misuse of designer synthetic drugs is an ongoing threat to public health and safety. These chemical compounds are often designed in overseas laboratories to mimic the effects of illicit drugs and known controlled substances. Criminals who develop and market them in communities across our country have been able to stay one step ahead of the DEA since—while they are designed to closely resemble controlled substances—they are not currently scheduled.

H.R. 3537 will add 22 such compounds to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, immediately strengthening the DEA's ability to take swift action and get them off our streets. The compounds on this list include those that are marketed as K2, or Spice, as well as fentanyl derivatives estimated to be 100 times more powerful than morphine and linked to many overdoses and deaths.

In addition to the DEA, I would like to thank the Office of National Drug Control Policy, FDA, NIH, and those in the research community who helped review and revise this list of synthetics as part of the legislative process.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: I write with respect to H.R. 3537, the “Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015,” which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 3537 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 3537 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3537 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3537.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3537, the “Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015.” As you noted, there are provisions of the bill that fall within the Committee on the Judiciary's Rule X jurisdiction.

I appreciate your willingness to forgo consideration of H.R. 3537, and I agree that your decision is not a waiver of any of the Committee on the Judiciary's jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. In addition, I understand that the Committee reserves the right to seek the appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and you will have my support for any such request.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 3537.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, is bipartisan legislation sponsored by Mr. DENT of Pennsylvania and also by Congressman JIM HIMES of Connecticut. It is a targeted approach to addressing the latest threat from synthetic substances that is causing dangerous drug abuse across our communities, and I support its swift passage.

Sadly, stories of adults and teenagers abusing synthetic substances to get high have become all too common and have resulted in individuals either harming themselves or others. These drugs are extremely unsafe and can cause convulsions, anxiety attacks, hallucinations, psychotic episodes, and, in some instances, death.

The rise of synthetic drug use is an issue we have been dealing with for many years now in my home State of

New Jersey. Frightening increases in overdoses and deaths throughout the State from so-called designer drugs led New Jersey to permanently ban synthetic marijuana in 2012. However, synthetic marijuana, commonly referred to as “K2” or “Spice,” is still being sold illegally in my State and others and sends many to the emergency room every week. Last year, according to data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers, New Jersey logged 142 emergency calls, the ninth-most in the Nation, for exposure to synthetic marijuana.

Despite the devastating impact of these substances, they are, unfortunately, not illegal and, as a result, are too readily available. Under its current authority, the Drug Enforcement Agency, or DEA, has difficulty taking action against manufacturers of these substances. By swiftly engineering and reengineering these synthetic compounds, manufacturers have been able to avoid regulation under the Controlled Substances Act.

H.R. 3537 would schedule a narrow list of 22 synthetic substances, including 11 used to create synthetic marijuana, and three derivatives of fentanyl—a synthetic opioid that is more powerful than morphine. This targeted legislation was developed with input from the DEA, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy to ensure that these substances with known abuse potential have no therapeutic value and, therefore, should be appropriately moved to schedule I.

I believe that this legislation will enable the DEA to take needed enforcement actions against manufacturers of these dangerous substances.

While the bill does not address the broader concerns that have been raised related to access to schedule I substances for research purposes, I am committed to continuing to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as the administration, and stakeholders to find ways we can streamline the registration process for legitimate research purposes.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3537. I thank, again, Congressman HIMES, and I look forward to continue to work with my colleagues to reduce the availability of dangerous synthetic substances.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman UPTON; Ranking Member PALLONE; Messrs. GUTHRIE, KATKO, and HIMES; ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON; and Congressman JOLLY, all for helping to bring this bipartisan bill up today in order to officially identify

these dangerous synthetic substances and address the public health crisis presented by their continued proliferation throughout the country.

I have been working for several years to bring attention to the very serious threat that synthetic drugs pose to the health and safety of communities both within Pennsylvania and across our Nation.

Although initially successful after placing a number of synthetic cannabinoids on schedule I and enhancing the DEA's authorities to protect the public from these drugs through legislation that was signed into law in 2012, we have begun to see a renewed rise in both the number of new substances on the streets and the number of victims affected by these products. This bill simply adds 22 compounds to schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act, and these are, frankly, the very worst of the worst compounds out there.

The products targeted by this bill are primarily labeled as synthetic marijuana, bath salts, or synthetic opioids, which are sold under the labels like K2, Spice, and Flakka that allow them to be marketed to unsuspecting young people and some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Through modifications to the chemical formulas of these drugs, their overseas manufacturers have been able to continue to push them on to victims under the false impression that they are safe, despite often being even more potent than the drugs they are designed to mimic.

Without action—like the step we are taking here today to pass this critical bill and designate these substances as the dangerous and abusive products that they are—we will continue to see more overdoses, more victims, and, sadly, more deaths.

Just this month, there was a gruesome killing in my district that was fueled by the ingestion of the synthetic drug known as Flakka—absolutely gruesome. My friend, Congressman HIMES, can talk about a situation very close to him, too, where there was a tragedy.

Unfortunately, data from our health centers, law enforcement entities, and poison control offices show that such cases have become more and more prevalent around the country, and I applaud this proactive action to stop further proliferation.

I should note that when we passed a law in 2012, we did shut down so much of these synthetic drugs that were being sold. We shut it down. But these folks overseas have figured out ways to reformulate these compounds, and this problem is back with us today again. We had shut it down. It is back with us, and this is a step that we are taking.

So, again, I would also like to thank all of these bipartisan cosponsors for their partnership in this effort and

their commitment to work together to address this public health epidemic by getting these dangerous substances off the streets.

Finally, I would like to mention one other thing, too—that this bill has gone through an extensive regular order process. There has been a hearing, subcommittee markup, and a full committee markup. The bill is the result of negotiations between the DEA, researchers, and many others. Organizations like the American Hospital Association, the American College of Emergency Room Physicians, the Fraternal Order of Police, the National Association of Convenience Stores, and Former Special Agents of the FBI all support and endorse this bill.

So, finally, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation today so we can save lives. I will continue my efforts to educate the public about the dangers of these synthetic drugs and to protect our communities.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), the Democratic sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PALLONE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, which will reclassify 22 dangerous synthetic substances as schedule I substances subject to the control and enforcement associated with schedule I substances.

Mr. Speaker, the community I represent, like every community represented in this Chamber, has been visited by the tragedy of fatal drug overdoses. We know the statistics nationally—opioid deaths are in the 30,000 neighborhood. That is a tragedy around the country.

The substances that we reclassify today include some of the fentanyl substances that are often associated with the most gruesome overdoses often mixed with heroin.

My colleagues will remember that fentanyl is the drug actually responsible for the overdose death of the musician Prince and, sadly, is pervasive through our communities.

The synthetic drugs that are being scheduled today through this bill are particularly pernicious because they are marketed often in corner retail establishments and often in ways designed to appeal to young people in colored packages with names like K2 and Spice, clearly targeting our youngest constituents.

We are engaged, of course, in a cat-and-mouse game with the producers of these substances because as soon as a substance is scheduled, a chemist somewhere figures out a slight alteration to the formula in such a way that now they have a drug which is untested and unproven but mimics some of the

effects of a scheduled drug; but we have no idea what the effects are, and all too often those effects can be devastating to the individual using them.

□ 1430

This bill, again, will take 22 of those dangerous substances and classify them into schedule I. This is going to make my community in southwestern Connecticut safer, and it will make communities throughout this country safer.

I really want to thank, in particular, Congressman DENT for his very hard work on this, and Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE for expediting this bill in a way that I know is going to make a very positive difference in our communities.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I encourage the adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3537, the so-called Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016.

The legislation would add 22 synthetic drugs to Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. While some of these drugs may be indeed dangerous to the public, we know very little about many of them and adding them to Schedule I would seriously hinder research.

Furthermore, by adding these synthetic drugs to Schedule I, the legislation would significantly expand the mandatory minimum found in title 21, section 841(b)(1)(C) of the U.S. Code. If an individual is convicted of selling, distributing, or making one of these drugs, he would be subject to a 20 year mandatory minimum sentence if someone is seriously injured or dies from using these drugs.

And it doesn't stop there. Adding these synthetic drugs to Schedule I would also subject this 20 year mandatory minimum to other individuals that may get wrapped up in a drug conspiracy, per title 21, section 846. Technically, a girlfriend that takes a phone message or drives her drug dealer boyfriend to a drug deal for one of these synthetic drugs could be included in the boyfriend's drug conspiracy and be subject to the same 20 year mandatory minimum if someone is seriously injured or dies from using the drugs involved in the conspiracy.

An individual who has intentionally sold, distributed, or manufactured these synthetic drugs, if they are indeed dangerous, should be held criminally responsible if someone is harmed or dies using them. However, I believe a judge, not Congress, should be the one determining the sentence based on the individual facts and circumstances.

For decades now, research and evidence has demonstrated that mandatory minimums are ineffective deterrents, waste the taxpayers' money, force judges to impose irrational sentences, and discriminate against minorities, particularly with regards to drug offenses. Unfortunately, there are already too many mandatory minimums in the federal code.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans wonder how low level drug offenders get decades long

sentences. It's because of bills like this that there are thousands of low level, non-violent, first time offenders serving decades behind bars. If we ever expect to do anything about that problem and actually address the drivers of mass incarceration generally, the first step we have to take is to stop passing new mandatory minimums or bills that expand existing mandatory minimums. The mandatory minimums in the code today did not get there all at once—they got there one at a time, each one part of a larger bill, which on balance might have been a good idea. Therefore, the only way to stop passing new mandatory minimums is to stop passing bills that contain mandatory minimums.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote No on H.R. 3537.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I will vote against H.R. 3537. No doubt many of these substances are horrific, and none of us wants to see people abusing them. DEA can act on these drugs, has a process to do it, and should start down that path immediately. However, if we are going to deal with Schedule I, the first thing we should do is eliminate marijuana from Schedule I, which enabled the failed policy of prohibition. Political interference is what got us here in the first place, and we should fix it.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016.

This bill would amend the Controlled Substances Act to account for the rise and spread of synthetic drugs in America. Requirements and restrictions for schedule 1 controlled substances would also have to be applied to the manufacturers and sales points for those substances.

Using workaround and loopholes in existing legislation, these manufacturers, and those who distribute and sell those substances, have been able to continue their business by staying one step ahead of the law. For too long, we have seen overdoses and other medical issues arise as a result of the use of these unregulated substances.

Under Congressman DENT's leadership, we can make real progress in closing those loopholes and ensuring that Americans will no longer be subjected to the deceptive advertising or allure of these toxic and dangerous synthetic drugs.

As a lifelong pharmacist, I have fought the tide of drug abuse and this legislation is truly a win for everyone. I want to thank Congressman DENT and the Energy and Commerce Committee for their hard work and for bringing this to the floor for a vote. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3537, the "Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act". I want to thank Congressman KATKO and Congressman DENT for their work on this important legislation.

Earlier this year, Congress passed S. 524, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA. That historic legislation was vitally important because, today, the United States faces an epidemic of opioid abuse. More than 120 Americans are dying every day from overdoses.

H.R. 3537 continues Congress's stated commitment to stem the tide of drug abuse

and death, by placing 22 synthetic substances on schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act. These 22 substances represent the "worst of the worst" synthetic drugs, and include three varieties of fentanyl, a powerful opioid which is all too familiar to Members of this body, as well as to our constituents, families, and loved ones. Fentanyl is up to 100 times more powerful than morphine, and has led to a rash of deaths across the country.

The federal agencies charged with battling drug abuse—specifically, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institute on Drug Abuse—have all concurred that these substances are the "worst of the worst," and have no medicinal use. People are overdosing and dying because of them right now. Congress cannot sit on its hands and allow this to continue happening.

I want to address a couple of misconceptions about this legislation. First, some have argued that the bill will prevent these substances from being researched. But that is a specious claim. Federal law permits schedule I controlled substances to be researched, via FDA-approved "new drug" applications and DEA schedule I research registrations. The application requirements are significant, but that is appropriate since, again, these drugs are the worst of the worst. If you are experimenting with these substances, which have killed people, you should be held to the highest standards of scientific research.

Second, some of my colleagues have argued that this legislation would impose mandatory minimum sentences on people for simple possession of these synthetic substances. Again, this is erroneous. In order to receive a mandatory minimum sentence under the Controlled Substances Act, a defendant has to possess more than a certain amount of a drug that appears on a list in federal law. None of the synthetic substances in H.R. 3537 appear on that list. As a result, even with the passage of this bill the only way a defendant could be subject to a mandatory minimum is if a user suffers death or serious bodily injury after consuming the drug.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3537 is good, timely legislation that will criminalize some extremely dangerous substances that are killing American citizens. It is a stopgap, since a more comprehensive solution is needed down the road, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on comprehensive synthetic drug legislation. But Congress must pass this legislation now to get these substances off the streets now.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3537, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC SALES OF LIVESTOCK ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5883) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5883

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Clarification of Treatment of Electronic Sales of Livestock Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF MARKET AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(c) of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 201(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “; and” at the end and inserting a period; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Beginning on the date of the enactment of the Clarification of Treatment of Electronic Sales of Livestock Act of 2016, such term includes any person who engages in the business of buying or selling livestock, on a commission or other fee basis, through the use of online, video, or other electronic methods when handling or providing the means to handle receivables or proceeds from such buying or selling, so long as such person’s annual average of online, video, or electronic sales of livestock, on a commission or other fee basis, exceeds \$250,000.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 301 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 201) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subsection (a), by striking “When used in this Act—” and inserting “In this Act:”;

(2) in subsection (a), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “weighting” and inserting “weighing”; and

(B) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period.

SEC. 3. METHODS TO TRANSFER FUNDS.

Section 409(a) of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 228b(a)) is amended—

(1) in the first proviso, by striking “shall wire transfer funds to the seller’s account” each place it appears and inserting “shall transfer funds for the full amount of the purchase price to the account of the seller by wire, electronic funds transfer, or any other expeditious method determined appropriate by the Secretary”; and

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “or dealer shall wire transfer funds” and inserting “or dealer shall transfer funds for the full amount of the purchase price by wire, electronic funds transfer, or any other expeditious method determined appropriate by the Secretary”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5883, the Clarification of Treatment of Electronic Sales of Livestock Act of 2016.

The bill before us today makes simple, targeted reforms to an outdated statute in order to make it compatible with new practices that have come about because of advances in technology.

The Packers and Stockyards Act was enacted to protect buyers and sellers of livestock from unfair, deceptive, and discriminatory practices. However, the statute has not undergone a thorough revision since being enacted in 1921, resulting in various outdated requirements.

To account for the current practices that businesses use to buy and sell livestock, H.R. 5883 makes clarifying modifications, ensuring that the protections of the Packers and Stockyards Act apply to those who buy and sell livestock online on a commission or other fee basis.

The Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 references only two forms of payment methods acceptable under the act’s prompt payment requirements—checks and wire transfers. To update this provision, the bill adds electronic transfer of funds to the list of acceptable methods of payment and gives the Secretary the flexibility to approve other new methods of payment as deemed appropriate.

These commonsense changes are supported by the vast majority of the livestock community—in fact, we know of no opposition—and were unanimously supported by my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support these important modifications with their vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5883 makes a very narrow fix to help bring the Packers and Stockyards Act to the 21st century.

The bill is the result of a thorough review of the act to identify areas for

modernization. The committee worked with the industry to provide clarity in the law regarding certain practices related to online transactions in the livestock markets. H.R. 5883 passed the Agriculture Committee by voice vote and has the support of seven major agriculture organizations.

Again, this is a very straightforward bill, providing for minor, technical changes to the Packers and Stockyards Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I want to again urge all of my colleagues in this Chamber to support this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5883, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAILS STEWARDSHIP ACT

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass bill (H.R. 845) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 845

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. National forest system trails volunteer and partnership strategy.
- Sec. 5. Priority trail maintenance program.
- Sec. 6. Cooperative agreements.
- Sec. 7. Stewardship credits for outfitters and guides.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) The National Forest System features a world-class trail system with over 157,000 miles of trails that provide world-class opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, hunting, mountain bicycling, motorized vehicles, and other outdoor activities.

(2) According to the Government Accountability Office, the Forest Service is only able to maintain about one-quarter of National Forest System trails to the agency standard, and the agency faces a trail maintenance

backlog of \$314,000,000, and an additional backlog of \$210,000,000 in annual maintenance, capital improvements, and operations.

(3) The lack of maintenance on National Forest System trails threatens access to public lands, and may cause increased environmental damage, threaten public safety, and increase future maintenance costs.

(4) Federal budget limitations require solutions to National Forest System trail maintenance issues that make more efficient use of existing resources.

(5) Volunteers, partners, and outfitters and guides play an important role in maintaining National Forest System trails, and a comprehensive strategy is needed to ensure that volunteers and partners are used as effectively as possible.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT.**—The term “Administrative Unit” means a national forest or national grassland.

(2) **OUTFITTER OR GUIDE.**—The term “outfitter or guide” means an individual, organization, or business who provides outfitting or guiding services, as defined in section 251.51 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) **PARTNER.**—The term “partner” means a non-Federal entity that engages in a partnership.

(4) **PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “partnership” means arrangements between the Department of Agriculture or the Forest Service and a non-Federal entity that are voluntary, mutually beneficial, and entered into for the purpose of mutually agreed upon objectives.

(5) **PRIORITY AREA.**—The term “priority area” means a well-defined region on National Forest System land selected by the Secretary under section 5(a).

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(7) **STRATEGY.**—The term “strategy” means the National Forest System Trails Volunteer and Partnership Strategy authorized by section 4(a).

(8) **TRAIL MAINTENANCE.**—The term “trail maintenance” means any activity to maintain the usability and sustainability of trails within the National Forest System, including—

(A) ensuring trails are passable by the users for which they are managed;

(B) preventing environmental damage resulting from trail deterioration;

(C) protecting public safety; and

(D) averting future deferred maintenance costs.

(9) **VOLUNTEER.**—The term “volunteer” means an individual whose services are accepted by the Secretary without compensation under the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a et seq.).

SEC. 4. NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAILS VOLUNTEER AND PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in trail maintenance.

(b) **REQUIRED ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) augment and support the capabilities of Federal employees to carry out or contribute to trail maintenance;

(2) provide meaningful opportunities for volunteers and partners to carry out trail maintenance in each region of the Forest Service;

(3) address the barriers to increased volunteerism and partnerships in trail maintenance identified by volunteers, partners, and others;

(4) prioritize increased volunteerism and partnerships in trail maintenance in those regions with the most severe trail maintenance needs, and where trail maintenance backlogs are jeopardizing access to National Forest lands; and

(5) aim to increase trail maintenance by volunteers and partners by 100 percent by the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—As a component of the strategy, the Secretary shall study opportunities to improve trail maintenance by addressing opportunities to use fire crews in trail maintenance activities in a manner that does not jeopardize firefighting capabilities, public safety, or resource protection. Upon a determination that trail maintenance would be advanced by use of fire crews in trail maintenance, the Secretary shall incorporate these proposals into the strategy, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(d) **VOLUNTEER LIABILITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3 of the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558c) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) For the purposes of subsections (b), (c), and (d), the term ‘volunteer’ includes a person providing volunteer services to the Secretary who—

“(1) is recruited, trained, and supported by a cooperator under a mutual benefit agreement with the Secretary; and

“(2) performs such volunteer services under the supervision of the cooperator as directed by the Secretary in the mutual benefit agreement, including direction that specifies—

“(A) the volunteer services to be performed by the volunteers and the supervision to be provided by the cooperator;

“(B) the applicable project safety standards and protocols to be adhered to by the volunteers and enforced by the cooperator; and

“(C) the on-site visits to be made by the Secretary, when feasible, to verify that volunteers are performing the volunteer services and the cooperator is providing the supervision agreed upon.”.

(2) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall adopt regulations implementing this section. These regulations shall ensure that the financial risk from claims or liability associated with volunteers undertaking trail maintenance is shared by all administrative units.

(e) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall develop the strategy in consultation with volunteer and partner trail maintenance organizations, a broad array of outdoor recreation stakeholders, and other relevant stakeholders.

(f) **VOLUNTEER AND PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall require each administrative unit to develop a volunteer and partner coordination implementation plan for the strategy which clearly defines roles and responsibilities for the administrative unit and district staff, and includes strategies to ensure sufficient coordination, assistance, and support for volunteers and partners to improve trail maintenance.

(g) **REPORT.**—

(1) **CONTENTS.**—The Secretary shall prepare a report on—

(A) the effectiveness of the strategy in addressing the trail maintenance backlog;

(B) the increase in volunteerism and partnership efforts on trail maintenance as a result of the strategy;

(C) the miles of National Forest System trails maintained by volunteers and partners, and the approximate value of the volunteer and partnership efforts;

(D) the status of the stewardship credits for outfitters and guides pilot program described in section 7 that includes the number of participating sites, total amount of the credits offered, estimated value of trail maintenance performed, and suggestions for revising the program; and

(E) recommendations for further increasing volunteerism and partnerships in trail maintenance.

(2) **SUBMISSION.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit the report required by paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5. PRIORITY TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **SELECTION.**—In accordance with subsections (b) and (c), not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall select no fewer than 9 and no more than 15 priority areas for increased trail maintenance accomplishments.

(b) **CRITERIA.**—Priority areas shall include a well-defined region on National Forest System land where the lack of trail maintenance has—

(1) reduced access to public land;

(2) led to an increase, or risk of increase, in harm to natural resources;

(3) jeopardized public safety;

(4) resulted in trails being impassable by the intended managed users; or

(5) increased future deferred trail maintenance costs.

(c) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In selecting priority areas, the Secretary shall—

(1) consider any public input on priority areas received within 3 months of the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) consider the range of trail users (including motorized and non-motorized trail users); and

(3) include at least one priority area in each region of the United States Forest Service.

(d) **INCREASED TRAIL MAINTENANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 6 months of the selection of priority areas under subsection (a), and in accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall develop an approach to substantially increase trail maintenance accomplishments within each priority area.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In developing the approach under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) consider any public input on trail maintenance priorities and needs within any priority area;

(B) consider the costs and benefits of increased trail maintenance within each priority area; and

(C) incorporate partners and volunteers in the trail maintenance.

(3) **REQUIRED TRAIL MAINTENANCE.**—Utilizing the approach developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall substantially increase trail maintenance within each priority area.

(e) **COORDINATION.**—The regional volunteer and partnership coordinators may be responsible for assisting partner organizations in developing and implementing volunteer and partnership projects to increase trail maintenance within priority areas.

(f) **REVISION.**—The Secretary shall periodically review the priority areas to determine whether revisions are necessary and may revise the priority areas, including the selection of new priority areas or removal of existing priority areas, at his sole discretion.

SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with any State, tribal, local governmental, and private entity to carry out this Act.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—Cooperative agreements authorized under this section may—

(1) improve trail maintenance in a priority area;

(2) implement the strategy; or

(3) advance trail maintenance in a manner deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

SEC. 7. STEWARDSHIP CREDITS FOR OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with this section, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program on not less than 20 administrative units to offset all or part of the land use fee for an outfitting and guiding permit by the cost of the work performed by the permit holder to construct, improve, or maintain National Forest System trails, trailheads, or developed sites that support public use under terms established by the Secretary.

(b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—In establishing the pilot program authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) select administrative units where the pilot program will improve trail maintenance; and

(2) establish appropriate terms and conditions, including meeting National Quality Standards for Trails and the Trail Management Objectives identified for the trail.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 845, the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act.

In 2013, the Government Accountability Office released a report that recognized the importance of volunteers for trail maintenance and recommended taking steps to improve management of volunteers. The Forest Service is facing a whopping \$500 million backlog in trail maintenance costs—\$500 million.

H.R. 845 would require the Forest Service to produce a national strategy to maximum use of volunteers and partners for trail maintenance. Using eager volunteers across the Nation in the remediation of our deteriorating national Forest Service trails is a cost-effective solution. More than 50 diverse recreation and conservation groups requested Congress act to enable volunteers to do more, from the Wilderness Society to the American Motorcyclist Association.

I would like to thank my colleague, Representative LUMMIS, for sponsoring this bill, and my fellow committee members, Mr. WALZ, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. THOMPSON, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, for their support of H.R. 845.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan legislation so we can utilize on-the-ground volunteer efforts to improve Forest Service trails and decrease the costly trail maintenance backlog. Refocusing on volunteers and partners to help the Forest Service is a commonsense way of making progress on the backlog and opening up these trails to public access.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 845, National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, which was recently ordered to be reported by the Committee on Agriculture. As you are aware, the bill also was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, as the bill contains provisions within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Natural Resources Committee.

In the interest of permitting you to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this very important bill, this Committee agrees to discharge from further consideration of H.R. 845. I do so with the understanding that the Natural Resources Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I also request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Natural Resources Committee to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 845 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you and your staff have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees, and congratulations on this significant achievement.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your support in bringing H.R. 845, National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Natural Resources will forego action on the bill.

The Committee on Agriculture concurs in the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of the bill at this time, the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Natural Resources represented on the conference committee.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work the Committee on Natural Resources as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 845, the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act, is a bipartisan bill introduced by Representative WALZ, a member of the Agriculture Committee, and Representative LUMMIS, a former member of the Agriculture Committee.

A 2013 GAO Trails Maintenance Report found that the Forest Service has a backlog of more than \$314 million in trail maintenance, which would be addressed by this legislation.

The bill requires that the Forest Service develop a national strategy to double the amount of maintenance work done by volunteers in the next 5 years, ensuring our constituents can continue to use and enjoy these public spaces.

The Agriculture Committee approved H.R. 845 by voice vote, and the bill is supported by a wide range of government, recreation, agriculture, conservation, sportsmen, and equestrian organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER). I also want to thank my former committee chairman on the House Agriculture Committee, now the ranking member, Mr. PETERSON, for his support of this bill, as well as Chairman CONAWAY of the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Speaker, in the national forests, especially in areas where there have been bark beetle damage, the trees are

starting to fall across the trails. I have talked to outfitters who are taking pack trips into the national forests. They are only in there for 2 or 3 days, and when they try to get out they have to chop their way out because so many trees have fallen across the trails, even while they are in the forest. So this maintenance backlog is getting bigger.

Mr. Speaker, it makes such sense, practically speaking, when we have a huge budget deficit, to maximize the use of volunteers in the national forests to help maintain these trails. Now, they will be able to avail themselves of workers comp, and that is part of the reason that it has taken this bill such a long time to get to the floor. But it came out of the Agriculture Committee unanimously. It is one of the most bipartisan bills in this entire Congress. It has 86 cosponsors in the House and 23 in the Senate.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), who is a cosponsor of this bill, for his work. I am hoping he will tell the tale that he encountered this summer when he was hiking in the West. More than 50 diverse recreation conservation groups wanted a way to increase volunteer efforts in our national forests, including the National Association of Counties.

Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of additional provisions I want to highlight in this bill. It directs a study be done on utilizing fire crews for maintenance work during off seasons for wildfire, which is a great way for them to maximize, and for us to maximize, their skills in the forests. And it also requires the Secretary of Agriculture to identify 9 to 15 priority areas throughout the country to incorporate volunteers and to increase trail maintenance.

This bill has broad support. It will produce opportunities for young people to volunteer in our forests. It will allow outfitters and guides to offset some of their permit fees through work on trail maintenance performed by the permit holders to construct, improve, or maintain National Forest System trails, trailheads, or developed sites under supervision of our National Park Service.

This is kind of a motherhood and apple pie bill, Mr. Speaker, and it has been my pleasure to work with Mr. WALZ and the other proponents of this bill to bring it to the floor this afternoon.

□ 1445

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), a cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. WALZ. I thank the gentleman.

I echo the statements made by the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

First of all, the passion and the work that she and her staff have put into

this is thanked by many millions of Americans who use these trails. The gentlewoman has chosen to make this her last session of Congress; so I would like to go on record and say that the people of the great State of Wyoming have been well served by the gentlewoman's passionate, ethical leadership and by her willingness to put the Nation's business first and get things done. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill. The Nation's outdoor industry is a \$645-billion-a-year industry which hires 6.1 million Americans. The great blessings that we have in this Nation of the most beautiful outdoor areas in the world are a legacy that we want to pass on.

One of the issues is accessing those areas. Trail maintenance is absolutely critical. Listen to the groups of people who are behind this. These are pretty impressive and diverse groups of cosponsors, just to name a few: the National Association of Counties, the Wilderness Society, the Western Governors' Association, the Back Country Horsemen of America, Trout Unlimited, the American Motorcyclist Association, the National Wildlife Federation, and it goes on and on and on. The gentlewoman was referencing something that happened. This is a real-world fix to a real-world problem without its costing taxpayers money.

I had the opportunity this summer to be out at Glacier National Park with my family and to be up on Going-to-the-Sun Road at Logan Pass and, I think, hiking one of the most beautiful stretches on the planet—the Highline Trail. We were out about 16 miles; it was midday; and I had my children, my nephew, and my brother-in-law. We were all there and were enjoying this when we saw two Park Service folks, two young men, over there, working really hard. They had packhorses to pack their stuff in, and they were shoring up a trail from the glaciers that was there. I just walked over to them, and they had no idea there were hikers on the trail.

I said: I want to thank you both for the work you are doing.

They said: If you really want to thank us, have your Congressman call and support Mrs. LUMMIS' bill on trail maintenance.

I could not have been more shocked to expect that there, but they understood the importance of it. They understood that they need the help and that the volunteers are there under the guidance and the expertise of the Forest Service. When we cut through some of the red tape, we get people who care about the trails out there, and we fix the problem.

I thank the gentlewoman and encourage the bill's support.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. I thank Mr. ROUZER for allowing me to do something I should have done, but Mr. WALZ did it for me. That is to thank my staff, especially Jimmy Ward, for all of his hard work on this bill. He made sure that we continued to be moving this bill forward in his helping us to identify cosponsors and working with the scoring process, which is what brings us here today; so I want to say a particular thank you to my staff.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 845, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5943) to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5943

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act".

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Subparagraph (A) of section 1406(b)(2) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135(b)(2); Public Law 110-53) is amended by inserting "and associated backfill" after "security training".

SEC. 3. PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (1) the following new subsection:

“(m) PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subsection (b) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subparagraph (M) or (N) of subsection (b)(1) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 55 months.”.

SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the transit security grant program under section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53).

(b) SCOPE.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the type of projects funded under the transit security grant program.

(2) An assessment of the manner in which such projects address threats to transportation infrastructure.

(3) An assessment of the impact, if any, of this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) on types of projects funded under the transit security grant program.

(4) An assessment of the management and administration of transit security grant program funds by grantees.

(5) Recommendations to improve the manner in which transit security grant program funds address vulnerabilities in transportation infrastructure.

(6) Recommendations to improve the management and administration of the transit security grant program.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and again not later than five years after such date of enactment, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review required under this section.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We know that terrorists have an interest in and a track record of targeting mass transit. We saw it in London, Madrid, and Brussels, and recently, again, when a terrorist left a backpack of IEDs at a train station in Elizabeth, New Jersey. We must ensure that our first responders and transit agencies have the tools they need to secure our transit systems.

That is why I introduced H.R. 5943, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act. This bill addresses concerns that were raised during a June 21 field hearing that the Subcommittee

on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held in Ranking Member PAYNE's district on preparedness for incidents that impact surface transportation. As chairman of the subcommittee, I introduced this legislation to ensure action follows our subcommittee's oversight.

Witnesses at this field hearing testified about the importance of the Transit Security Grant Program but found that the period of performance was a challenging time frame to meet, especially for completing vital, large-scale capital security projects. H.R. 5943 addresses this challenge by codifying the period of performance for Transit Security Grant Program awards at 36 months for the majority of eligible projects and by extending the period of performance for large-scale capital security projects to 55 months. Additionally, Transit Security Grant Program awards can be used to provide personnel with security training.

Unfortunately, the recipients of these awards are not allowed to use Transit Security Grant Program funds to pay for backfilling personnel who attend such training. In some cases, that extra cost at the transit agency has resulted in an inability to send staff for security training. My bill will permit Transit Security Grant Program funds to be used for this purpose, which is consistent with other Homeland Security grant programs.

With more than 10 billion riders using surface transportation annually, it is vital that the Transit Security Grant Program provide flexible solutions for grant recipients. I am proud to sponsor this bipartisan legislation, which passed out of the Committee on Homeland Security earlier this month. I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 5943.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5943, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

Following the March 2016 attacks on mass transit facilities in Brussels, the Committee on Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee held a hearing in my district at New Jersey City University to learn more about efforts to secure mass transit domestically. The subcommittee heard from Amtrak, New Jersey Transit, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and MTA about what they are doing to keep passengers safe and how the Federal Government can help.

Witnesses lamented the drastic reduction in Transit Security Grant funding from upwards of \$385 million in 2008 to only \$100 million in 2016. Unfortunately, in the current fiscal environment, prospects for restoring this critical funding are not great. Witnesses also testified that the 36-month period

of performance limits the ability of transit owners to invest in important security-hardening projects that cannot be completed within that window of time. Fortunately, we can address that problem.

H.R. 5943 is a bipartisan bill that would extend the period of performance for transit grant activities that are related to infrastructure hardening to 55 months and would give grantees the flexibility to use the grant money for expenses that are related to covering the costs of staffing backfill for when responders are sent to security training.

The threats to our transit infrastructure are real, Mr. Speaker. Two weeks ago, we had a close call outside a train station in Elizabeth, New Jersey, when a backpack containing a bomb was discovered by two citizens. Fortunately, they notified law enforcement; and although there was an explosion, no one was injured. Police found four other devices in the vicinity. H.R. 5943 will help transit owners and operators better address the threats to our critical transportation systems. As such, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5943 was unanimously approved by the committee on Homeland Security on September 13. It recognizes that Transit Security Grant Program grantees can spend their money better and smarter when they have the time necessary to do so.

I congratulate my colleague, Mr. DONOVAN, on this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 5943.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5943.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5943, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5460) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a review process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5460

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act”.

SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (f) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) by striking “If an applicant” and inserting the following:

“(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—If an applicant”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications that, in accordance with paragraph (1), contain explanations to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards developed under section 647 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 747).

“(3) FACTORS.—In carrying out the review process under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall consider the following:

“(A) Current or past use of proposed equipment or systems by Federal agencies or the Armed Forces.

“(B) The absence of a national voluntary consensus standard for such equipment or systems.

“(C) The existence of an international consensus standard for such equipment or systems, and whether such equipment or systems meets such standard.

“(D) The nature of the capability gap identified by the applicant and how such equipment or systems will address such gap.

“(E) The degree to which such equipment or systems will serve the needs of the applicant better than equipment or systems that meet or exceed existing consensus standards.

“(F) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Administrator.”.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report assessing the implementation of the review process established under paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section), including information on the following:

(1) The number of requests to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable consensus standard evaluated under such review process.

(2) The capability gaps identified by applicants and the number of such requests granted or denied.

(3) The processing time for the review of such requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I rise in support of H.R. 5460, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act, which passed out of my subcommittee with bipartisan support on June 16 and was reported favorably by the Committee on Homeland Security earlier this month.

With threats consistently evolving, it is reassuring to see new technology being developed to ensure the safety of our communities and first responders.

□ 1500

However, emerging technology is frequently developed faster than voluntary consensus standards can be implemented.

Recipients of grants under FEMA's State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative must procure equipment that meets these standards. Unfortunately, if emerging technology or equipment does not have a voluntary consensus standard and a grant recipient would like to use those funds to purchase such technology, FEMA does not have a uniform review process to consider applications for that equipment. This legislation requires FEMA to develop such a process for reviewing these requests.

I want to thank the subcommittee's ranking member, Representative PAYNE, for introducing this common-sense bill. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 5460 because it will ensure first responders have the ability to purchase equipment and emerging technology needed to effectively adapt to the current threat landscape.

First responders in multiple jurisdictions in New York and New Jersey were recently called upon to respond to a series of improvised explosive devices. It is clear that the threat to our communities is not going away; and we, as Members of Congress, must ensure our first responders can easily access emerging technology without being hampered by unnecessary bureaucracy.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5460, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act.

Mr. Speaker, a week ago, after we observed the fifteenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks this month, a disturbed man planted bombs in New York City, in Seaside Park, New Jersey, and in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Local law enforcement in my district ultimately apprehended the suspect, but not before a shootout injured two brave officers, Officer Hammer and Officer Padilla of the Linden Police Department.

In our Nation's darkest hours, the bravest among us rush into situations everyone else tries to escape. Those heroes need the best, most modern technology on the market to do their jobs better and safer.

With the help of the private sector, we have made significant strides in developing first responder technology. Nevertheless, first responders cannot use their Homeland Security grant dollars to purchase the latest technology unless it meets or exceeds voluntary industry standards, which take years to develop. To ensure that our brave first responders have access to the most modern equipment, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a transparent process to review requests to purchase equipment for which voluntary industry standards do not exist.

H.R. 5460 has the support of the Securities Industry Association and was approved by the full committee by voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders are our heroes. Time and time again, they put themselves in harm's way to protect their communities. The First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act will ensure that our first responders have the technology they need to keep themselves safe as they keep us safe.

I want to thank Subcommittee Chairman DONOVAN for his support of this measure. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5460.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5460.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office regarding H.R. 5460.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL McCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5460, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Jacob Fabian.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST
ESTIMATE

H.R. 5460—FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants to help state, local, and tribal governments develop their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of terrorism. Under current law, equipment purchased using such grants must meet voluntary standards, developed by FEMA in coordination with appropriate federal agencies, the National Advisory Council, and private entities. Requests to use grants to purchase equipment that does not meet such standards, or for which no such standards exist, are subject to further review and approval by FEMA.

H.R. 5460 would require FEMA to implement a uniform process for reviewing applications for grants intended to support purchases of innovative equipment that does not meet or exceed current applicable standards or for which no voluntary standards exist. The bill also would require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to assess and report on FEMA's implementation of the new review process.

Based on information from FEMA, CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would not have a significant effect on the federal budget. According to the agency, grant recipients rarely request permission to purchase equipment that does not at least meet current standards or for which standards do not exist. As a result, CBO expects that any administrative costs to establish, implement, assess, and report on the proposed process for reviewing such requests would be insignificant; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting H.R. 5460 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting the bill would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

H.R. 5460 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jacob Fabian. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5460, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CYBER PREPAREDNESS ACT OF
2016

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5459) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance preparedness and response capabilities for cyber attacks, bolster the dissemination of homeland security information related to cyber threats, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5459

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING.

Title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in section 210A (6 U.S.C. 124h)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "; including, in coordination with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 227, accessing timely technical assistance, risk management support, and incident response capabilities with respect to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents (as such terms are defined in such section), which may include attribution, mitigation, and remediation, and the provision of information and recommendations on security and resilience, including implications of cybersecurity risks to equipment and technology related to the electoral process";

(ii) in paragraph (11), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (14); and

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following new paragraphs:

"(12) review information relating to cybersecurity risks that is gathered by State, local, and regional fusion centers, and incorporate such information, as appropriate, into the Department's own information relating to cybersecurity risks;

"(13) ensure the dissemination to State, local, and regional fusion centers of information relating to cybersecurity risks; and";

(B) in subsection (c)(2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (G) as subparagraphs (D) through (H), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) The national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 227.";

(C) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) assist, in coordination with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 227, fusion centers in using information relating to cybersecurity risks to develop a comprehensive and accurate threat picture; and"; and

(D) in subsection (j)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

"(1) the term 'cybersecurity risk' has the meaning given that term in section 227;"; and

(2) in section 227 (6 U.S.C. 148)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (5)(B), by inserting "including State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate" before the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "information and recommendations" each place it appears and inserting "information, recommendations, and best practices"; and

(iii) in paragraph (9), by inserting "and best practices" after "defensive measures"; and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(ii), by inserting "and State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate" before the semicolon at the end.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS.

Subsection (a) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (14) as paragraphs (5) through (15), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) enhancing cybersecurity, including preparing for and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents and developing State-wide cyber threat information analysis and dissemination activities;".

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that to facilitate the timely dissemination to appropriate State, local, and private sector stakeholders of homeland security information related to cyber threats, the Secretary of Homeland Security should, to the greatest extent practicable, work to share actionable information related to cyber threats in an unclassified form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, September is National Preparedness Month, and as chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I think it is fitting that we are here today to consider a number of bills that will enhance our homeland security, including legislation I introduced, H.R. 5459, the Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016.

Cybersecurity is a major national security issue, and the threat is real and immediate. For instance, a cyber attack causing widespread power outages

could have major cascading consequences on public health and safety; however, it appears that the Nation is not adequately prepared to prevent and respond to cyber attacks.

Since 2012, FEMA has released an annual National Preparedness Report, which highlights States' progress in meeting 32 core capabilities as defined by the National Preparedness Goal. Each year, States have ranked their cybersecurity capabilities as one of their lowest.

In May, my subcommittee, the Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee, held a joint hearing with the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies to look at the current state of cyber preparedness and how the Federal Government can help the States address some of the challenges that they face.

Witnesses explained that, while great progress has been made in enhancing their cybersecurity capabilities, challenges still remain, especially with regard to information sharing of cyber threats and risks and whether Homeland Security grants may be used for cybersecurity enhancements.

I introduced H.R. 5459, the Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016, to address a number of findings from this hearing. My legislation addresses these findings by enhancing cyber risk information sharing with State and major urban area fusion centers; authorizing representatives from State and urban area fusion centers to be assigned to the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, and permitting the NCCIC personnel to be deployed to fusion centers; sharing information on cyber preparedness best practices with State and local stakeholders; clarifying the eligibility of State Homeland Security Grant Program and Urban Areas Security Initiative funding for cybersecurity enhancements; and working to combat the overclassification of cyber risk information so that it can be shared more broadly with stakeholders with a need to know.

I appreciate that Chairmen MCCAUL and RATCLIFFE and Ranking Member PAYNE have joined me as original cosponsors of H.R. 5459. This bipartisan legislation was reported favorably by the Committee on Homeland Security earlier this month.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5459, the Cyber Preparedness Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, in May the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing to examine how the Department of Homeland Security assists States in preparing and responding to cyber at-

tacks. Historically, States have rated cybersecurity among the core capabilities in which they have the least confidence.

At the hearing, we heard compelling testimony from State emergency managers and chief information officers about the initiatives States are undertaking to reverse that trend and prevent cyber attacks within their State. For instance, some States like New Jersey and California have begun developing their own cyber information-sharing capabilities akin to DHS' National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center.

One of the consistent challenges witnesses identified, however, was the lack of robust cyber information sharing. H.R. 5459 addresses this challenge by promoting the sharing of cyber threat indicators and information, as well as cybersecurity best practices, with State and major urban area fusion centers.

The bill also designates cybersecurity as an allowable use of State Homeland Security Grants and Urban Areas Security Initiative funds.

Mr. Speaker, cyber attacks on systems that underpin the operation of critical infrastructure have the potential to wreak havoc on our communities. State emergency managers and chief information officers have made clear that the better sharing of cyber information is essential to preventing cyber attacks. H.R. 5459 seeks to improve cyber information sharing with fusion centers.

Moreover, I would note that, with respect to cyber threats to election equipment, the committee adopted an amendment to specifically direct DHS to share cyber threat information regarding election equipment and technology with fusion centers. The right to vote is among the most cherished, and the integrity of our election process is fundamental to our democracy. We must protect it.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5459.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5459.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5459, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING OUR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5346) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5346

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act".

SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after section 526 (6 U.S.C. 321o) the following new section:

"SEC. 527. COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.

"(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, shall carry out a program to coordinate the Department's efforts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism and other high-consequence events that pose a high risk to homeland security.

"(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The coordination program required by subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following:

"(1) Providing oversight and management of the Department's responsibilities pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive 9 — Defense of United States Agriculture and Food.

"(2) Providing oversight and integration of the Department's activities related to veterinary public health, food defense, and agricultural security.

"(3) Leading the Department's policy initiatives relating to food, animal, and agricultural incidents, and the impact of such incidents on animal and public health.

"(4) Leading the Department's policy initiatives relating to overall domestic preparedness for and collective response to agricultural terrorism.

"(5) Coordinating with other Department components, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as appropriate, on activities related to food and agriculture security and screening procedures for domestic and imported products.

"(6) Coordinating with appropriate Federal departments and agencies.

"(7) Other activities as determined necessary by the Secretary."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 note) is amended—

(1) by striking the items relating to sections 523, 524, and 525; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 522 the following new items:

"Sec. 523. Guidance and recommendations.

"Sec. 524. Voluntary private sector preparedness accreditation and certification program.

"Sec. 525. Acceptance of gifts.

"Sec. 526. Integrated public alert and warning system modernization.

"Sec. 527. Coordination of Department of Homeland Security efforts related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5346, Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act, introduced by Congressman DAVID YOUNG of Iowa. This bill seeks to authorize the Department of Homeland Security's Food, Agriculture, and Veterinary Defense Program within the Office of Health Affairs.

□ 1515

Earlier this year, the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications held a hearing to examine the potential devastating impacts of an intentional attack on, or natural disruption of, U.S. agricultural or food production systems.

The food and agriculture sector is critically important to our Nation's economy. U.S. food and agriculture accounts for roughly one-fifth of the Nation's economic activity, contributed \$835 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2014, and is responsible for 1 out of every 12 United States jobs.

Coming from Iowa, Congressman YOUNG knows all too well the importance of protecting this sector, which is vital to the economy and our way of life. I appreciate him introducing this bill, which I am pleased to cosponsor.

I want to thank Chairman UPTON of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and Chairman CONAWAY of the Committee on Agriculture for working with us to advance this bill.

This legislation received bipartisan support in the Committee on Homeland Security. I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, September 6, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for the opportunity to review H.R. 5346, "Secur-

ing our Agriculture and Food Act." As you are aware, the bill was primarily referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, while the Agriculture Committee received an additional referral.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner and, accordingly, I agree to discharge H.R. 5346 from further consideration by the Committee on Agriculture. I do so with the understanding that by discharging the bill, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any future jurisdictional claim on this or similar matters. Further, the Committee on Agriculture reserves the right to seek the appointment of conferees, if it should become necessary.

I ask that you insert a copy of our exchange of letters into the Congressional Record during consideration of this measure on the House floor.

Thank you for your courtesy in this matter and I look forward to continued cooperation between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: I write in regard to H.R. 5346, Securing our Agriculture and Food Act, which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I wanted to notify you that the Committee will forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5346 at this time, the Committee does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward to address any remaining issues within the Committee's jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5346 and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN UPTON: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5346, the "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and, accordingly, understand that the Committee on Energy and Commerce will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by

foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Energy and Commerce does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Energy and Commerce for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, September 14, 2016.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CONAWAY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5346, the "Securing our Agriculture and Food Act." I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and accordingly, understand that the Committee on Agriculture will forego consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration on this bill at this time, the Committee on Agriculture does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support a request by the Committee on Agriculture for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction.

I will insert copies of this exchange in the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill on the House floor. I thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5346, the Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act. H.R. 5346 would clarify the responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security's Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs as they relate to the Department's responsibilities under HSPD-9, the Defense of U.S. Agriculture and Food.

Accounting for nearly one-fifth of the economic activity of the Nation, agriculture is not only critical to human health, but also to the national economy. Although New Jersey's 10th Congressional District is not known for its rolling fields of corn or vast cattle ranches, it is home to large international ports.

Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists are on the front lines at the Port of Newark and Newark Liberty International Airport to protect domestic agriculture and food supply from foreign pathogens. These ports of entry are located in the largest consumer market in North America, reaching 23 million local consumers and 100 million more within a 36-hour reach. In fact, the Port of Newark and

Newark Liberty International Airport are top-performing ports of entry with top interception numbers and several "First-in-Nation" insect finds.

Despite the large size and enormous volume of these two ports, there are not enough agriculture specialists for the work that we need to be done. That is why I offered an amendment in the committee to direct the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to coordinate activities with other DHS components, including Customs and Border Protection.

I want to thank the subcommittee chairman for his support, and I am hopeful that the coordination required by my amendment will inform staffing decisions at U.S. ports of entry. We must do what we can to ensure the food and agriculture sector is protected. I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman DONOVAN and Ranking Member PAYNE.

Last year's outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza forced a tough and heartbreaking reality for many folks in Iowa's Third Congressional District, all over the State, and in districts across the country.

Iowa suffered the largest animal disease outbreak in State history, devastating many farmers and producers by wiping out millions of layer hens, turkeys, and backyard flocks.

Now, as the Federal Government scrambled to respond to last year's events, efforts revealed problems with their ability to react quickly and communicate with stakeholders. I heard from numerous farmers, producers, and other stakeholders frustrated by this lack of communication and delay in action. Response efforts to the outbreak also highlighted concerns about our country's ability to share information and quickly respond to potential agroterrorism threats and attacks.

Now, as our Nation faces global and complex national security challenges, agroterrorism as well as future large-scale animal disease outbreaks pose serious threats to our food, agriculture, and livestock industries in the United States.

I introduced the Securing our Agriculture and Food Act, H.R. 5346, in order to address this issue by securing our Nation's agriculture industry, food supply, and ultimately protecting our consumers, our families, across the Nation.

This agroterrorism preparedness legislation requires the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to elevate preparedness of our Nation's food, agriculture, and veterinary systems against terrorism and high-risk

events. It also authorizes the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, to collaborate with other Federal agencies to ensure food, agriculture, and animal and human health sectors receive much-needed attention, and are integrated into the Department's domestic preparedness policy initiatives.

Whether we are preparing for future avian influenza outbreaks, animal disease outbreaks, or unforeseen emergencies or attacks, our Federal Government must have the tools and resources to act quickly and keep stakeholders informed. Parents should not have to worry about the safety of the food that they serve their children. We must ensure a safe and abundant food supply for our families; and my bill, this bipartisan bill, enables us to do just that.

I want to thank all Members—Homeland Security Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member THOMPSON, Subcommittee Chairman DONOVAN, Ranking Member PAYNE for helping and making this a better bill, and Chairman CONAWAY of the Committee on Agriculture and Chairman UPTON of the Committee on Energy and Commerce—who worked closely with me to bring this important bill to the floor. This was truly a collaborative effort and proves that we can do things in a bipartisan manner and together for the good of the country.

I want to thank staff as well, especially those on the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications of the Committee on Homeland Security who worked so hard on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5346 was unanimously approved by the Committee on Homeland Security on September 13. It recognizes the importance of securing our food and agriculture sector.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that the proper agriculture specialist staffing at our ports helps to keep the diseases that are likely to jeopardize the agriculture industry and food supply out of this country. I hope that H.R. 5346 will help improve our ability to protect the agriculture industry from biothreats.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5346.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5346.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5346, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3779) to restrict the inclusion of Social Security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3779

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. RESTRICTION OF SSNS ON DOCUMENTS SENT BY MAIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No department or agency of the Federal Government may include the social security account number of any individual on any document sent by mail unless the head of such department or agency determines that the inclusion of such social security number on such document is necessary.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each department and agency of the Federal Government shall issue regulations specifying the circumstances under which inclusion of a social security account number on a document sent by mail is necessary. Such regulations shall include—

(1) instructions for the partial redaction of social security account numbers whenever feasible; and

(2) a requirement that social security account numbers not be visible on the outside of any package sent by mail.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall apply with respect to documents sent by mail on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3779, Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2016. This was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO).

Social Security numbers were first created for the sole purpose of allowing the Federal Government to track the earnings history of individuals to determine Social Security benefits. However, over the course of time, both the Federal Government and the private sector found these numbers to be valuable tools to keep track of individuals for a wide variety of reasons, including tax reporting and credit history. You can name how many different things where they require your Social Security number in order to figure out and identify who you are.

□ 1530

Because of these changes, Social Security numbers have become incredibly important in today's high-tech society. In fact, they can be used for a good deal of purposes in a positive way, but they can also be used in a nefarious way to try to create a fictitious identification for somebody.

They are necessary for applying to college, getting a credit card, or opening a bank account. However, in the hands of the wrong people, Social Security numbers can lead to identity theft, something that is very destructive to those affected.

Troublingly, the sponsor of this bill, Mr. VALADAO, reported an interaction with one of his constituents who received a government document with a Social Security number printed on the outside of the envelope. It was on the outside of the envelope.

Mr. Speaker, this is totally and completely unacceptable. Given the dangers associated with identity theft, the Federal Government must do more to safeguard Social Security numbers.

Indeed, 2 weeks ago, my committee released a 231-page report detailing the majority staff's investigative findings concerning a data breach of personally identifiable information by the United States Office of Personnel Management.

Mr. Speaker, this information included the Social Security numbers of more than 20 million Americans. As a result, an Oversight and Government Reform Committee report recommended Federal agencies reduce the use of Social Security numbers in order to mitigate the risk of identity theft.

What the bill does that Mr. VALADAO has introduced, H.R. 3779, is bring us closer to this goal by requiring Federal agencies to limit the sending of Social Security numbers via mail and to completely ban sending Social Security numbers in a way in which they can be seen on the outside of any package.

Ultimately, this bill will protect Americans from having their Social Security numbers needlessly revealed by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3779, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act of 2016, as amended.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Utah, has noted, this bipartisan legislation has been introduced by Representative DAVID VALADAO and cosponsored by Mr. SWALWELL, both from California.

This bill would strengthen efforts to prevent identity theft. In particular, it would prohibit Federal agencies from including the Social Security number of any individual on documents sent in the U.S. mail, unless an agency head determines that it is absolutely necessary to do so.

Also, through regulations, agencies would, in the future, specify the precise circumstances under which they would need to include Social Security numbers in printed and mailed documents inside the envelope.

This bill would also require agencies to partially redact Social Security numbers, where feasible, and restrict the visibility of Social Security numbers on the outside of any package sent by mail.

As reported by the Department of Justice, nearly 18 million Americans are victims of identity theft per year. According to the 2016 Identity Fraud Study conducted by the Javelin Strategy & Research firm, identity theft has resulted in losses exceeding \$112 billion over the last 6 years alone. That amounts to \$35,600 stolen per minute over the last 6 years.

The Javelin study also indicates that, as the U.S. continues to convert to chip-enabled credit card technology, identity thieves have become increasingly reliant on the creation of fraudulent customer accounts. This illicit practice is greatly enabled by the accessibility and exposure of Social Security numbers.

Moreover, the announcement last week by Yahoo that the account information of at least 500 million users had been stolen by hackers back in 2014 is the latest example of the massive data breaches that we are continuing to experience in both the private and public sectors.

In light of the complexity and frequency of these cyber attacks, it is imperative that we take commonsense steps at the Federal level to protect personally identifiable information, including Social Security numbers, against misuse.

During our committee's investigation, as the chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, the gentleman from Utah, has noted, of the critical breaches of information technology systems at the Office of Personnel Management in 2015, we discovered that the agency had not encrypted the Social Security numbers of over 20 million employees. We are

similarly behind the curve when it comes to safeguarding Social Security information sent by Federal agencies in the mail.

Mr. Speaker, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act is a practical piece of legislation that enjoys support on both sides of the aisle. It has also received strong endorsements from organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons, or AARP, and the National Retiree Legislative Network.

Publicly, I want to thank Mr. VALADAO and Mr. SWALWELL for their leadership in this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), of the 13th Congressional District.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to agree with my colleagues and recognize our colleague from California (Mr. VALADAO), for being the sponsor of this piece of legislation, which obviously enjoys bipartisan support. I am a cosponsor of this bill.

According to the Justice Department, identity theft affects nearly 18 million people, costing more than \$15 billion in 2014 alone. This represents roughly 7 percent of all Americans age 16 or older. In Illinois alone, in 2014, it has been recognized that the FTC saw a 65 percent increase in identity theft.

Data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics also shows us that women are more likely to be victims of identity theft than men. In addition, more than 14 percent of the victims are elderly.

We all know that Social Security numbers are the link to a key piece of information that criminals use to steal people's identities. So this legislation takes an important step to ensure that our Federal agencies, our government, funded by the hardworking taxpayers of this country, are not making this problem even worse.

This is a commonsense step. This is a commonsense piece of legislation that many out there watching may look to us and say: Do you mean this isn't already the law? Do you mean we are still allowing agencies to send Social Security numbers?

We should have known this long ago. We should have stopped this long ago. But it is commonsense colleagues like Congressman VALADAO and Congressman SWALWELL, those fellow cosponsors, in a bipartisan way, Republicans and Democrats, who said: You know what? Let's solve this problem that should have been solved long ago. But now, we are going to get to it because of the leadership from Congressman VALADAO.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, which will have a real impact on reducing identity theft in this country.

I want to commend each and every one of our colleagues who are supporting this measure.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the gentleman from California, the lead sponsor of this bill, has just arrived, and I want to publicly thank him, as well as the gentleman from Illinois who just spoke. I appreciate his leadership. He joined with Mr. SWALWELL on our side of the aisle. And I agree, this is a long time coming. It should have been done years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), the prime sponsor of this bill.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3779, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act.

This commonsense piece of legislation will help mitigate rising instances of identity theft, which have become a significant problem across our country. What is worse, these crimes tend to affect the populations that need protection the most, including the elderly, children, and veterans.

Recovering from having your identity being stolen is a burdensome and expensive process. One way to reduce occurrences of this crime is to prevent the Federal Government from mailing documents that contain the full Social Security number of an American citizen, unless it is absolutely necessary.

I realized the need for this legislation after I was approached by a constituent in my district who showed me a letter she received from the Social Security Administration that had her full Social Security number printed on it, as well as her full name and address.

Upon further investigation, we found that the Social Security Administration was also printing full Social Security numbers visible on the outside of postcards. This is simply unacceptable.

Social Security was established to provide older Americans financial security during their retirement years, not jeopardize their security by handling someone's personal information poorly. Even more concerning is that the problem is not exclusive to the Social Security Administration but has become a government-wide problem.

My bill, H.R. 3779, would prevent the Federal Government from mailing documents that contain full Social Security numbers, unless absolutely necessary, and require the Federal agencies to partially redact Social Security numbers on documents, whenever possible. Additionally, the bill prevents Social Security numbers from ever being visible on the outside of a piece of mail.

Please join me in supporting this commonsense piece of legislation that

will help Americans avoid falling victim to one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to thank and congratulate Mr. VALADAO and others who have worked on this bill. It is a commonsense piece of legislation. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I was privileged to introduce H.R. 3779, the Social Security Fraud Prevention Act, with my friend from California, Congressman VALADAO.

Identity theft is a major and growing problem in our nation. Almost 18 million Americans were victims of this crime in 2014, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Of those who lost money as a result of their victimization, the average loss was over \$1,300.

This is a serious, complicated problem from which no one is immune. As in most complex issues, there is not just one solution. We must attack it from a variety of angles.

For example, the government certainly shouldn't be making identity theft more likely by making it easier for criminals to get people's Social Security Numbers. Puffing aside the merits, the reality is that Social Security Numbers right now are used in many ways to identify people and secure accounts. Having someone's Social Security Number thus can be very helpful in stealing someone's identity.

H.R. 3779 would make it more difficult to steal someone's Social Security Number by prohibiting any federal agency or department from including it on documents sent by mail unless it is determined to be necessary. And, when it is included it would not be visible from the outside of the envelope and would be partially redacted when possible.

This is a common sense, bipartisan bill that is one piece of a larger comprehensive effort we need to successfully combat identity theft. I thank Congressman VALADAO for sponsoring it and working on it with me.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3779.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3779, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TOM STAGG UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2754) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Tom Stagg Federal Building and United States Courthouse", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2754

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, shall be known and designated as the "Tom Stagg United States Court House".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Tom Stagg United States Court House".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2754, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2754, as amended, would designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the Tom Stagg United States Court House.

I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING), for his leadership on this legislation.

Judge Stagg served in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. He was appointed to the bench in 1974, served as a chief judge from 1984 to 1991, and assumed senior status in 1992. He served until his death last year. Earlier in his career, he held various executive positions in the private sector and was in the private practice of law.

□ 1545

Judge Stagg served our country during World War II, during our Greatest Generation, as a U.S. Army captain in the infantry. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Stars for Valor and Meritorious Service, and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. Judge Stagg's dedication to serving our country is clear, and I believe it is appropriate to name this courthouse after him.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill, as amended, which honors Judge Staggy by naming the Federal courthouse in Shreveport, Louisiana, after him. He served over 40 years, as was noted, as a district judge in the Western District of Louisiana. He was a lifelong Louisianan, who attended Louisiana State University for both his undergrad and law school education.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my colleague, Mr. CARSON. As members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, this isn't unusual where we come together to do important bipartisan pieces of legislation to recognize some of America's heroes.

I urge passage of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2754, which would name the U.S. Federal Court House in Shreveport, Louisiana after Tom Staggy. Judge Staggy's legacy is one which speaks volumes of his exemplar character and distinguished career as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Upon graduation from high school, Judge Staggy valiantly served in WWII where he would rise to the rank of captain and earn the Combat Infantryman Badge, a Bronze Star for Valor, a second Bronze Star for meritorious service, and the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster. The patriotism and dedication which he exhibited as a soldier was further built upon when he began his career as a jurist. He was nominated to serve as a federal judge for the Western District of Louisiana in 1974. He held the position as chief judge from 1984 to 1991, at which point he assumed senior status and maintained a full caseload until his passing in 2015. A detailed man who commanded respect whenever he entered a room, Judge Staggy was well known for his institutional knowledge, efficiency, and thoroughness during each and every case. He was heavily admired by his colleagues, many of whom believed that his character reflected the most honorable qualities of a judge.

A pillar within his occupation and the salt within his community, Judge Staggy's life was an example to us all. It is more than fitting to honor Judge Staggy's service by naming this court house, a court house which he helped design, after him.

I introduced companion legislation, H.R. 5011, in the House, and I am thankful that we are able to consider S. 2754 today. I ask my colleagues for their support.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2754, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the 'Tom Staggy United States Court House'."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

R.E. THOMASON FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5873) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5873

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5873.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, this is another example of bipartisanship in this great institution. H.R. 5873 would designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, as I notice one of my colleagues from Texas here in the

Chamber, I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my distinguished colleague, who is willing to go beyond political boundaries to get things done for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I also support this bill, which names the Federal building and U.S. Courthouse in El Paso, Texas, after Judge Thomason. He served as prosecutor. State legislator, mayor, even U.S. Congressman, as well as a Federal Judge.

In his career as a politician, he was known for his commitment to public works and economic development. In his second career as a Federal judge, he was acclaimed for even handling of high-profile cases and managing a considerable workload of civil and criminal cases.

I urge my colleagues to join me in advancing this legislation, which honors a great judge for his dedication to the good of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE).

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Indiana for yielding to me and for his support of this bill. I would also like to thank my colleague from Illinois for his kind words of support in recognizing the accomplishments of Robert Ewing Thomason, referred to as "R.E." or "Ewing" by his friends in El Paso.

Judge Thomason was truly the best among us, somebody who dedicated his life to public service and to serving others, and someone who really distinguished the community that I am so honored to serve, El Paso, Texas.

He was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1920 and, remarkably, for an El Pasoan and, really, for anyone in the State of Texas, in his second term only, he was elected by his fellow House members to be the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the State of Texas.

This is an accomplishment to which no other El Pasoan since has ever been able to rise. This truly was the high-water mark, at least in State politics, for an El Pasoan to reach. There he distinguished himself with his leadership and with his dedication, not just to our community, but to the State of Texas.

He then served as the mayor of El Paso, Texas, from 1927 to 1930, where he both reflected and truly guided the growth of one of the great American cities and, certainly, the greatest Southwestern city at the time. He was responsible for attracting industry,

promoting local businesses, and developing the first municipal airport in El Paso, Texas.

He was then elected to the United States House of Representatives where, again, he served with distinction, rising to the level of the vice chairman of the Armed Services Committee during World War II—I would think, the period of the greatest stress and greatest demand for leadership out of that House committee—and again, he distinguished himself.

But it is truly for his service as a Federal judge for the Western District of Texas that we now remember Judge Thomason. He heard thousands of cases, presided over thousands of citizenship ceremonies.

But the case, Mr. Speaker, that I want to call to everyone's attention began in 1954, when 12 African American El Pasoans attempted to enroll in what was then known as Texas Western College, today known as the University of Texas at El Paso, part of Texas' University of Texas system.

Thelma White and 11 friends, one of whom, Mildred Parish Tutt, is the mother of our colleague, BARBARA LEE, of Oakland, California, these 12 young El Pasoans attempted to enroll at Texas Western College; and, because of the segregation clause in our State's constitution, they were barred entry.

Thelma White, who became the lead plaintiff, enlisted the support and advocacy of future Supreme Court Jurist Thurgood Marshall to promote the idea that no institution of higher learning in the State of Texas should bar anyone, including the African American students in question. That case was heard in the courtroom of Judge Thomason, and, in 1955, he enjoined the State of Texas from barring these students from entry. They were able to go to Texas Western College. It absolutely shattered the concept and practice of all-white higher education in the State of Texas. In fact, he decimated the segregation clause of our State's constitution and destroyed one of the last bastions of segregation in the former Confederacy.

How fitting that his courtroom was in the old Federal courthouse which, today, we seek to name in his honor. And even more fitting is the Tom Lea mural, one of our famous El Paso artists, the Tom Lea mural that graces this Federal courthouse, the old Federal courthouse in El Paso Texas. It has the following legend over the door: "O Pass of the North, Now the Old Giants Are Gone, We Little Men Live Where Heroes Once Walked the Inevitable Earth." A very fitting description of one of the giants that preceded us in El Paso, Texas, Judge Thomason.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is amazing to be able to come to this floor and learn historical facts about other congressional districts. In my district, I am lucky enough to represent part of Abraham Lincoln's old congressional district, so the history involved with Abraham Lincoln and what he meant to this country is something that our textbooks teach.

We come to this House floor to learn about courageous people like Judge Thomason, who served in the executive branch as mayor of El Paso, the legislative branch in the State and here, and then served in the judicial branch. To be honored, I think it is a testament, and I, once again, want to commend my colleague, Mr. O'ROURKE, for bringing this to our attention and for allowing this honor to, hopefully, be bestowed upon that courthouse.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5873.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VET CONNECT ACT OF 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5162) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disclose to non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers certain medical records of veterans who receive health care from such providers.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5162

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vet Connect Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN MEDICAL RECORDS OF VETERANS WHO RECEIVE NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE.

Section 7332(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(H) To a non-Department entity (including private entities and other departments or agencies of the Federal Government) that provides hospital care or medical treatment to veterans."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members would have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks or add any extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5162, the Vet Connect Act.

Ensuring that veterans receive high-quality care has been a top priority of mine and our committee, and as the access and accountability crisis of 2014 so clearly demonstrated, the Department of Veterans Affairs alone cannot provide the timely access to care that our veterans deserve.

While the passage of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act 2 years ago has led to an increase in VA's use of community providers to treat veteran patients and linked many veterans to care they would otherwise be waiting for, the Department's struggle to adequately and consistently communicate with community partners about the veterans they are jointly caring for now has presented unnecessary challenges to VA's care in the communities' efforts.

H.R. 5162 would correct this deficiency by requiring VA to share medical record information with community providers in order to provide care or treatment to a shared patient. Mr. Speaker, this would ensure that any provider caring for a VA patient, whether in a VA medical facility or in a private sector doctor's office, has the information that they need to provide safe and quality care.

H.R. 5162 is sponsored by my friend and colleague and fellow committee member, Congressman BETO O'ROURKE from Texas. I am grateful to him for his efforts and his leadership in sponsoring this important legislation.

This bill is supported by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and the Vietnam Veterans of America, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5162, the Vet Connect Act of 2016. The bill is sponsored by my friend and classmate, Congressman BETO O'ROURKE.

In 2014, when Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, we created a program called Choice, to make access to care easier for veterans who were unable to get an appointment at their local VA medical center. These veterans have

now been able to get care closer to their home with the provider of their choice.

However, current law prevented the community providers from getting records from the VA regarding the previous care veterans had received. This bill gives the VA authority to disclose certain medical records of veterans who receive non-VA care to community providers.

Essentially, this would allow the VA to share health information with the veteran's non-VA doctor without having HIPAA implications. Current treatments are already covered under HIPAA, and this bill would allow previous treatments to be disclosed, thereby improving the continuity of care.

□ 1600

I commend my colleague from Texas for being a leader in ensuring safe, quality health care for veterans. He has been a champion for veterans in El Paso and has turned the concerns that he has heard from his constituents into thoughtful legislation that helps veterans across our country.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to support this bill as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE), the author of this bill.

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my colleague, the ranking member, Mr. TAKANO from California, for his support and his work on the committee and not just promoting commonsense bills like these, but working across the aisle with colleagues on both sides to ensure that we move the concerns and the cares of veterans in this country forward. His leadership at this critical time is so important, and I am grateful for it.

I would also like to thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. MILLER from Florida, for his leadership in really ensuring that the House Veterans' Affairs Committee remains one of the most important and perhaps one of the last refuges for bipartisanship in Congress. It is really through his leadership—and I have been lucky enough to serve with him now almost 4 years—that we have been able to do some really outstanding things for veterans in this country. I know that he would be the first to agree that we are not there yet. There is no "mission accomplished" banner that hangs behind us, but we have made extraordinary progress under his guidance and his willingness to work with Members from both sides of the aisle—all Members of the committee—and I am truly grateful for his support of this bill.

I should also note, Mr. Speaker, that this bill is cosponsored by Dr. BENISHEK from Michigan, a stout defender of veterans and, from his medical background, someone who is uniquely capable of informing important legislation like this one.

As both of the previous speakers have stated, this ensures that we connect veterans in our communities, the places that we represent, with the care that they have earned and that they deserve. In the VA today, we have an acknowledged shortage of 43,000 clinical positions. We have to acknowledge that we will not be able to see every single veteran in the instances when they most need care with current capacity within the VA. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to ensure that we leverage the capacity of the doctors, nurses, and providers in the communities that we represent to the best of our ability. Critical to that is health information exchange records sharing so that the doctors in the community know what they need to know about the veteran they are about to see so they deliver the best, most informed care that they can possibly deliver, and that we get the best outcomes for these veterans.

This bill ensures that we share medical information effectively, privately, conforming to HIPAA, maintaining the veteran's privacy, and yet effectively ensure that that veteran gets the care that they have earned, that they need, that they deserve and that—thanks to this committee and its leadership—they are finally beginning to get. Those who are charged with ensuring that we coordinate care between the VA and private providers say that this is the most critical thing for us to do if we are to effectively share patient record information.

It is estimated that today only about 3 percent of veterans proactively opt into this records sharing. That means that most of them are not getting the fully informed care that they would otherwise get.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of this bill, which would go a long way to ensuring that we do everything we can with the capacity both within the VA and outside the VA to deliver critical care to our veterans who are most in need.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation, H.R. 5162. I, once again, thank my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. O'ROURKE) for his passionate advocacy for veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5162.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NO VETERANS CRISIS LINE CALL SHOULD GO UNANSWERED ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5392) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5392

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO VETERANS CRISIS LINE.

(a) QUALITY ASSURANCE DOCUMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a quality assurance document to use in carrying out the Veterans Crisis Line. Such document shall—

(1) outline clearly defined and measurable performance indicators and objectives to improve the responsiveness and performance of the Veterans Crisis Line, including at backup call centers;

(2) include quantifiable timeframes to meet designated objectives to assist the Secretary in tracking the progress of the Veterans Crisis Line and such backup call centers in meeting the performance indicators and objectives specified in paragraph (1); and

(3) with respect to such timeframes and objectives, be consistent with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) PLAN.—The Secretary shall develop a plan to ensure that each telephone call, text message, and other communications received by the Veterans Crisis Line, including at backup call centers, is answered in a timely manner by a person, consistent with the guidance established by the American Association of Suicidology. Such plan shall include guidelines to carry out periodic testing of the Veterans Crisis Line, including such backup centers, during each fiscal year to identify and correct any problems in a timely manner.

(c) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report containing the document developed under subsection (a) and the plan developed under subsection (b).

(d) VETERANS CRISIS LINE DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Veterans Crisis Line" means the toll-free hotline for veterans established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Should Go Unanswered Act. The Department of Veterans Affairs established the Veterans Crisis Line to ensure that any veteran that was contemplating suicide would be able to call for help no matter the time and no matter the circumstance. Over time, VCL's mission has expanded to include veterans facing all manners of personal emergencies, and the Veterans Crisis Line services have expanded to include a chat service and a texting operation. Yet the crisis line purpose has remained the same: to provide a place where veterans facing crisis would be able to get the help that they need any time of day or night.

However, earlier this year, the VA Inspector General found that some calls to the crisis line were routed to backup crisis centers and ultimately sent to voice mail and that other line callers did not receive the immediate assistance that they desperately needed.

The IG also noted that VA failed to provide a directive or handbook detailing the guidance necessary for the proper Veterans Crisis Line processes and procedures, and it failed to provide adequate orientation and training to crisis line staff, it failed to monitor contracted backup call centers, and experienced a number of quality assurance gaps.

Though VA has assured us that these issues have been addressed and will never happen again, the risk of leaving a veteran in the midst of a crisis alone and without help is unacceptable to any Member of this body.

H.R. 5392 would require that VA develops a quality assurance document that includes clearly defined and measurable performance standards with appropriate timelines and benchmarks to improve responsiveness and outcomes for the crisis line mainline and contracted backup call centers. It would also require VA to develop a plan to ensure that each telephone call, each text message, or other communications received by the crisis line mainline or at a contracted backup call center is answered in a timely manner by an appropriate, qualified live person, consistent with the guidance established by the American Association of Suicidology.

This bill is sponsored by my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVID YOUNG from Iowa. I want to thank him for his efforts and his leadership on sponsoring this very important and, to

some, very simple fix to something that needs to be taken care of.

Nothing could be more important than guaranteed timely access to the veterans' services and support that they need in an emergency situation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today regarding H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act.

The Veterans Crisis Line actually provides three ways veterans can access help when they are in crisis. Veterans, servicemembers, and their loved ones can call the 1-800 number, send a text message, or chat online to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care.

The responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are especially trained and experienced in helping veterans of all ages and circumstances, from those coping with mental health issues that were never addressed to recent veterans dealing with relationships or the transition back to civilian life.

Since its launch in 2007 through May 2016, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered over 2.3 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis nearly 61,000 times.

This bill requires improvements to the Veterans Crisis Line by having the VA create quality assurance guidelines that will include clearly defined and measurable performance indicators and objectives to improve the responsiveness and performance of the Veterans Crisis Line.

The bill also requires the VA to develop a plan to ensure that each telephone call, text message, and other communications received by the Veterans Crisis Line is answered in a timely manner by a person, consistent with the guidance established by the American Association of Suicidology.

As Suicide Prevention Awareness Month comes to a close, Congress must take these necessary steps to improve the Veterans Crisis Line for all veterans who depend on it. I support this legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. I am proud to introduce the sponsor of this important piece of legislation. The gentleman is from the Third District of Iowa, from the small town of Van Meter, Iowa, home to Bob "The Heater From Van Meter."

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I introduced the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go

Unanswered Act, H.R. 5392, a bipartisan piece of legislation, doing this after hearing from a constituent who called the Veterans Crisis Line for help but never was connected to a live person. Though I have spoken on the floor about this issue before, as well as others, I remain deeply concerned with the many struggles and challenges our veterans face as they transition from Active Duty to civilian life and beyond.

These are brave women and men who have sacrificed much in service to their country. Now, our servicemembers have given up holidays, missed birthdays, weddings, and other important life events of their family members, communities, and friends. They have been mobilized or deployed to some of the most volatile regions of the world for months on end, and the list goes on. They are our friends, family, and neighbors, and they make significant sacrifices because they believe in this great Nation and strive to protect the freedoms we have guaranteed.

Now, unfortunately, more and more veterans carry deep scars—emotional war wounds—ones we cannot see. These men and women deserve our support. Now, our country has a responsibility to ensure our brave veterans not only have the benefits that they have earned, but have access to services and resources intended to help them through the storms of life.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard for anyone to ask for help sometimes, and the sad fact is today and every day this week, 20 veterans will take their lives. So it is unacceptable for any veteran who is reaching out for help and a listening ear to be turned away unanswered, especially when help may mean the difference between life and death. That is why I introduced, with bipartisan support from my colleagues, legislation to make critical improvements to the Veterans Crisis Line.

This bipartisan bill requires the VA to create and implement documented plans to improve responsiveness and performance of the crisis line—an important step to ensure our veterans have unimpeded access to the mental health resources that they need.

Even the VA has acknowledged these problems, which were also documented in two separate investigations conducted by the VA Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. This bill drives accountability within the Veterans Crisis Line, ensuring any call or text or messages are answered, and ensuring the quality processes, including those guiding staff training, are addressed and provided to Congress.

□ 1615

Our men and women in uniform have answered our Nation's call, and we must work to do better and ensure their calls do not go unanswered.

Mr. Speaker, I want to especially thank Chairman MILLER and his staff

for working so closely with me on this bill. It is a pleasure serving with him, and his leadership on these issues will be missed in his retirement.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. It is only fitting that we pass this bill today to help our veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ), my colleague and friend, the highest ranking non-commissioned officer to serve in Congress.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) for his unwavering work for the care of our veterans. And to the chairman, as has been noted so often, at a time when partisanship seems to win the day or be on the news, I can assure him that the care of our Nation's veterans knows no political boundaries, and the work that has been done should be noted.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG) for bringing this bill forward. Like everything in life, there is a symmetry to things, and I think the story of how we got to this point might be well spoken or told. The gentleman represents the Third District of Iowa, the new one.

Back in 2006, there was a young Army Reservist named Joshua Omvig, who grew up in a small community in Iowa, literally down the road from where they filmed "Field of Dreams." He returned from Iraq a week before Thanksgiving in 2006 and joined his family at that most American of all holidays to be back together. That evening of Thanksgiving, Joshua took his own life in front of his mother.

The crushing loss of a son, the crushing loss of a son of the Midwest was overwhelming. But the Omvigs did something that Americans do and something that this Nation always does. They turned their grief into action. They went to their Congressman at that time in the old Third District, Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Boswell, himself a decorated Vietnam veteran and helicopter pilot. They put together what then became the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. This was back in 2007, when nobody was talking about 20 veterans a day and no one was talking about mental health and no one was talking much about transition. We were in the heart of the Iraq war. We were in Afghanistan. Our veterans were coming back, and, rightfully noted, we were unprepared for them.

In this piece of legislation, there are a couple of sections in here that are very clear on what Mr. YOUNG's legislation does—exactly what it should do and what this Congress should do—provide oversight and improve on legislation.

Section 1720F said that the VA would establish 24-hour mental health care. In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for mental health care availability to veterans on a 24-hour basis. It would establish a hotline to carry this out, and the Secretary would provide a toll-free hotline for veterans to be staffed by appropriately trained mental health professionals.

And for those who don't think that that was needed, since that time, 2.5 million calls have been made to that hotline, 300,000 online chats, and 55,000 texts. When someone calls that line, they are at a breaking point. One of our warriors is at a point where they had nowhere else to turn.

The intent of this Congress and this Nation—not Democrat, not Republican—was to provide them the resources and the trained personnel necessary. What was noted in a GAO report, what Mr. YOUNG has noted, and what this committee has noted is that the VA was not fulfilling fully what they should have. If one veteran falls through the cracks, we have failed. I don't care if 2.5 million were picked up. If 2.5 million plus one, and that last one was not picked up, we have failed.

Mr. YOUNG's piece of legislation is simple, eloquent, asks the VA to do what they are supposed to do, and then do what should be expected: report back to Congress so that we can provide our oversight ability.

I want to thank the chairman, the ranking member, and this committee for doing exactly what we are supposed to do. We are supposed to make sure that the VA fulfills the commitment that the United States and its citizens want to care for every single veteran that is out there. This was a smart piece of legislation. It was championed by the parents of a warrior who took his own life.

And keep in mind, when this was championed, we did not even bury our veterans who took their own lives with military honors because it was still something we didn't talk about. It was believed that they weren't casualties of war. In the 10 years since that time, we have made strides, we have made progress, and we understand that the cost of war continues on.

I want to thank Mr. YOUNG for continuing the legacy that comes out of Iowa, the deep care for those that serve in our heartland, continuing the bipartisan legacy of the Third District of Iowa to improve on a really smart, needed piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this, and I encourage this body to continue to find ways to solve problems, work together, and show that, when it comes to unity around our veterans, there is not an inch of daylight between the two sides of this body.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman

from the Second District of Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN). He is from the metropolis of Oakland, Maine.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for recognizing that Oakland, Maine, is a central Maine metropolis, and I thank the chairman for quickly bringing this very important bipartisan bill to the floor. I want to salute the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG), the Congressman who has been in the lead with respect to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a boy growing up in central Maine, our brave men and women in uniform who were returning from the battlefield in Vietnam were not treated well. I remember those days, and a lot of us also do. I believe our country, Mr. Speaker, has learned a lesson that that shall never happen again.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, today, 22 veterans commit suicide in our country every day, and the majority of those veterans have served in Vietnam. When one of our veterans, any veteran, is in trouble and they call the crisis hotline, we need to make sure that those phones are answered and the individuals on the other end, our heroes, are not hung up on, inadvertently or otherwise.

We need to make sure we take care of our veterans. Mr. Speaker, in the State of Maine, we love our veterans. The character of our country is measured in great part by how we treat our veterans. I am thrilled to cosponsor this bill because it will help correct this issue.

I would like to close, Mr. Speaker, with a quote from George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive how the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. YOUNG for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

I encourage everybody in this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, to get behind this terrific bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD), who is also a member of the Hawaiian National Guard and an Iraq war veteran.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, not too long ago, I was woken up abruptly one morning by a text message from a friend of mine that I had both served and trained with in the Army. His message was alarming because it came after many months of struggle in his life: nightmares, posttraumatic stress, many late nights staying up self-medicating with alcohol, troubles with his family, and a constant desire coming from him that the only way he knew how to deal with the challenges that he had was to deploy again and again and again.

Finally, he was home and he got to a point where he felt comfortable asking for help. He summoned up the courage one day—he was at his civilian job during the day—finally to call his local VA hotline, and he got a voice-mail.

This strong, battle-worn, courageous infantryman broke down in tears and ran out of the office building where he worked. His frustration and disappointment and even heartbreak was palpable that, even as he had spent so many years of his life answering the call to duty again and again and again, sacrificing so much, at that one moment that he made that very difficult decision to finally ask for help, no one was there. No one answered the phone.

He detailed this in a text message to me. I immediately called him and spent a couple of hours on the phone with him talking things through. I thanked him—he said: Sorry for bothering you about this—but I thanked him for making that call and letting me know what happened to him, giving me the opportunity to not only see how I could help him as my friend, but to see how we collectively can take action to help all of our brothers and sisters, unfortunately, many of whom are going through challenges that are not so different from his.

Just a few days ago, a veteran in my district called the Veterans Crisis Line for the first time. Her psychologist had encouraged her to place a test call to the crisis line so she could feel comfortable with how it worked, she could see how it worked, and she would feel comfortable making that phone call in the future if she got to a point where she needed it at a point of emergency. So she called that number with her psychologist and they waited on hold for 24 minutes. It took 24 minutes before someone finally answered the phone.

Now, I can tell you, when I call the airlines to change a reservation or when I call the bank to deal with an issue, I get frustrated when I get placed on hold for 5 minutes or 10 minutes. I feel like this is a waste of my time and I am going to hang up the phone.

It is virtually impossible for most people to understand that, when someone has a bottle of prescription drugs in their hand or a gun or they are on the verge of taking their own life and they are sitting on hold for 24 minutes, what do we think the outcome will be? Sometimes we are seeing that the shortcomings and gaps of the VA and these help lines have been filled by phone call networks that have been slapped together by troops, whether they are soldiers or marines or airmen or sailors, who are looking out for their buddy, doing what they can to make sure that everyone has got each other's phone numbers so that, if you get to that point where you need help, you have got someone to call who is going to answer the phone, who is

going to talk you down from the edge, helping to make sure that, after they have survived the rigors and horrors of war and combat, they have a chance to live in peace when they come home.

With the average of 22 veterans who go through all of that and who do come home yet are still taking their lives every single day, we cannot afford to give up. We cannot afford 24 minutes on hold.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Hawaii an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. GABBARD. This is why I strongly support and have cosponsored this critical piece of legislation, and I commend my colleague from Iowa for introducing it, H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. This bill establishes quality standards and metrics to make sure that every call to the Veterans Crisis Line is answered quickly and by a live trained person.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation today because the lives of our veterans depend on it.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation. I thank my colleagues who came to the floor to speak in support of H.R. 5392.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I, too, urge all of my colleagues on my side of the aisle to please join me in supporting this particular piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5392.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

VETERANS EMERGENCY TREATMENT ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3216) to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the emergency hospital care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain veterans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3216

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Emergency Treatment Act” or the “VET Act”.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF EMERGENCY HOSPITAL CARE FURNISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO CERTAIN VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1730A the following new section:

“§ 1730B. Examination and treatment for emergency medical conditions and women in labor

“(a) MEDICAL SCREENING EXAMINATIONS.—In carrying out this chapter, if any enrolled veteran requests, or a request is made on behalf of the veteran, for examination or treatment for a medical condition, regardless of whether such condition is service-connected, at a hospital emergency department of a medical facility of the Department, the Secretary shall ensure that the veteran is provided an appropriate medical screening examination within the capability of the emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether an emergency medical condition exists.

“(b) NECESSARY STABILIZING TREATMENT FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND LABOR.—(1) If an enrolled veteran comes to a medical facility of the Department and the Secretary determines that the veteran has an emergency medical condition, the Secretary shall provide either—

“(A) such further medical examination and such treatment as may be required to stabilize the medical condition; or

“(B) for the transfer of the veteran to another medical facility of the Department or a non-Department facility in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) The Secretary is deemed to meet the requirement of paragraph (1)(A) with respect to an enrolled veteran if the Secretary offers the veteran the further medical examination and treatment described in such paragraph and informs the veteran (or an individual acting on behalf of the veteran) of the risks and benefits to the veteran of such examination and treatment, but the veteran (or individual) refuses to consent to the examination and treatment. The Secretary shall take all reasonable steps to secure the written informed consent of such veteran (or individual) to refuse such examination and treatment.

“(3) The Secretary is deemed to meet the requirement of paragraph (1) with respect to an enrolled veteran if the Secretary offers to transfer the individual to another medical facility in accordance with subsection (c) of this section and informs the veteran (or an individual acting on behalf of the veteran) of the risks and benefits to the veteran of such transfer, but the veteran (or individual) refuses to consent to the transfer. The hospital shall take all reasonable steps to secure the written informed consent of such veteran (or individual) to refuse such transfer.

“(c) RESTRICTION OF TRANSFERS UNTIL VETERAN STABILIZED.—(1) If an enrolled veteran at a medical facility of the Department has an emergency medical condition that has not been stabilized, the Secretary may not transfer the veteran to another medical facility of the Department or a non-Department facility unless—

“(A)(i) the veteran (or a legally responsible individual acting on behalf of the veteran), after being informed of the obligation of the Secretary under this section and of the risk of transfer, requests in writing a transfer to another medical facility;

“(ii) a physician has signed a certification (including a summary of the risks and benefits) that, based upon the information available at the time of transfer, the medical benefits reasonably expected from the provision of appropriate medical treatment at another medical facility outweigh the increased risks to the veteran and, in the case of labor, to the unborn child from effecting the transfer; or

“(iii) if a physician is not physically present in the emergency department at the time a veteran is transferred, a qualified medical person (as defined by the Secretary in regulations) has signed a certification described in clause (ii) after a physician, in consultation with the person, has made the determination described in such clause, and subsequently countersigns the certification; and

“(B) the transfer is an appropriate transfer as described in paragraph (2).

“(2) An appropriate transfer to a medical facility is a transfer—

“(A) in which the transferring medical facility provides the medical treatment within the capacity of the facility that minimizes the risks to the health of the enrolled veteran and, in the case of a woman in labor, the health of the unborn child;

“(B) in which the receiving facility—

“(i) has available space and qualified personnel for the treatment of the veteran; and

“(ii) has agreed to accept transfer of the veteran and to provide appropriate medical treatment;

“(C) in which the transferring facility sends to the receiving facility all medical records (or copies thereof), related to the emergency condition for which the veteran has presented, available at the time of the transfer, including records related to the emergency medical condition of the veteran, observations of signs or symptoms, preliminary diagnosis, treatment provided, results of any tests and the informed written consent or certification (or copy thereof) provided under paragraph (1)(A), and the name and address of any on-call physician (described in subsection (d)(1)(C) of this section) who has refused or failed to appear within a reasonable time to provide necessary stabilizing treatment;

“(D) in which the transfer is effected through qualified personnel and transportation equipment, as required including the use of necessary and medically appropriate life support measures during the transfer; and

“(E) that meets such other requirements as the Secretary may find necessary in the interest of the health and safety of veterans transferred.

“(d) CHARGES.—(1) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect any charges that the Secretary may collect from a veteran or third party.

“(2) The Secretary shall treat any care provided by a non-Department facility pursuant to this section as care otherwise provided by a non-Department facility pursuant to this chapter for purposes of paying such non-Department facility for such care.

“(e) NONDISCRIMINATION.—A medical facility of the Department or a non-Department facility, as the case may be, that has specialized capabilities or facilities (such as burn units, shock-trauma units, neonatal inten-

sive care units, or (with respect to rural areas) regional referral centers as identified by the Secretary in regulation) shall not refuse to accept an appropriate transfer of an enrolled veteran who requires such specialized capabilities or facilities if the facility has the capacity to treat the veteran.

“(f) NO DELAY IN EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT.—A medical facility of the Department or a non-Department facility, as the case may be, may not delay provision of an appropriate medical screening examination required under subsection (a) or further medical examination and treatment required under subsection (b) of this section in order to inquire about the method of payment or insurance status of an enrolled veteran.

“(g) WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS.—The Secretary may not take adverse action against an employee of the Department because the employee refuses to authorize the transfer of an enrolled veteran with an emergency medical condition that has not been stabilized or because the employee reports a violation of a requirement of this section.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘emergency medical condition’ means—

“(A) a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in—

“(i) placing the health of the enrolled veteran (or, with respect to an enrolled veteran who is a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy;

“(ii) serious impairment to bodily functions; or

“(iii) serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part; or

“(B) with respect to an enrolled veteran who is a pregnant woman having contractions—

“(i) that there is inadequate time to effect a safe transfer to another hospital before delivery; or

“(ii) that transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or the unborn child.

“(2) The term ‘enrolled veteran’ means a veteran who is enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of this title.

“(3) The term ‘to stabilize’ means, with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (1)(A), to provide such medical treatment of the condition as may be necessary to assure, within reasonable medical probability, that no material deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the enrolled veteran from a facility, or, with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (1)(B), to deliver (including the placenta).

“(4) The term ‘stabilized’ means, with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (1)(A), that no material deterioration of the condition is likely, within reasonable medical probability, to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility, or, with respect to an emergency medical condition described in paragraph (1)(B), that the woman has delivered (including the placenta).

“(5) The term ‘transfer’ means the movement (including the discharge) of an enrolled veteran outside the facilities of a medical facility of the Department at the direction of any individual employed by (or affiliated or associated, directly or indirectly, with) the Department, but does not include such a movement of an individual who—

“(A) has been declared dead; or

“(B) leaves the facility without the permission of any such person.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1730A the following new item:

“1730B. Examination and treatment for emergency medical conditions and women in labor.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1630

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 3216, the Veterans Emergency Treatment—or VET—Act.

It should be common sense, if a veteran is in need of medical attention and arrives on the grounds of a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility, that veteran would be seen, assessed, and treated immediately. However, recently, a veteran who experienced a medical emergency in Washington State traveled as far as the parking lot of his local VA emergency room before finding he could go no further, and he called the VA and asked for help in making it through the doors. He was told by the VA staff who answered his call that he should hang up and dial 911.

To hear the VA staff express an unwillingness or an apprehension about assisting a veteran in the midst of his having a medical emergency in its own parking lot is not only unacceptable, it is emblematic of how much the VA has lost its way.

H.R. 3216 would require the VA to determine whether a medical emergency exists among any enrolled veteran who presents at a VA facility and would prohibit the VA from transferring a medically unstable veteran unless the veteran submits a written request to be transferred or it finds that it is clinically unnecessary. It would also prohibit the VA from taking an adverse action against any employee who refuses to authorize a transfer or who prevents the VA from delaying needed care by inquiring about payment method or insurance status. This legislation would help ensure that, in the case of a medical emergency, a veteran's health remains the number one priority, which is where it should always belong.

This bill is sponsored by my friend and colleague, Congressman DAN NEWHOUSE from Washington State. I am grateful to him for sponsoring this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in regard to H.R. 3216, the Veterans Emergency Treatment Act.

This bill requires that, if an enrolled veteran in the VA requests treatment at a VA Emergency Department, he or she will get that examination or treatment whether or not it is related to a service-connected condition. It also prohibits the VA from transferring a patient to another facility without its having the written consent of that veteran unless a physician deems the transfer medically necessary. It further prohibits the VA from taking adverse action against any VA employee in his refusing to authorize the transfer of an enrolled veteran if it is contrary to the veteran's wishes. The purpose of this legislation is to have the VA follow the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from the Fourth District of Washington State (Mr. NEWHOUSE), the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding me some time to speak on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, President Abraham Lincoln once famously charged all Americans with the responsibility "to care for him who shall have borne the battle." If you speak with veterans today, you will learn that the quality of health care provided to them, many times, does not reflect this duty.

In recent years, we have learned of multiple incidents in which the VA has failed to provide emergency care to veterans in need. In addition to the incidents that happened in my home State, another notable incident occurred in New Mexico, in the year 2014, when a veteran collapsed in the cafeteria of a VA facility, and he ultimately died when the VA refused to transport him 500 yards across the campus to the ER.

My legislation will ensure that every enrolled veteran who arrives at the Emergency Department of a VA medical facility and who seeks emergency treatment is assessed and treated in order to prevent further injury or death. This is accomplished by applying the statutory requirements of the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act, or EMTALA, to emergency care that is furnished by the VA to our veterans.

This is a 1986 Federal statute that grants every individual a Federal right

to emergency care. It requires a hospital to conduct a medical examination to determine if an emergency medical condition exists. If one does, then the hospital must either stabilize the patient or effectuate a proper transfer at the patient's request. Currently, VA hospitals are considered to be non-participating hospitals and, therefore, are not obligated to fulfill the requirements of EMTALA. The VET Act will remove the non-participating designation from VA hospitals and require them to fulfill the requirements of EMTALA, just as every other hospital does.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to support and pass H.R. 3216. It is time we ensure that our veterans receive proper medical treatment during emergency medical situations, all without requiring additional spending.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3216, the Veterans Emergency Treatment Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support Mr. NEWHOUSE's piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3216.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 3537, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5392, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

DANGEROUS SYNTHETIC DRUG CONTROL ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3537) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 258, nays 101, not voting 72, as follows:

[Roll No. 557]

YEAS—258

Abraham	Duncan (TN)	LaMalfa
Aderholt	Emmer (MN)	Lamborn
Aguilar	Esty	Lance
Allen	Farenthold	Langevin
Amodei	Fitzpatrick	Larsen (WA)
Ashford	Fleischmann	Larson (CT)
Babin	Flores	Latta
Barletta	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Barr	Foster	Loeb sack
Barton	Fox	Long
Bass	Franks (AZ)	Love
Benish	Frelinghuysen	Lowey
Bera	Gibbs	Lucas
Bilirakis	Gibson	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (MI)	Gohmert	Lujan Grisham
Black	Goodlatte	(NM)
Blum	Gosar	Lujan, Ben Ray
Bost	Graham	(NM)
Boustany	Granger	Lynch
Brady (TX)	Graves (GA)	MacArthur
Bridenstine	Graves (LA)	Marino
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	McCarthy
Brownley (CA)	Green, Gene	McHenry
Buck	Griffith	McKinley
Bucshon	Grothman	McMorris
Burgess	Guinta	Rodgers
Bustos	Guthrie	McNerney
Byrne	Hahn	McSally
Calvert	Hanna	Meadows
Capps	Hardy	Meehan
Carter (TX)	Harper	Messer
Castor (FL)	Harris	Mica
Chabot	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Cicilline	Heck (WA)	Moolenaar
Clark (MA)	Hensarling	Mooney (WV)
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Mullin
Cole	Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (FL)
Collins (GA)	Higgins	Murphy (PA)
Comstock	Hill	Neal
Conaway	Himes	Neugebauer
Connolly	Holding	Newhouse
Cook	Hudson	Noem
Cooper	Huffman	Nugent
Costa	Huizenga (MI)	Nunes
Courtney	Hultgren	Olson
Cramer	Hunter	Palazzo
Crawford	Hurd (TX)	Pallone
Cuellar	Issa	Palmer
Culberson	Jenkins (KS)	Pascarell
Curbelo (FL)	Jenkins (WV)	Paulsen
Davidson	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
Davis (CA)	Johnson, Sam	Perry
Davis, Rodney	Jordan	Peters
DeGette	Joyce	Peterson
Delaney	Katko	Pitts
DeLauro	Keating	Poliquin
DelBene	Kelly (MS)	Pompeo
Denham	Kennedy	Posey
Dent	Kilmer	Quigley
DesJarlais	Kind	Ratcliffe
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Reed
Dingell	Kinzie (IL)	Reichert
Dold	Klaine	Renacci
Donovan	Knight	Rice (SC)
Duffy	Kuster	Rigell
Duncan (SC)	LaHood	Roby

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Salmon
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sherman
Shuster
Sinema
Sires

Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg

Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yoder
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and KUSTER changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add certain synthetic substances to schedule I, and for other purposes.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)

Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Quigley
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger

Russell
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—101

Adams
Amash
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castro (TX)
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conyers
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Edwards
Eshoo

Frankel (FL)
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Green, Al
Grijalva
Hastings
Honda
Hoyer
Huelskamp
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kildee
Labrador
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lummis
Massie
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
Moore
Moulton
Mulvaney
Napolitano
Nolan
Norcross

O'Rourke
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Ribble
Rokita
Roybal-Allard
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Smith (WA)
Stewart
Stutzman
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Visclosky
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Wilson (FL)
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoho

NO VETERANS CRISIS LINE CALL SHOULD GO UNANSWERED ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5392) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 357, nays 0, not voting 74, as follows:

[Roll No. 558]
YEAS—357

Beatty
Becerra
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Buchanan
Butterfield
Carney
Carter (GA)
Clarke (NY)
Collins (NY)
Costello (PA)
Crenshaw
Crowley
DeSantis
Duckworth
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Engel
Farr
Fincher
Fleming
Forbes
Fudge
Gowdy
Grayson

NOT VOTING—72

Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Schiff
Schradler
Shinkus
Simpson
Speier
Tonko
Velázquez
Walters, Mimi
Webster (FL)
Westmoreland

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Benishek
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Buchanan
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Capps

Capuano
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Ciциline
Clark (MA)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent

DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Emmer (MN)
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene

NOT VOTING—74

Beatty
Becerra
Blackburn
Buchanan
Butterfield
Carney
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Clarke (NY)
Cohen
Collins (NY)
Costello (PA)
Crenshaw
Crowley

DeSantis
Duckworth
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Engel
Farr
Fincher
Fleming
Forbes
Fudge
Gowdy
Grayson
Gutiérrez
Heck (NV)
Hinojosa
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jones
Kelly (PA)
King (NY)
Kirkpatrick
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean

Ms. BROWN of Florida, Messrs. STUTZMAN, THOMPSON of Mississippi, HONDA, HOYER, CARSON of Indiana, ROKITA, NOLAN, CÁRDENAS, LEWIS, VARGAS, and

Marchant	Poe (TX)	Sanchez, Loretta
Matsui	Price (NC)	Schiff
McCaul	Price, Tom	Schrader
McGovern	Rangel	Shimkus
Meeks	Rice (NY)	Simpson
Meng	Richmond	Speier
Miller (MI)	Roe (TN)	Tonko
Mullin	Rohrabacher	Velázquez
Nadler	Roskam	Walters, Mimi
Newhouse	Rush	Webster (FL)
Pittenger	Ryan (OH)	Westmoreland

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I missed the voting session. If present, I would have voted as follows: “Yes”—H.R. 3537—Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016. “Yes”—H.R. 5392—No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. I intended to vote “yes” on both of these bills.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during votes on September 26, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on H.R. 5392 and “yes” on H.R. 3537.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on additional motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2016

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5978) to amend title 14, United States Code, to clarify the functions of the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5978

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Amendments Act of 2016”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—COAST GUARD, NAVIGATION, AND SHIPPING

Sec. 101. Coast Guard major acquisition programs.

Sec. 102. Prospective payment of funds necessary to provide medical care for the Coast Guard.

Sec. 103. Oil spill disbursements auditing and report.

Sec. 104. Deadline for compliance with alternate safety compliance program.

Sec. 105. Coast Guard pier in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Sec. 106. Backup global positioning system.

Sec. 107. Arctic alternative planning criteria.

TITLE II—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 201. Vessel “Apollonia”.

Sec. 202. Reimbursement for non-Federal construction costs of certain aids to navigation.

Sec. 203. Corrections to provisions enacted by Coast Guard Authorization Acts.

TITLE I—COAST GUARD, NAVIGATION, AND SHIPPING

SEC. 101. COAST GUARD MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.

(a) FUNCTIONS OF CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER.—Section 56(c) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (8), striking the period at the end of paragraph (9) and inserting “; and”, and adding at the end the following:

“(10)(A) keeping the Commandant informed of the progress of major acquisition programs (as that term is defined in section 581);

“(B) informing the Commandant on a continuing basis of any developments on such programs that may require new or revisited trade-offs among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance, including—

“(i) significant cost growth or schedule slippage; and

“(ii) requirements creep (as that term is defined in section 2547(c)(1) of title 10); and

“(C) ensuring that the views of the Commandant regarding such programs on cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance trade-offs are strongly considered by program managers and program executive officers in all phases of the acquisition process.”.

(b) CUSTOMER SERVICE MISSION OF DIRECTORATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 561(b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) to meet the needs of customers of major acquisition programs in the most cost-effective manner practicable.”;

(B) in section 562, by repealing subsection (b) and redesignating subsections (c) through (g) as subsections (b) through (e), respectively;

(C) in section 563, by striking “Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, the Commandant shall commence implementation of” and inserting “The Commandant shall maintain”;

(D) by adding at the end of section 564 the following:

“(c) ACQUISITION OF UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—During any fiscal year for which funds are appropriated for the design or construction of the Offshore Patrol Cutter, the Commandant—

“(A) may not award a contract for design of an unmanned aerial system for use by the Coast Guard; and

“(B) may acquire an unmanned aerial system only—

“(i) if such a system has been acquired by, or has been used by, the Department of Defense or the department in which the Coast Guard is operating, or a component thereof, before the date on which the Commandant acquires the system; and

“(ii) through an agreement with such a department or component, unless the unmanned aerial system can be obtained at less cost through independent contract action.

“(2) LIMITATIONS ON APPLICATION.—

“(A) SMALL UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—The limitations in paragraph (1)(B) do not apply to any small unmanned aerial system that consists of—

“(i) an unmanned aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds on takeoff, including all components and equipment on board or otherwise attached to the aircraft; and

“(ii) associated elements (including communication links and the components that control such aircraft) that are required for the safe and efficient operation of such aircraft.

“(B) PREVIOUSLY FUNDED SYSTEMS.—The limitations in paragraph (1) do not apply to the design or acquisition of an unmanned aerial system for which funds for research, development, test, and evaluation have been received from the Department of Defense or the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.”;

(E) in subchapter II, by adding at the end the following:

“§ 578. Role of Vice Commandant in major acquisition programs

“The Vice Commandant—

“(1) shall represent the customer of a major acquisition program with regard to trade-offs made among cost, schedule, technical feasibility, and performance with respect to such program; and

“(2) shall advise the Commandant in decisions regarding the balancing of resources against priorities, and associated trade-offs referred to in paragraph (1), on behalf of the customer of a major acquisition program.

“§ 579. Extension of major acquisition program contracts

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 564(a)(2) of this title and section 2304 of title 10, and subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Secretary may acquire additional units procured under a Coast Guard major acquisition program contract, by extension of such contract without competition, if the Director of the Cost Analysis Division of the Department of Homeland Security determines that the costs that would be saved through award of a new contract in accordance with such sections would not exceed the costs of such an award.

“(b) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL UNITS.—The number of additional units acquired under a contract extension under this section may not exceed the number of additional units for which such determination is made.

“(c) DETERMINATION OF COSTS UPON REQUEST.—The Director of the Cost Analysis Division of the Department of Homeland Security shall, at the request of the Secretary, determine for purposes of this section—

“(1) the costs that would be saved through award of a new major acquisition program contract in accordance with section 564(a)(2) for the acquisition of a number of additional units specified by the Secretary; and

“(2) the costs of such award, including the costs that would be incurred due to acquisition schedule delays and asset design changes associated with such award.

“(d) NUMBER OF EXTENSIONS.—A contract may be extended under this section more than once.”; and

(F) in section 581—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (10) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively, and by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) CUSTOMER OF A MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘customer of a major acquisition program’ means the operating field unit of the Coast Guard that will field the system or systems acquired under a major acquisition program.”; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (7), as so redesignated, the following:

“(8) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘major acquisition program’ means an ongoing acquisition undertaken by the Coast Guard with a life-cycle cost estimate greater than or equal to \$300,000,000.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subchapter II the following:

“578. Role of Vice Commandant in major acquisition programs.

“579. Extension of major acquisition program contracts.”.

(c) REVIEW REQUIRED.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall conduct a review of—

(A) the authorities provided to the Commandant in chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, and other relevant statutes and regulations related to Coast Guard acquisitions, including developing recommendations to ensure that the Commandant plays an appropriate role in the development of requirements, acquisition processes, and the associated budget practices;

(B) implementation of the strategy prepared in accordance with section 562(b)(2) of title 14, United States Code, as in effect before the enactment of this Act; and

(C) acquisition policies, directives, and regulations of the Coast Guard to ensure such policies, directives, and regulations establish a customer-oriented acquisition system.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than March 1, 2017, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing, at a minimum, the following:

(A) The recommendations developed by the Commandant under paragraph (1) and other results of the review conducted under such paragraph.

(B) The actions the Commandant is taking, if any, within the Commandant's existing authority to implement such recommendations.

(3) MODIFICATION OF POLICIES, DIRECTIVES, AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall modify the acquisition policies, directives, and regulations of the Coast Guard as necessary to ensure the development and implementation of a customer-oriented acquisition system, pursuant to the review under paragraph (1)(C).

(d) ANALYSIS OF USING MULTIYEAR CONTRACTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—No later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate an analysis of the use of multiyear contracting, including procurement authority provided under section 2306b of title 10, United States Code, authority similar to that granted to the Navy under section 121(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 (Public Law 105-85; 111 Stat. 1648) and section 150 of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 111-242; 124 Stat. 3519), and block buy authority to acquire Fast Response Cutters, Offshore Patrol Cutters, heavy polar icebreakers, and medium polar icebreakers.

(2) VESSELS TO BE ANALYZED.—Under paragraph (1) the Secretary shall analyze—

(A) the acquisition of at least 5 Fast Response Cutters, beginning with Hull 43;

(B) the acquisition of at least 5 Offshore Patrol Cutters, beginning with Hull 5;

(C) the acquisition of at least 3 heavy polar icebreakers; and

(D) the acquisition of at least 3 medium polar icebreakers.

(3) CONTENTS.—The analysis under paragraph (1) shall include the costs and benefits of using multiyear contracting, the impact of multiyear contracting on delivery timelines, and whether the acquisitions examined would meet the tests for the use of multiyear procurement authorities.

SEC. 102. PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT OF FUNDS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE FOR THE COAST GUARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 520. Prospective payment of funds necessary to provide medical care

“(a) PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT REQUIRED.—In lieu of the reimbursement required under section 1085 of title 10, for periods when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall make a prospective payment to the Secretary of Defense of an amount that represents the actuarial valuation of treatment or care—

“(1) that the Department of Defense provides to members of the Coast Guard, former members of the Coast Guard, and dependents of such members and former members (other than former members and dependents of former members who are a Medicare-eligible beneficiary or for whom the payment for treatment or care is made from the Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund) at facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense or a military department; and

“(2) for which a reimbursement would otherwise be made under such section 1085.

“(b) AMOUNT.—The amount of the prospective payment under subsection (a) shall be—

“(1) in the case of treatment or care to be provided to members of the Coast Guard and their dependents, derived from amounts appropriated for the operating expenses of the Coast Guard;

“(2) in the case of treatment or care to be provided former members of the Coast Guard and their dependents, derived from amounts appropriated for retired pay;

“(3) determined under procedures established by the Secretary of Defense;

“(4) paid during the fiscal year in which treatment or care is provided; and

“(5) subject to adjustment or reconciliation as the Secretary of the department in

which the Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a service in the Navy and the Secretary of Defense determine appropriate during or promptly after such fiscal year in cases in which the prospective payment is determined excessive or insufficient based on the services actually provided.

“(c) NO PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT WHEN SERVICE IN NAVY.—No prospective payment shall be made under this section for any period during which the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Navy.

“(d) RELATIONSHIP TO TRICARE.—This section shall not be construed to require a payment for, or the prospective payment of an amount that represents the value of, treatment or care provided under any TRICARE program.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“520. Prospective payment of funds necessary to provide medical care.”.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 217 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-120), and the item relating to that section in the table of contents in section 2 of such Act, are repealed.

SEC. 103. OIL SPILL DISBURSEMENTS AUDITING AND REPORT.

Section 1012 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2712) is amended—

(1) by repealing subsection (g);

(2) in subsection (1)(1), by striking “Within one year after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, and annually thereafter,” and inserting “Each year, on the date on which the President submits to Congress a budget under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code.”; and

(3) by amending subsection (1)(2) to read as follows:

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report shall include—

“(A) a list of each disbursement of \$500,000 or more from the Fund in the preceding fiscal year, including disbursements to Federal agencies;

“(B) a list of each disbursement of \$500,000 or more from the Fund in the fiscal year preceding the preceding fiscal year that has not been reimbursed by a responsible party; and

“(C) a description of how each use of the Fund described in subparagraph (A) or (B) meets the requirements of subsection (a).”.

SEC. 104. DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH ALTERNATE SAFETY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM.

Section 4503(d)(1) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “After January 1, 2020,” and all that follows through “the Secretary,” and inserting “For each of fishing vessels, fish processing vessels, and fish tender vessels, after the later of January 1, 2020, or the end of the 3-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary prescribes an alternate safety compliance program developed in cooperation with the commercial fishing industry for such a vessel, such a vessel shall comply with the applicable alternate safety compliance program”.

SEC. 105. COAST GUARD PIER IN WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act a report on—

(1) short-term plans for berthing the USCGC Diligence in Wilmington, North

Carolina, while the Coast Guard pier in Wilmington is being repaired; and

(2) long-term plans for repairing and maintaining such pier so that it can be used to berth such vessel and any future Coast Guard cutter stationed in Wilmington.

(b) COST ESTIMATES.—The report shall include cost estimates and timeframes for such short- and long-term plans.

SEC. 106. BACKUP GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “National Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Resilience and Security Act of 2016”.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle VIII of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 807—POSITION, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING

“Sec.

“80701. Land-based complementary and backup system.

“§ 80701. Land-based complementary and backup system

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall provide for the establishment, sustainment, and operation of a reliable land-based enhanced LORAN, or eLORAN, positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide a complement to and backup for the Global Positioning System (in this section referred to as ‘GPS’) to ensure the availability of uncorrupted and nondegraded positioning, navigation, and timing signals for military and civilian users in the event that GPS signals are corrupted, degraded, unreliable, or otherwise unavailable.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The system established under subsection (a) shall—

- “(1) be wireless;
- “(2) be terrestrial;
- “(3) provide wide-area coverage;
- “(4) deliver a precise, high-power 100 kilohertz signal;
- “(5) be synchronized with coordinated universal time;
- “(6) be resilient and extremely difficult to disrupt or degrade;
- “(7) be able to penetrate underground and inside buildings;
- “(8) be capable of ready deployment to remote locations;
- “(9) take full advantage of the infrastructure of the existing, unused Government long-range navigation system (commonly known as ‘LORAN’);
- “(10) incorporate the expertise of the private sector with respect to development, building, and operation;
- “(11) work in concert with and complement any other similar positioning, navigation, and timing systems;
- “(12) be available for use by Federal and non-Federal government agencies for public purposes at no cost; and
- “(13) incorporate such other requirements determined necessary by the Commandant.

“(c) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than three months after the date of enactment of this section, the Commandant, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall publish a request for proposals to solicit options for—

“(A) eLORAN system architecture; and

“(B) business models for the design, installation, operation, and maintenance of an eLORAN system in accordance with this section for a period of no less than 20 years.

“(2) CONTRACTING OPTIONS.—The request for proposals shall request options that—

“(A) incorporate the expertise of the private sector; and

“(B) allow for the expeditious installation, daily operation, and routine maintenance of an eLORAN system architecture.

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation, shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan to ensure that the system required under this section is fully operational not later than 3 years after such date of enactment.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subtitle VIII of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to chapter 805 the following:

“807. Position, Navigation, and Timing 80701”.

SEC. 107. ARCTIC ALTERNATIVE PLANNING CRITERIA.

(a) GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may approve alternative planning criteria for an area of lesser geographic extent than the area covered by the Captain of the Port Zone that includes the Arctic for purposes of complying with sections 155.1035(i) and 155.5035(i) of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, only if the Commandant—

- (1) publishes the proposed alternative planning criteria in the Federal Register for notice and comment in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code;
 - (2) completes a study of the economic impacts on the Arctic of such criteria; and
 - (3) submits a report on such study to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.
- (b) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section “Arctic” has the meaning that term has under section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).

TITLE II—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 201. VESSEL “APOLLONIA”.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel Apollonia (United States official number 1266527).

SEC. 202. REIMBURSEMENT FOR NON-FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF CERTAIN AIDS TO NAVIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of amounts specifically provided in advance in subsequent appropriations Acts and in accordance with this section, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may reimburse a non-Federal entity for costs incurred by the entity for a covered project.

(b) CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may not provide reimbursement under subsection (a) with respect to a covered project unless—

- (1) the need for the project is a result of the completion of construction with respect to a federally authorized navigation channel;
- (2) the Commandant determines, through an appropriate navigation safety analysis, that the project is necessary to ensure safe marine transportation;
- (3) the Commandant approves the design of the project to ensure that it meets all applicable Coast Guard aid to navigation standards and requirements;
- (4) the non-Federal entity agrees to transfer the project upon completion to the Coast

Guard to be operated and maintained by the Coast Guard as a Federal aid to navigation;

(5) the non-Federal entity carries out the project in accordance with the same laws and regulations that would apply to the Coast Guard if the Coast Guard carried out the project, including obtaining all permits required for the project under Federal and State law; and

(6) the Commandant determines that the project satisfies such additional requirements as may be established by the Commandant.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—Reimbursements under subsection (a) may not exceed the following:

- (1) For a single covered project, \$5,000,000.
- (2) For all covered projects in a single fiscal year, \$5,000,000.

(d) EXPIRATION.—The authority granted under this section shall expire on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this section.

(e) COVERED PROJECT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered project” means a project carried out by a non-Federal entity to construct and establish an aid to navigation that facilitates safe and efficient marine transportation on a federally authorized navigation channel.

SEC. 203. CORRECTIONS TO PROVISIONS ENACTED BY COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE CORRECTION.—The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-120) is amended by striking “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015” each place it appears (including in quoted material) and inserting “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016”.

(b) TITLE 46, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) Section 7510 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(1)(D), by striking “engine” and inserting “engineer”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(9), by inserting a period after “App”.

(2) Section 4503(f)(2) of title 46, United States Code, is amended by striking “, that” and inserting “, then”.

(c) PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS.—

(1) SHORT TITLE CORRECTION.—Section 521 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-120), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 105(e)(1) of the Pribilof Islands Transition Act (16 U.S.C. 1161 note; Public Law 106-562) is amended by striking “2015” and inserting “2016”.

(3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 522(b)(2) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-120), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”.

(d) TITLE 14, UNITED STATES CODE.—

(1) REDISTRIBUTION OF AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2702 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “\$6,981,036,000” and inserting “\$6,986,815,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “\$140,016,000” and inserting “\$134,237,000”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of part III of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the period at the end of the item relating to chapter 29.

(e) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES COST ASSESSMENT.—Section 604(a) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015 (Public Law

114-120) is amended in the first sentence by striking "365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act," and inserting "July 15, 2017,".

(f) CONTINUATION ON ACTIVE DUTY: BOARD.—Section 290(a) of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking "five officers serving in the grade of vice admiral" and inserting "5 officers (other than the Commandant) serving in the grade of admiral or vice admiral".

(g) CERTIFICATE OF DOCUMENTATION.—Section 604(b) of the Howard Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Authorization Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-281) is amended by inserting "and fisheries endorsement" after "endorsement".

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of Public Law 114-120.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5978.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before we talk about H.R. 5978, I would like to talk about what is not in this bill, which is probably one of the most important things that is my duty, Mr. GARAMENDI's duty, and the Coast Guard's duty to get done—and that is build a polar icebreaker.

Let me tell you why there is no polar icebreaker in this bill: the CBO couldn't get their act together in time to score this one way or another. So, again, this body is held ransom by the Congressional Budget Office not scoring something one way or another, whether it is good to go or not.

The reason it is so important that we have more polar icebreakers and that we included the language that passed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee last week is this: we do not have 24/7, 365-day polar icebreaking ability for the Arctic. The Russians have over 40 polar icebreakers. That is over 40, some of which are even nuclear. China has got more than 20 now. The United States only has one that is capable of crushing heavy ice, and even that is not available 24/7, 365.

The High Latitude Region Mission Analysis revealed the following Coast Guard missions—defense readiness; ice operations; marine environmental protection; and ports, waterways, and coastal security in the Arctic—were significantly impacted by the gap in

this mission performance. It is these gaps and the knowledge that, when the Polar Star reaches the end of its extended service life, we will have a period where the Coast Guard doesn't have a heavy icebreaker at all, let alone what it has now, which is limited capability in the Arctic.

Progress is being made on the acquisition front. Mr. GARAMENDI and I and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee granted the Coast Guard the capability to do block buys, which is what the Navy has, where you can purchase more than one vessel at a time, which saves billions of dollars.

We also gave them the ability to have lead-time materials, which means they could buy the materials way in advance, which would save tens of millions of dollars. The Coast Guard now has this ability for the FRC and the OPC. We want them to have it for the icebreaker as well, but because of the CBO not scoring this, we weren't able to get the language in.

Here is the specific language that is missing from H.R. 5978:

"The Commandant of the Coast Guard, subject to the availability of amounts specifically provided in advance in subsequent appropriations acts may enter into a contract for the acquisition of no less than three heavy polar icebreakers; and may enter into a contract for acquisition of additional polar icebreakers, except that the total number of icebreakers acquired under this subsection may not exceed six."

We are talking about three. Right now we have one.

"Such acquisitions may be made through block buy contracts; may be incrementally funded; may include combined purchases, also known as economic order quantity purchases, of materials and components; and long lead time materials; and may include advance construction funding."

This is what the Navy has for every ship that they make. This is one reason we created a joint program office between the Coast Guard and the Navy, so that the Navy can push the Coast Guard to do the right thing.

The Coast Guard, let it be said, at the best, has been dragging their feet on acquiring these icebreakers. In fact, they have been pushing back against Congress every inch of the way on this.

In my point of view, this is just like UAVs, or the unmanned aerial vehicles that we have now, Predators and the like. Congress earmarked those because the Air Force did not want pilotless airplanes. Then you would have to get rid of pilots. So the Air Force pushed back day and night in the late nineties and this Congress earmarked Predator drones. That is why we have Predator drones.

The military pushed back against Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, also known as MRAP vehicles, which have saved thousands of lives in

Iraq and Afghanistan, also pushed by Congress, not the U.S. military. In things like this, Congress is able to see things outside the box, which the Coast Guard cannot in this case.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) has been an extraordinary leader on trying to address a critical need that the United States has.

The Arctic Ocean is opening. There is not only a Northwest Passage, but there is a Northeast Passage. And this year, just a couple of weeks ago—less than 2 weeks ago—a cruise ship passed through the Northwest Passage without the aid of an icebreaker.

We absolutely have to have a polar icebreaker. As the chairman said, we have one icebreaker today, and it is going to go in for overhaul. When it does, we have no heavy icebreaker either for the North Pole or the South Pole.

We are in trouble. We have to have this. The U.S. Navy has to have it. U.S. security has to have it. And certainly for the commerce in the Arctic, we have to have it. It is a reality. The Arctic Ocean is opening. Commerce will take place. And it will also need military availability in that area.

The legislation that is before us today does not have the proper language in it because of CBO sitting on their duff and doodling numbers when we know we need this language.

The Senate appropriations bill has a billion dollars for icebreakers, but there is no authorization. Unfortunately, because of our rules here, we had to strip the language out. Later, we hope to put the language back in, but it is not available today.

We have to have this. We go back meeting after meeting, hearing after hearing, year after year, 4 or 5 years that we have been working on this, and then, at the very last moment, CBO can't get its act together. Well, I am sorry, CBO. We ought to waive the rules and get on with what we need to do here, which is to provide the authorization.

The language that the chairman has worked out with me and others would not only provide the authorization, but would do it in such a way as to give us the very best possible financial deal on the construction of icebreakers—that is a block buy—and also authorizing, should the money be available in the future, an additional three lighter icebreakers beyond the three heavy icebreakers.

Not to say we are going to build it all at once, but the authorization is in the law. That then allows the Coast Guard to properly line it up for the very best deal that we can get, maybe one at a

time, maybe two or three over a 5- or 10-year period of time. Unfortunately, that language had to be stripped out.

So when the chairman started his explanation of this bill, he did so to call all of our attention to what is not in the bill that should have been in the bill, but for CBO and the rules that we have that require us to have CBO's accounting before we move an authorization.

That is where we are today. Unfortunately, it is where we are. So we are going to move this bill along. We will probably—hopefully—come back before this session is over in the lameduck session and write this thing properly. Unfortunately, today we are not there. There is more to be said about the rest of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, now we are going to get back to H.R. 5978, which is a very good bill in and of itself that, once again, doesn't have the language that we tried to get in.

H.R. 5978, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Amendments Act of 2016, is a catch-all bill that addresses a number of different Coast Guard and maritime transportation issues.

The bill involves improvements to the Coast Guard acquisition authorities to ensure the acquisition program keeps in mind the needs of Coast Guard operating units when acquiring assets. This provision also requires an analysis on the use of multiyear procurement and block buy authorities related to the purchase of Fast Response Cutters, Offshore Patrol Cutters, and polar icebreakers, but just a report.

We already know from watching the Navy do business for the last few decades that block buys save hundreds of millions of dollars.

At the request of the GAO, the bill repeals a GAO report regarding disbursements from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The information that was collected by GAO will be incorporated into an existing Coast Guard report.

Due to certain recent weather events impacting a Coast Guard pier in Wilmington, North Carolina, the Coast Guard is required to issue a one-time report detailing short- and long-term plans to replace and maintain the pier. Certain fishing industries will be assisted by the bill, including those that would be affected by a prescribed Alternative Safety Compliance Program to be issued by the Coast Guard by January 1, 2017.

If the service does not issue the program by January 1, 2017, which is hopefully the case, the bill would provide a 3-year window for industry compliance from the date the Coast Guard issues the program.

It has been a long-term interest for many, including Ranking Member

GARAMENDI, who has been instrumental—and I would say more instrumental than myself—in preparing the language included in this legislation that there be a reliable land-based positioning, navigation, and timing system to complement, supplement, and back up the Global Positioning System that we now use, the GPS.

We have all seen what the Chinese can do now in knocking down satellites. If our GPS goes out, there is no other way for us to navigate the oceans or to navigate land. The eLoran system does this to ensure the continuous availability of uncorrupted or non-degraded signals for military and civilian users. The bill directed the Coast Guard to establish and maintain such a backup system.

□ 1915

Aids to navigation are important tools that allow vessels to safely navigate waterways. The bill would allow the Commandant, subject to appropriations, to reimburse a non-Federal entity for costs incurred by that entity to construct and establish an aid to navigation that would otherwise be constructed by the Coast Guard.

Aids to navigation facilitate safe and efficient maritime transportation on federally authorized navigation channels. Specific conditions for reimbursement are outlined. Reimbursements for a single project are limited to \$5 million, and the authority expires 4 years after the date of enactment of the bill.

There are concerns with the Coast Guard's Western Alaska Captain of the Port Zone approving alternate planning criteria for areas covering only a portion of the zone. This action would create two adjacent areas with different levels of prevention and response preparedness. This bill requires public notice, an economic study, and a report to Congress on the study before approval of any criteria not covering the full Western Alaska zone.

Lastly, the bill makes a variety of technical changes to provisions in enacted Coast Guard Authorization Acts.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I join Chairman HUNTER in strong support for the legislation and to advance this new policy initiative to improve the oversight of the Coast Guard and the major acquisition programs, and also to advance the safety and security of the U.S. maritime industry.

H.R. 5978, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Amendments Act, is bipartisan legislation. We have talked about some of the provisions that are not in the bill. I will try to talk about those that are in the bill. It deserves the robust support from Members on both sides of the aisle, and I

urge its quick passage, probably as early as today.

I thank the gentleman, Mr. HUNTER, for his unwavering support of the Coast Guard and the work that we are able to do together with the members of the committee.

Of great significance, this legislation will address an overlooked and underappreciated threat to our national and economic security: the fact that GPS, Global Positioning System, it has been identified for nearly 20 years as the single point of failure, with serious implications for our national security and economy.

I know we are not able to use these little machines called cell phones on the floor, but if we could, they are totally reliant on GPS. You go down to the ATM, it will not work without GPS. Our systems of navigation, including such things as positive train control, totally dependent upon GPS. In fact, Wall Street, totally dependent on GPS. It is timing, navigation, and positioning. That is GPS.

We have no backup; other countries do. You might ask, why is China, why is Russia, why are they building a GLAN-based backup to GPS? Well, they know that if there is trouble, the first thing that is going to disappear is GPS.

Right now, GPS can be knocked out by somebody driving down the freeway with their 18-wheeler and using an antiradar device. You might ask what happened at the Newark airport. That is exactly what happened. GPS was knocked out by somebody on Interstate 95 with a radar device.

It is a very weak signal, but it is an extraordinarily important signal. So this bill provides for a backup system which has been discussed for nearly 20 years, and we have gone round and round the Bush—I guess that is the right thing—and the Clinton, in between, without any action.

So this bill would actually push this forward to give us an opportunity to establish a backup system, which is actually very old but will be updated with the enhanced LORAN system, dating back to the 1940s, which was the first navigational system that we built in the United States.

Much of the system is already available; the towers, the locations, much of that is in place. This would authorize a public-private partnership to put that in place.

I won't go into it anymore, but it is high time that we get on with this. The chairman laid out how it is going to be done in his talk and, hopefully, we can finally get this underway.

There are many, many other pieces that are in this legislation. We have talked a little bit about the Coast Guard icebreakers. We do have a study—oh, my goodness, another study. It is the best we could do at the moment. The chairman and I talked about

what we would like to accomplish with more than that with his actual authorization. The block buy, we have got to do it, and, hopefully, we will.

There are other things that are in the bill that the chairman has described. I won't go into them today in any more detail but to say that, in my written statement, it will be covered.

One more thing, to back up the GPS, I include in the RECORD about 15 years of studies by Federal Government agencies that all say we have got to have a backup system, and the eLORAN is the best.

Mr. Chairman, shall we continue on and beat this for a while longer or shall we say let's pass the bill and get on with it?

I am pleased to rise and join Chairman HUNTER in strong support of this legislation to advance new policy initiatives to improve the oversight of the Coast Guard's major acquisition programs and to advance the safety and security of the U.S. maritime industry.

H.R. 5978, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Amendments Act of 2016, is bipartisan legislation that was developed to address issues that have arisen since the Congress passed a two-year comprehensive Coast Guard authorization bill earlier this year.

This legislation is deserving of robust support from members on both sides of the aisle and I urge its quick passage by the House today so it can be sent to the other body for its consideration and passage before the 114th Congress adjourns sine die.

I want to thank Chairman HUNTER for his unwavering leadership and for the cooperative spirit of this excellent staff in working with me and other Democratic members to address our interests and concerns in this legislation.

Of greatest significance, this legislation will address an overlooked need and under-appreciated threat to our national and economic security—the fact that the Global Positioning System, or GPS, has been identified as a single point of failure with serious implications for our national security and economy.

GPS has revolutionized how we live, work, and play. Signals provided by GPS satellites ensure that literally everything that we routinely depend on not only runs, but runs with unprecedented reliability and precision.

We have all benefitted from GPS: whether through the distribution of power from our electric grid; the coordination of timing signals for trains and traffic signals; or, to improve the efficiency of maritime search and rescue missions launched by the Coast Guard.

There is no denying that GPS has been a tremendous technological asset. But the reality is that GPS signals are relatively weak and fairly easy to degrade, disrupt or jam. This is not a hypothetical matter; this threat is real, and it is happening now.

Just last week, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Paul Zukunft, while speaking at a National Harbor Safety Conference in Portland, Oregon, cited over 100 instances in which vessels experienced disruption to their GPS reception.

There is nothing we can do to change the underlying physics of the GPS signal. We can, however, take necessary and appropriate ac-

tions now to ensure that a reliable land-based back-up system for positioning, navigation and timing signals is available when needed.

Moreover, if the Russians, the Chinese, the EU, and other nations are developing land-based GPS back-up systems, the United States should have its own system as well.

Since 2001 the Federal Government, notably the PNT Executive Committee, has been evaluating options. The Executive Committee concluded in December, 2014 that an enhanced LORAN, or eLORAN system, would be the most cost-effective and reliable back-up for GPS signals.

What this legislation will do is force the Federal Government to finally take action on its own recommendation.

The Coast Guard, which for decades operated the LORAN-C navigation system (the predecessor of GPS), would be directed to publish a request for proposals, complete a plan for the architecture of an eLORAN system, and get a system built and fully operational within three years.

Make no mistake, this is a significant undertaking. But the stakes of doing nothing is a risky roll of the dice we would be well-advised to avoid. I strongly urge members on both sides to support this important provision.

I am also very pleased that this legislation continues to move forward in our efforts to recapitalize the Coast Guard's legacy fleet of polar class heavy icebreakers.

It is clear that we are witnessing the opening of the Arctic to maritime commerce, and with it, the creation of a whole new ocean of operational responsibility for the Coast Guard. In this most challenging of maritime environments, it is vital that the Service has the icebreaking capabilities it will need to operate safely and effectively.

I must express my disappointment that we were unable to retain the "block buy" provision that was reported out of the Transportation Committee.

Nevertheless, the analysis of multi-year procurement and block buy contracting called for in this legislation would be helpful to have on hand when the Congress ultimately does appropriate funds for the construction of these vital new national security assets.

I also want to express my support for other provisions in the bill, notably language that will ensure commercial fishermen a full three years to comply with new alternative safety compliance program requirements from the date the Coast Guard publishes these requirements.

Additionally, I want to express my support for the provision that would grant to the Coast Guard authority to reimburse private entities for their costs to construct a Federal navigation aid. The additional sideboards that were added have clarified the scope and intent of this new authority. I want to thank Congressman BLAKE FARENTHOLD for his willingness to work to improve this provision.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to express my appreciation to Chairman HUNTER and his staff for their support for the Coast Guard and the U.S. Maritime industry, and for their collaboration in developing this legislation.

I also want to thank the Chairman of the full Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman BILL SHUSTER, and the Ranking

Member on the full Committee, Congressman PETER DEFAZIO, for their leadership and support for the Committee's maritime agenda.

In closing, this legislation is bipartisan and non-controversial. It deserves the full support of the House.

NSPD-39: U.S. SPACE-BASED POSITION, NAVIGATION, AND TIMING POLICY, DECEMBER 15, 2004

FACT SHEET

The President authorized a new national policy on December 8, 2004 that establishes guidance and implementation actions for space-based positioning, navigation, and timing programs, augmentations, and activities for U.S. national and homeland security, civil, scientific, and commercial purposes. This policy supersedes Presidential Decision Directive/National Science and Technology Council-6, U.S. Global Positioning System Policy, dated March 28, 1996.

I. Scope and Definitions

This policy provides guidance for: (1) development, acquisition, operation, sustainment, and modernization of the Global Positioning System and U.S.-developed, owned and/or operated systems used to augment or otherwise improve the Global Positioning System and/or other space-based positioning, navigation, and timing signals; (2) development, deployment, sustainment, and modernization of capabilities to protect U.S. and allied access to and use of the Global Positioning System for national, homeland, and economic security, and to deny adversaries access to any space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services; and (3) foreign access to the Global Positioning System and United States Government augmentations, and international cooperation with foreign space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, including augmentations.

For purposes of this document:

"Interoperable" refers to the ability of civil U.S. and foreign space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services to be used together to provide better capabilities at the user level than would be achieved by relying solely on one service or signal;

"Compatible" refers to the ability of U.S. and foreign space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services to be used separately or together without interfering with each individual service or signal, and without adversely affecting navigation warfare; and

"Augmentation" refers to space and/or ground-based systems that provide users of space-based positioning, navigation, and timing signals with additional information that enables users to obtain enhanced performance when compared to the un-augmented space-based signals alone. These improvements include better accuracy, availability, integrity, and reliability, with independent integrity monitoring and alerting capabilities for critical applications.

II. Background

Over the past decade, the Global Positioning System has grown into a global utility whose multiuse services are integral to U.S. national security, economic growth, transportation safety, and homeland security, and are an essential element of the worldwide economic infrastructure. In the year 2000, the United States recognized the increasing importance of the Global Positioning System to civil and commercial users by discontinuing the deliberate degradation of accuracy for non-military signals, known as Selective Availability. Since that time, commercial and civil applications

of the Global Positioning System have continued to multiply and their importance has increased significantly. Services dependent on Global Positioning System information are now an engine for economic growth, enhancing economic development, and improving safety of life, and the system is a key component of multiple sectors of U.S. critical infrastructure.

While the growth in civil and commercial applications continues, the positioning, navigation, and timing information provided by the Global Positioning System remains critical to U.S. national security, and its applications are integrated into virtually every facet of U.S. military operations. United States and allied military forces will continue to rely on the Global Positioning System military services for positioning, navigation, and timing services.

The continuing growth of services based on the Global Positioning System presents opportunities, risks, and threats to U.S. national, homeland, and economic security. The widespread and growing dependence on the Global Positioning System of military, civil, and commercial systems and infrastructures has made many of these systems inherently vulnerable to an unexpected interruption in positioning, navigation, and/or timing services. In addition, whether designed for military capabilities or not, all positioning, navigation, and timing signals from space and their augmentations provide inherent capabilities that can be used by adversaries, including enemy military forces and terrorist groups. Finally, emerging foreign space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services could enhance or undermine the future utility of the Global Positioning System.

The United States must continue to improve and maintain the Global Positioning System, augmentations, and backup capabilities to meet growing national, homeland, and economic security requirements, for civil requirements, and to meet commercial and scientific demands. In parallel, we must continue to improve capabilities to deny adversary access to all space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, particularly including services that are openly available and can be readily used by adversaries and/or terrorists to threaten the security of the United States. In addition, the diverse requirements for and multiple applications of space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services require stable yet adaptable policies and management mechanisms. The existing management mechanisms for the Global Positioning System and its augmentations must be modified to accommodate a multi-use approach to program planning, resource allocation, system development, and operations. Therefore, the United States Government must improve the policy and management framework governing the Global Positioning System and its augmentations to support their continued ability to meet increasing and varied domestic and global requirements.

III. Goals and Objectives

The fundamental goal of this policy is to ensure that the United States maintains space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, augmentation, back-up, and service denial capabilities that: (1) provide uninterrupted availability of positioning, navigation, and timing services; (2) meet growing national, homeland, economic security, and civil requirements, and scientific and commercial demands; (3) remain the pre-eminent military space-based positioning, navigation, and timing service; (4) continue

to provide civil services that exceed or are competitive with foreign civil space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services and augmentation systems; (5) remain essential components of internationally accepted positioning, navigation, and timing services; and (6) promote U.S. technological leadership in applications involving space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services. To achieve this goal, the United States Government shall:

Provide uninterrupted access to U.S. space-based global, precise positioning, navigation, and timing services for U.S. and allied national security systems and capabilities through the Global Positioning System, without being dependent on foreign positioning, navigation, and timing services;

Provide on a continuous, worldwide basis civil space-based, positioning, navigation, and timing services free of direct user fees for civil, commercial, and scientific uses, and for homeland security through the Global Positioning System and its augmentations, and provide open, free access to information necessary to develop and build equipment to use these services;

Improve capabilities to deny hostile use of any space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, without unduly disrupting civil and commercial access to civil positioning, navigation, and timing services outside an area of military operations, or for homeland security purposes;

Improve the performance of space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, including more robust resistance to interference for, and consistent with, U.S. and allied national security purposes, homeland security, and civil, commercial, and scientific users worldwide;

Maintain the Global Positioning System as a component of multiple sectors of the U.S. Critical Infrastructure, consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7, Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection, dated December 17, 2003;

Encourage foreign development of positioning, navigation, and timing services and systems based on the Global Positioning System. Seek to ensure that foreign space-based positioning, navigation, and timing systems are interoperable with the civil services of the Global Positioning System and its augmentations in order to benefit civil, commercial, and scientific users worldwide. At a minimum, seek to ensure that foreign systems are compatible with the Global Positioning System and its augmentations and address mutual security concerns with foreign providers to prevent hostile use of space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services; and

Promote the use of U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services and capabilities for applications at the Federal, State, and local level, to the maximum practical extent.

IV. Management of Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Services

This policy establishes a permanent National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be co-chaired by the Deputy Secretaries of the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation or by their designated representatives. Its members will include representatives at the equivalent level from the Departments of State, Commerce, and Homeland Security, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and from other Departments and Agencies as required.

Components of the Executive Office of the President, including the Office of Management and Budget, the National Security Council staff, the Homeland Security Council staff, the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the National Economic Council staff, shall participate as observers to the Executive Committee. The Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission shall be invited to participate on the Executive Committee as a Liaison. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice each year. The Secretaries of Defense and Transportation shall develop the procedures by which the Committee shall operate.

The Executive Committee shall make recommendations to its member Departments and Agencies, and to the President through the representatives of the Executive Office of the President. In addition, the Executive Committee will advise and coordinate with and among the Departments and Agencies responsible for the strategic decisions regarding policies, architectures, requirements, and resource allocation for maintaining and improving U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing infrastructures, including the Global Positioning System, its augmentations, security for these services, and relationships with foreign positioning, navigation, and timing services. Specifically, the Executive Committee shall:

Ensure that national security, homeland security, and civil requirements receive full and appropriate consideration in the decision-making process and facilitate the integration and de-confliction of these requirements for space-based positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities, as required;

Coordinate individual Departments' and Agencies' positioning, navigation, and timing program plans, requirements, budgets, and policies, and assess the adequacy of funding and schedules to meet validated requirements in a timely manner;

Ensure that the utility of civil services exceeds, or is at least equivalent to, those routinely provided by foreign space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services;

Promote plans to modernize the U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing infrastructure, including: (1) development, deployment, and operation of new and/or improved national security and public safety services when required and to the maximum practical extent; and (2) determining the apportionment of requirements between the Global Positioning System and its augmentations, including consideration of user equipment;

Review proposals and provide recommendations to the Departments and Agencies for international cooperation, as well as spectrum management and protection issues; and

Establish a space-based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Advisory Board. The board shall be comprised of experts from outside the United States Government, and shall be chartered as a Federal Advisory Committee.

The Executive Committee shall establish the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Coordination Office. This office shall provide the staff functions for the Executive Committee. It shall be led by a full-time Director chosen by, and reporting to the Executive Committee, and shall include a cadre of full-time staff provided by Departments and Agencies represented on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the resources for

the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Coordination Office, including funding, location, staffing, and composition, consistent with the direction of this policy.

The National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Coordination Office shall serve as the Secretariat for the Executive Committee and shall perform those functions delegated by the Executive Committee. Departments and Agencies shall provide appropriate information to the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Coordination Office to ensure interagency transparency about positioning, navigation, and timing programs, policies, budgets, and activities that might affect mutual interests or interagency dependencies. The Interagency Global Positioning System Executive Board is hereby disestablished, and the Executive Committee or the National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Coordination Office, as appropriate, shall assume its functions as defined in the Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Executive Committee Charter, consistent with the direction provided in this policy.

The Executive Committee shall advise and coordinate the interdepartmental resource allocation for the Global Positioning System and its augmentations on an annual basis. The Secretary of Defense shall have primary responsibility for providing resources for development, acquisition, operation, sustainment, and modernization of the Global Positioning System. The Secretary of Transportation shall provide resources to the Secretary of Defense for assessment, development, acquisition, implementation, operation, and sustainment of additional designated Global Positioning System civil capabilities beyond the second and third civil signals already contained in the current Global Positioning System program Global Positioning System civil signal performance monitoring, augmentations, and other unique positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities will be funded by the agency or agencies requiring those services or capabilities, including out-year procurement and operations costs. Any new technical features proposed and funded by the civil agencies shall not degrade or displace existing or planned national security functions of the system. If the Executive Committee recommends that the availability of Global Positioning System capabilities should be accelerated, the Executive Committee will make recommendations regarding the resources required to accelerate those capabilities. Resource issues will be resolved during the regular budget process.

The details of the cost sharing between: (1) the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation, for the Global Positioning System; and (2) Departments and Agencies sponsoring augmentations, and/or unique or accelerated capabilities, shall be outlined in a Five-Year National Space-Based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Plan, consistent with the guidance provided in this policy.

V. Foreign Access to U.S. Space-based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Capabilities

Any exports of U.S. positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities covered by the United States Munitions List or the Commerce Control List will continue to be licensed pursuant to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations or the Export Administration Regulations, as appropriate, and in accordance with all existing laws and regulations.

As a general guideline, export of civil or other non-United States Munitions List space-based positioning, navigation and timing capabilities that are currently available or are planned to be available in the global marketplace will continue to be considered favorably. Exports of sensitive or advanced positioning, navigation, and timing information, systems, technologies, and components will be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with existing laws and regulations, as well as relevant national security and foreign policy goals and considerations. In support of such reviews, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, and Energy, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Director of Central Intelligence, shall modify and maintain the Sensitive Technology List directed in U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy, dated April 25, 2003, including those technology items or areas deemed sensitive for positioning, navigation and timing applications. The Secretaries of State and Commerce shall use the list in the evaluation of requests for exports.

VI. Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Departments and Agencies shall allocate the resources required to fulfill the objectives of this policy. Nothing in this policy shall diminish the operational and budgetary authorities of the Departments and Agencies.

The Secretary of Defense shall:

Have responsibility for development, acquisition, operation, security, and continued modernization of the Global Positioning System, while facilitating appropriate civil and homeland security Department and Agency representation and participation in these activities, and any decisions that affect civil and homeland security equities;

Develop, acquire, operate, realistically test, evaluate, and maintain navigation warfare capabilities and other capabilities required to:

Effectively utilize the Global Positioning System services in the event of adversary jamming or other interference;

Deny to adversaries position, navigation, and timing services from the Global Positioning System, its augmentations, and/or any other space-based position, navigation, and timing systems without unduly disrupting civil, commercial, and scientific uses of these services outside an area of military operations, or for homeland security purposes; and

Identify, locate and mitigate, in coordination with Departments and Agencies, as appropriate, any interference on a global basis that adversely affects use of the Global Positioning System for military operations;

Ensure the earliest operational availability for modernized military and navigation warfare capabilities;

Train, equip, test, and exercise U.S. military forces and national security capabilities in operationally realistic conditions that include denial of the Global Positioning System. In cooperation with the Secretaries of Transportation and Homeland Security, and as appropriate, with the Secretary of State, develop guidelines that facilitate these activities and Navigation Warfare training, testing, demonstrations, and exercises without unduly disrupting or degrading homeland security and civil services and operations, either internationally or domestically;

Promote use of Global Positioning System national security services to allied military forces to facilitate interoperability between

U.S. and allied forces and capabilities, and to maintain their use as the pre-eminent military space-based positioning, navigation, and timing capability;

Consistent with the guidance in Section V of this policy, make Global Positioning System national security services, user equipment, information, and technology available for use by allied military forces; and

Work with allies to monitor access to national security services and user equipment, in order to limit the potential for adversaries to use these capabilities against U.S. and allied military forces;

Maintain the commitment to discontinue the use of the feature known as Selective Availability designed to degrade globally the Standard Positioning Service of the Global Positioning System;

Facilitate access to appropriate levels of national security services and user equipment at the Federal level to meet critical requirements for emergency response and other homeland security purposes, and, on an exceptional basis, for civil purposes, including state or local emergency response;

Develop improved, dedicated national security positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities, including but not limited to more diverse, flexible, and capable signals and services;

Maintain lead responsibility for negotiating with foreign defense organizations any cooperation regarding access to or information about Global Positioning System military services; and

In cooperation with other Departments and Agencies, assess the utility and feasibility of hosting secondary payloads on Global Positioning System satellites, including, but not limited to those intended to enhance global search and rescue capabilities for all users. No secondary payload may adversely affect the performance, schedule, or cost of the Global Positioning System, its signals or services. Resources required for the assessment, development, acquisition, integration, and operation of secondary payloads shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring agency or agencies.

The Secretary of Transportation shall:

Have lead responsibility for the development of requirements for civil applications from all United States Government civil Departments and Agencies;

Ensure, in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, the performance monitoring of U.S. civil space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services;

Consistent with the guidance in Section V of this policy, and in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State, facilitate: (1) foreign development of civil positioning, navigation, and timing services and systems based on the Global Positioning System; and (2) international participation in the development of civil applications for U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services;

Ensure, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, that space-based positioning, navigation, and timing public safety services meet or exceed international performance standards, including but not limited to those used for these services in aviation and/or maritime applications;

In cooperation with other Departments and Agencies, promote the use of U.S. civil space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services and capabilities for transportation safety;

Represent the civil Departments and Agencies in the development, acquisition, management, and operations of the Global Positioning System;

Develop, acquire, operate, and maintain Global Positioning System space or terrestrial augmentations for civil transportation applications;

Ensure the earliest operational availability for modernized civil signals and services on the Global Positioning System and its augmentations, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense;

In coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security, develop, acquire, operate, and maintain backup position, navigation, and timing capabilities that can support critical transportation, homeland security, and other critical civil and commercial infrastructure applications within the United States, in the event of a disruption of the Global Positioning System or other space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7, Critical Infrastructure Identification, Prioritization, and Protection, dated December 17, 2003; and

In cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, assess and assist, as appropriate, in the international acceptance for using the military positioning, navigation, and timing services of the Global Positioning System for operations in civil airspace.

The Secretary of Commerce shall:

Represent U.S. commercial interests with other Departments and Agencies in the requirements review of the Global Positioning System and related space-based augmentations;

In coordination with the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Transportation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, seek to protect the radio frequency spectrum used by the Global Positioning System and its augmentations through appropriate domestic and international spectrum management and regulatory practices;

In coordination with the Secretaries of Defense and Transportation, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, facilitate cooperation between the United States Government and U.S. industry as appropriate to identify mutually acceptable solutions that will preserve existing and evolving uses of space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services, while allowing for the development of other technologies and services that depend on use of the radio frequency spectrum;

In cooperation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, develop and provide to the Secretary of Transportation requirements for use of the Global Positioning System and its augmentations to support civil space systems; and

In cooperation with other Departments and Agencies, promote the use of U.S. civil space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services and capabilities for applications at the Federal, State, and local level, to the maximum practical extent.

The Secretary of State shall:

In cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, and other Departments and Agencies promote the use of civil aspects of the Global Positioning System and its augmentation services and standards with foreign governments and other international organizations;

Take the lead for negotiating with foreign governments and international organizations regarding civil and, as appropriate and in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, military positioning, navigation, and timing matters, including but not limited to coordinating interagency review of:

Instructions to U.S. delegations for bilateral and multilateral consultations relating

to the planning, management, and use of the Global Positioning System and related augmentation systems; and

International agreements with foreign governments and international organizations regarding the planning, operation, management, and/or use of the Global Positioning System and its augmentations; and

Modify and maintain, in coordination with the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, and Energy, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Sensitive Technology List created by U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy, dated April 25, 2003. In particular, include sensitive technology items and/or information related to positioning, navigation, and timing applications.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall: Identify space-based positioning, navigation, and timing requirements for homeland security purposes to the Secretary of Transportation, and coordinate the use of positioning, navigation, and timing capabilities and backup systems for homeland security purposes by Federal, State, and local governments and authorities;

In coordination with the Secretary of Transportation, and with other Departments and Agencies, promote the use of the Global Positioning System positioning and timing standards for use by Federal agencies, and by State and local authorities responsible for public safety and emergency response;

In coordination with the Secretary of Defense, and in cooperation with the Secretaries of Transportation and Commerce, ensure:

Mechanisms are in place to identify, understand, and disseminate timely information regarding threats associated with the potential hostile use of space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services within the United States; and

Procedures are developed, implemented, and routinely exercised to request assistance from the Secretary of Defense should it become necessary to deny hostile use of space-based position, navigation and timing services within the United States;

In coordination with the Secretaries of Defense, Transportation, and Commerce, develop and maintain capabilities, procedures, and techniques, and routinely exercise civil contingency responses to ensure continuity of operations in the event that access to the Global Positioning System is disrupted or denied;

In coordination with the Secretaries of Transportation and Defense, and in cooperation with other Departments and Agencies, coordinate the use of existing and planned Federal capabilities to identify, locate, and attribute any interference within the United States that adversely affects use of the Global Positioning System and its augmentations for homeland security, civil, commercial, and scientific purposes; and

In coordination with the Secretaries of Transportation and Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence, and in cooperation with other Departments and Agencies: (1) develop a central repository and database for reports of domestic and international interference to the civil services of the Global Positioning System and its augmentations for homeland security, civil, commercial, and scientific purposes; and (2) notify promptly the Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence,

and other Departments and Agencies in cases of domestic or international interference with space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services to enable appropriate investigation, notification, and/or enforcement action.

The Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall develop and provide to the Secretary of Transportation requirements for the use of the Global Positioning System and its augmentations to support civil space systems.

The Director of Central Intelligence shall identify, monitor, and assess the development of foreign threats to the use of the Global Positioning System positioning, navigation, and timing architectures and related services; provide information to assist the Secretary of Defense in development of countermeasures;

Departments and Agencies detecting interference, or receiving reports of domestic or international interference adversely affecting the performance of U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services shall provide timely reports to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intelligence. Upon notification by the Secretary of Homeland Security:

The Secretary of Commerce, in cooperation with other Departments and Agencies, and with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission shall take appropriate and legally permissible actions required to mitigate interference to U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services within the United States; and

The Secretary of State shall, as appropriate, notify and/or coordinate the notification of foreign governments and international organizations in cases of interference with U.S. space-based positioning, navigation, and timing services caused by foreign government or commercial activities.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. There are a lot of good things in it for the Nation.

As a former computer technician, I know there is nothing worse than a single point of failure in the network. GPS is a single point of failure for a lot of things; eLORAN is absolutely must-have.

We can talk about what is not in the bill as well, but I do want to talk about a section that is specifically important to the district I represent.

Section 202 grants the authority for the Coast Guard to reimburse non-Federal entities for the cost of construction to certain aids to navigation. This authority ensures these types of safety-related navigation projects can move forward in a timely fashion.

We are all too aware of how slow the government can be, especially when it comes to funding projects, so we have come up with a way here where we can work with non-Federal partners to improve the safety of our navigation system. It doesn't cost the government

anything. The non-Federal partners go ahead and put in the equipment up to Coast Guard standards with Coast Guard approval and get it done now; and then, when the Coast Guard gets the money, when the red tape and government machine moves through its procedure, they can get reimbursed, while our mariners can enjoy the enhanced safety and our ports can enjoy the enhanced economic activity as a result of being able to, for instance, traverse channels in low-light conditions.

It is safety. It is good for the economy. In fact, one of the problems that brought this to my attention was when there was a project in Corpus Christi, the La Quinta Channel. Somehow, the aids to navigation never got built, even though this channel has been dredged and is in use. The pilots say it is unsafe to use in low-light conditions, and it looks like it could be years before the Coast Guard gets around to funding it.

Well, the Port of Corpus Christi is willing to pony up the money today. The Coast Guard says: All right; when we get it, we will give it back. This piece of legislation allows that to happen. It is good government, along with lots of other pieces of this legislation, something we need to pass, and I urge my colleagues to git-r-done.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We need polar icebreakers. This body is going to push; Mr. GARAMENDI and I are going to push and push until we have polar icebreakers and we have at least $\frac{1}{40}$ the capability of Russia. That is a pretty low bar that we are setting for ourselves, but we are going to set it right here, right now, in this body. Let's at least have $\frac{1}{40}$ of the capability or Russia, build those polar icebreakers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 5978.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following materials:

EXELIS, URSANAV, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD ENTER AGREEMENT TO TRIAL GROUND-BASED POSITION, NAVIGATION AND TIMING SIGNAL

HERNDON, VA, May 22, 2015.—Exelis (NYSE: XLS), UrsaNav, Inc., the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T), and the U.S. Coast Guard have entered into a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) for testing and demonstration at former LORAN-C sites. These sites are the legacy ground-based radio navigation infrastructure of the decommissioned LORAN-C service that could be retained and upgraded to provide eLORAN low frequency service.

The team will evaluate eLORAN as a potential complementary system to the current Global Positioning System (GPS) currently in wide use throughout the United States. The capabilities and potential utilization methods of eLORAN will be explored in depth to identify all strengths, capacities, and potential vulnerabilities of the technology.

Under the CRADA, Exelis will use the former LORAN-C assets to put eLORAN signals in space for research, test and demonstration of the ability of eLORAN to meet precise positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) requirements of government and privately-owned critical infrastructure. The first station Exelis will broadcast from is located in Wildwood, NJ. The broadcast will provide a usable signal at a range up to 1000 miles.

"eLORAN is an ideal technology to complement GPS for critical, resilient and assured PNT," said Ed Sayadian, vice president of Civil & Aerospace Systems for Exelis. "eLORAN is a difficult to disrupt technology that offers PNT and wide area broadcast data capabilities indoors, in underground locations and other GPS-denied environments."

"A preponderance of government, academic, and industry reports have concluded that eLORAN is the best independent, multimodal solution to provide assured PNT as a complement to GPS," said Chuck Schue, president and CEO of UrsaNav.

Exelis and UrsaNav have entered into this CRADA because they believe that low frequency signals, such as eLORAN, operate independently of GPS signals and can provide alternative timing, either standalone, or as a component of a PNT service. Exelis also believes that as a result of its wealth of experience in its PNT portfolio, that there are many civil and defense applications that require precise time and/or position in GPS-denied environments. Examples include radio frequency interference, both intentional and unintentional; signal attenuation from heavy forest canopy, terrain or buildings; and indoor and underground locations.

About UrsaNav: UrsaNav, Inc. is a Veteran-Owned and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business focused on delivering innovative engineering and information solutions, and associated professional services to government and commercial clients worldwide. UrsaNav is the World's leading supplier of eLORAN technology, equipment, and services with deep experience in the design, development, and deployment of PNT systems. For more information, visit our website at www.ursanav.com.

About Exelis: Exelis is a diversified, top-tier global aerospace, defense, information and services company that leverages a greater than 50-year legacy of deep customer knowledge and technical expertise to deliver affordable, mission-critical solutions for global customers. Exelis is a leader in positioning and navigation, sensors, air traffic management solutions, image processing and distribution, communications and information systems; and focused on strategic growth in the areas of critical networks, ISR and analytics, electronic warfare and composite aerostructures. Headquartered in McLean, Virginia, Exelis employs approximately 10,000 people and generated 2014 sales of approximately \$3.3 billion. For more information, visit our website at www.exelisinc.com.

DECEMBER 8, 2015.

Hon. PETER A. DEFazio,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DEFazio: Thank you for your August 31, 2015, letter regarding the importance of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the need for a complementary positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) capability for the nation.

We share your concerns regarding the importance of GPS to our critical infrastruc-

ture and security requirements. Seeking to implement the guidance from National Security Presidential Directive 39, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Transportation established an interagency process in 2014 to assess those information sources that are complementary to GPS and that could be used to ensure the continuity of PNT services to critical infrastructure. Through this interagency process, the National Space-Based PNT Executive Committee (EXCOM) reviewed several potential solutions and assessed that an enhanced Loran (eLoran) network could be a viable nationwide complementary capability for GPS applications in U.S. critical infrastructure. The EXCOM also assessed that a timing-focused network could be implemented in the near term with properly scoped specifications, costs, and cost sharing arrangements. As you stated, there may be opportunities to work with private and commercial entities to initiate these complementary capabilities.

The EXCOM met on September 3, 2015, and agreed to a two-fold strategy for activities to explore a national complementary capability to GPS: pursue potential near-term opportunities to leverage public and private sector capabilities and resources to support a timing-focused eLoran network, while also documenting the requirements for a more comprehensive complementary PNT capability for the nation's critical infrastructure.

The EXCOM acknowledges the challenges associated with this undertaking, especially given the fact that no government-wide set of requirements has been established for such a complementary capability. However, sufficient data exists from previous studies to produce initial cost estimates and basic system specifications to determine the appropriate scope of the effort. We are building on these data and estimates to develop a more detailed approach for an initial timing-focused eLoran capability. This initial timing network could provide a near-term solution while we continue our efforts to prescribe a complete set of requirements necessary to support a full complementary PNT capability for the nation.

We look forward to working with you as we continue our efforts to provide a complementary PNT capability for U.S. critical infrastructure.

We have sent a similar response to each co-signer of your letter.

Sincerely,

VICTOR M. MENDEZ,
Deputy Secretary of
Transportation, Co-
Chair, National Exe-
cutive Committee
for Space-Based Po-
sitioning, Naviga-
tion, and Timing.

ROBERT O. WORK,
Deputy Secretary of
Defense, Co-Chair,
National Executive
Committee for Space-
Based Positioning,
Navigation, and
Timing.

[From the DHS Science & Technology Press Office, Apr. 20, 2016]

DHS S&T DEMONSTRATES PRECISION TIMING TECHNOLOGY AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

WASHINGTON.—The Department of Homeland security, Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) announced today the successful

demonstration of the Enhanced Loran (eLoran), a precision-timing technology for financial transactions at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

eLoran is a low-frequency, high-power radio navigation signal that is broadcasted by ground-based transmission stations, allowing the signal to penetrate through buildings and provide precision timing indoors and throughout urban environments.

"Accurate position, navigation, and timing is necessary for the function and integrity of many critical infrastructure sectors, such as the electric grid, communication networks, and financial institutions," said DHS Under Secretary for Science and Technology Dr. Reginald Brothers. "Ensuring the continuous and uninterrupted availability of critical information ensures our national security."

DHS S&T, U.S. Coast Guard, UrsaNav, Inc., and Harris Corporation study eLoran through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement for applicability to provide timing information for critical infrastructure applications. The demonstration at the NYSE was hosted by Juniper Networks on April 19 and presented to technical representatives from the financial services, energy, and communication sectors.

We are constantly working with critical infrastructure partners like the financial sector to help build their capabilities and resilience to a variety of hazards, including space weather and other cyber or physical threats to the system's continuity," stated DHS Assistant Secretary for Infrastructure Protection Caitlin Durkovich.

Precise and synchronized timing of financial transactions is critical to markets worldwide and is mandated by regulation in the European Union and is increasingly required in the United States. Today, precision timing capabilities are provided primarily by satellite-based Global Positioning System (GPS). However, GPS's space-based signals are low-power and susceptible to possible disruptions. GPS signals are also difficult to receive indoors and in urban canyons.

"During the technology demonstration inside the NYSE building, we were able to not only provide signals indoors but also provide timing information to within 30 nanoseconds of our UTC reference," said Sarah Mahmood, S&T program manager for the eLoran cooperation agreement.

Recognizing the challenges of space-based signals and the importance of having multiple timing-sources, eLoran is one technology being considered to provide a complementary timing solution to existing GPS technology.

[From the Atlantic, June 13, 2016]

WHAT HAPPENS IF GPS FAILS?

(By Dan Glass)

It only took thirteen millionths of a second to cause a whole lot of problems.

Last January, as the U.S. Air Force was taking one satellite in the country's constellation of GPS satellites offline, an incorrect time was accidentally uploaded to several others, making them out of sync by less time than it takes for the sound of a gunshot to leave the chamber.

The minute error disrupted GPS-dependent timing equipment around the world for more than 12 hours. While the problem went unnoticed by many people thanks to short-term backup systems, panicked engineers in Europe called equipment makers to help resolve things before global telecommunications networks began to fail. In parts of the U.S. and Canada, police, fire, and EMS

radio equipment stopped functioning. BBC digital radio was out for two days in many areas, and the anomaly was even detected in electrical power grids.

Despite its name, the Global Positioning System is not about maps; it's about time. Each satellite in the constellation (24 are needed, plus the U.S. has several spares) has multiple atomic clocks on board, synchronized with each other and to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)—the time standard used across the world—down to the nanosecond. The satellites continually broadcast their time and position information down to Earth, where GPS receivers in equipment from iPhones to automated tractors acquire signals and use the minuscule differences in their arrival time to determine an exact position.

While GPS was initially conceived to aid navigation, globally synchronized time is now a much more critical function of the system. Telecom networks rely on GPS clocks to keep cell towers synchronized so calls can be passed between them. Many electrical power grids use the clocks in equipment that fine-tunes current flow in overloaded networks. The finance sector uses GPS-derived timing systems to timestamp ATM, credit card, and high-speed market transactions. Computer network synchronization, digital television and radio, Doppler radar weather reporting, seismic monitoring, even multi-camera sequencing for film production—GPS clocks have a hand in all.

But last January's system failure brings up an often-ignored question: What if all these flying clock radios were wiped out, and everything on the ground started blinking 12:00? According to Mike Lombardi, a metrologist at the National Institute for Standards and Technology, "Nobody knows exactly what would happen." Since so many of these technologies were designed specifically with GPS in mind, the unsettling truth, he says, is "there's no backup."

This isn't a secret. Concern for the consequences of the country's reliance on this invisible utility has been growing among industry and government workers for more than 15 years, after the Department of Transportation issued a report on the need for a backup navigation system, in 2001. But while the means to create one has existed since, a winding bureaucratic path has kept it from actually being implemented. And that leaves many of the everyday tools society depends on vulnerable until one is.

There are plenty of reasons GPS could fail.

Intentional attack is one, as emphasized by a declassified 2012 risk estimate by the Department of Homeland Security. One of the system's most basic problems is its signals are weak enough to be easily obstructed. Truckers with cheap jamming devices designed to elude employer tracking have unintentionally interfered with airport systems; criminals thwarting GPS tags on stolen goods in shipping containers have accidentally shut down port operations. On a grander scale, North Korea has tormented South Korea with waves of jamming attacks. (Jamming devices are now illegal in the U.S., but not difficult to obtain illicitly.)

A few steps up from jamming devices in both complexity and damage are spoofers: systems that get GPS receivers to lock on to mimicked signal. Spoofers don't trigger equipment alarms, and deliver altered time and position information to unaware users. It's been suggested that Iran used this tactic to lead astray two U.S. Navy patrol boats captured in the Gulf last January.

A plausible worst-case attack scenario would look something like this: Spoofers

feed erroneous data to electrical substation equipment in a metro area, which could overheat power lines and transformers, causing widespread outages. Meanwhile, multiple hidden jammers could cripple cellphone service, and also force fire, police, and emergency medicine departments to revert to old, single-frequency channels. Supplies in this scenario could only be bought in many places with cash, which would be limited without ATM service. According to the DHS report, it could take 30 days or more before the malicious devices are located and disabled. The longer it took, the more systems that would be compromised.

As for unintentional threats to GPS, the DHS risk estimate lists space debris, space weather, defective software, and good old-fashioned human mistakes, among other things. Of these threats, space weather is the most potentially catastrophic, according to Norwegian geophysicist Pal Brekke, whose country was hardest hit by the January outage. Eruptions of high energy radiation from the sun (known as solar flares) and ejections of electrically charged gases have disabled satellites in the past.

With satellites and the chips inside them getting smaller as technology progresses, "one particle from the sun that penetrates a satellite can ruin things," Brekke says. "It wouldn't take that large of an event to take out all GPS."

So far, mitigating the loss of GPS signals has involved two approaches. One is interoperability with other global navigation satellite systems like Russia's GLONASS (which also failed due to a ground control error in 2014) or the European and Chinese systems, both of which are expected to be up by 2020. The other is better clocks, says Lombardi, the NIST metrologist, who's published numerous articles on the topic. "The typical cell tower clock has an oscillator similar to that of a wristwatch," he says, "and can drift out of tolerance in minutes without a signal." How long a clock can maintain time on its own, called "holdover," also affects electrical grids, many of which rely on GPS-dependent devices called synchrophasors used to precisely regulate current flow, as well as help locate faults in the network. A lack of such timing technology was the reason it took some Canadian technicians three months to locate failures after the infamous blackout of 2003.

Chip-scale atomic clocks the size of a penny are a promising new technology that can hold time for about a day, but are currently too expensive to deploy widely. Moreover, hedging and holdover still aren't backups for when space-based signals are simply unavailable.

The bulk of a more promising, comprehensive backup system already exists, right here on the ground. After the sextant but before GPS, navigators around the world used Long Range Aids to Navigation, or "LORAN," a terrestrial system of transmitters and receiving equipment first developed during WWII. By the mid-1990s, Loran "tower chains" provided coverage for North America, Europe, and other regions in the Northern Hemisphere. Its use declined in favor of the much finer accuracy of GPS after it became available for civil use in 1995, but the U.S. Coast Guard continued working on an improved system using the existing infrastructure. If adopted, "Enhanced" LORAN, or eLoran, could provide positioning accuracy comparable to GPS. Broadcast at hundreds of thousands of watts, the signal is virtually un-jammable, and unlike GPS, can even be received indoors, underwater, and in

urban or natural canyons. It also turns out that eLoran can provide a UTC time signal with sub-microsecond time resolution across a large geographical area.

The technology is available—the Coast Guard demonstrated a working prototype last year—so why isn't America using it? John Garamendi, a California congressman, asked this question at a July 2015 congressional hearing on the Federal Radio-navigation Plan, the nation's primary planning document for position, navigation, and timing (PNT). "There are two kinds of time," he opened, "real time . . . and then federal time, which seems to be the forever time. The eLoran system was identified as a backup 15 years ago, and here we are, federal time, not yet done."

Cost doesn't seem to be a problem. A complete alternate PNT system is estimated at \$350 million to \$400 million; it costs \$1 billion yearly to maintain GPS. And science and industry appears to share a consensus that eLoran is the solution. Even the Air Force Colonel and engineer who created GPS, Brad Parkinson, had been on record for years saying "eLoran is the only cost-effective backup for national needs."

In a 2004, a presidential directive tasked DHS and DOT with creating a backup to the GPS system. In 2008, the DHS issued a press release that it was committing to the system and transferred control from the Coast Guard to its National Protection and Programs Directorate. But push and pull between DHS and the Coast Guard appears to have slowed progress.

After this year's satellite error, many European officials who had previously followed America's reluctance to adopt eLoran stepped up development. Meanwhile, pressure from Garamendi, who argued in his address that "without an eLoran system in place ASAP, this country is in serious, serious jeopardy," prompted a letter to him from the Deputy Secretaries of Defense and Transportation informing that the PNT Executive Committee has agreed that an eLoran-based timing network "could provide a near term solution" (if private entities bore some of the cost) while they "continue [their] efforts to prescribe a complete set of requirements necessary to support a full complementary PNT capability for the nation." In other words, it seems: federal time.

Why is the sense of urgency among decision-makers so out of sync? Could some of it be similar to why people delay backing up our computers even though they've been telling themselves to for weeks? How do we decide, when presented a risk with unknown odds, when it's time to sacrifice time and resources to prevent it?

Now is a critically important time to answer that question, as the world actually been given odds on another, even more catastrophic risk than GPS failure: destruction of the electrical power infrastructure itself. On July 23, 2012, a billion-ton cloud of electrified gases blasted off the far side of the sun at over six million miles per hour. According to professor Daniel Baker at University of Colorado, this coronal mass ejection (CME) "was in all respects at least as strong as the 1859 Carrington Event," referring to the strongest solar storm ever recorded, which set fire to telegraph stations and caused auroras down to Cuba. As was widely reported two years ago, if the 2012 CME had occurred one week later, it would have hit Earth.

Space Katrina would be biblically catastrophic. Power could be out for years while electrical transformers were repaired, if the

resources are even available to do so. "Collateral effects of a longer-term outage would likely include disruption of the transportation, communication, banking, and finance systems, and government services; the breakdown of the distribution of potable water owing to pump failure; and the loss of perishable foods and medications because of lack of refrigeration," reads a 2008 National Academy of Sciences report.

In 2014, physicist from San Diego calculated the likelihood of a Carrington-level event in the next decade. The odds he came up with were 12 percent.

The predicament of events like this is not that they're occurring more frequently, but that the rapid development of technology is opening the tools on which humanity depends to an increasingly wide variety of rare but potentially destructive cosmic threats. In the span of a century, we've transferred much of the weight of modern society to global infrastructures with wobbly legs. If they collapse, time will very quickly appear to move backward.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following materials:

STATEMENT FROM DHS PRESS SECRETARY LAURA KEEHHNER ON THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL BACKUP SYSTEM TO GPS

(February 7, 2008)

Today the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will begin implementing an independent national positioning, navigation and timing system that complements the Global Positioning System (GPS) in the event of an outage or disruption in service.

The enhanced Loran, or eLoran, system will be a land-based, independent system and will mitigate any safety, security, or economic effects of a GPS outage or disruption. GPS is a satellite-based system widely used for positioning, navigation, and timing. The eLoran system will be an enhanced and modernized version of Loran-C, long used by mariners and aviators and originally developed for civil marine use in coastal areas.

In addition to providing backup coverage, the signal strength and penetration capability of eLoran will provide support to first responders and other operators in environments that GPS cannot support, such as under heavy foliage, in some underground areas, and in dense high-rise structures. The system will use modernized transmitting stations and an upgraded network.

NATIONAL PNT ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS ON JAMMING THE GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM—A NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT: RECENT EVENTS AND POTENTIAL CURES

(November 4, 2010)

Summary: The United States is now critically dependent on GPS. For example, cell phone towers, power grid synchronization, new aircraft landing systems, and the future FAA Air Traffic Control System (NEXGEN) cannot function without it. Yet we find increasing incidents of deliberate or inadvertent interference that render GPS inoperable for critical infrastructure operations.

Most alarming, the very recent web availability of small GPS-Jammers suggests the problem will get worse. These so-called personal protection devices (PPDs) as well as other, readily available, more powerful devices can deliberately jam the Global Positioning System (GPS) signal over tens of square miles. They also can be devastating to the other, new foreign satellite navigation systems being deployed worldwide.

PPDs are illegal to operate, but many versions are available (for as little as \$30)

from foreign manufacturers over the Internet. The simplest models plug in to a cigarette lighter and prevent all GPS reception within a line of sight range of 5 to 10 miles. Current penalty for operation is simply that the device is confiscated.

We currently lack sufficient capabilities to locate and mitigate GPS jamming. It literally took months to locate such a device that was interfering with a new GPS-based landing system being installed at Newark Airport, NJ.

This paper provides background on satellite navigation and describes the impact of these dangerous PPDs and other disruptive radio frequency interference (Jamming). It also suggests needed action and discusses technical measures needed to harden GPS receivers against PPDs. The PNT Advisory Board believes that countermeasures and actions must be urgently developed.

We strongly believe that the Executive Branch should formally declare GPS a "Critical Infrastructure." But that is clearly only the first action and is by no means sufficient. A multiple agency approach must be urgently developed and executed.

We must quickly develop and field systems that will rapidly locate, mitigate and shut-down the interference. In addition, laws are needed with the power to arrest and prosecute deliberate offenders. [This would be similar to legal action in response to the recent spate of laser attacks on pilots in flight].

Finally, we discuss the need for alternate navigation systems such as eLoran or a backup system currently being configured by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). While the foreign GPS-equivalent systems may offer some help against accidental interference, web sites are already offering devices that will effectively shut down all satellite-based radio navigation signals.

Note that all of these actions and jamming countermeasures tend to deter those who would deliberately interfere with the signals.

Specific Recommendations:

1. National Focus.

GPS should be formally declared critical infrastructure by Executive Branch and managed as such by DHS.

2. National Alerting and Pinpointing Interference Locations.

The National Executive Committee should establish and sponsor a National GPS Interference Locating, Reporting, and Elimination System; coordinating and expanding on the resources of several Departments.

3. Shutting Down and Prosecuting Interferers—

Legal and Law Enforcement actions. The National Executive Committee should examine whether or not they should sponsor Legislation in Congress that addresses interference to GPS that provides substantial fines and jail time for both possession and use of GPS jammers.

4. Hardening GPS Receivers and Antennas. Government should foster and help to stimulate Manufacturers to speed up the development and offering of interference resistant GPS receivers, especially for safety-of-life applications such as commercial air and maritime.

5. Fund a National back-up capability to insure continuity of PNT Operations.

We strongly recommend that the previously announced decision (to deploy eLoran as the primary Alternate PNT) should be reconfirmed and quickly implemented.

We support the FAA's efforts to provide Alternate PNT options that can provide a robust backup to GPS and deter malicious interference.

JUSTIFICATION AND RATIONALE

Background

The utility of GPS continues to increase with an ever-broadening set of applications including military use, aircraft guidance, harbor navigation, car navigation, emergency response and personal navigation. It is now estimated there are close to one billion users.

GPS is a one-way system; it broadcasts line-of-sight signals from a set of satellites in medium earth orbit (MEO) to the earthbound users carrying GPS receivers. The satellites are approximately 12,000 miles above the receivers. These satellites are placed at this altitude, so that the coverage of an individual satellite is over one third of the Earth's surface. With 30 satellites carefully arranged in MEO, all earthbound users of GPS (with a clear view of the sky) can see at least the prerequisite four satellites to determine user location instantaneously. MEO is used so that a reasonably sized constellation can aid navigation worldwide. Lower orbits would require much larger constellations for worldwide instantaneous coverage.

For the reason described above, all GNSS satellites are placed in medium earth orbit (MEO). However, because the journey from MEO to the surface of the earth is 12,000 miles long, the GNSS signals are weak. They have a received power of only 10^{-16} Watts (equivalent to a Los Angeles user receiving the light from 60 watt lightbulb in New York), and can be easily overwhelmed by earth-sourced interfering transmissions at the GPS frequency. As described below, this radio frequency interference (RFI) can be: scheduled, accidental, or malevolent.

Critical Dependency on GPS

Much of our infrastructure is critically dependent on Positioning and Time from GPS. Two such dependencies illustrate this.

First, most telephone cell towers require GPS time to insure they are synchronized and cooperate. Recent instances of jamming in New York have rendered whole neighborhoods without cell service including Emergency Service Providers.

A Second example is the use of GPS for Aircraft Approach to Landing Fields. These GPS-based systems are being deployed and are particularly useful at airports where good alternatives are not available such as at Aspen, CO and Juneau, AK. There are now more FAA-sanctioned GPS approaches than the older beam-steering type. (Over 2000 GPS approaches). The value of these systems is enormous but the vulnerability is not universally appreciated: it took over a month to locate the deliberate small Jammer that was periodically driven by Newark airport. This example is particularly pertinent because the FAA's NextGen Air Traffic Control System is critically dependent on GPS. Proliferated Jammers would cripple the new system which is expected to greatly reduce aircraft delays.

Other Applications: GPS as a "Stealth" Utility. GPS has been aptly called the Stealth Utility. There are literally 100s of additional application examples. Some are safety-of-life (e.g., air and marine), some are startling productivity improvements (e.g., agriculture) and some are simply convenience or recreation (e.g., car navigation). It is now estimated that there are close to 1 Billion GPS receivers worldwide.

The GPS Jamming Threat

Scheduled RFI is probably the largest cause of GPS outages today. The military testing of GPS jamming causes these outages. The events are localized (usually in the

Southwestern US), scheduled (during periods of light air traffic), and approved/coordinated by the Federal Aviation Administration. The FAA announces all upcoming events in Notices to Airmen. Because of the ever-greater Airway-Dependency on GPS, the FAA is increasingly reluctant to grant permission for these tests.

Accidental RFI has certainly interfered with GPS countless times, both domestically and internationally. Most events are probably not reported. The user who is denied service may not even know to whom it should be reported. These disruptive events include unintentional interference due to harmonics from broadcast television, and improperly designed wireless data communication systems.

Deliberate interference, called jamming, is the looming threat. Many of the billion GPS users have become extremely dependent on GPS accuracy, 24 hour availability, and outstanding integrity. This dependency makes GPS a very appealing target for sabotage or malicious mischief.

This white paper is a plea that the National Decision Makers address this situation.

Deliberate Jamming: the so-called "Personal Privacy Devices"

In the past year, so-called personal privacy devices (PPDs) have become widely available on the Internet. A simple example of such products is shown in Figure 1. The most inexpensive PPDs are single antenna devices that jam the one GPS signal frequency (L1) that is used by most users. More expensive units have multiple antennas and attack all three GPS signal frequencies (L1, L2 and L5). As such, these attackers anticipate the next generation of GPS user equipment that would continue to function if only one or two of the three frequencies were jammed. Others PPDs jam cell phone frequencies at the same time, shutting down all calls. They are preferred by car thieves that wish to prevent an on-car warning systems to report the location of a stolen car to the authorities using a GPS receiver connected to a cell phone link.

As shown in Figure 2 (Eldredge, 2010), PPDs range in price from \$30 to over \$300 based on the number of frequencies under attack and the transmitted power. Some radiate only a few milli-watts and other broadcast several watts. The former knock out GPS receivers for hundreds of yards, and the latter can have dangerous effects for many miles.

As their name suggests, PPDs are marketed to individuals that fear for their privacy. This sales strategy seems to be effective. An investigation recently initiated by the FAA revealed that trucks traveling on the New Jersey Turnpike were carrying these devices. Perhaps, these drivers worry that the company dispatcher was monitoring their locations. Ironically, the attention of the dispatcher must be drawn to the truck that never provides location reports.

Jamming Examples—the threat is real and getting worse.

Newark Airport. In any event, a PPD can cause collateral damage much greater than any privacy protection the user may possibly enjoy. The above-mentioned FAA investigation was sparked while the FAA was installing a new GPS-based landing system for aircraft at Newark International Airport. This new system uses GPS receivers on the ground to aid GPS receivers in the approaching aircraft. This technique allows the use of all runways during restricted visibility conditions. The antennas for the FAA's ground

receivers are shown in Figure 3 (Eldredge, 2010), which also shows the proximity to the New Jersey Turnpike. During system test, the FAA noticed that the GPS ground receivers suffered one or two breaks in reception on many days. PDDs were identified as the cause of the continuity breaks after an investigation that lasted several months. If PPDs gain notoriety, they could gain the interest of hackers. These people may not be particularly worried about their location privacy, but may simply enjoy the notion of jamming GPS over wide areas.

Military—North Korean Incident. Malevolent RFI is known as jamming. Enemy Jammers were deployed in Iraq to interfere with US weapons systems during Operation Desert Storm. Most recently, military analysts have expressed concern about recent GPS jammers tested by the North Koreans. (Telematics, 2010). On August 23 and 25 of this year, jamming signals emanating from the North Korean city of Kaesong. These attacks interfered with South Korean GPS military and civilian receivers on land and at sea. Officials say the jammers were repeatedly switched on for 10-minute periods over a number of hours during the three days. South Korea's defense minister, Kim Tae-young, voiced concern to members of the National Assembly. He correctly observed that the North Koreans can mount transmitters on vehicles that can jam GPS signals within a 50 to 100 kilometer radius. Professor Park Young-wook, with Kwangwoon University's Defense Industry Research Institute, states that such jamming must be considered a serious threat if it reoccurs because GPS is an integral part of the infrastructure, not only for the military but for many other industries.

We certainly share the concerns voiced by Minister Tae-young and Professor Young-wook. However, we feel that the greater danger is posed by the propagation of GPS jamming technology to the wider public through devices sold on the Internet. These threats were described earlier.

Maritime Controlled-Jamming Experiments. Until recently, GPS receivers for non-aviation purposes have not enjoyed the scrutiny or extensive testing used by the aviation community. Because of their designs and clear line-of sight exposure, Maritime receivers can certainly be more vulnerable than aviation receivers. The following figures (Last, 2010) depict some disquieting results from recent trials conducted by the General Lighthouse Authorities (GLA) of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

During these trials, a jammer was deployed shown in Figure 4. As shown in Figure 5, this jammer had a devastating effect on the shipborne GPS receiver carried through the jamming zone. The receiver reports a faithful position track (in light blue) when the ship is far to the Northwest or far to the Southeast of the jamming wedge.

Within the wedge, the receiver is overwhelmed and reports no position fix—the jammer breaks GPS continuity. GPS shows no solution. As the receiver approaches or has just departed the wedge, an extremely hazardous result occurs. The receiver suffers large position errors without an accompanying warning—integrity is broken. This is shown as the string of dots to the south and to the southeast of the actual blue track. These last results are most troubling, because the bridge personnel would not be warned that the navigation system was degraded.

In another set of trials, the GLA placed a low power jammer on board the Trinity

House Vessel Galatea. As shown in Figure 6, this jammer induced position reports that skipped across Scandinavia and Ireland while the ship sat steadfastly in the English Channel (the yellow track). Among the systems affected by the interference were the ship's radar and gyrocompass, key rever-sionary systems when GPS fails.

The worrisome results shown in Figures 5 and 6 would not affect an aviation receiver, because aviation standards insist on an internal set of tests (algorithms) for RFI. We later recommend that these algorithms or equivalents become part of the standards for receivers used in any safety-of-life applica-tions.

Recommended Actions to Counter the Threat of GPS Interference

There is not any practical way to com-pletely eliminate GPS interference. But steps can be taken to greatly reduce the fre-quency and impacts of such interference. Further, actions can be taken to insure that GPS receivers do not give false indications of position or time. Our recommendations are:

1. National Focus. GPS is absolutely critical US National Infrastructure. This has not been formally recognized. GPS should be formally declared critical infrastructure by Executive Branch and managed as such by DHS. This is necessary to elevate the im-portance of GPS to our critical infrastructure and bring the needed attention to the inter-ference problem. The various existing na-tional interference programs must be coordi-nated and gaps must be filled with additional funded efforts (see later recommendations). Senior leadership must recognize the vulnerabilities of the current critical infra-structure and give high priority to budgets and solutions.

2. National Alerting and Pinpointing Inter-ference Locations. The NATIONAL EXECU-TIVE COMMITTEE should establish and sponsor a National GPS Interference Locat-ing, Reporting, and Elimination System; co-ordinating and expanding on the resources of several Departments. It took several months to locate the PPD that shut down the New-ark landing system. Technology exists to lo-cate such sources much more quickly. To rapidly alert and pinpoint interference, two elements are required: 1. sensing of the inter-ference and 2. a communications channel to report the problem in real-time. For exam-ple, every cell phone tower could be config-ured to expand the functionality of their GPS timing receiver by promptly recog-nizing and reporting interference, including pertinent characteristics. The incremental cost would be extremely small. Another ex-ample: many toll booths routinely videotape vehicles including license plates. A properly configured GPS receiver at the booth could identify vehicles that are broadcasting inter-ference. There are many more national ref-erence receivers that could be so configured. Cell phones that include GPS receivers can be configured to sense and automatically re-port suspected interference. This would con-stitute a near instantaneous reporting chan-nel, worldwide. Of course a central data-gathering location is needed; it could be co-located with preexisting civil/military re-sources such as WAAS, NGPS or the Air Force's 2SOPS. In turn, the located sources must be reported for appropriate action. No such National (or International) Real-Time System exists today or is even currently planned.

3. Shutting Down and Prosecuting Interferers—Legal and Law Enforcement ac-tions. When the mobile jammer was finally

located at Newark, the only punitive action for the deliberate interference was to con-fiscate the Jammer. The coordination of FAA, FCC, FBI, and DOD was commendable, but ad hoc and very tardy. The PNT Execu-tive Board should sponsor Legislation in Congress that addresses interference to GPS with laws that provide substantial fines and jail time for both possession and use of GPS jammers. Precedents have already been es-tablished with the laws enacted to prevent and deter lasers being aimed at Pilots as they attempt to land airplanes. Australia, which is also very reliant on GPS for Air Traffic control, has a law that fines the pos-sessor of a GPS jammer \$100,000. In addition, operational procedures for rapid interdepart-mental reaction and mitigation of inter-ference must be established. A reasonable goal is to locate and shut down any jammer in a matter of hours.

4. Hardening GPS Receivers and Antennas. In addition to legal action, we wish to galva-nize a technical effort to strengthen all GPS receivers. GPS receivers should never give the Hazardous and Misleading Information (HMI) that is shown in figure 6. The tech-niques to avoid this are well known and spec-ified for all FAA certified equipment. All GPS safety-of-life receivers should include the integrity algorithms specified by the FAA. There are also well-known design tech-niques to greatly reduce outages of GPS re-ceivers due to interference. Examples in-clude: special antennas that null inter-ference, coasting thorough interference by using inertial components and/or small atomic clocks, as well as physical shielding in the direction of presumed jamming. Some would add significant cost but may be war-ranted for safety-of-life and other critical ap-plications. New supplementary devices can make GPS receivers more robust and are be-coming more affordable. (e.g. miniature accelerometers, chip scale atomic clocks etc.)

Some actions are being taken. For exam-ple, the FAA is already hardening the GPS receivers and antennas placed on the ground at Newark International Airport. Changes include: GPS antennas that are less vuln-erable to radio frequency interference; im-proved practices for placement of GPS an-tennas on the airport (farther from public roadways); and receiver algorithms that more quickly recover when the PPD moves away from the GPS antenna. Manufacturers should speed up the offering of interference resistant GPS receivers, especially for safe-ty-of-life applications such as commercial maritime. These receivers should use FAA techniques to insure they do not display Haz-ardous and Misleading Information during periods of interference.

5. Establishing GPS Backups to insure con-tinuity of PNT Operations. As described above, GPS receivers should certainly be made more robust against jamming. In ad-dition, we feel that the nation should vigor-ously support efforts to provide Alternate Position, Navigation and Time (APNT). In this final section, we first describe the role of planned foreign satellite systems (GNSS) that are similar to GPS. Unfortunately they have the same susceptibility to interference as GPS. Next we describe two alternate tech-niques to determine PNT (APNT) that are more jam-resistant and could be readily made operational.

GNSS. GPS is now recognized worldwide, and other nations are responding with sat-ellite navigation systems of their own. The Russians are reinvigorating their satellite navigation system called GLONASS, and

new systems are being developed in China, Europe, Japan and India. Taken together, GPS and these other systems are called Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS).

These other systems are valuable for im-proved accuracy and integrity. In addition they will offer frequency diversity. Therefore they will be helpful in countering uninten-tional interference at a single frequency. The new PFD (Jammers) being sold on the web will also prevent use of these foreign GPS-like systems as well as cell phones. Thus these new foreign systems will not be helpful in operating during deliberate jam-ming radiated by the better devices cur-rently available.

While a number of backup PNT systems have been considered, there are two major alternatives for APNT that have emerged as being particularly useful:

1. e-Loran: Loran is a ground-based radio-navigation system that preceded satellite navigation. It finds its origins in World War II, and enjoyed wide spread adoption after the grounding of the Argo Merchant on Georges Bank. At that time, the U.S. Coast Guard began to require Loran carriage by ships over a certain tonnage in the Coastal Confluence Zone of the United States. Im-portantly, Loran is based on the broadcast of extremely high power signals in the low fre-quency portion of the radio spectrum. The frequency of transmission is 10,000 lower than the GPS frequencies in the microwave band, and the power of the transmission is 1000 times greater than the GPS trans-mission power. An updated version of called eLoran has now been developed and tested. It is very robust, resistant to interference and has two dimensional accuracies of about 20 meters in critical areas. It is not nearly as accurate as the best GPS, and the lack of the vertical dimension reduces eLoran's effec-tiveness, yet it is a very robust APNT sys-tem.

In December 2006, an Independent Assess-ment Team was appointed, reporting to DOT and DHS. It was under the administration of the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA). After careful review over many weeks, they unanimously recommended that the eLoran deployment be completed as a backup for GPS. Yearly cost to maintain this in the US was about 20 \$M. This is about 1/10th the cost of a single GPS satellite. The DHS then made an announcement that eLoran was the official APNT system for the US. The Schles-inger-chaired PNT Advisory Board has also unanimously recommended that eLoran be deployed and maintained as a GPS backup.

For these reasons, the international nav-igation community has also strongly sup-ported the upgrade and sustainment of the Loran system in any number of forums. This recommendation has been heeded in Europe. Indeed, Figure 7 shows the faithful position track provided by enhanced Loran (e-Loran) as the ship traverses the jamming wedge generated by the General Lighthouse Au-thorities from Flamborough. Figure 7 pro-vides a stark contrast to the GPS-based re-sults in Figure 5. Unfortunately, DHS has not followed through with their announce-ment: the Loran system in the United States has been turned off.

We strongly recommend that the pre-viously announced decision (to deploy eLoran as the primary APNT) should be re-confirmed and quickly implemented. The reasons for this are clearly stated in the IDA white paper. It is the most viable and robust backup to GPS and can be implemented in a way that is virtually seamless to the user.

2. Alternate Navigation for the Next Generation Air Transportation System: Today, the FAA uses an extensive network of terrestrial navigation aids to mitigate GPS outages. This backup navigation capability is based on ground-based navigation aids that precede GPS. All of these extant systems support point-to-point navigation. Even though these transmissions are reasonably robust against RFI, this point-to-point capability may not be suitable for the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). NextGen anticipates an increase in air operations by a factor of two or more by 2025, and will enable a host of operational improvements needed to smoothly support this traffic increase. NextGen is based on GPS, satellite-based augmentation systems (SBAS), and ground-based augmentation systems (GBAS). All of these systems provide so-called area navigation (RNAV). In other words, they provide guidance over a volume, and the alternate navigation system of 2025 also needs to provide a volumetric aid to navigation.

Thus, the FAA is actively exploring alternate position, navigation time (APNT) as part of their NextGen effort, because the airspace should not revert to inefficient point-to-point navigation should RFI interrupt GPS-based operations in the 2025 timeframe. This APNT capability would be based on a reconfiguration of existing or planned FAA ground facilities (Eldredge, 2010), and Figure 8 shows part of the ground infrastructure that can be utilized to provide this APNT area navigation capability.

Time Synchronization: As part of their APNT effort, the FAA has identified three architectures that may be suitable for alternate area navigation in 2025. These straw men are based on the sites shown in Figure 8, but two of these APNT architectures require time synchronization of neighboring ground sites. To this end, the FAA has investigated time transfer based on hardened GPS receivers and low earth orbiting satellites (LEOs). In the former case, jammers are attenuated by so-called controlled radiation pattern antennas. In the latter case, the needed processing gain derives from the proximity of the LEOs. Indeed, the altitude of the LEOs is approximately twenty times less than the GNSS altitude. Thus LEOs have small earth footprints and cannot provide the navigation performance associated with GNSS. However, the signal received from this nearby source is approximately 400 times greater than the power received from GNSS. Thus, LEOs could provide the robust time transfer capability needed to support APNT, because time transfer only requires one satellite to be in the common view of the ground stations to be synchronized.

We encourage the FAA to continue efforts and to provide an APNT that is a robust backup to GPS and deterrent to malicious interference.

Summary and Conclusions:

The interference threats to GPS are very real and promise to get worse. These threats potentially imperil much of the U.S. infrastructure. It will take some time to field a full set of countermeasures and systems. Failure to act will be a serious abdication of our national responsibility.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5978, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DR. OTIS BOWEN VETERAN HOUSE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5509) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5509

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TEMPORARY LODGING FACILITY, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA.

The Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House". Any reference to such temporary lodging facility in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5509, which will formally rename the home for families of veterans undergoing medical treatment in Indianapolis as the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House. Passing this bill today is the least we can do to repay an individual who gave so much of himself to serving our Nation, to providing care to his neighbors as a family physician, and to supporting our veterans.

As a lifelong Hoosier, Dr. Bowen was born and raised in Indiana and later went on to receive his bachelor's and his medical degree from Indiana University. As a newly minted doctor, "Doc," as he became known, courageously served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946. During his service in World War II, he bravely tended wounded servicemen during the first wave of Al-

lied troops in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945.

After serving his country, Doc Bowen came home to Indiana and set up a family medical practice in his hometown of Bremen, Indiana. During his 26 years of private practice, he delivered over 3,000 babies in a town with a population of just over 4,500 people.

It was during this time that he also became involved with Indiana politics. Rising all the way from local coroner to speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives and, eventually, one of our State's most popular Governors, Doc Bowen consistently won the trust and respect of Hoosiers with his patented bedside manner.

As Governor, Doc Bowen drew upon his war experiences as a combat physician to improve healthcare services in Indiana by pioneering a statewide emergency medical services system.

Upon leaving office in 1981, Doc Bowen served as a professor of medicine and director of undergraduate medical practice education at the IU Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Doc Bowen returned to public service in 1985, when he answered the call of President Ronald Reagan to become the first doctor to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. There he spearheaded the Federal Government's response to the spread of AIDS, promoted public awareness of the dangers of the disease, and worked toward its eradication.

Throughout his career, Doc Bowen was active in our community as a force for good and advocate for others. Most notably, Doc Bowen was an active member of the American Legion post in Bremen for 59 years. He was also a member of the VFW, the American Medical Association, and he sat on the board of the Lilly Endowment, a philanthropic organization based in Indianapolis.

Through Doc Bowen's leadership on the Board of the Lilly Endowment, the Richard L. Roudebush Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center secured a \$9.9 million charitable grant to construct a home for the families of veterans undergoing surgery at the center.

As a doctor, Doc Bowen knew that love is a vital component of the healing process and that a family can't dedicate their time and energy to the recovery process when they have to worry about where their next meal might be coming from or where they might lay their heads at night while visiting their family members at the hospital.

Unfortunately, in 2013, Doc Bowen passed away at the age of 95. Throughout his career, he touched so many Hoosiers and always worked to enrich the lives of others through selfless sacrifice, hard work, and dedication. The eulogy of Pastor Rhode at his funeral summed up Doc's life most eloquently

when he said: "He only sought to work for others. He took the talents and gifts God gave him and used them to his fullest."

□ 1930

This is a lesson we all can learn from and is the reason I am proud to support this bill. I also want to thank all of my Hoosier colleagues from both sides of the aisle who signed on and support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) in supporting H.R. 5509, a bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House.

Dr. Bowen was born near Rochester, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University and received his M.D. degree from Indiana University School of Medicine. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1946, and was with the first wave of Allied troops in the invasion of Okinawa in 1945, and was honorably discharged as a captain in 1946.

When he returned home, he began his private practice, acquiring a respected place in Bremen, Indiana, as the country doctor.

After serving in the Indiana Legislature for 14 years, Dr. Bowen was elected the 44th Governor of Indiana and ultimately served as the Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Ronald Reagan.

I am very pleased to support this legislation and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my dear friend and colleague from California (Mr. TAKANO) for those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI). She is my dear friend from northern Indiana who has also served on the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BROOKS from Indiana. I am thrilled to stand here tonight and be a part of naming this facility in Indianapolis the Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House.

Dr. Bowen spent most of his life in my district, Indiana's Second District. He was the consummate Hoosier, known for his personal integrity and leadership in service to this Nation and the State of Indiana.

His nickname was Doc, as he was affectionately known, and I would be one person knocking on his door every so often just to check in and see how he was doing. He had a wall of fame in his house like none other. I would love to

just sit and listen to his words of wisdom over the years. He was born in Rochester, Indiana, in Fulton County. He graduated from Francesville High School. To this day, today, all of those areas in those counties are proud that he actually resided in those areas.

He received his medical degree from IU in 1942, completed his residency at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, joined the U.S. Medical Army Corps, was part of the first wave of troops to storm the beaches of Okinawa during World War II. After leaving the service, he started a family practice in Bremen, Indiana. In 1952, Doc began his career in public service, serving as Marshall County coroner in 1956, when he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. He was elected Governor of Indiana in 1972 and reelected in 1976.

In 1985, Ronald Reagan appointed him as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Service, the first medical doctor to serve in that role.

His commitment to serving Hoosiers made him one of the most adored public servants in the State of Indiana. His dedication is exemplified by the fact that after all these accomplishments and awards, he said his proudest achievement was delivering those 3,000 babies as a family physician in Marshall County.

I can't think of a more deserving person to name this facility after.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5509.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, before we conclude, I would like to take a moment to personally thank Chairman MILLER for all that he has done throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives and in shepherding this bill. I also would like to thank his staff who have helped us bring this bill to the floor.

The people of Florida's First Congressional District couldn't have asked for a more dedicated public servant. The work that Chairman MILLER has done to advance the rights and care of veterans is truly remarkable.

Whether it was in the trenches of war for Doc Bowen or in political office or at his doctor's office, Doc Bowen had a clear passion for serving others. However, he always reserved a special place in his heart for his fellow veterans, like Chairman MILLER. That is why it is only appropriate that the house—the home—that he helped build for veterans and their families carry his name and serve as a permanent reminder of the character and fortitude of this legendary man.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge passage today.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5509.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOLD FARC ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, Colombians in my Congressional District will go to the polls to vote on the Colombia-FARC deal, deciding whether to hold the narco-terrorist organization known as the FARC accountable for its innumerable crimes committed over more than 50 years.

Yet, in a deal brokered by the duplicitous Castro regime, the FARC members may soon get off scot-free—no jail time and no compensation to the family members of their victims. FARC members will even be allowed to run for office. Good grief.

This is a bad deal, Mr. Speaker, and it should not be financed by American taxpayers. The only things the FARC and its criminal backers in Havana are interested in are more opportunities to continue running drugs, lining their pockets, and destabilizing Latin America.

Colombians in my district can vote on the deal in either Coral Gables, Hialeah, or Kendall, as well as many other places surrounding Miami. For more information on voting locations, they can contact the Colombian consulate in Miami.

SHOOTING AT CASCADE MALL IN BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very heavy heart. On Friday night, there was a tragic shooting at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, where five people were killed.

The victims included a 16-year-old cancer survivor from Mount Vernon High School, a dedicated public servant from Arlington and her 95-year-old mother, a Boeing employee from Lake Stevens, and a Macy's cosmetic counter worker.

As our community comes together during this difficult time, our region grieves for the victims, their families, and all those affected by this tragedy.

We will always remember Sarai Lara, Belinda Galde, Beatrice Dotson, Chuck Egan, and Shayla Martin.

I want to thank our local law enforcement for their long hours searching for the shooter who was apprehended less than 24 hours after the incident.

While there is no one law that will prevent every single instance of senseless violence, we must do more to end the tragic cycle of gun violence affecting our communities.

RECOGNIZING THE SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S BACKPACK PROGRAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the efforts of an Erie County-based food bank to combat childhood hunger across northwestern Pennsylvania, especially in several counties of Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District.

In 2011, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania launched its backpack program, which enlists the help of volunteers to fill backpacks with enough meals and snacks to help feed children over the weekends of each school year.

Over this past weekend, around 70 volunteers, including residents, teachers, and businessowners from Warren County gathered to supply backpacks to around 350 students in the Warren County School District. The backpacks are expected to last those second and third grade students through the end of the year.

In Erie County, around 1,100 students benefit from the program in the Erie County School District with meals being distributed to children throughout its 15 elementary schools.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that a program such as this is necessary, but I am proud that there are folks in the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District and the surrounding area who are willing to help step up to the plate for kids in need.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the 226 million Americans who are eligible to vote and to recognize September 27 as National Voter Registration Day.

However, this year is different. With the recent attacks on our democracy, unscrupulous actors seek to gain access to confidential and sensitive information and distort the outcome of elections.

In Arizona, the secretary of state just took offline its voter registration

database because of credible threats to its system. In Illinois, 15 million records were recently exposed and nearly 200,000 accessed by hackers. The Russian Government hacked the Democratic Party's emails and files in an attempt to distort our elections.

Our elections should be free of foreign influence. As the representative for Silicon Valley, I value technology in our democracy. That is why I introduced legislation to declare our election technology as critical infrastructure, so we can give local and State officials the Federal resources they need to protect our votes and the purity of our democracy.

On this National Voter Registration Day, too much is on the line for us not to act.

RECOGNIZING KU CHANCELLOR BERNADETTE GRAY-LITTLE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, as a proud Jayhawk, I rise today to recognize a great leader for the State of Kansas who has made a positive impact on the lives of many fellow Kansans—KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little.

Last week, Chancellor Gray-Little announced her retirement in 2017, and I wanted to recognize some of the major accomplishments during her tenure at KU.

From day one, she set aggressive goals through her Bold Aspirations initiative to advance the university into the 21st century as a leader in education and research. It was a great success, leading to KU being designated as a National Cancer Institute and working towards a Comprehensive Cancer Center designation. The KU Alzheimer's Disease Center also received national designation from the National Institute on Aging.

As someone who utilized both student loans and Pell grants, I was greatly appreciative of her vocal support for these programs to help every student achieve their dreams regardless of income level.

Today, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Chancellor Gray-Little for her leadership and service to our beloved Jayhawk community and wish her and her husband, Shade, well in their next endeavors.

Rock Chalk, Jayhawks.

VETERAN SUICIDE CRISIS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am holding here in my hand a wristband that was given to me over this week-

end. It says: "22 every day." Unfortunately, shamefully, this is in reference to the number of veterans that commit suicide in this country every day.

There are many reasons, but one of the reasons it should not be is that, A, they could not get through on a telephone call to somebody at the VA; or that they had given up hope that they were going to have their needs met after the promise that was made to them wasn't kept because they could not get what they needed for their health care and for other benefits that were promised them as being members of our military.

So my hat is off to AMVETS and many other folks, including people out there on social media, that are dedicated to doing 22 push-ups a day to get awareness up amongst their friends for the loss of approximately 22 veterans per day on suicide.

We have to get our act together here and pass legislation to make sure they at least will get their phone calls answered, especially at a time of crisis like that, when they are contemplating perhaps a suicide.

Mr. Speaker, this needs to be done soon and with the dedication that they have given to us.

□ 1945

AMERICA HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, a friend of mine works part time in a hardware store. He is retired from several other careers, but he continues to enjoy helping people in a retail-service environment.

Recently, he kindly gave me, as we were talking about gardening, some hosta plants that he had grown. As I drove through his neighborhood looking for his house, I suspected his home was the one flying the large American flag. I knew that Mike, my friend, had served in Vietnam, but, as we spent some time digging up the plants and visiting around his garden, I learned a lot more about his harrowing experience as a marine.

You see, Mr. Speaker, Mike's squad was assigned to protect an area in the northern part of south Vietnam. They were a pesky bunch, as Mike put it, and the north Vietnamese grew tired of the constant haranguing, so they launched a counterassault. Mike's squad was outnumbered 10 to 1, and they were hit pretty hard. A call went out for help, but the first helicopter to arrive was blown apart.

Mike sustained severe wounds. A bullet to the chest collapsed his lung,

shrapnel tore through a foot and a leg, and another bullet grazed his head. To breathe, Mike had to keep clearing his throat with his finger to remove the gurgling blood. And at the point where he could no longer physically fight, he crawled to a slightly more secure place and propped himself up on a sack. Mike told me he remembered two things—the wind blowing through his hair and his mother. Who would tell her that he had died?

Only three Americans survived that battle. Fortunately, another helicopter quickly landed and a corpsman came to Mike's rescue, stabilized him, and helped return him to safety. A doctor performed quick and precision surgery, and the medical personnel nursed him back to health, for which Mike was always grateful.

But something always nagged him. He never got a chance to thank the corpsman who risked his own life to save him. And, finally, in 2001, he went online, did some research, and found the man 30 years later. Mike wrote to him and said: I have not forgotten you.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that our country's economic, political, and cultural settlement is straining under a number of very harsh realities. Concentration of economic and political power, coupled with signs of social collapse, are contributing to a growing sense of vulnerability and anxiety in our society. Amid a divisive and disorienting political season, terrorist attacks in San Bernardino, Orlando, Minnesota, and New York have reminded us of the grave threats to life and our cherished liberties.

Take a moment, Mr. Speaker, to notice how many Nebraskans and how many Americans like Mike fly our flag. It means something. The flag stands for an ideal, for a value, for the proposition that all persons have dignity. And when that dignity is safeguarded, a people can flourish. That is America. But I think more people need to hear, Mr. Speaker, that we have not forgotten you. The fundamental questions right now before us are, who are we as a Nation, where are we going as a people, and how will we find our greatness again?

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I had an extraordinary privilege. I would like to share the story with you and the body. I was invited to attend the dedication of a new veterans memorial in a small town in the heart of the Great Plains north of Lincoln, Nebraska, where I live. This town is called Wahoo. It was actually made famous because in the old David Letterman show he named it as the hometown office.

But Wahoo is more than a late night show's joke. It is a place where a community lives, works, and has a deep sense of interconnectedness and well-being. It is a place of extraordinary greatness. In this small town, about 500 people from the entire county came

and gathered right there at the courthouse for the dedication of a new memorial honoring the 101 servicemembers who had been killed from the small farming community and the surrounding area—soldiers, troops, military personnel from World War I to our present day. All of their names were read in an honor roll, many having Czech and German names, who were such an important part of the original settlement of that area, as well as the Swedish.

When I approached the microphone to say a few words, I recalled the old movie "To Kill a Mockingbird," based upon the old novel. Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, in that movie, the lawyer Atticus Finch gives a defense of a man who is unjustly accused of a crime. The community from which that man had come had to sit in the upper balcony of the courtroom because of the prejudice of that time. And as Atticus Finch was getting ready to leave the courtroom, the reverend, who was in the midst of that community in the gallery, says to his young child, the lawyer's young child: "Stand up, your father's passing."

At that beautiful ceremony right there in the Great Plains, it started with the public high school choir and the Catholic high school choir singing our national anthem. When that occurred, no one sat on a bench, no one took a knee. We all stood because it was not about us, it was about them, the men and women before us, living and dead, who had answered the call to service. And whether they had cooked or cleaned or computed or were in the worst conceivable firefight, nonetheless, they said: yes, I will serve, I will sacrifice, for the meaning of our Nation.

We live in a time, Mr. Speaker, when our world is screaming for meaning. What we are really searching for is not an answer that can be found here in this body. We have an important role to debate the most pressing issues of the day, whether those are national security, economic security, and even cultural security. The most important answers aren't found necessarily down the street in the White House. They are not going to be answered necessarily in the great debate that is about to occur moments from now on the television. The answer is found in the debate about meaning itself.

When we find things that bind us, like this extraordinary ceremony yesterday nestled in the heart of America, where people young and old came to honor our veterans, when we look back to those who came before us, giving them their due in a memorial that appropriately honors them, we bind ourselves in a noble idea that sacrifice for one another, sacrifice, even for a nation, is sometimes not only necessary, but it is worthy of the fullness of the call in the human heart.

But we still have hard questions before us. So what should we do? The first pathway, Mr. Speaker, to finding solutions is to adequately identify the problem. And in one word, I believe the problem is fragmentation.

What do I mean by that? It is a creeping separateness, whether in economic affairs, government affairs, foreign affairs, or our own basic exchanges in local community life. People are feeling alone, isolated. In many cases, they feel like they lack control over the most basic things, the simple things in their own life.

Far remote systems seem to be the new governing order. Informative institutions that used to provide the continuity of tradition and nest people into an ongoing desire and pathway toward hope by giving them the gifts of that tradition and the responsibility nested within community, as well as the accountability, have all become fragmented. These burdens press upon our people in a most profound way, and, in particular, in regards to their own economic well-being.

These days, economic measures are on everyone's mind. There is a tremendous amount of anxiety, even hopelessness, in our uncertain times. And while the stock market has certainly rebounded and corporate profits have soured, many families are facing downward mobility, stagnant wages, decreased opportunity, the feeling of disenfranchisement, and the inability to achieve financial security.

Part of our problem is our country's damaged micro-enterprise sector, that entrepreneurial space where most new jobs in the country are actually created. And we are not even talking about corporations that are 100 to 500 employees. We are talking about shops that are 1 to 5 people.

This morning, I made a phone call as I was getting on the plane to return here from Nebraska because, Mr. Speaker, I received this in the mail. This is a flyer announcing a doors-closing sale from a small business called Havelock Furniture. This furniture company anchors the north end of a little community called Havelock, which is now subsumed into the greater community of Lincoln, Nebraska.

It distressed me when I received this. At first, I thought they might be another victim of corporate consolidation, an inability to compete as a small furniture store in a sector that might be, again, increasing the concentration into fewer and fewer hands.

So I just picked up the phone, and I called Sue. Now, this is an advertisement for a closing-business sale, and it is giving me a discount if I want to come there and buy something. But Sue lays out, in very heartfelt terms, the reality of their circumstances: The family has been in business for 61 years, and now I am retiring forever. She goes on to say: And I am offering

our friends and employees and preferred customers a special discount.

Well, I can't ever recall if I have met Sue. And, by the way, at the top of this, Mr. Speaker—I don't know if you can see it—is a picture of the founder, Mel Everson, and it says: In loving memory. As I recall, Sue is his daughter.

I called Sue just to find out what was going on, and also to express my thanks for their willingness to be in business this long, carry on an important tradition for an important part of our town, and be an integrated part of an old Main Street that still occupies a unique part of the community where I live.

We talked a little bit about what happened. And, fortunately, it wasn't the result of any type of pressure coming from outside economic forces that were beyond her control, it was simply the necessary decision that had to be made for family reasons. But, nonetheless, I felt a heartfelt loss. And why? Because on a deeper level, Sue's business is the loss of a symbol of community mutuality and economic affairs, a gathering place where human interaction reinforces social vibrancy.

Mr. Speaker, our country needs a 21st century vision of what economic success can look like. Benign competition with a robust small business sector creates the conditions for a sustainable dynamism, a humane economy that prioritizes personal relationships and community ties, fosters stronger entrepreneurialism, forges better consumer products, and creates more jobs for persons who need them.

□ 2000

Just as a healthy society and the principle of self-responsibility are the preconditions for prosperity, properly ordered markets support social cohesion. Markets at their best are driven by startup innovation and sustained by widespread ownership. The return of small business, with a new participatory economy, can extend the dignity and just rewards of meaningful work. It will help us fight poverty and help us to rebuild our economy in this century.

Now, what are some good examples of this economic mutuality I am referring to where no person or no thing is thrown away?

I recently saw a presentation by a CEO of a major corporation. He threw up a PowerPoint on the screen, and I thought we were getting ready to look at some boring quarterly earnings projections or something like that; but instead of rolling out the PowerPoints and graphs, the CEO showed a simple picture. It was a picture of a young woman on her wedding day, a bride on her father's arm.

The CEO then said this: "Everyone is someone's daughter. Everyone is someone's son." In other words, persons

matter—persons matter in a society; persons matter in a business; persons matter as we debate the great public policy issues before us because, ultimately, that is the purpose, the well-being of persons.

The point was powerfully made. The understanding of work and the workplace—the proper understanding of work as nested within the workplace—are essential to human dignity and to human happiness; and this CEO of a very large corporation said he believed business could be the greatest force for good in the world. That is a strong and proper perspective.

Mr. Speaker, as I was recently looking around my garage, looking to clean out a few things, I came upon an old, antiquated pickax. It is really a substantial piece of hardware. I bought this years ago and used it numbers of times in my yard. Then the handle finally broke, and I had a hard time throwing it away—it is a bad habit I have, I guess. But it sat there in my garage, a substantial piece of iron. So, instead of throwing it away, I took it with me to the local hardware store, and then I went to look at some new ones.

I asked the clerk: "What do you think? Do you sell handles?"

He said: "No, we do not sell new handles." He said: "You are probably better off buying a new one and putting this one on the wall in the man cave." So I went and looked at a new one and toyed with the idea; but then the clerk said: "Well, look. Let me do a little research for you, and I will get back to you."

So he did. He went out and found a company in America that made pickax handles out of hickory. He took it a little further. He went ahead and ordered the handle for me, and he replaced it himself. When I went to the store about week later, there it was—a piece of old, old hardware, ready to be put back to work with a replacement handle proudly made in America and made of hickory.

If you had done a straight analysis of the cost involved in this repair project, it was not worth it. I only saved about \$10 by repairing versus buying a new one. I had to wait a week or so, and I had to go to the store twice, but there are unmeasured benefits here. Let's talk about those. First of all, an old piece of iron is not in a landfill; a renewable resource of hickory wood was deployed; an American company made a little profit; and the hardware store's clerk had the satisfaction of a hand-built opportunity. I will tell you, I must say, I am pretty proud of my refreshed, repurposed pickax, and I put it right to work on some old bushes I had in the yard.

More importantly, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to rebuild our economy, thinking about how we manufacture, how we maintain, and how we rebuild

what is still useful can unlock the benefits of a well-functioning market system. This small act of taking something old but solid and getting it back into useful service provides some insights on how to better secure economic well-being. The disposable nature of so many goods as they are now manufactured, with the intended life expectancy ever more narrowed, decreases costs in the short term—but cheaper isn't always best. The ability to repair and recycle and to repurpose—to keep the useful life of a resource as long as possible—is smart economics. It is a fundamental principle of conservation, and it is a key to reviving the small business service sector.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, this is an emerging trend. I was watching the Olympics. During it, I noticed a commercial in which a major retailer gave a subtle message about cheap imports. During the commercial, as the song "Dream On" built up steadily in the background, the commercial featured people waking up, going about the routine of life, getting their kids to school, and making their way to a factory, where they used their hands to make things—tough and gritty work, but connected to a deeper meaning. At the end of the commercial, the company stated it will invest \$250 billion in American manufacturing in the years to come. Maybe we are on the front end of a trend, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope so.

An economic model that chases more and more output alone is not a valid measure of value. Our country's economic reboot requires a return to a humane economy—one focused on quality, durability, and the work of human hands and, as much as we can, made in America. Without this focus, we will forever chase that which we cannot find, and perhaps more and more people are realizing that we should shift to what is dependable, not disposable; to what is fixable, not forgettable; to what is repairable and not just replaceable. Using my repurposed hickory-handled, American-made pickax gives me a great deal of time to think about these things, Mr. Speaker. It also gives me a pretty good workout—a winner all the way around.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reference something else that I happened to see. There is a show—I am not sure if it is still on—that is called "Undercover Boss," and I have seen it a few times. I find the program to be quite engaging and very, very human. The premise of the show is that the CEO, the chief executive officer, of a major company goes undercover as an employee. Then, from there, he participates in the gritty work of building things, of cleaning up, of working the phones, and of performing basic administrative tasks.

During this particular episode that I saw, the boss spent some time out in

the field, repairing a broken sewer line. Then he was in an office, answering calls, and was at a manufacturing plant where the equipment was crafted. The CEO was assigned to one of the company's top welders for training at the manufacturing facility. As part of his disguise, he wore safety glasses and a do-rag. The first mistake that the CEO made was that of burning a hole through the metal that he was supposed to be joining. After the welder who was supervising him gently corrected his technique, they took a break, and the conversation turned to job security.

The middle-aged welder, who was a long-time, dedicated employee and a team leader at that corporation, told the boss about the worry that he has and that he overhears at the manufacturing plant. Would they just show up one day and see a "closed" sign hanging on the cyclone fence? Given what is going on in America, no one knows for sure whether the company would just pack up and move overseas like so many others have.

The simple conversation in the break room in middle America captured what so many Americans are justifiably concerned about. Although the government's aggregate statistics show an overall unemployment rate of about 5 percent, the numbers hide a disturbing reality. For too many people, the rhetoric of free markets has not translated into better opportunity or security. As I mentioned, stagnant wages and downward mobility, staggering student loan debt, job insecurity, and the increased cost of living are all real difficulties marking the new normal for an increasing number of families in our society.

In another segment of the television show, the disguised CEO had to work on a home drainage system. The elderly woman who lived in the well-kept but very simple house was told that the bill to fix the problem was \$1,200. She responded in a very worried voice about her many doctor bills and about how much medicine she had to buy. The employee who was supervising the CEO then paused, considered the situation, and gently spoke back to the elderly woman and said to her: "Well, how about \$500?" The employee, as it turns out, had taken it upon himself to cut his own commission in order to help this elderly, vulnerable person, all while his undercover boss watched.

After several other meaningful encounters with his employees, the show concluded with the CEO's revealing his true identity and commending everyone with whom he had interacted. He made some poignant points about his experiences—how deeply they had touched his life and how they would now impact his management style. To the welder, he said: "I want you to take the message back: 'We are staying in America.' Give them that assurance

from me." To the man who reduced the bill at the cost of his own salary, he rewarded him for his compassion and dedication.

Business can be a force for great good, Mr. Speaker. The true potential of companies depends upon their people for their greatness. In this case, the CEO was willing to do a self-evaluation of his own leadership style and of the very fundamental purpose of the company, itself. Perhaps a scorecard should be kept to feature businesses that do the right thing: trying to keep the best jobs in America, consistently innovating, and paying just salaries to persons who work hard to support themselves and their families.

In order to discover—to discover, perhaps, something about himself, to discover the true meaning of work, to discover the true value of the persons under his authority—the CEO went undercover. By doing so, he found what he had not seen: a properly functioning market economy that genuinely works for both profits and persons, repairing fractures in our society, and enhancing community interdependency. That is the point, Mr. Speaker: community interdependency is the true source of our Nation's strength.

When I was a much younger man, I owned a rear-wheel drive Ford Bronco II. They don't make them anymore. I loved that little truck. I sold it shortly after I was married. That little truck was great for that time in my life, but navigating winter conditions could be a bit tough. One night, while traveling on an interstate during really forboding weather, I came over the crest of a hill, and what lay before me was surreal. It must have happened just seconds before. A large 18-wheeler truck had jackknifed. Cars were spun in every direction, flung into the median. There was a clear sheet of ice that no one had expected.

□ 2015

In an instant, my reality changed. In an instant, everything changed. I had to make a choice. I rapidly decreased my speed, gripped the wheel, and focused my total attention on the road before me only just barely navigating the treachery.

Mr. Speaker, many Americans feel that they have been tossed around in a bewildering unpredictability of our current policy, economic, and political dynamics. Many Americans are looking for new leadership that offers a compelling, inspirational, and stable vision that can restore the true security of our Nation. If we so choose, one of the strengths of the American system of government is its capacity for constant replenishment.

In the midst of an unpredictable government transition season, it may sound a bit peculiar to speak of opportunity. But could this moment give us the chance, as a people, to reassess and realign? Perhaps so, if we so choose.

As we began this conversation, Mr. Speaker, I talked about pointing to the problems in order to understand solutions. I think a stronger America might be glimpsed through four mutually supporting principles: government decentralization, economic patriotism, foreign policy realism, and social conservation.

Mr. Speaker, just like every football game has four quarters, let's think of our solutions as our four-quarter game plan: government decentralization, economic patriotism, foreign policy realism, and social conservation. What do I mean?

First, a return to a more decentralized form of government will restore an important source of America's strength. I, in no way, wish to belittle the essential important debates that occur in this body and elsewhere in the Federal Government. We have a role. We have a role to create the conditions so that the rest of society can flourish. The ultimate role we have is to seek justice and the just structures that can bring about order for persons and communities to flourish.

When the Federal Government grows beyond its effectiveness, it infringes upon basic liberties, it stifles innovation, it crushes creativity, and it also takes away the responsibility that we have for one another. A creeping tendency to nationalize every conceivable type of problem erodes community resolve.

Now, while the Federal Government does have a central role in maintaining the guardrails for stability, the rule of law, and a fair opportunity economy, America's governing system is designed to operate most effectively at different levels. Those close to an opportunity or a problem ought to have the first authority to seize the opportunity or solve the problem. I find it notable that the veterans memorial ceremony that I went to just yesterday did not include any government funds. It was made up of community resolve and community sacrifice.

As a quick civics lesson, as an aside, the Rules Committee on which the gentleman from Georgia sits is still working tonight, trying to craft the structure for the debate that will occur on certain pieces of legislation to come before us in short order.

Let me return to something I said, Mr. Speaker. Just like every football game has four quarters, I believe we ought to think of our solutions as a four-quarter game plan. The first is returning to a healthy concept of decentralized government, a healthy Federalism where those closest to a responsibility or opportunity have first-order priority in taking responsibility or seizing that opportunity, again, not to denigrate the very essential role that the Federal Government plays in creating the conditions for stability and rule of law and a just playing field,

particularly in the economy, as well as national security, but other levels of governance are essential to community well-being.

Second, economic inclusion or economic patriotism should help America recover from an arthritic economy. As I mentioned earlier, although the government's aggregate statistics show an overall unemployment rate at about 5 percent, these numbers continue to hide certain realities. There are stagnant wages and downward mobility making life very difficult for a number of families.

Mr. Speaker, it is sad to say this, but this Washington-Wall Street axis, which promotes the transnational corporation as the new ruling entity for society, cannot secure the well-being of our economy. They cannot. Instead of a globalized supply-side elitism, America needs a vibrant marketplace of her own that expands the space for constructive interdependency and community dynamism which will fight poverty and drive innovation, at the heart of which, again, is small business.

Small business is the key, along with a fair regulatory environment and the right type of healthcare reform that will actually end up decreasing cost, while protecting vulnerable persons and reset the architecture so that we have a 21st century healthcare system that is truly just, that is fair, that is actually going to achieve the conditions for creativity and innovation in the marketplace. What we have now is a healthcare system that is an increasing drag on the small business sector; and, therefore, the number of jobs that we see created are going down. We are living in an entrepreneurial winter—the number of jobs being created are less from small businesses, are less than the number of small businesses that are actually dying. We are in an entrepreneurial winter. This has never happened before in the history of our country.

So, focusing on the small business sector and returning to, again, a fair regulatory environment and appropriately addressing a new architecture for health care, which doesn't simply shift costs but, at its heart, protects vulnerable persons, improves healthcare outcomes and reduces cost is a key to restoring the small business sector.

Third key is foreign policy realism. What do I mean? Foreign policy realism charts a course between overinterventionism and isolationism. America has an important role to play on the global stage today. However, many Americans are alarmed at an exhausted, drifting, and often counterproductive foreign policy. The posture of foreign policy adventurism, sometimes coupled with naive assumptions about democracy promotion, requires a recalibration. Leveraging American strength through strategic

international relationships and authentic friendships will help us navigate the 21st century marked by a changing geopolitical framework. Mr. Speaker, I believe in the three Ds: strong defense, smart diplomacy, sustainable development. That is the right balance in our foreign policy considerations.

Fourth key is social conservation. Social conservation provides the conditions for order, opportunity, and happiness. We usually don't put those together, social and conservation. We think of conservation as the important protection of our land and water and the air we breathe, not throwing things away unnecessarily. Thinking of the ideals of the ecosystem where all things are interdependent, or looking out into the vast horizons of nature and letting it pull ourselves to a higher realm of that which is beautiful, even that which is divine, we have all had that experience. We know it in nature. We see it.

Could we possibly see the idea of an ecosystem of community where we actually think that it is more than politics for the promotion of sustainable values? As society has become more fragmented, it is harder and harder for us to craft policies that meet society's needs. Washington cannot spend enough fast enough to fix the deep wounds in our culture, Mr. Speaker.

Social conservation recognizes that family life, faith life, and civic life provide a continuity of tradition, giving meaning to life and creating stability, particularly for children. Those of us who have had the scarring experience of coming from broken situations, we know this intuitively. Those of us who struggled with the deep scars of having what you know and what keeps you safe torn from you, we know that the formative institutions that preserve the good are invaluable to opportunities later in life.

Our sense of well-being, the strength of our Nation ultimately does depend upon the strength of the formative institutions that give rise to family life, faith life, and civic life. That is the strength of America.

We are confronting intensifying struggles about the direction of our country, and the fault lines are, sadly, widened. I think there are things that still bind us. I would like to think that what I am saying speaks to every Member of Congress here, that it transcends the superficial political boundaries that we set up that are, yes, based upon the different philosophical perspectives on the nature of what Washington ought to be and not. But I would like to think, again, that this rises above, because they are binding elements of the human heart. It is what we all long for: to be nested, to be secure within a community of loving persons around us who care enough to hold us accountable, who care enough to demand that we take responsibility for them and with them.

Although we are encountering rough weather in our country, we can choose to rediscover this best sense of ourselves. We can choose to rediscover commonsense governance, which will uphold these ideals and be built upon them. We can choose right-sized economic models. We can choose to rediscover universal foundational values that are consistent with the desire of all persons' hearts. This is how the greatness can be restored again. This is how we make America great again. This is how we find ourselves and find one another and find a vision that binds us together and makes us all proud to stand as America's flag is flown.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. FORTENBERRY) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-790) on the resolution (H. Res. 892) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 954, CO-OP CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. FORTENBERRY), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-791) on the resolution (H. Res. 893) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 954) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and for the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. MATSUI (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of travel delay.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 21, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 5936. To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into certain leases at the Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Campus in Los Angeles, California, to make certain improvements to the enhanced-use lease authority of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5985. To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, September 27, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6968. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — System Safeguards Testing Requirements for Derivatives Clearing Organizations (RIN: 3038-AE29) received September 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6969. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of its 2016 compensation program adjustments, including the Agency's current salary range structure and the performance-based merit pay matrix, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833b(a); Public Law 101-73, Sec. 1206; (103 Stat. 523); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6970. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Ted N. Branch, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C.

1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6971. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Safety and Effectiveness of Consumer Antiseptics; Topical Antimicrobial Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use [Docket No.: FDA-1975-N-0012; Formerly Part of Docket No.: 1975N-0183H] (RIN: 0910-AF69) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6972. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Tunisia, Eritrea, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Other Changes [Public Notice: 9602] (RIN: 1400-AD95) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

6973. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Administrative Justice in the District of Columbia: Recommendations to Improve DC's Office of Administrative Hearings"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

6974. A letter from the DAA for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Northeast Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Research [Docket No.: 150413360-6558-04] (RIN: 0648-BF02) received September 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

6975. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Civil Penalties Adjustment Act Amendments (RIN: 2900-AP78) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6976. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Quid Pro Quo and Hostile Environment Harassment and Liability for Discriminatory Housing Practices Under the Fair Housing Act [Docket No.: FR-5248-F-02] (RIN: 2529-AA94) received September 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6977. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Rio de Flag, Flagstaff, Arizona Limited Reevaluation Report for June 2016; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6978. A letter from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's withdrawal of proposed rule — Authority to Solicit Gifts

and Donations (RIN: 2900-AP74) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6979. A letter from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Authority to Solicit Gifts and Donations (RIN: 2900-AP75) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6980. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Willcox Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2016-0002; T.D. TTB-143; Ref: Notice No.: 157] (RIN: 1513-AC23) received September 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1877. A bill to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs; with an amendment (Rept. 114-786). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3537. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 114-787, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5460. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a review process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-788). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 3779. A bill to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-789). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 892. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 114-790). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 893. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 954) to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program (Rept. 114-791). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[Omitted from the Record of September 22, 2016]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII Committee on Appropriations discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6004 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

[Submitted September 26, 2016]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3537 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GRAYSON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. LEE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 6164. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize the use of title III funds for the establishment of LGBTQ resource centers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6165. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to take action relating to promoting broadband Internet access service for veterans; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 6166. A bill to provide an additional allocation of low-income housing tax credits in response to the Superfund site related condemnation of low-income housing in Indiana; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HILL, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6167. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to authorize agricultural producers to establish and contribute to tax-exempt farm risk management accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AGUILAR (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. SIREN, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. SERRANO):

H.R. 6168. A bill to encourage programs that support Dreamer student success in completing postsecondary education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6169. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit removal to United States district courts of certain civil actions filed in State courts; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee

on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6170. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the consolidation of public water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6171. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to eliminate the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to grant a waiver from the work requirements for participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program on account of an area's high unemployment rate or limited employment availability for individuals who reside in the area; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 6172. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to support fire safety education programs on college campuses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 6173. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable credit against tax for commuting mass transit costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Con. Res. 162. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Parthenon Marbles should be returned to Greece; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SALMON, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ROSS, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. McCAUL, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, Mr. HARDY, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. MARINO):

H. Res. 891. A resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 894. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2016 as "National Principals Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. POLIS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee):

H. Res. 895. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of September 26,

2016, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 6164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; -And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6165.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to enact this bill.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 6166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 6167.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which include the power to "regulate commerce . . . among the several States . . ."

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 6168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 1 and 18 of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution: "To regulate Commerce with Foreign nations and among several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 6172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 611: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 711: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 932: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1025: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KEATING, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1151: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1192: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 1198: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1209: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1258: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 1542: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 1559: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1728: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1861: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1877: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1942: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.

H.R. 2224: Ms. LEE.

H.R. 2302: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2500: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.R. 2640: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2656: Mr. RUSSELL and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 2698: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 2715: Mr. TONKO, Mr. KEATING, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 2737: Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 2739: Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2762: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 2783: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 2849: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2896: Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 2903: Mr. OLSON and Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 2980: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 3084: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. BYRNE, and Mr. DONOVAN.

H.R. 3164: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 3268: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 3323: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3355: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.

H.R. 3381: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 3513: Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 3632: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3693: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 3706: Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 3742: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 3765: Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 3849: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 3886: Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 3967: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3978: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 3991: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 4151: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4247: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 4410: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 4514: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4592: Mr. BOST and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois.

H.R. 4622: Mr. NOLAN and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4625: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4626: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 4657: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 4671: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 4683: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4729: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 4764: Mr. KING of New York and Ms. MOORE.

H.R. 4766: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4770: Mr. REED.

H.R. 4784: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 4907: Mr. PEARCE.

H.R. 4919: Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 4927: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 4932: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4938: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LONG, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 5029: Mr. PETERS and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5061: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.R. 5067: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 5082: Mr. COOPER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. PERRY.

H.R. 5180: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 5204: Mr. POLIQUIN and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5219: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 5224: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 5232: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 5265: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 5329: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 5334: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 5369: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 5410: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas and Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 5418: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 5474: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 5489: Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. SHUSTER.

H.R. 5589: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 5600: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5667: Mr. LOEBACK.

H.R. 5683: Mr. HECK of Nevada and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 5685: Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 5689: Mr. GRAYSON and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 5691: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 5695: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 5721: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 5727: Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 5730: Mr. POLIQUIN.

H.R. 5732: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 5790: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 5799: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 5807: Mr. MULVANEY.

H.R. 5814: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 5816: Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 5830: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.R. 5853: Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 5879: Mr. RENACCI.

H.R. 5904: Mr. SMITH of Texas.

H.R. 5954: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 5961: Mr. TROTT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. PITTENGER.

H.R. 5980: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5984: Mrs. TORRES and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 5989: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BERA, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 5999: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 6000: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 6016: Mr. WALBERG.

H.R. 6025: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 6030: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 6041: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 6043: Ms. MOORE, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. WALZ.

H.R. 6045: Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 6047: Mr. GARRETT, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 6058: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 6072: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 6073: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 6078: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 6088: Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 6094: Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. DENT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GOWDY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 6097: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 6100: Mr. LATTA, Mr. PALMER, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GARRETT, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 6108: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DESANTIS, and Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico.

H.R. 6116: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6133: Mr. DESANTIS and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 6149: Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 6161: Ms. SLAUGHTER.

H.J. Res. 11: Mr. POSEY.

H.J. Res. 55: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.

H.J. Res. 98: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Con. Res. 160: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H. Con. Res. 161: Mr. LANCE.

H. Res. 28: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BARLETTA.

H. Res. 289: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H. Res. 346: Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 586: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 590: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 754: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 850: Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 852: Mr. HIMES and Mr. COSTA.
H. Res. 853: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. WITTMAN.

H. Res. 865: Mr. COFFMAN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FIRST LIEUTENANT
JEFFREY D. COOPER

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Lieutenant Jeffrey D. Cooper from Mill Creek, Washington.

Lieutenant Cooper died on September 10, 2016, while serving in Kuwait. He was serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, a part of the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Lieutenant Cooper was just 25 years old.

He joined the Army in June 2013 and had been assigned at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, since July 2015.

Lieutenant Cooper was an infantry officer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

His awards and decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

While no words can hope to ease the pain and grief of his loss, my heart goes out to Lieutenant Cooper's parents—Master Sergeant Douglas Cooper and Diane Cooper—and all his loved ones. This was a tragic loss of a brave young man who was ready and willing to give his life for our great nation. Our country mourns with you.

Let us take a moment of silence to honor his life and service.

THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the people of Taiwan celebrate the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan). As we approach this important day, we should take the time to commemorate Taiwan, an important economic partner and vital ally in Asia.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. Taiwan has been a reliable partner in East Asia. According to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. trade in goods with Taiwan reached US\$ 66 billion last year. For a popu-

lation of only 23 million, Taiwan has become the United States' 9th largest trading partner in 2015. Also, Taiwan is the state of New York's 6th largest export market in Asia.

On Taiwan's National Day, we reaffirm the strength of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and the United States commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. It is an honor and privilege to support our friend and partner Taiwan and highlight the bonds that connect us.

RECOGNIZING TABLE TO TABLE'S
EFFORTS DURING FOOD RESCUE
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the wonderful work of Table to Table during Food Rescue Awareness Week, which is being held September 24th through 30th. For the last twenty years, Table to Table has been committed to collecting nutritional, high-quality food from donors and distributing it through food establishments, food pantries, meal sites, and shelters to those who need it most in Johnson County.

I grew up in poverty, and I know firsthand what it is like to worry about where my next meal might come from. Growing up, my single mom relied on food stamps at times in order to be able to feed my brothers, sister and me. I strongly believe that no Iowa child or family should go to bed hungry or have to wonder how they will afford their next meal.

Hunger unfortunately continues to be a major problem in America and for many Iowa families. In Johnson County, one in seven residents relies on nutritional assistance in some way. That is why I am so grateful for Table to Table's efforts to fight food insecurity. Founded in 1996, Table to Table was the first food rescue charity in Iowa. Since then, Table to Table has provided the equivalent of 12.5 million meals consisting of food that would otherwise have been wasted and deposited in the landfill. This great organization has over 100 regular volunteers, collects from over 40 donation sites, and delivers to 36 agency sites.

On behalf of all of my constituents, I would like to thank Bob Andrik, Executive Director of Table to Table, for his years of service, and Table to Table for providing quality nutrition for those who need it. I know I join my colleagues, friends, and fellow Iowans in wishing Table to Table the best of success during this year's Food Rescue Awareness Week and urging folks who can to contribute food or volunteer.

HONORING METRO TRANSIT
SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metro Transit on being named Transit System of the Year. This year, Metro Transit served nearly 86 million riders while offering excellent and reliable service.

The American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award reflects accomplishments made between 2013 and 2015. During this time, Metro Transit increased ridership, expanded access, improved sustainability practices, and increased overall success in system safety. Metro Transit was singled out among all North America agencies that provide more than 20 million annual passenger trips.

Metro Transit plays a vital role in the Twin Cities by providing clean, safe, reliable, and affordable transportation service every day to thousands of commuters, residents, workers, and visitors. In 2015, Metro Transit had its highest ridership in 30 years, with total annual rides of over 85 million. Metro Transit's commitment to sustainability through its transition to lower emission vehicles benefits everyone in the region, whether they use transit or not. Metro Transit not only makes transportation more accessible to workers, it also employs over 3,100 people in the Twin Cities.

I am pleased to say that Metro Transit contributes to the quality of life and preserves the livability of the Twin Cities by mitigating traffic impacts, providing easier access to local businesses, reducing air pollution, and improving circulation throughout the cities.

On behalf of the residents of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, I congratulate the entire Metro Transit System, its employees, and its Board of Directors, for their efforts and significant contributions to the Greater Minneapolis Area, and for their nationally recognized achievements in providing the highest quality transit service.

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST
RISES TO THE FUTURE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated natural resource management professionals at the Chippewa National Forest for their excellent work on the replacement of the Knutson Dam at the outlet of Cass Lake to the Mississippi River.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Staff at the national forest and their community partners earned the "Rise to the Future" award, one of the U.S. Forest Service's most prestigious awards, for their utilization of a design called Rock Arch Rapids, which allows aquatic wildlife to travel freely between Cass Lake and the Upper Mississippi river. Before the construction of Rock Arch Rapids, the Knutson Dam, a logging dam built in the early 1900's, blocked the passage of fish between Cass Lake and the Mississippi river. Furthermore the dam was at the end of its usable life and required more and more costly repairs each year.

The complete replacement of the dilapidated logging dam was a collaboration between Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and Ottetail Power Company. The new Rock Arch Rapids not only improves access to Cass Lake for aquatic life but also access to the lake by outdoor enthusiasts, and minimizes erosion of Cass Lake's shoreline to preserve the beautiful campgrounds, trails and beaches of the Chippewa National Forest for years to come.

Please join me in congratulating the staff at Chippewa National Forest and their community partners for their prestigious achievement.

TRIBUTE TO HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Hendricks County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Friday, September 23, 2016.

The county sits on the southern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named for Indiana Governor William Hendricks, who was serving at the time the county was formed in 1824. The county seat is located in Danville, which happens to be the location of my primary district office. Hendricks County is recognized as a logistics and transportation hub in Indiana and for the many motorsports companies that are headquartered there.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the twenty-five Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Avon-Washington Township Public Library, Cascade Middle School, The Porch, Brownsburg Educational Foundation, Rotary Club of Plainfield, Indiana, Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, Hendricks County Parks and Recreation, First Baptist Church of Amo, B&O Trail Association, Inc., Montrose Farms, Danville Rotary Club, Friends of Hendricks County Museum, the Town of Avon, the Town

of Brownsburg, RAHC Committee, Avon Community Heritage Festival Board, Wa-Pe-Ke-Way Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce, Scrapbasket Quilt Guild of Brownsburg, K-Kids Club of Danville South Elementary School, Greater Danville Chamber of Commerce and Animalia, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Hendricks County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

HONORING SERGEANT PATRICIA ORISINI

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini for her life of service to our country and her strong leadership of the Wounded Warrior Program. As the Program's first director, Sergeant Orisini took a new idea and transformed it into a life-changing opportunity for our nation's veterans.

Sergeant Orisini joined the United States Marine Corps in 1975. After 24 years of active duty and a combined three decades of service, she obtained the highest grade of an enlisted Marine—the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. She has represented our men and women in uniform through her work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and with the American Legion. Re-called to active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she built and managed a "medical hold" program designed to assist injured reservists.

Sergeant Orisini's experience culminated with her outstanding guidance of the Wounded Warrior Program. After joining the Program only eight years ago, she retires having helped 182 wounded and disabled veterans become Wounded Warrior Fellows, over 100 of who have either returned to college or become full time employees with a Congressional office and other government agencies.

Sergeant Orisini, who earned her bachelor's degree by studying in the evenings while on active duty, holds affiliations with the Foreign Joint Services NCO Association, Disabled American Veterans, Women Marines Association, Marine Corps League and the National Italian American Foundation. Through her hard work and visionary leadership, she is a model American and public servant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate the life and career of Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini and her faithful service to our country.

RECOGNIZING BLACK POETRY DAY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Black Poetry Day which

is celebrated on October 17th. Jupiter Hammon, a slave and poet who was born in my home state of New York on this day in 1711, was the first African American writer whose work was published in the United States.

First recognized in 1985, we celebrate Black Poetry Day to honor past and present poets such as Langston Hughes, Phillis Wheatley, Frank X. Walker and Maya Angelou. The works of these and many more authors provide our students insight into both poetry and United States history.

While not officially recognized as a holiday, SUNY Plattsburgh recognizes Black Poetry Day each year with a ceremony and a guest speaker. This event gives credence to the hard work and dedication of African Americans who have overcome adversity to express themselves through poetry.

Thank you to SUNY Plattsburgh for your commitment to honoring this day by hosting events in celebration year after year. I want to wish you great success at this year's event.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October 10 is Taiwan's national day—also known as Double Ten Day. The United States and Taiwan have a strong relationship. Taiwan is a good friend and ally. I congratulate Taiwan on its national day.

We also need to be standing by Taiwan and supporting its efforts to be a responsible member of the international community. The International Civil Aviation Organization or "ICAO" is a UN agency to ensure the safety of planes that fly around the world. But even though it is less than a week away, there has been no indication that Taiwan will be able to participate in ICAO's 39th Triennial Assembly on September 27. Three years ago, Taiwan was invited by the then-ICAO Council President to attend as a guest, but that invitation was no guarantee that Taiwan could keep attending. Congress passed a law three years ago encouraging ICAO to give Taiwan observer status. Giving Taiwan such status would contribute to the success of ICAO's mission to address aviation security threats through effective international cooperation.

As our 9th-largest trading partner in 2015, Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a no-brainer. It would boost our trade relationship with Taiwan and would make the overall impact of TPP even better for Americans. To provide greater protection for investors in both countries, we should also work on completing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan. In all, trade is an important part of our relationship with Taiwan and I hope my colleagues will join me in advocating for these steps.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day. And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN ON
THEIR 105TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 105th National Day, which is October 10th, and take a moment to emphasize the significance of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship to both of our nations.

Taiwan is a faithful friend of the United States and an important strategic partner, promoting peace and stability in the region through our shared values of democracy and respect for human rights. Our economic ties continue to expand to our mutual benefit.

On this National Day, I also want to highlight the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, which serves as the basis for our relationship. I am proud to say that the United States continues to build relations with Taiwan.

I am honored to travel to Taiwan on this joyous occasion and congratulate our ally. I look forward to the continuation of friendship and cooperation between the governments and citizens of the United States and Taiwan.

HONORING ART IBLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Ibleto's lifetime of achievements and generous service to our community upon his 90th birthday.

Mr. Ibleto was born in the town of Sesta Godano in Northern Italy on October 2, 1926. As a young man, he fought with resistance groups against Fascism and Nazi Germany.

After valiantly serving his home country, Mr. Ibleto immigrated to the United States and decided to settle in Sonoma County in 1949 calling it "one of the most beautiful places on earth." He began working in Sonoma's fields as a vegetable picker, mechanic and truck driver, and soon fell in love with Vicki Ghiradelli whom he married in 1951. The couple soon began to live their own American Dream and bought their first home together in 1961. They developed their own farm soon thereafter to raise hogs, cattle, and potatoes. They later added a Christmas tree farm, a vineyard and real estate on their property.

Mr. Ibleto founded the Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fair as a United Lodges, Sons of Italy project in 1974. What began as a project soon became an institutional landmark. The success of his Spaghetti Palace inspired Mr. Ibleto to pursue a career of supplying locals with his own line of Italian cuisine and catering inspired by traditional Italian methods. Today, Art's booming business is well known throughout California and local residents affectionately refer to him as the "Pasta King."

Art is a cook, grape grower, winemaker and a constant source of pride for our community

in Sonoma County. In the last few years, Mr. Ibleto's charity pasta feeds have raised over \$500,000 to support a wide range of causes from local animal shelters to survivors of a terrible Highway 101 accident.

Mr. Speaker, Art Ibleto has not only led a successful career in agriculture, but he has become a culinary and community leader of legendary proportions. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. Mr. Ibleto's work and philanthropy have left an indelible mark on Sonoma County and California, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, I was absent due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 553 on agreeing to Amendment No. 5 offered by Rep. ENGEL—Nay.

Roll Call Number 554 passage of H.R. 5719—Aye.

Roll Call Number 555 passage of H.R. 5037—Aye.

Roll Call Number 556 passage of H.R. 5798—Aye.

TRIBUTE TO PUTNAM COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Putnam County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Thursday, September 22, 2016.

The county sits on the southwestern edge of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named in honor of Israel Putnam, a hero in the French and Indian War and a general during the American Revolutionary War. The county was formed on April 1, 1822 from Owen and Vigo Counties and parts of the Wabash New Purchase. The county seat is located in Greencastle, home of DePauw University. The county is famous for the many surviving covered bridges that remain from a bygone era.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the ten Legacy Projects throughout the county are: the Heritage Preservation Society of Putnam County, the Town of Bainbridge, DNR Nature Pre-

serves, DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife, DePauw University, the Putnam County Bicentennial Celebrations Planning Group, and National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Putnam County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

A CAREER SPENT CLOSING THE
ACHIEVEMENT GAP

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephanie Heilig of Duluth, Minnesota for her 41 years of service within the Duluth School District going above and beyond to create a positive learning environment for all students. I want to wish Stephanie the best as she celebrates her much deserved retirement.

While Principal of Myers-Wilkins Elementary, where a majority of students come from households with incomes below the poverty line, Principal Heilig worked tirelessly to engage families and give students the resources they need to learn. As students, teachers, administrators, and principals begin a new school year, one of the biggest issues facing schools is an achievement gap between students from different demographic groups. However, at Myers-Wilkins Elementary Principal Heilig's efforts created an environment where all students, regardless of their background, had an equal opportunity to learn.

She was very passionate about fostering a collaboration between the school and the community it serves by setting up after-school programs such as "family nights." During school she would use every available opportunity to give books to students while encouraging them to read. Additionally, she made a point to spend time in the halls of Myers-Wilkins talking to students to learn about their lives outside of school, their struggles and their achievements.

Thank you Stephanie for your 41 years of dedicated service and for going above and beyond what was required to give all students the best possible environment to learn. Please join me in wishing Stephanie Heilig the absolute best in her retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
OF THE SYLVANIA SISTERS OF
ST. FRANCIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a momentous occasion in the life of the Sylvania congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis. The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis

are celebrating their centennial year in 2016 and Saturday September 24, 2016, the Sisters and our community came together in a centennial celebration honoring the Franciscans' 100 years of service in our community.

It was Bishop Joseph Schrembs of the Toledo Catholic Diocese who initially requested religious sisters to teach the children of Polish immigrants in Toledo's Catholic Schools. On December 8, 1916, the Sylvania Franciscans were founded as a province of the Sisters of St. Francis in Rochester, Minnesota. The Sisters were stationed at St. Hedwig School in the North End of Toledo and a hub of Polish life in the city. After 89 acres of land was purchased in 1917 through the Rochester community, the Sisters were formally established in Sylvania, Ohio and were known as the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and were led by Mother Adelaide.

In the century that followed, the Sylvania Franciscans branched out from their original call to teach the city's Polish immigrant children to sharing the Franciscan presence in ministries spanning health care, housing, human services and pastoral care in addition to education. The Sisters' work is carried forth in eight states and the country of Haiti with 150 Sisters serving our human family. The Sisters' ministries are founded on the "core values of reverence, service, community, stewardship." The Franciscan Sisters are called "like Francis of Assisi to live the Gospel in joyful servanthood among all people. The Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, as messengers of peace, commit themselves to works that reverence human dignity, embrace the poor and marginalized, and respect the gift of all creation." Living Christ's message described in Matthew 25:40 "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis come to their centennial year as an integral part of our community. Their imprimatur is seen everywhere, from the beautiful elegiac campus in Sylvania, to the schools, caring services and hospitals in which they minister, and the Sylvania Franciscan Village which was established to integrate the Sisters' ministries.

In addition to traditional ministries, the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis are leading efforts toward peace and justice and restoring nature. The Sisters note, "We believe that nature, the arts and culture, and the goodness around us nurture our souls and make us sensitive to Mother Earth and her peoples." It is that connection that truly defines the Sisters of St. Francis. A walk on the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis is to behold the beauty of nature in all of its glory, to hear the silence and to feel God's presence everywhere.

From the barracks and strawberry patch Mother Adelaide and the 22 pioneering Sisters first established, the grounds of the Sisters of St. Francis now feature many buildings in which the Sisters live and work, shrines, grottos, a prayer garden, the Portiuncula Chapel and adjacent Lourdes University. Its mission-style buildings showcase stunning mosaics and works of arts crafted by the Sisters themselves. It is truly an oasis of peace and tranquility.

St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use

words." Throughout their one hundred year history the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis have lived this truth. Their presence and their good works demonstrate Christ's path and God's deep love. As the Sisters go forth toward their next centennial, let us be mindful of the history, but with a vision for the future. Our community gratefully and enthusiastically joins with them to celebrate the life of this vital and cherished congregation that is the Sylvania Sisters of St. Francis.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 542, had I been present, I would have voted NO.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STILLWATER AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Stillwater Area Community Center in Stillwater, New York. The Community Center's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Stillwater community.

The Community Center offers programs and activities for children and adults of all ages, which include recreational and physical activities in their popular and well-used gym. Through their before and after school programs, summer swim lessons and transportation options, the Center provides a safe place for all to gather, even during disasters, when it serves as an emergency shelter. The Center is also utilized as a location for public forums, enabling Stillwater residents to be active and informed citizens.

To celebrate their years of service to the community, the Center's 25th Anniversary Open House will be an opportunity for Stillwater residents to participate in a wide range of activities. Since the Center is home to the village and town historians, residents will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Stillwater and the growth of the Community Center over the past 25 years.

Congratulations to the Stillwater Area Community Center as it celebrates its 25th anniversary. I want to wish the Center and the Village of Stillwater continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING TECHNICAL SERGEANT BONNY WILLIAMS, USAF, RETIRED

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Technical Sergeant Bonny Emanuel Williams, USAF, Retired.

Bonny Williams began his military service in 1955 in the United States Air Force as a Logistics Plan Clerk. During his time in the Air Force, Mr. Williams served all over the world on various military assignments. In 1975, after twenty years of exemplary service to our nation, Mr. Williams retired from the Air Force.

After his retirement, Mr. Williams attended City University of Seattle and earned a Bachelor of Science in business management under the Post Vietnam Era Veterans Educational Assistance Program. Mr. Williams was also active in his community and worked tirelessly to serve the veteran's community. He was involved with the American Legion and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) Post for 44 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the life of Technical Sergeant Bonny Emanuel Williams, USAF, Retired and his service to his country and community. His accomplishments and contributions will never be forgotten, and he will be greatly missed.

COMMEMORATING SADDLEBACK COLLEGE ON ITS SCIENCES BUILDING

HON. MIMI WALTERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representative DARRELL ISSA, I congratulate Saddleback College on its new Sciences Building, a 52,897 square foot state-of-the-art facility designed to encourage research and innovation.

Under the leadership of Dr. Tod A. Burnett, 23 full-time faculty, 41 part-time faculty, and 11 staff members will support Saddleback's science programs, which include a record enrollment of more than 3,000 students this year.

The building's lobby features an Albert Einstein quote: "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used to create them." This exemplifies the innovative approach to learning the building will facilitate.

A well-educated, well-trained workforce is essential to keeping the United States competitive on a global stage. Saddleback College's new facility will serve Californians well as the need for employees educated in the STEM fields continues to grow.

We congratulate Saddleback College on its new Sciences Building, and we look forward to seeing its students' contributions to the community.

HONORING BETHEL ASSOCIATION
OF UNITED BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF JESUS CHRIST CELEBRATING
ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bethel Association of United Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ celebrating its 200th anniversary.

A group of settlers to the Missouri Territory organized the first Baptist Church west of the Mississippi on July 19, 1806 near what is now Jackson, Missouri. Ten years later, six churches came together to form the Bethel Association. In 1834, at Pendleton Church in St. Francois County, the Bethel Association accepted the term "United Baptist." The organization has continued to meet every year since its founding—except during the four years of the Civil War. The Bethel Association has established 87 churches throughout Missouri, Illinois, and Arkansas and there have been 250 ordained ministers in the organization to date.

The Bethel Association today is made up of 11 churches and approximately 850 members in the Missouri counties of St. Francois, Madison, Ste. Genevieve, Wayne, Crawford and Iron.

For 200 years of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is my privilege to recognize the Bethel Association of United Baptist Churches today before the United States House of Representatives.

OVERLOOKING AL-QAEDA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, back in 2012, the President told the American people that al-Qaeda was "decimated." Two years later, the President touted U.S. success in "taking out terrorists who threaten us" in places like Somalia and Yemen, both countries with strong and active al-Qaeda branches. Look at those countries now: Somalia's al-Shabaab continues its terror campaign against Somali and AMISOM troops, and Yemen's rebel conflict has breathed new life into al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

The problem with this Administration's assertions of success is that they fundamentally misunderstood al-Qaeda's strategy in the loud-mouthed tactics of its terrorist spinoff, ISIS. The two terrorist organizations seek the same end goal: the establishment of an Islamic state where only their strict interpretation of Islamic law is tolerated. However, ISIS and al-Qaeda disagree on the means to reach that end. Al-Qaeda's leaders and ideologues, including Osama bin Laden, have always advocated playing the long game: embedding itself in local populations, building relationships, and even allying with enemies and rivals in order to achieve their goals. Winning over the hearts

and minds of local Muslim populations has always been the priority for al-Qaeda. ISIS, on the other hand, believes that the establishment of the caliphate is the supreme priority, judging that force—instead of persuasion—can garner the loyalty of local communities.

While ISIS was busy conquering vast swaths of land in Syria and Iraq, al-Qaeda was not simply sitting back and watching dejectedly. It was entrenching itself throughout the Middle East, in Yemen, Syria, Libya and Tunisia. Al-Qaeda leaders, while fundamentally disagreeing with ISIS' establishment of a caliphate on Islamic legal grounds, also criticized what they saw as ISIS overstretching its resources. They were busy readying the grounds for ISIS' inevitable collapse and al-Qaeda's return to the spotlight. Unfortunately, the Administration misunderstands this. While focusing all of our attention on ISIS, we have overlooked al-Qaeda and dismissed it as defeated. This is exactly what al-Qaeda wants: the breathing room to grow stronger along with the optics of appearing more moderate to its extremist Muslim base than ISIS. Once ISIS loses all its territory in Iraq and Syria, as well as its fast shrinking base in Libya, it will be left with nothing but a band of sympathizers and a radical ideology. Al-Qaeda however will have developed deep ties to local communities throughout the region, strengthened its operational capabilities, and emerge more dangerous than ever.

Success against ISIS should only be judged in the context of the global war on terror. Partial success in one battlefield and total failure in another will not be enough to ensure the security of our homeland. We must go after al-Qaeda now more than ever before it is too late.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO MORGAN COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Morgan County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Friday, September 23, 2016.

The county sits on the southern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1822 and named for General Daniel Morgan, who defeated the British at the Battle of Cowpens in the Revolutionary War. The county seat is located in Martinsville, famous in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries for the mineral springs located in the region. Early settlers came predominantly from southern states, including southern Quakers who settled near Mooresville because of their opposition to slavery. The county is famous for being the birthplace of the Indiana State Flag.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory,

engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the thirteen Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Morgan County Bicentennial Celebration Committee, Morgan County Economic Development Commission, MSD of Martinsville, Hoosier Hikers Council, Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. Delta Iota Chapter, Art Sanctuary of Indiana, Mooresville Public Library, Morgan County Parks and Recreation, Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation District, Delta Theta Tau, Lambda Nu Mooresville Chapter, and the Morgan County Fall Foliage Festival. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Morgan County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for roll call votes on Thursday, September 22, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call votes 542, 543, 544 and 554. I would have voted "yea" on roll call votes 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 555 and 556.

CHINESE PROLIFERATION THREAT

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as China's economic might has grown over the past 30 years, so too has its military prowess. And while many are concerned about China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea, we must not forget about the threat they pose to nuclear security.

Since 1987 China has increased its military expenditures fivefold. Their military muscle includes upwards of 260 nuclear warheads and roughly 60 nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), not to mention an upgraded ballistic missile delivery system. China may have joined the IAEA and be party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but actions speak louder than words and China has a history of supplying nuclear technology to countries of proliferation concern.

We know that in the past China handed over design instructions, including information on warhead design, and fissile material to assist the Pakistanis in the development of their nuclear weapons. Even more recently it was discovered that Pakistan has a new 2,750km range Shaheen III nuclear ballistic missile that was carried on a 16-wheel transporter erector launcher or TEL for short. Pakistan's Shaheen

III TEL is uncannily similar to the ones created by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation and a Chinese provided TEL to North Korea's new KN-08 ICBM. If Pakistan's new TEL was acquired from China this demonstrates a highly concerning level of cooperation between the two governments that could directly threaten U.S. national security. Pakistan alone is a dangerous bedfellow, but if China has thrown its weight behind the government in Islamabad we need to remain on high alert for exchanges of sensitive nuclear information.

To compound this threat to nuclear non-proliferation, China's most infamous client and partner in Communism is its neighbor to the east, North Korea. Pyongyang is estimated to have enough plutonium for a dozen nuclear weapons, and it is thought to be continuously producing highly enriched uranium. North Korea has conducted four nuclear tests and numerous test-fires of ballistic missiles, including intercontinental and submarine-launched missiles. The missile launchers used in these tests were made directly from Chinese designs.

In the aftermath of North Korea's belligerent actions, China never fails to articulate its "disappointment" in its neighbor. But this connection between North Korea's nuclear missile capability and the Chinese government shows that what China says publically is fundamentally at odds with its real goals. China never backs up this "disappointment" with real action knowing full well that China is the only country that wields any sort of influence over the DPRK. China refuses to stringently enforce sanctions aimed at curbing North Korea's nuclear program and since China accounts for 70 percent of North Korea's trade volume, these sanctions have little impact without Beijing's enforcement. When it comes down to it, the Chinese government is essentially allowing a dangerous nuclear state to conduct tests unchecked.

China's danger to the nuclear nonproliferation regime cannot go unnoticed. Given China's emerging military power, we must be even more wary of China's actions in the nuclear field. For the sake of our national security we cannot afford to have the state-run communist country pull the wool over our eyes.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING FELIX'S FAMOUS COOKIES ON ITS GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW MUNDELEIN MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Felix and Laura Castillo on their grand opening of Felix's Famous Cookies manufacturing facility in Mundelein. As a small business owner myself, I understand the need to always grow and find ways to expand. Laura and Felix did just that.

This family-owned company was founded by six year old Felix Castillo, who shared his

mother's passion for baking. It was not until the passing of Grandmother Toni that Felix and Laura were inspired to turn their passion and inspiration into a business.

Felix's Famous Cookies goes beyond maintaining a brand and generating profit. Laura and Felix follow an important family tradition by giving proceeds back to non-profit organizations and to the less fortunate in our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I am incredibly proud to represent Laura and Felix Castillo in the United States Congress. I look forward to working with them as they continue to succeed in their business endeavors and positively impact our community.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PARTHENON MARBLES SHOULD BE RETURNED TO GREECE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Parthenon Marbles, currently held in the British Museum, should be returned to Greece. Approximately 200 years ago, while Greece was under Ottoman rule, the British nobleman Thomas Bruce, seventh Earl of Elgin removed over 100 pieces of sculptures known as the Parthenon Marbles and transported them to the United Kingdom. The Marbles were part of a frieze that adorned the Temple of Athena. In 1816, the British Parliament voted to purchase the Marbles from Lord Elgin and they now reside in the British Museum. The other half of the Marbles that comprise the frieze are in the New Acropolis Museum in Athens alongside plaster replicas of the Marbles that were taken. Despite years of efforts by the Greek Government to retain the Marbles, it has been unable to negotiate an agreement with its British counterparts to return the Marbles to Greece.

I am pleased that Members of the British Parliament have recently introduced legislation to transfer ownership of the Marbles back to Greece and return these cherished artifacts to their rightful home. The Parthenon marbles are some of Greece's greatest examples of artistic expression and beauty, and should be on display in their country of origin. They are vital pieces of Greek history that belong to the Greek people. This resolution calls upon the two countries to come to an agreement to finally return these treasures to their rightful home.

I want to thank Rep. GUS BILIRAKIS, with whom I co-chair the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, and Rep. DONALD PAYNE, Jr. for joining me as co-sponsors on this important resolution. Rep. PAYNE's father and our former colleague, the late Rep. Donald Payne Sr., was a great champion in this effort to return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece. I am proud to continue to call for an agreement that

will put an end to this centuries-old dispute, and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING DR. ROBERT H. SMILEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Robert Smiley, who for the last 25 years has conducted a Wine Industry Financial Survey and presented his findings at the Wine Industry Financial Symposium.

Dr. Smiley began his academic career at the University of California, Los Angeles where he earned his Bachelor of Science in 1966 and his Master of Science in 1969. He went on to Stanford University to complete his Doctor of Philosophy in Economics in 1973, and then joined Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management as a Professor of Economics and Policy.

Dr. Smiley returned to California to become Dean of the Graduate School of Management at the University of California, Davis in 1989. After serving for 20 years, he became the Director of the Wine Industry Program and Dean and Professor of Management Emeritus. In addition to teaching, Dr. Smiley has contributed to the economics field with research covering market competition, industry regulation and organization, and the wine industry.

Dr. Smiley enthusiastically volunteered to present research and strategic analysis at the annual Wine Industry Financial Symposium in 1992. For the past 25 years, he has conducted a survey of wine community leaders to assess the industry financial and economic status, and his speeches have become a cornerstone of the Symposium. Dr. Smiley has become a true "guru" on wine economics and generously shares his knowledge and enthusiasm for our wine community's future.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Smiley has dedicated his time and expertise to improving our wine community's potential through research and education for 25 years. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING DR. CLAYTON LAWRENCE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Clayton Lawrence for his philanthropic leadership throughout Washington D.C. and across our nation.

After receiving a United States Army scholarship to attend the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor in 1991, Dr. Lawrence began a medical career that has led him to being recognized as a leader in the District's medical community. Dr. Lawrence has worked in the Pentagon Clinic as a flight surgeon and is a distinguished veteran with international work experience, including successful

deployments to the Middle East, Central America, Europe, and Asia, providing direct medical support for a variety of U.S. peace-keeping operations abroad. In all, Dr. Lawrence has accumulated more than 20 years of experience in surgery, family, and emergency medicine.

In 2009, Dr. Lawrence established LEAP Foundation DC with a guiding mission to provide underserved citizens in the greater Washington D.C. area with health and wellness educational opportunities and programs. Driven further by a sense of urgency to help mentor and build the next generation of leaders, the foundation has been engaged in providing financial support, scholarships, and fellowships for high-achieving students from low socioeconomic backgrounds to pursue post-secondary education.

LEAP Foundation DC has also participated in many activities with our office, including the Congressional Art Competition, Senior Legislative Day and Covenant House's annual Christmas Party on the Hill for Disadvantaged Youth. Since its inception, LEAP Foundation DC has contributed approximately a quarter of a million dollars to philanthropic work. In the last three years alone, LEAP Foundation DC employees have donated more than 6,000 volunteer hours and more than \$75,000 in donations and scholarships to individuals and charities around the nation. In 2014, LEAP Foundation DC was awarded its first prestigious award, the Non-Profit award by the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Furthermore, since 2011, in his passion for endurance sports, Dr. Lawrence, on behalf of LEAP Foundation DC, has participated in over 80 marathons and run more than 10,000 miles to bring awareness to the following organizations: American Cancer Society, St. Jude Foundation, American Red Cross, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, Inheritance of Hope Foundation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Semper Fi Fund, Demand Cures and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Dr. Clayton Lawrence, through his leadership as CEO of Lawrence Executive Alliance of Professionals (LEAP), LLC, has also been recognized as an outstanding community leader as the DC Chamber of Commerce's 2015 recipient of the Small Business Person of the Year Award. Since its inception in 2007, LEAP, LLC, has helped create jobs, impacting the national economy and representing job growth in 11 different states. Dr. Lawrence was also recognized as the 2014 Washington Business Journal's Minority Business Leader Award Winner and the 2015 Valedictorian of the Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Lawrence, who has made an indelible impact on the lives of D.C. citizens through his charitable, civic, and guiding servant leadership.

RECOGNIZING JANE ORANS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jane Orans, who is being honored by

Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic for her work on behalf of women and children throughout Westchester County, New York, and the Hudson River Valley.

Jane has dedicated herself to advocating on behalf of women's health so that every woman has the right to determine her own healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy. It is for this reason that she has been so involved in Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic. Her tireless work with the organization has helped empower women, men and young people to determine their own reproductive rights and futures.

In addition to her work with Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, Jane has spent much of her life educating children. She was a nursery school teacher and for fourteen years was a member of the Mamaroneck, New York School Board. In this capacity, she has worked hard to ensure children have the necessary support to become healthy, successful adults.

Mr. Speaker, Jane's tireless advocacy on behalf of women's health is an inspiration to us all, and I urge my colleagues to join me in applauding her work and her recognition by Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic.

THE FOUNDER OF THE "LUNG CANCER MOVEMENT"

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheila Ross, a two-time lung cancer survivor who has devoted her entire career to public service and advancing better outcomes for those affected by lung cancer.

I wish to pay special tribute to Sheila in light of her pending retirement at the end of the 114th Congress from the Lung Cancer Alliance, a non-profit guided by Sheila's unstoppable and indefatigable force to support anyone diagnosed with lung cancer. The organization provides patients with information and guidance and advocates for advanced life-saving research for the lung cancer community.

It has been said that Sheila is the founder of the "lung cancer movement," the first advocate ever to elevate her voice and walk the halls of Congress to bring attention to a public health imperative and to demand a more coordinated and compassionate response to the leading cause of cancer death.

After her initial cancer diagnosis in 1999 and then again in 2000, Sheila quickly grasped that public health policy must be linked to science. With the sheer force of will and survivorship, Sheila set in motion actions that history will look back upon as seminal moments in the battle to end lung cancer as we know it.

Sheila's strategic expertise developed from 20 years of legislative and management experience on Capitol Hill as a Chief of Staff in both House and the Senate offices for Democrats and Republicans.

After her career in Congress she spearheaded the creation of Lung Cancer Alliance, which today stands as the highest-rated and

only national non-profit organization devoted entirely to supporting the lung cancer community and elevating awareness, changing health policy and advancing research.

The group has been an invaluable partner ever since my colleagues FRANK LOBIONDO, LOIS CAPPS and I created the first-ever Lung Cancer Caucus. While at the Alliance, Sheila can be credited with organizing the first-ever bipartisan and bicameral resolutions focusing on lung cancer, as well as the original Lung Cancer Mortality Reduction Act, requiring the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to give increased focus and funding to lung cancer early detection and research.

Additionally, Sheila worked to establish the first and only dedicated lung cancer research pipeline within the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program, she urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to swiftly implement a national screening program, expanded access to low dose CT scanning which detects lung cancer early on, and monitored NCI's National Lung Screening Trial which concluded ahead of schedule when the trial's goal was achieved earlier than expected. She also worked to secure Medicare coverage for CT screening for seniors and the disabled and established the only patient-powered CT scan donation program, Give A Scan, that allows those impacted to contribute directly to research.

Sheila's contributions to better the lives of those living with and at risk for lung cancer will forever be remembered. When the defeat of lung cancer finally enters the annals of history—and it will—Sheila Ross's fearless advocacy will be included in the early pages of that historical document.

I want to thank Sheila Ross and wish her all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on September 22, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote 545. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Aye on roll call vote 545.

RECOGNIZING BILL AND PAULA CLAPP, RECIPIENTS OF THE GLOBAL LEADERS AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Bill and Paula Clapp as they are honored with the Inspiring Global Leaders Award from the Washington Office of Latin America (WOLA). This award is given in recognition of their years of indispensable leadership on global development and philanthropy for the past quarter century.

Bill Clapp, an accomplished Seattle businessperson with more than thirty years of

experience running a variety of companies in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, and Hawaii, decided in the 1990s that he wanted to do more to make an impact globally. This decision resulted in the foundation of a series of impactful organizations that Bill and Paula Clapp had a hand in creating. Bill has served as President and Co-Founder of the Seattle International Foundation, a preeminent non-government organization (NGO) focused on poverty reduction and women's empowerment in Central America.

Bill and Paula Clapp co-founded another NGO, Global Partnerships, in 1994 after witnessing the need for targeted and sustainable investments in Central America. Since 2001, Global Partnerships has impacted 3.3 million lives in thirteen countries in Latin America and the Caribbean through its unique social enterprise model. In 2015 alone, the organization invested \$35.7 million to deliver economic opportunities to over 600,000 individuals. Global Partnerships continues to be the largest micro-financing organization for Latin America in Seattle.

Bill and Paula also helped to create Global Washington in 2008, a consortium of NGOs that promotes and supports its members who are working to reduce poverty and disease, increase access to health care and education, protect the environment, and strengthen economies. Global Washington is the only organization in Washington state that builds networks between private companies and non-profits working in global development, leading to partnerships that result in innovative, impactful projects around the world.

Following Bill Clapp's retirement from Matthew G. Norton Co. in 2002, he co-founded the Initiative for Global Development. In addition to serving on the boards of Weyerhaeuser and Alaska Airlines, he has also served on several community and nonprofit boards, and has been actively involved as an early investor in micro-finance development. Bill has also served on many industry panels and advisory committees, speaking widely on development issues around the world and in Congress.

Paula Clapp has been an active leader throughout the years, as well. She played a central role in the creation of an acclaimed documentary film "SOLD" which raised awareness about sex trafficking. She and a group of Seattle women co-founded Stolen-Youth, a non-profit organization that raises awareness and funds to help rescue and recover local youth who are forced into prostitution. Paula was also a founding member of the Washington Women's Foundation and has served on the boards of the Make A Wish Foundation, One World Now, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2014, Paula received the *Unsung Heroes of Compassion* award from His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Throughout the past twenty-four years, Bill and Paula Clapp have remained steadfast in their belief that international development serves our national interests and improves all aspects of our society. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Bill and Paula Clapp for their contributions and leadership in the global development sector, and the impact they have made in the lives of countless individuals and families around the world for over twenty-four years.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN AND CARL BRANDENBURG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Helen and Carl Brandenburg of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary—and Carl's 80th birthday—on August 26, 2016.

Helen and Carl's lifelong commitment to each other and their children and grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATLANTA VOICE

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the renowned, award-winning Atlanta Voice newspaper. Founded in 1966 by J. Lowell Ware and Ed Clayton, the Atlanta Voice has provided an enduring channel for news in Atlanta's African-American community.

The Atlanta Voice's Founder and Publisher J. Lowell Ware was a native Georgian who developed an interest in journalism in high school when he took a part-time job at the Birmingham Alabama Mirror. He later earned a B.A. in printing and journalism from Alabama A&M University and completed a tour with the U.S. Army before returning back to Atlanta to launch a weekly newspaper with journalist Ed Clayton.

Ware and Clayton started the Atlanta Voice to provide fair and credible coverage of the Civil Rights Movement, which was heating up in the South with increasing student sit-ins and activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Council. Under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, members of the press should enjoy protected rights to publish information and opinions without interference or reprisal from the American government. The Atlanta Voice was founded at a time, however, when these rights were not universally shared. The newspaper's African-American publishers faced threats to their lives and property simply for exercising their First Amendment rights to provide accurate coverage of the Movement. Ware recounted years later, "We got a lot of threats, but we didn't stop publishing."

Living by their motto, "A People Without a Voice Cannot Be Heard," the Atlanta Voice

has endured and recorded 50 historic years of social, political and economic changes in the African-American community in Atlanta. And the Atlanta Voice continues to serve, with courage and integrity, as a beacon of journalistic hope for the entire African-American community, regardless of age, income or socioeconomic status.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the Atlanta Voice on this momentous anniversary. I rise today to celebrate a newspaper that has been an informative news source for so many Georgians, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the newspaper's 50th anniversary and continued service to the Greater Atlanta community.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY AND CHUCK BURNETT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dorothy and Chuck Burnett of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 29, 1956 at Noble Center Church in Lyman, Iowa.

Dorothy and Chuck's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Scott, Lynn, and Brian, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. LUTHER ALMER "JACK" BEARDEN

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the 100th birthday of Mr. Luther Almer "Jack" Bearden, who was born on September 8, 1916. The youngest child of Charles Luther and Addie Mae Wallace Bearden, Luther Almer became "Jack" as a young boy when he took water to the cotton fields as a "water jack." The name has stuck with him for almost a century.

Born in Boydsville, Arkansas, Jack grew up during the Great Depression chopping and picking cotton by hand. By the age of 16, Jack would surrender his life to Christ, changing the course of his life forever. Four years later, he met 16-year-old Martha Geneva Bateman, whom would become his wife of 75 years. Throughout the many years of their marriage, they would serve God in church, visiting the

sick, Women's Associations, and Men's Brotherhood events. In 1942, Jack gave his first sermon, "Ye Must Be Born Again" from John 3:7 at Boydsville Baptist Church. In his 73 years as a preacher, Jack started five mission churches and pastored 25 churches in Northeast Arkansas and Missouri.

To support his family while pastoring, Jack held a multitude of occupations throughout his life. He was a cistern digger, carpenter, cotton picker, cotton chopper, song leader, pianist, and temporarily ran a store. He is an inspiration to all those who have the opportunity to meet him. Jack and his late wife Geneva were blessed with three daughters, one of whom passed away at birth, and a son who passed on to heaven in 1998. They were also blessed with 10 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren.

I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the lifetime of achievements of Mr. Bearden and to wish him all the very best.

TRIBUTE TO LORRAINE GALVANI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Lorraine Galvani of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Lorraine's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Lorraine has lived through seventeen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Lorraine in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Lorraine on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPRINGFIELD BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield, Massachusetts as they celebrate their 125th anniversary.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America is an outstanding organization founded to provide after school programs to children, especially in areas most in need. The Springfield Boys &

Girls Club opened its doors in 1891 with a mission to provide a safe environment and the resources for the children of Springfield. Their ultimate goal has always been to ensure that these children become respectful members of society. Springfield has changed a great deal since the Boys & Girls Club opened. Through all of the changes and challenges in the community, the Boys & Girls Club has remained a place where kids can gain confidence and make friends where otherwise they couldn't. Today, the Boys & Girls Club offers a wide variety of opportunities such as swim lessons, math-and-literacy tutoring, digital art lessons, and many more. They provide all of these services with the lowest membership rates in Massachusetts for after school programs. They have even started to have programs and events on Saturdays.

Mr. Speaker, throughout my tenure as Springfield's mayor and representing Springfield in Congress for the past 28 years, I have seen firsthand what the Boys & Girls Club has accomplished for the community. With the continued support of its many benefactors as well as the support of the federal and state governments, I am sure that they will continue to contribute to children's lives for generations to come. Congratulations to the Springfield Boys & Girls Club on reaching this momentous milestone and I wish them all the best with their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNINE LILJEDAHN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Jeannine Liljedahl of Essex, Iowa, for being recognized as the Grand Marshal of the 2016 Essex Labor Day parade. Jeannine received this honor for her years of service to the Essex community.

Jeannine has a long history of community involvement. She is a member of the Fremont Lutheran Church, Essex Community Club, Lied Public Library in Essex, Southview Village/Low Rent Housing Committee, Essex Study and Service Club, Greater Shenandoah Historical Society, P.E.O., Rotary Club, Book Club, Shenandoah Medical Center Foundation, and the Page County Magistrate Commission.

In 1998, Jeannine helped create the Little Red Wagon Food Delivery Service in Essex. This program was designed to keep people in their homes with a hot meal and to support Red's Restaurant in Essex. Little Red Wagon provided nearly 2,000 meals in 2015 alone.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jeannine for the dedicated service she provides to the citizens of Essex and Page County, Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jeannine and wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RICHARD ALLEN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Richard "Dick" Allen.

Dick dedicated his life to educating and empowering California's youth. Through his 41 years of service as a teacher, principal, and district administrator, Dick touched the lives of thousands of students through his leadership and deep affection for his students.

As you may know, Dick spent the first decade of his career in the classroom, followed by a transition to the administrative team where he rose from Vice Principal to Director of Elementary Education and ultimately retired in 1997 as the Director of Continuing Education.

After retiring, Dick was elected to the Board of Education to continue his dedication to public service.

Included among his many accomplishments in service to the Bay Area are graduating 2,298 students, opening technology centers, expanding tutoring and mentoring services. He also helped implement a classroom for a language lab, fought to replace playground equipment, and began districtwide training in emergency preparation and crisis management. During his tenure, Walnut Acres Elementary was named a Federal No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School, the Board of Education received a California Council for Adult Education's "Friend of Education" award, and improved test scores at almost all grade levels.

In addition to his role in our schools, Dick was a District Delegate to the California School Board Association, a Chair-elect of the Concord Chamber of Commerce, a Court Appointed Special Advocate on the Board of Directors, and a foster child educational advocate.

Dick's long and decorated career is a testament to his values and dedication to education. I am saddened to hear of his passing, but his legacy will live on in Contra Costa County.

TRIBUTE TO IDA MEHLMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ida Mehlmann of Griswold, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday on September 4, 2016. Ida celebrates this special day with her twin brother, Ira Spieker, who lives in Michigan.

Ida resides at the Griswold Care Center in Griswold, Iowa, and enjoys embroidering and working on puzzles. Ida tells her friends of her simple philosophy: she takes life day by day and tends to do whatever she wants to do. Ida and her late husband, LeRoy, were married on March 8, 1939 at the Atlantic Methodist

Church parsonage. They had six children including twin daughters. Ida was born and raised on a farm, helped with the daily chores of farm life growing up, and later married a farmer. She said she has seen many changes throughout her life, but the biggest change was having access to electricity. Ida is also known for her baking skills and her famous sour cream raisin pie. Her talent in the kitchen has given her the reputation as one of the best pie makers in southwest Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to congratulate Ida Mehlmann on her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ida on this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATHENA INTERNATIONAL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of Athena International. Athena International strives to create balance in leadership worldwide by seeking to encourage, educate, and support our next generation of female leaders. Its roots trace back to Michigan where it began as a local program, and it has grown into a global movement, serving to inspire female leaders both domestically and throughout the globe.

Founded in 1982 by Martha Mertz, Athena International began as a small non-profit organization in Lansing, Michigan. Recognizing a need for stronger female leadership in her business community, Mertz launched the Athena Award program. This award would go to individuals who not only excelled at their professions, but who also gave back to their communities and helped motivate others in their communities to lead, particularly women.

Additionally, the organization developed the Athena Leadership Model, a program seeking to best prepare women to be successful leaders. This model identifies eight distinct attributes for women in leadership: Authentic Self, Relationships, Giving Back, Collaboration, Courageous Acts, Learning, Fierce Advocacy, Celebration and Joy. These personal traits are intuitive for women, and when paired with traditional leadership characteristics, prepare them to become leaders.

Martha Mertz's vision has become a global movement. There have now been over 7,000 recipients of the Athena Award, with these awards presented in 500 communities throughout 8 countries. The organization continues to provide awards to individuals who empower women and best position them to become our future leaders, and provides an annual leadership forum and luncheon for female leaders to make meaningful connections with one another.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Athena International Organization. Their com-

mitment to preparing our future leaders deserves praise, and we wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO OAKLAND MANOR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oakland Manor of Oakland, Iowa, for its 50 years of service in providing high-quality healthcare in Oakland and southwest Iowa.

Oakland Manor was established in 1966 and offers skilled nursing care and assisted living to its resident community. The facility also offers a special ventilator unit and provides continuum of care with a dedicated staff and medical team. The Oakland Manor staff is committed to helping their residents live a quality life every day.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Oakland Manor and its staff for reaching this milestone in dedicated and devoted service to Oakland and southwest Iowa. Their highly skilled team makes a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize Oakland Manor today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them and in wishing the entire staff nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO GARY HERRICK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gary Herrick of Van Meter, Iowa, for his 40 years of service to the Van Meter Fire Department.

Mr. Herrick recently retired from the department after four decades of service to the community of Van Meter. Throughout his tenure he has held every rank in the department, including chief, and has been an invaluable source of information for all other members of the fire department. His vast experience not only helped train fellow firefighters on how to best fight fires and rescue people, but also how to show compassion to victims, and how to interact with the community. Current Fire Chief Jon Bruen told the Dallas County News that Mr. Herrick has been a mentor to him during his years on the department.

Now retired, Mr. Herrick will continue his service by working to construct buildings with World Mission Builders, a mission which has built over 230 churches and related buildings in 88 countries. Even still, he plans to be only a phone call away if the Van Meter Fire Department should have any questions.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Gary for his forty years of service to his community. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating him and wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD VORTHMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Richard Vorthmann of Treynor, Iowa, for his selection as Iowan of the Day at the 2016 Iowa State Fair. Richard's recognition day was August 16, 2016. Richard received this honor because of his many years of service in the Treynor community. This award is given by the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation and recognizes Iowa's most outstanding citizens, who demonstrate the Iowa values of dependability, integrity, hard work, and sense of community.

Richard Vorthmann is described as "a pillar of the Treynor community." He has served for 35 years as a township trustee, clerk, and fair board member, and 25 years as a 4-H leader and member of the Treynor school re-organization committee. He helped build the first tanker truck for the volunteer fire department, and is very active in his church. Richard is best known for his work with the Treynor Optimist Club, where he oversees the Treynor Can Kennel, a redemption center for cans that helps raise money for local youth groups, raising over \$135,000 for community projects.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Richard Vorthmann for receiving this well-deserved recognition. He is a shining example of how hard work, determination, and dedication can affect the future of so many. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing Richard's accomplishments and service to his community. I wish him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL WESSELS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cheryl Wessels of Anita, Iowa, for her recognition as Iowan of the Day at the 2016 Iowa State Fair. Cheryl received this honor because she has made a difference in the lives of others while demonstrating the Iowa values of dependability, integrity, hard work, and sense of community. This award is given by the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation to recognize Iowa's most outstanding citizens. Cheryl's day of recognition was held on August 13, 2016.

Cheryl plays an active role in her community. Her service includes serving on the library board, church treasury, P.E.O. and Cass County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Cheryl Wessels is most noted for her passion for the Little Dresses for Africa program. The 3,000 dresses she makes are distributed in Africa to orphanages, churches, and schools, to provide relief to children in Africa and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Cheryl Wessels for earning this award. She is a shining example of how hard work, determination, and dedication can affect the future of so many. It is with great honor that I recognize her today. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in recognizing her accomplishments and her service to her community. I wish her nothing but continued success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KEN WEST

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ken West, of Perry, IA, for his quick thinking and heroic actions that saved a man's life.

Mr. West was eating lunch at the Hy-Vee in Perry on July 14, 2016 when he noticed that a store employee had started to choke. Mr. West jumped into action, performing the Heimlich maneuver which removed the obstruction. He told the Dallas County News that he was trained in the life-saving procedure "a long time ago" but that it was the first time he has ever needed to perform it. His father served as an ambulance emergency medical technician and fire chief when Mr. West was a young man. He credits watching his father perform similar work and said his father was

the source of that instinct to rush to the rescue.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mr. West and Iowans like him. I encourage every American to learn such life-saving procedures in case we should find ourselves in a similar situation. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ken for his exemplary actions.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 28

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine the persistent threat of North Korea and developing an effective United States response.

SD-419

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Administration's fiscal year 2017 refugee resettlement program.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine an assessment of the economic recovery.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the regional impact of the Syria conflict, focusing on Syria, Turkey, and Iraq.

SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold hearings to examine understanding the Millennial perspective in deciding to pursue and remain in Federal employment.

SD-342

SENATE—Tuesday, September 27, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, do not stand far from us, for we need You every hour.

May our lawmakers remember that their success comes from You. Give them the wisdom to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. Lord, free them from any entanglements that dishonor You. Protect them from dangers, seen and unseen, as they strive to return good for evil. When they feel overwhelmed, remind them that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Help us all to strive to glorify You in every action, both large and small.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

HEARING ON THE PRESIDENT'S POWER PLAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit will hear arguments in the case challenging the merits of the President's so-called Clean Power Plan. My home State of Kentucky is one of more than two dozen States that have signed on to that suit, and I have been proud to lead efforts in support of the Commonwealth on this issue. In fact, I joined Chairman INHOFE, more than 30 other Senators, and more than 170 Representatives in filing an amicus brief to push back on the President's power grab.

I was pleased that the Supreme Court stepped in earlier this year to issue an unprecedented stay of this plan until the Federal courts review it.

In light of the court's hold on the plan, I wrote a letter encouraging the

Governors of all 50 States to take advantage of this much-needed reprieve and to adopt a wait-and-see approach before complying with the plan's standards.

As I noted then, the President's plan is yet another example of Executive overreach patterned after this administration's political and ideological agenda, rather than scientific evidence.

This massive regulatory overreach would cause energy bills to skyrocket. It would strike at the most vulnerable. It would ship middle class jobs overseas. It would bring further harm to families like those in Kentucky who have been devastated by this administration's antioil policies. And it would do little to nothing to actually achieve its intended purpose—reducing global emissions.

This plan, which I have long believed may not be upheld in court, could place significant legal and economic burdens on our States. That is why I have encouraged them to take advantage of the court's stay as we await a final ruling.

I look forward to today's hearing, which is an important step in determining whether the President's misguided plan will survive legal scrutiny.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to bring a little perspective to today's vote on the clean CR-Zika package. Remember, this is a 10-week funding bill. Its contents command broad support. It contains zero controversial riders from either party.

Can it really be that Democratic leaders have embraced dysfunction so thoroughly that they attack a non-controversial 10-week funding bill over—what exactly? Now, remember, the reason we are in this position is that our friends on the other side didn't want to have a regular appropriations process. Does anybody know what the issue is? Do they even know?

The rationale seems to change by the hour. What we do know is it has almost nothing to do with what is actually in the bill. They have agreed to its spending levels, so it isn't that. They have agreed to its compromise Zika package, so it can't be that. They have agreed with us to help veterans and those hurt by floods and the heroin and prescription opioid crisis, too, so it can't be that either.

We also know that the Senate has already voted to pass assistance for families affected by lead poisoning in Flint—in its proper vehicle—the Water Resources Development Act, with

Chairman INHOFE pledging to continue to pursue resources for Flint once the bill goes to conference. So Flint can't really be an issue either. And the White House said yesterday that the WRDA bill is an appropriate vehicle for the Flint funding.

It is almost as if a few Democratic leaders decided long ago that bringing our country to the brink would make for good election-year politics, and then they have just made up a rationale as they go along. But that couldn't really be true, could it? Could it be true?

That would mean Democrats have been playing politics with the lives of expectant mothers and babies suffering from Zika after a few months ago demanding immediate action. That would mean Democrats have been playing politics with the lives of those struggling with the heroin and prescription opioid crisis after promising they would help. That would mean Democrats have been playing politics with the lives of flood victims after saying they cared.

I know our Democratic friends wouldn't want the American people to think that.

I hope every one of our Democratic friends will show us today that they are actually serious about supporting veterans and tackling Zika and flood relief and the heroin and prescription opioid crisis, and we all know the way to do that is by supporting the legislation before us that actually does those things.

This 10-week funding bill need not be, as some Democratic leaders seem to wish, some titanic struggle for the ages. It is just a 10-week funding bill. It is hard to believe Democrats would really be willing to hold up this commonsense package and its critical resources to address Zika, the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic, and floods.

The clean CR-Zika package before us is fair. It is a result of literally weeks of bipartisan negotiations. It does the very things Members of both parties and, more importantly, our constituents have been calling for.

We really cannot afford to delay any longer. Passing this clean CR-Zika package should be one of the easiest votes we cast.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. today for an all-Senators briefing; further, that the time from 10:45 a.m.

until 11:30 a.m. be under the control of the majority, and 4 p.m. until 5 p.m. be under the control of the Democrats.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader just said: What are the Democrats trying to do, have built-in dysfunction?

During the 8 years I was majority leader, we had to overcome 644 filibusters led by the Republicans—644. A comparable time: Lyndon Johnson, who was the majority leader for 6 years, had to overcome one and, arguably, two filibusters. Two compared to 644, so don't lecture us on building dysfunction. They have invented it in the modern Senate.

This afternoon the Senate will vote on cloture on the CR proposed by the Republicans. I appreciate the good work done by appropriators, on our side led by Senator MIKULSKI. They have done good work, and tremendous progress has been made.

The Republican proposal will likely fail to get cloture this afternoon, and for good reason. The Republican legislation misses the mark. It seeks to keep in place the status quo with regard to undisclosed, unaccountable dark money that is flooding our political system.

On the way to work this morning, I learned that the National Rifle Association is placing another \$1 million of TV ads in Nevada. We all know that the National Rifle Association was really good at direct mailing. They raised that money from their members. That is not how it works now. Most of the NRA money comes from the Koch brothers. We are fortunate there are not two Trumps. That is the dark money we are talking about. Those ads will say NRA, but it is not NRA money. The ads will say the Chamber of Commerce, but it is not Chamber of Commerce money. It is all Koch money. It is how it works with the dark money, nondisclosed money. And the provision my friend the Republican leader has to have in this resolution is this: The Securities and Exchange Commission will be powerless to tell corporations that they have to disclose their campaign contributions. They have to disclose everything else at their shareholders meeting, but not that; oh, no, that would be terrible, any type of disclosure. We want to keep all of this money out there dark, secret—no one knows. All of these phony names they advertise are just so unfair.

The Republican bill includes a rider to the government funding bill that prevents shareholders from knowing how their money is being used in political campaigns. Again, the Republican leader is trying to shut the door on disclosure.

The Republican continuing resolution also ignores the 2½-year crisis in Flint, MI. Lead has poisoned all 100,000 people—almost 10,000 children, some of whom are babies. Lead is a killer for children. After a short period of time—a month, a few weeks—a child who ingests lead in any way, whether they are eating paint off the floor but certainly drinking water, will be affected the rest of their lives. They will not be as smart as they could be; they will not be as agile as they could be. It really hurts them. And it is not good for adults. So after 2½ years, don't those people deserve something?

The Republican leader said there is a water resources development bill, and I acknowledge that. I think good work was done to get that passed. I said yesterday, and I will say again today, that I appreciate the work of Senator INHOFE. He has worked with one of the most liberal Members of the Senate, BARBARA BOXER, and he is one of the most conservative, and they did good work and I appreciate it very much. But would it be asking too much for the Speaker of the House and the Republican leader of the Senate to stand and say: We are going to get that thing done. We are going to pass it; we are going to make sure that the bill that passed overwhelmingly here in the Senate is going to become law. But they ignored that. They ignored the people of Flint.

We are happy to help with the disaster that took place in Louisiana. Since the Republican leader is here, we have been happy to help with all of the problems, the emergencies they have had in Texas. We stepped up to the plate, and we took care of that. We were happy to do that in Louisiana.

This will not be the reason I will not support this legislation, but I think Louisiana deserved more than what is in this bill. The emergency declaration for them is \$2.8 billion, and in this bill there is \$500 million, and they will get most of that. A little bit will go to West Virginia, and some—a little bit, even less—will go to Maryland. It will be distributed on a proportionate basis. But couldn't they help Flint?

Here was the response of the junior Senator from Louisiana: That is someone else's grief. That is what he said: That is someone else's grief. Louisiana wasn't someone else's grief when the hurricanes struck. It was our grief. The junior Senator from Louisiana should understand that he is a U.S. Senator, not a State senator from Louisiana. It is not someone else's grief; it is our grief.

The Republicans are essentially saying that disasters in our States are

more important than disasters in your State. It is unfair and it is wrong.

This morning my leadership team sent a letter to the Republican leader. DURBIN, SCHUMER, and MURRAY—they sent a letter to the Republican leader encouraging the Republicans to come back and give us a solution for the people of Flint.

After the vote on the Republican CR this afternoon, I encourage my Republican colleagues to help us have some degree of certainty that the people of Flint will be helped. It is not deficit spending even though it is an emergency. I believe it should be taken care of just like we had taken care of Louisiana. It is paid for. In fact, I commend Senators STABENOW and PETERS for taking money from a program they have in Michigan to pay for this. It is not deficit spending. Why can't we do it? The reasons are apparent, and that is too bad.

This doesn't need to be a manufactured crisis. We know the Republicans know how to close the Senate. They did it for 17 days, and they have done it another time. We don't need to have this manufactured crisis. We want to make sure that Flint has some degree of certainty that after 2½ years they would get some help. We need to work together to keep our government properly funded and the people of Flint protected. Certainly, we should be able to do that.

DONALD TRUMP

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night the Republican nominee for President failed to give any assurance of any kind or a coherent explanation as to why he refuses to release his tax returns—because there is no coherent reason. It is hard to give one when there isn't one.

He said he couldn't release his tax information because the Internal Revenue Service hasn't certified it. Everyone debunks that—everyone, except Donald Trump. But even as Trump tried to say nothing about his tax returns, he revealed at least one shocking truth: Donald Trump thinks that paying taxes is a fool's errand. People shouldn't pay taxes. He said—and it was reported at least five times in three decades—that he paid nothing in Federal income taxes, and Secretary Clinton alluded to that fact in last night's debate. Donald Trump's response was this: "That makes me smart." So what does that make the rest of us—suckers, unintelligent, dumb? He is smart; so does that make us dumb because we pay our taxes? He knows that refusing to pay taxes makes him, as we have come to learn, a scam artist. He is good at that. Every day that he refuses to release his tax returns is another slap in the face to the American people. People running for office for scores of decades have released their income taxes. That may be

a little bit of an exaggeration, but let's say that for the last 70 years, they have released their income tax returns. So why won't he release his? Why doesn't he do this? Because the tax returns would show that he is not the rich guy he thinks he is. Tax returns would show he is a spoiled, rich brat who inherited his daddy's money and hasn't done so well with it. After \$14 million, he hasn't done that well with how much his dad gave him. Trump's tax returns would show he isn't as generous as he claims to be and that he uses charities as his personal slush fund. Did you see this morning's news? He had an appearance on a TV show, and they owed him money. They paid that into his charity so he can then say that he gave this away. Trump's tax returns would show that, in spite of getting over \$1 billion of assistance from New York, in New York City alone Donald Trump is a failed businessman who is buried under a mountain of debt. They would show that he refuses to pay his Federal income taxes.

So I would hope that Donald Trump would release those tax returns the way Hillary Clinton has released 40 years of hers and her husband's.

Mr. President, I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 5082, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 5083 (to amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5084 (to amendment No. 5083), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5085 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5086 (to amendment No. 5085), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5087, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5088 (to the instructions) amendment No. 5087), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5089 (to amendment No. 5088), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the pending business, but I have to just comment based on what the Democratic leader has said. Apparently, he has so little confidence in his party's nominee for President that he insists on coming to the floor every day that we are in session, trying to assist her by making arguments either she cannot make or that she has not made. We do have pending business that is very important and which I know he would agree is important, and that is to keep the government running past the end of this fiscal year, which ends on Friday.

That actually is the subject that I came here to talk about. We are continuing to work on a continuing resolution to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year. The fact of the matter is that we would not find ourselves in this distasteful position were it not for the filibusters of our Democratic colleagues who try to use the leverage and have effectively used the leverage to shut down the normal functioning of the appropriations process in order to gain some leverage to spend more money, notwithstanding the fact that we are \$19 trillion in debt. They simply shifted from one excuse to another in order to refuse to do their job, which is actually to work in a bipartisan way through the appropriations process to fund the functioning of the government at agreed-to spending levels.

So we are now staring at a Friday deadline to keep the government open. Of course, this was their design all along—to drag their feet, delay, and turn from one excuse to another in order to keep from actually working in a bipartisan way to appropriate the money to fund the government so the government would continue to function. We could have finished this job a long time ago, but our Democratic colleagues simply made it clear that they wouldn't lose any sleep even as we get closer and closer to the funding deadline.

This is actually the narrative they hoped for all along. They want to talk about shutdowns or potential shutdowns that they, in fact, could cause, not because of anything that we have done on this side of the aisle.

The Appropriations Committee, chaired by Senator COCHRAN, and the Appropriations subcommittees have voted out on a bipartisan basis all 12 appropriations bills, and they have done their work. Many of them have passed unanimously. Most of them have passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support, which is very encouraging. So our Democratic colleagues have had a lot of participation and a lot of influence, as I know they would want, in the priorities of the Federal Government as reflected in the appropriations bill. Of course, that wasn't good enough, and that didn't meet

their underlying need, which is to try to gain any advantage they possibly can when it comes to spending levels or in the upcoming November 8 election, which very much appears to be on the Democratic leader's mind as he continues to come to the floor and talk about the Presidential race rather than the pending business.

Of course, now we know that we are running out of time. So the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has now proposed to call their bluff. They said they wanted a clean continuing resolution. As a matter of fact, the Democratic leader said last week that if a clean continuing resolution were brought to a vote, we could "leave in 10 minutes." That is what the Democratic leader said last week. But as of yesterday, we know he changed his tune. He said a clean CR wasn't near enough. He said: "We want more."

We will soon have a chance to vote on that clean continuing resolution after lunch. This is the continuing resolution that the Democratic leader said we could pass and leave in 10 minutes. This continuing resolution funds the government at levels this Chamber has already agreed to. There are no riders or anything that the Democrats can claim as controversial. It is a simple continuation of funding at current levels under the same terms that the President has already signed into law last December. It also includes resources for bipartisan priorities like veterans programs, flood control, fighting the opioid epidemic that is devastating communities across our country, and dealing with prevention of the Zika virus—something the Democrats said they wanted money for since last May. Well, this is it. This is the \$1.1 billion agreed to on a bipartisan basis. But this is when they shift their argument to something else.

We remember that during the summer, our Democratic colleagues were quick to call for action on Zika funding. Ironically, they filibustered a bill that would have provided that funding, but when push came to shove, they flat out refused to act to give communities the funding they need to fight this real health crisis.

We know from what has happened in Florida, where they have had domestic infections of people from the mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus in Florida, that it is just a matter of time before this will spread to other parts of the United States, including warmer weather States like mine, in Texas.

I have spent some time in Houston, TX, with the mosquito and vector control folks at the Harris County Health Department, where they are monitoring these mosquitoes on a daily basis to see whether there are signs of the Zika virus in those mosquitoes. Thankfully, there is none yet, but they are identifying West Nile virus and other mosquito-borne diseases, and

thank goodness for the work and leadership they are showing at the local level. It would be nice if the Nation's congressional leaders would demonstrate similar leadership getting our job done, getting the money to the people who need it and can put it to good use.

I have shown the picture of the devastating birth defects caused by the Zika virus in women of childbearing age. It is devastating. How our colleagues across the aisle can continue to block this funding in giving the money that could actually help address this potential health crisis is beyond me. We have given them what they wanted, and they refuse to take yes for an answer. They still talk a lot about it and the urgent need to get it done, while dragging their feet the whole way.

The Democratic leader even said at the beginning of this month that we need to handle the Zika threat first and foremost. Well, I guess that is why he continues to delay a vote on the continuing resolution and why they continue to do what they say they are going to do. They are going to block the cloture vote this afternoon, again, because now they have changed the subject.

Well, this is their chance to act, to send resources to fight the virus in communities across the country. I am glad the senior Senator from Florida, a Member of the Democratic caucus, has already said that he will support this clean CR, in light of the public health threat Zika poses to his constituents in Florida. He clearly has his priorities straight. It is not politics first and foremost. It is public health. I hope more of his colleagues follow his lead and vote to get on this continuing resolution so we can get our work done and so the money can go to those communities like those in his State and in my State that need it most.

Some of our Democratic colleagues say they don't like the continuing resolution because it doesn't allow for funding for the water problems in Flint, MI. But I have to say that this is just another manufactured excuse. It ignores reality. We just passed overwhelmingly the Water Resources Development Act with more than 90 votes in this Chamber. That bill provides funding for the crisis in Flint, MI. The House is taking up their version of the bill this week. The chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, has made it clear he is committed to sending this Water Resources Development Act, including funding for Flint, to the President for his signature. So that excuse doesn't hold any water either.

Our Democratic friends may say: Well, that is not included in the House bill. That is true. But with the commitment of the chairman and the ranking member of the Environment and

Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER, who work so well together, there is no way in the world that a conference report is going to come back to the Senate without that Flint, MI, money in the bill. So that excuse doesn't hold water either.

Once again, I guess because they think it helps them somehow politically, our Democratic friends are marching this country closer and closer to a shutdown. They have been slow-walking the process, starting months ago when they refused to consider and even pass bipartisan appropriations bills. As I said earlier, these were bills passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis. Why in the world would they do that, I guess, perhaps is the question before us. Well, a Member of their leadership implied in yesterday's Washington Post that it is purely for political purposes.

I am not naive. I understand politics is part of this process, but clearly the priority of our colleagues across the aisle is not to do their job and to address the funding needs for the Federal Government, including the Zika crisis or even to deal in a bipartisan way with the very issue they have identified, the Flint, MI, issue that is going to get that money to the community.

In the article I mentioned in the Washington Post, the senior Senator from Montana, who heads the Democratic campaign committee, gave us just a momentary glimpse into our Democratic friends' playbook this election cycle. He said that in order to win more seats in the U.S. Senate, Democratic candidates need to show that "Republicans really haven't done anything."

That was the campaign chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, saying in order for them to win seats, they have to show that under Republican leadership nothing has been done. The facts would show otherwise. This reminds me of the story of a propaganda technique where, if you tell a big enough falsehood and you tell it over and over and over, there are some people who are actually going to believe it.

Facts are a stubborn thing. Democrats are marching us down a path that leads to a shutdown in order to gain some sort of political advantage. What a terrible thing to do to this country, to be brought to the brink purely for some perceived, temporary political game.

The facts are, under the leadership of Senator MCCONNELL as the majority leader and under a Republican majority, the Senate has been brought back to regular order, which means we are actually doing the people's business. Committee chairmen have had the freedom to flesh out legislation on a bipartisan basis and craft good policy solutions for the American people, rather than have bills cooked up in the Demo-

cratic leaders' conference room that have never seen the light of day in any committee and certainly were not bipartisan. That was the record when the Democratic leader was majority leader during the last Congress.

We have had more votes on more bills so individual Senators could offer specific ideas on how to make legislation better, and the results speak for themselves. It is a long list, but the Senate has passed much needed overhauls of our education system and our transportation system, both on a bipartisan basis. We have passed bipartisan bills to help root out the dangers to our society from opioid addiction, heroin addiction, and human trafficking. We passed foreign policy measures that have made our country safer, including a bill to impose stronger sanctions on North Korea.

Again, it is a long list. Last week, we passed the Water Resources Development Act I was referring to earlier, thanks to the leadership of a Republican, the senior Senator from Oklahoma, and a Democrat, the senior Senator from California. That is the way this process is supposed to work.

The point is, until very recently, this Congress has been marked by a willingness of folks on both sides of the aisle to work through the issues and to find a path forward that would represent the best solution for the people we represent, the American people.

According to the senior Senator from Montana—in what appears to be an act of desperation—that doesn't make for good campaign strategy in the days leading up to the election, apparently, and now they want to try to sell this propaganda, this gigantic falsehood repeated over and over so people, at some point, at some level, begin to believe it. They want to paint this Congress as ineffective under Republican control.

When our friends on the other side of the aisle put the "d" in dysfunction during the 113th Congress, that is why the Republicans won the majority in the 2014 election, among other things, because Democratic incumbents running for reelection in 2014 had no record of accomplishment they could point to. That strategy backfired on our Democratic colleagues. You would think they would have learned something from that experience.

For example, they had the incumbent Senator from Alaska go home to Alaska and ask to be returned to the Senate. He could not point to a single amendment on a single bill he actually sponsored that received a rollcall vote in the Senate. That is pretty hard to explain, especially when you are in the majority, but that is what happened. You would think our colleagues would have learned something from that.

What do they gain by edging our country toward a government shutdown this Friday? I don't see how it helps anyone, but that is why we are

here today, staring at a deadline and trying to hammer out a stopgap spending bill—and this only gets us to December 9.

Again, the reason we find ourselves having to do this is because they have simply shut down the Senate appropriations process, forcing us into a position that no one who actually has any interest in performing the duties of their job actually likes. This is not the way the Senate is supposed to work, but this is the hand we have been dealt because of their obstruction.

I would hope more Democrats would join the senior Senator from Florida and take yes for an answer when it comes to funding the government, when it comes to dealing with Zika, the potential Zika crisis in our country.

I hope our colleagues on the other side will reconsider their decision to block the vote this afternoon. We are ready to move forward with the solution our Democratic colleagues have called for, a clean continuing resolution, but again it is like Charlie Brown and the football. Do you remember that cartoon? Every time Lucy would put the football out, she would pull it back at the last minute and Charlie Brown would end up on his back.

All we need is a partner who will work with us. I encourage some of our friends across the aisle to reconsider their position.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT

Mr. President, late on Friday afternoon, the President fulfilled his promise to veto the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

I have a hard time understanding the President's rationale. This legislation was approved unanimously in the Senate and in the House. That doesn't happen very often, where Democrats and Republicans, where Senators and House Members, unanimously support a piece of legislation, but tomorrow afternoon we will vote on an override of that veto. President Obama made clear in his message that he doesn't understand how limited and narrow in scope this legislation is. As a matter of fact, he misrepresents what this legislation actually does, which is an extension of current law, and it is well within the bounds of historical practice and modern court guidance under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

The victims of terrorism in this country need an ability to seek justice in a court of law. That is all this bill is about. It doesn't identify a single country, and it doesn't purport to decide the merits of the case. All it says is, yes, you can present your case to a judge and a jury in a court of law. Why the President would object to that is lost on me.

This legislation will help victims of terrorism on U.S. soil seek compensation. By doing so, it will potentially deter other terrorist acts. If there are

consequences associated with sponsoring terrorist attacks on American soil, don't you think this might have some modest deterrence effect, including our counterterrorism measures that our national security forces are engaged in?

This also sends an important message that the United States takes care of its own and that we will never tolerate terrorism and we will never ever shy away from the pursuit of justice for Americans.

I realize there are some of our colleagues who say: Well, Saudi Arabia or some other country might be upset with us.

Frankly, I could care less. We are here to represent the American people, not some foreign country. The fact is, our colleagues—our friends in Saudi Arabia, to the extent that we have aligned interests, we work well together and that will continue despite this veto override. To simply say because some foreign country or some King or some Prince of some other country doesn't like legislation so the President is going to veto it is simply unacceptable, when clearly the American interest here is for these victims of terrorism to find recourse in our courts of law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, while the Republican whip is still on the floor, I believe there is an agreement, at 10:45, Republicans will have control of the floor.

I have waited patiently while the Senator from Texas has given his speech. I ask unanimous consent to allow me 10 minutes to speak on the floor before the Republicans claim their time.

Mr. CORNYN. Absolutely.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, why are we facing a continuing resolution to fund the government of the United States of America? Because our budget expires on October 1.

It is a new budget. We are supposed to pass spending bills, appropriations bills, budget bills that will cover this next 12 months of the fiscal year, and we have failed. The Senate Appropriations Committee, which I am proud to serve on, has done its job on a bipartisan basis. In fact, we have reported out all 12 spending bills but had very little luck on the floor of the Senate moving those bills forward. The first one we took up was the military construction bill, which passed with good support, and was sent over to the House of Representatives. They loaded it up with every political issue they could think of for this campaign season, and that bill started floundering

at that point. That is why, at this moment in time, we need to pass a continuing resolution. This is no way to run a government but, to be honest with you, both political parties have been guilty of finding themselves in this mess before, where we have had to buy a little extra time into the fiscal year in order to agree on the budget for the remainder of that year.

What the President said to the Republican leaders of the House and Senate last week is, if you want to do this continuing resolution bill, just keep the government running until you can agree on all the appropriations bills, give me a continuing resolution bill until December 9, and—if you would—please acknowledge that we are facing a public health crisis with the Zika virus. The President raised that issue because in February of this year, 7 months ago, he notified Congress this was going to happen; that we were going to see these mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus infecting people in Puerto Rico and in the United States and endangering mothers who were carrying babies. In February, the President asked for Congress to give \$1.9 billion to eradicate the mosquitoes, to lessen the danger, and, equally important, to develop a vaccine. This is a vaccine which frankly, when it is developed, all of us will want to take, one that protects all of us from Zika virus infection in the future.

What did the Republican-controlled Congress do with the President's emergency public health crisis request for Zika? Nothing. They ignored it until May of this year, when the Senate finally passed, with 89 votes, Democrats and Republicans together—it was not \$1.9 billion but \$1.1 billion to deal with the Zika virus, this emergency public health crisis. It took 3 months. It should have taken 3 days.

In May, with 89 votes, we sent a bill from the Senate over to the House of Representatives to deal with this crisis. What did they do with it? Instead of passing the bipartisan bill the President requested, they decided to load it up with politically controversial issues that they thought would help them in this election cycle. Listen to some of the things they added to this bill, this emergency public health crisis bill.

First, they put in the provision that there was a prohibition of funding any efforts by Planned Parenthood on family planning under this bill. Why? Because mothers, facing the prospect of a pregnancy and the possibility of an infection, would seek family planning help at Planned Parenthood. Two million American mothers did last year. They put this provision in to defund Planned Parenthood. They knew that was going to be a fight. They put it in anyway. They eliminated \$500 million from the Veterans' Administration funding to process veterans' claims—something we desperately need. They

took the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor the chemicals that would be used to kill the mosquitoes. And then, to add insult to injury, they put in a provision that said you could display Confederate flags in U.S. military cemeteries. What does that have to do with the Zika virus? Nothing. It was political gamesmanship. It was going nowhere. The President would never sign it under those circumstances, and they knew it.

Now the President says: Give me a clean Zika funding bill and we will move forward with this continuing resolution.

Finally, last week the Senate Republican leader gave us that clean bill as part of the CR, and if that were all he did, we would be finished, we would be home, but he kept moving forward in other areas of controversy. You see, there was terrible flooding in Louisiana, and a lot of innocent people were hurt. They lost their homes and businesses. It has been a custom in the Congress to rally to the aid of victims of disasters. I have voted for that over and over again, for maybe every State across the United States, because I knew the day would come—and it has—when Illinois would need a helping hand, and I wanted to be there for my colleagues.

So we said this to the leader on the Republican side: If you want to help Louisiana—and I do—also help the people living in Flint, MI.

Remember when their water supply was contaminated? There were 100,000 people ingesting lead, when there is zero tolerance in our blood streams for that. The damage is obvious. Imagine 9,000 children in Flint poisoned with lead-contaminated water. That happened. In that poor city, they are still drinking water out of bottles every single day.

So we said to the Republican leader: Yes, we care about Louisiana. You should care about Flint, MI. If you are going to help Louisiana, help those poor people in Flint who are facing this kind of contamination.

He refused. He said: There will be money for Louisiana but no money for Michigan.

Why? We think there are victims in both places, and in the past the Senate and Congress have risen to those tragedies and those demands. I have done it on a bipartisan basis. It makes no difference to me that we have two Republican Senators in Louisiana, and it should make no difference to Senator McConnell that we have two Democratic Senators in Michigan. Let's think about the Americans who are hurting in both places instead of playing political games. But no—Senator McConnell said: We will help Louisiana; we will provide no help to Flint, MI. That is unfair, and it complicates the situation.

If that were all he did, it would be bad enough, but Senator McConnell

has a pet project that he needs to put into this bill. Listen to what it is. It is a prohibition at the Securities and Exchange Commission that would promulgate a rule to require America's corporations to publicly disclose the campaign contributions they are making. Under Citizens United, in warped thinking at the Supreme Court, it was determined that corporations are persons when it comes to contributing money. Look what has happened—a flood of millions of dollars. Republicans were boasting that they raised \$43 million in their super PAC in August, and they got \$20 million last week from Sheldon Adelson, a rich man who lives out in Nevada. Oh, they are rolling in millions, but Senator McConnell is determined to keep secret the source of these funds, so he wants to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring corporations to simply state publicly that they are making these contributions. We do. If corporations are persons—individual persons, like myself have to make a disclosure of contributions that are made. Why should corporations have the benefit of being treated as a person to make contributions but not the responsibility facing persons to disclose this publicly? Senator McConnell wants to keep that secret, and that is why he included it in this legislation and made it as controversial as it is.

A simple word to the leader on the Republican side and to the wise who want to leave and go home and campaign: There is a way out of here. Treat the people in Flint, MI, with the same respect we are treating the victims in Louisiana. Provide the resources for opioid funding, which we desperately need. Leave out this special interest provision protecting corporations that want to make political contributions but want to keep it secret so nobody knows what they are doing. Make sure that we finally—finally—7 months later, adequately fund the Zika crisis so we can deal with this and develop a vaccine to protect all of America.

Mr. President, to reiterate, after weeks of bipartisan negotiations and significant progress made in settling our differences on a bill to keep the government open through December 9, Republican leadership has given up on negotiations and instead filed a bill that completely ignores the ongoing emergency in Flint, MI. For over a year, the good people of Flint have waited for Congress to do our job and address the public health emergency that has poisoned 9,000 children and left 100,000 residents without access to clean and safe water. But once again, they are being told to wait. They are being told that the emergency their community is facing is somehow less important than emergencies other communities around the country are facing.

Republicans continue to argue that the ongoing crisis in Flint and other cities is better addressed through the Water Resources Development bill or WRDA. But while the Senate WRDA bill, which we passed earlier this month, includes vital funding for Flint, the House has made no commitment to help Flint in their bill. We cannot afford to wait any longer. The people of Flint have waited far too long already. We need to address the emergency in Flint now—in this bill—just as we are addressing the emergency in Louisiana.

It is unbelievable that Congress continues to hold up federal funds to help aid these Americans in their time of need. Almost 100,000 people are currently living without reliable access to clean water in their homes and 9,000 children are suffering from lead poisoning. Just like those suffering from flooding and tornados, these families did nothing to deserve this. And just as the federal government always helps when Americans are hit by disasters, it should do so now.

There were no complaints last May when the Federal government declared an emergency and reached out to residents of Texas to help them rebuild their lives after a tornado hit. So I see no reason why Senators should hesitate to provide funding to Flint, Michigan, to help deal with this public health emergency. The crisis in Flint is a tragedy that demands Senate action.

Instead of turning on the tap to make breakfast or take a shower, like all of us did this morning, these residents start their day by waiting in long lines for bottled water to feed and bathe their children, take showers, and stay healthy. And for those elderly or disabled residents that cannot make it to the pick-up location, they are left with the option of continuing to use water that they know is poisoning their bodies with lead and causing numerous health issues.

The lead contamination levels in the City mean that an entire generation of children are in danger of suffering from irreversible brain damage, lower IQ scores, developmental delays, and behavior issues for the rest of their lives.

This truly is a tragedy that requires federal support.

And what is frightening, is that Flint is not the only city battling with lead issues, nor is it an isolated incident. Elevated lead contamination levels have been reported in cities nationwide—including in Ohio, South Carolina, New Jersey, Mississippi, and Washington, DC. In my own home state of Illinois, Chicagoans have been battling with lead contamination in their homes for years.

Recent articles in the Chicago Tribune have highlighted this struggle. In 2012, an EPA study found high levels of lead in the drinking water of several Chicago homes—despite the City's use of anticorrosive chemicals to treat the

water. And since then, at least 179 young children in federally-subsidized homes in Chicago have suffered lead poisoning stemming from exposure to lead-based paint.

These issues have led to Illinois having some of the country's highest rates of children with elevated blood lead blood levels, which, unfortunately, have hit low-income and minority communities the hardest.

Thankfully, however, lead levels in Illinois and across the nation have not risen to the severity of those in Flint.

But the widespread nature of these issues does show that we need to get serious about investing in infrastructure programs that address the housing, environmental, and public health aspects of preventing lead contamination in American homes. That is why I was proud to join Senators from both sides of the aisle in supporting a bipartisan deal to address the ongoing lead crisis in Flint and other communities across the country and ensure all Americans have access to safe drinking water.

The Senate's bipartisan WRDA bill provides \$220 million in direct emergency assistance to Flint and other communities facing similar drinking water emergencies. It provides \$1.4 billion over five years to help small and disadvantaged communities comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The bill modernizes our State Revolving Loan Fund program and provides \$300 million in grants for communities to replace lead service lines. And because we are also seeing high levels of lead in our schools' water, the bill authorizes \$100 million for additional lead testing in schools.

This bill also addresses many of the issues that I raised in the Lead-Safe Housing for Kids Act that I introduced with Senator MENENDEZ and the CLEAR Act that I introduced with Senator CARDIN, two bills that would ensure our children are protected from the dangerous effects of lead in our water and our housing.

While we still haven't figured out our differences over aid for communities affected by lead contamination, Democrats and Republicans have finally agreed to address the Zika public health emergency in this bill.

In February, the President requested \$1.9 billion to fight the Zika virus. In May, the Senate overwhelmingly passed a bipartisan bill to provide \$1.1 billion in emergency funding to combat this virus, but then partisan politics took over. Republicans insisted on attaching a variety of controversial policy riders to the Zika bill, from attempting to overturn provisions of the Clean Water Act to trying to block money from going to Planned Parenthood health centers.

Thankfully, 7 months after the President first made his request, common sense is prevailing and Republicans

have finally dropped their outrageous demands to load this bill up with contentious and extraneous items. I wish it had happened sooner. The bill before us today includes \$1.1 billion in funding to help States and our Federal health agencies properly respond to the ongoing Zika epidemic. This money will be used for vaccine development, mosquito control, and the delivery of needed health care.

What the bill before us today does NOT include are ill-conceived partisan poison pills. As of last week, there were more than 23,000 reported cases of Zika in the United States and its territories, including more than 2,000 pregnant women. We are 7 months overdue in passing this emergency funding. It is my hope that pregnant women and children won't have to wait much longer.

While this bill is missing vital funding for Flint, Leader MCCONNELL had no problem including controversial language that limits the Security and Exchange Commission's ability to require disclosure of corporate political spending.

In 2010, the Supreme Court issued a far-reaching decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. On a divided 5-4 vote, the Court struck down years of precedent and held that the First Amendment permitted corporations to spend freely from their treasuries to influence elections. As a result of *Citizens United* and the series of decisions that followed in its wake, special interests and wealthy, well-connected campaign donors have so far poured more than \$2 billion dollars of outside spending into recent Federal elections, including 2016 races.

In the years since *Citizens United*, several of my colleagues and I have called for the SEC to initiate a rulemaking requiring public companies to disclose their political spending to shareholders. More than 1.2 million securities experts, institutional and individual investors, and members of the public have asked the SEC for a disclosure rule.

Such a rulemaking would bring much needed transparency to the U.S. political process. Shareholders deserve to know when outside spending in political campaigns comes from the coffers of a company they have invested in.

Unfortunately, last year, this provision limiting the SEC's rulemaking authority was slipped into the omnibus appropriations bill, which we had to pass in order to fund the government for the 2016 fiscal year. We should not allow this rider to continue to strangle the SEC's authority.

Despite weeks of bipartisan progress on a deal to fund the government, the Republicans have decided to move forward on a bill that continues to ignore the ongoing crisis in Flint and other cities like Chicago. Congress and the

Federal government's primary responsibility is to protect the American people. And just as the Federal government always helps when Americans are hit by disasters, it should do so now.

Like the communities in Louisiana suffering from devastating flooding, the people of Flint deserve our help in responding to this public health emergency. A deal to provide funding for Flint has already passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. We need to address the emergency in Flint NOW, in this bill. The people of Flint have waited long enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 11:30 a.m. will be controlled by the majority.

The Senator from Wyoming.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Senate minority leader, Senator REID, came to the floor a couple of days ago and talked about health care. He said: If people would just look at the newspaper, they would see that ObamaCare has changed America—in his words—for the better.

Well, millions of Americans do pick up the newspaper. I hope many of them saw the Presiding Officer's article in today's Wall Street Journal about some of the travel and things he has seen regarding our Nation's security. But I would like to point out to Senator REID that there have been headlines in the papers repeatedly, including one in the Reno Gazette-Journal this month, that said his home State—"Nevada ranked 48th in healthcare by finance website." This from a finance Web site. They are talking about just how bad the health care law has been for the people of his home State of Nevada. It was about a new survey that looked at things such as health care costs and access to care and how it impacts people at home. So if ObamaCare is so great—at least as great as Senator REID says it is—then why is his home State ranked almost dead last?

Look, Americans are seeing headlines like the one that appeared on the front page of the Washington Times the day the Senator came to the floor. Had he picked it up and looked at it on the way to the floor, he would have seen the headline on the front page saying "Failures of Obamacare. . . ." This was on the front page the day he came to the floor and said: Check out the headlines. The article says: "Democrats see need for fallback plan." They need a fallback plan because this health care law has been so devastating to people all across this country. If ObamaCare is so great, why do the Democrats need a fallback plan?

Look, people across the country are seeing headlines like this every day.

A Washington Post headline: "Health-care exchange sign-ups fall short of forecasts."

The New York Times: "ObamaCare Options? In Many Parts of Country, Only One Insurer Will Remain."

Another New York Times article: "Cost of health law's plans set to rise more sharply."

This is from the paper The Hill: "Dems to GOP: Help us fix ObamaCare."

They didn't turn to Republicans for solutions and ideas when they forced it through on a party-line vote. They didn't listen to us and our concerns about the impact of this law on the families of this country. Now they come to us and ask us to help them fix the mess they have made.

USA TODAY—I would point out to Senator REID—"Obamacare rate hikes rattle consumers, could threaten enrollment."

The New York Times: "The Incredible Shrinking Obamacare."

Senator REID came to the floor and made his statement just a couple of days ago. Let me point out a few other headlines that have arrived since then.

Bloomberg, Friday: "Failing Obamacare Nonprofit Co-Ops Add to 'Death Spiral' Fears."

You don't even have to turn to the newspapers; you could have turned on the radio—National Public Radio, just this past Friday, talking about people who are buying insurance for their insurance because the ObamaCare program is so bad for them personally.

Sunday's New York Times, in the business section: "Why Obamacare Markets Are in Crisis."

I would suggest the minority leader look at today's newspaper in Indiana regarding Indiana University health plans. "IU Health Plans quit Obamacare exchange, citing 'heightened financial uncertainty.'"

Those are the headlines people are seeing all across the country. So I am not sure exactly what newspapers the minority leader is reading, but he is not reading the same papers Americans all across the country are reading.

All across the country, people are hearing about their rates going up—in Georgia, 33 percent; Illinois, 45 percent; Tennessee, 59 percent—and people are feeling the pinch from this rising cost of the Obama health care law. It is hurting the people who buy insurance through ObamaCare exchanges, and it is hurting the people who get their insurance through their jobs. A new report by the Kaiser Family Foundation says that for people who get their insurance at work, the deductibles have risen four times faster than the premiums did. So it is not just the premiums going up, but the deductibles are going up. And all of those are new costs as a result of the health care law. The American people are feeling it in their wallets, and millions of Americans are rejecting ObamaCare insurance because they know it is not a good value for them personally.

According to one article, 8 million people face tax penalties this year for not buying ObamaCare coverage. These are people who can't afford this expensive, second-rate insurance, or they do not think it is right for them or their family. The Democrats who wrote this law and who are now asking for help in "fixing it" do not really care; they just want people to write their checks to the IRS, their penalties because of the mandates of the law—the taxes, the fines. These are for people who have no options.

No options is exactly the situation most Americans are facing. Major insurance companies have decided to leave most of the ObamaCare markets. Just look at the insurers who are fleeing the ObamaCare exchange. Humana is selling coverage in 19 States this year; it is going to be in just 11 States next year. Look at UnitedHealthcare—in 34 States this year but down to 3 next year. Aetna is going from selling ObamaCare plans in 15 States this year to just 4 States next year.

On November 1, millions of Americans will go to sign up for ObamaCare and they will find their insurance plan has disappeared. Companies are running for the exits. The program is collapsing. It is in a death spiral. And so far, of the 23 co-ops under the health care law, 17 of them have failed, including the one in the home State of Senator REID, Nevada, which went out of business at the end of last year.

With all these companies shutting down and dropping out, people living in one-third of the country are going to be left with just one option for ObamaCare coverage in November. One option is no choice. It is not a marketplace, it is a monopoly.

Under ObamaCare, we have seen medical costs skyrocketing and people losing their insurance. So it is no surprise that there is enormous anger and anxiety about the health care law, to the point that in a Gallup poll earlier this month, 29 percent of American families say they have actually been hurt personally by the health care law and only 18 percent say they have been helped.

Mr. President, Republicans said this was what was going to happen. Democrats ignored them. They ignored our concerns to try to improve health care for all Americans. Democrats went into a back room, behind closed doors in HARRY REID's office, they wrote a law they passed with no Republican support, and this is the result.

We have offered direct solutions to the problems. We have offered relief for the American people. My colleague from Arizona, Senator MCCAIN, who is now on the floor, has offered a bill to provide that relief for people who are hit with mandates, taxes, fines, and penalties because of the mandates of a law that is too expensive, too costly, and hurting American families. I am proud to cosponsor Senator MCCAIN's legislation to provide that relief.

So when people say "Will you work with Democrats?" I will say this: If Democrats want to work on a plan that provides nothing but more ObamaCare and more Federal control, count me out, but if they want to work on a plan, such as the plan I have introduced with Senator GRAHAM from South Carolina and Senator AYOTTE to provide opportunity, freedom, choice, and flexibility at the State level, to empower individuals in States, then count me in.

But, Mr. President, when you look at a program that is impacting America, with 29 percent of people having been hurt by the President and his law and only 18 percent helped, I would say to the President of the United States: You shouldn't have had to hurt so many good people while trying to help those who didn't have insurance.

This is a law that needs to be repealed and replaced, and right now I am proud to stand with Senator MCCAIN in his efforts to provide relief to the families who feel betrayed by this President and this law.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wyoming, who continues to be the voice of reason and the voice for so many millions of Americans who feel betrayed by ObamaCare—who have not been given their choice of a doctor if they wanted a doctor, who have not been able to keep the policy that the President promised they would be able to keep, period. He is the voice of those fellow citizens of mine who, in all counties but one in my home State of Arizona, have one choice—not a choice of their doctor, not a choice of their health care policy, but one, and one only. And now they are looking at as much as a 65-percent increase in the rate of their premiums beginning the next 1st of November—disgraceful.

I thank the doctor. I thank my colleague and friend from Wyoming.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 30 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my colleague from South Carolina, Senator GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GENOCIDE IN SYRIA

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, last night was one of the most watched political events in American history: the debate between Donald Trump and Secretary Clinton. A lot of issues were addressed or not addressed, depending on your point of view. But the stunning aspect of this, to me, is there was not a single comment about the genocide taking place in Syria as we speak—not a comment about this terrible situation, which has taken the lives of over

400,000 innocent men, women, and children in Syria, driven 6 million into refugee status, destabilized the European Union, and continues to this day in an endless flood. I think the American people deserve better than what they got last night, to be honest. So the beat goes on, the genocide goes on, and the slaughter goes on—only at an increased tempo.

From today's Wall Street Journal: "Syria Defies Calls to End Offensive." Of course they defy calls to end the offensive because their whole job is to take Aleppo, consolidate their control, kill off anybody who is in opposition, and then declare a cessation of hostilities once they have solidified their position and slaughtered thousands more.

Whatever happened to the United States' commitment that Bashar al-Assad had to leave power? Obviously, that is not happening, and it is being abetted by our intrepid Secretary of State. But it is not the fault of the Secretary of State; it is the fault of the President of the United States. "It would be diplomatic malpractice" not to pursue talks, Mr. Kerry said.

"It would be diplomatic malpractice."

One of the greatest diplomats that I have ever had the honor of knowing is a man by the name of George Shultz, one of the major reasons the Cold War ended and we won. I would like to give a quote in direct contradiction to Mr. Kerry's continuous quest to bend the knee and hope that Vladimir Putin will agree with him and stop the slaughter in Syria—time after time after time. Here is what Secretary Shultz said on diplomacy:

Americans have sometimes tended to think that power and diplomacy are two distinct alternatives. This reflects a fundamental misunderstanding. The truth is, power and diplomacy must always go together, or we will accomplish very little in this world. Power must always be guided by purpose. At the same time, the hard reality is that diplomacy not backed by strength will always be ineffectual at best, dangerous at worst.

I wish the Secretary of State would read what one of the great diplomats and leaders of our time, Secretary George Shultz, said.

Meanwhile, the slaughter goes on. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial, "As Aleppo burns," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 27, 2016]

AS ALEPPO BURNS

"WHAT RUSSIA is sponsoring and doing" in the Syrian city of Aleppo "is barbarism," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, said on Sunday. She's right: For days, Russian and Syrian planes have rained bombs—including white phosphorus, cluster munitions and "bunker-busters" designed to penetrate basements—on the rebel-held side of the city. Hundreds of

civilians have been killed; as many as half are children, U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura described "new heights of horror." Ms. Power said that "instead of helping get lifesaving aid to civilians, Russia and [Syria] are bombing the humanitarian convoys, hospitals and first responders who are trying desperately to keep people alive."

It goes without saying that this war-crimes-rich offensive, which Syria's U.N. ambassador said is aimed at recapturing east Aleppo, has shredded the Obama administration's attempt to win Russian and Syrian compliance with a cessation of hostilities. So naturally reporters asked senior officials as the "attack was getting underway how the United States would respond. "I don't think . . . this is the time to say where we will go from here," one answered. Said another: "We're waiting to see what the Russians come back with."

In other words: Hem, haw.

By Monday, the administration's response seemed clear: It will hotly condemn the assault on Aleppo, but do absolutely nothing to stop it. On the contrary, Secretary of State John F. Kerry insisted he will continue to go back to the regime of Vladimir Putin with diplomatic offers, hoping it will choose to stop bombing. "The United States makes absolutely no apology for going the extra mile to try and ease the suffering of the Syrian people," he grandly declared after a meeting Thursday on Syria. By "extra mile," he doesn't mean actual U.S. steps to protect civilians—just more futile and debasing appeals to Moscow.

The Putin and Bashar al-Assad regimes are well aware that the only U.S. action President Obama has authorized is diplomatic, and that they are therefore under no pressure to alter their behavior. They already obtained, via Mr. Kerry, U.S. agreement to the principle that the Assad regime should remain in power while the United States and Russia join in fighting those rebels deemed to be terrorists. The regime then took advantage of a mistaken bombing of Syrian soldiers in eastern Syria to launch the assault on Aleppo, and Russia joined in. If it succeeds, Damascus will have essentially won the civil war and will have no real need for the negotiations Mr. Kerry says the cease-fire should lead to. If the offensive stalls, Mr. Putin can send Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov back to renew the deal with Mr. Kerry. Either way, Russia wins.

The losers are the civilian trapped in eastern Aleppo—250,000 to 275,000 human beings—who are cut off from supplies of food and medicine and being bombed mercilessly. They are being offered the same choice the regime has successfully imposed on other towns across the country: surrender or starve. Those who try to approach the evacuation corridors Russia says have been established are shot at. They are, indeed, victims of barbarism—but the rhetoric of U.S. diplomats, and continued petitioning to Mr. Putin, won't help them much.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, here we are:

What Russia is sponsoring and doing in the Syrian city of Aleppo "is barbarism," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said on Sunday. She's right: For days, Russian and Syrian planes have rained bombs—including white phosphorus, cluster munitions and "bunker-busters" designed to penetrate basements—on the rebel-held side of the city. Hundreds of civilians have been killed; as many as half are children. . . . Ms. Powers said that "instead of helping get lifesaving aid to civil-

ians, Russia and [Syria] are bombing the humanitarian convoys, hospitals and first responders who are trying desperately to keep people alive.

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We are now treated to seeing the Secretary of State of the most powerful Nation on Earth on bended knee, going to Moscow, begging his friend Lavrov to stop this slaughter. Did anybody not see the picture of the little boy covered with dirt and blood? Did no one see that?

The Putin and Bashar al-Assad regimes are well aware that the only U.S. action President Obama has authorized is diplomatic, and that they are therefore under no pressure to alter their behavior. They already obtained, via Mr. Kerry, U.S. agreement to the principle that the Assad regime should remain in power while the United States and Russia join in fighting those rebels deemed to be terrorists.

Remember, the President of the United States said: It's not a matter of whether Bashar al-Assad will leave but a matter of when.

If it succeeds, Damascus will have essentially won the civil war and will have no real need for the negotiations Mr. Kerry says the cease-fire should lead to. If the offensive stalls, Mr. Putin can send Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov back to renew the deal with Mr. Kerry. Either way, Russia wins.

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I don't claim to be an academician, but I am a student of history. There was a guy named Calgacus, who, talking to his people who were fighting against the Romans, once described the Roman conquest of Carthage—where not one stone was left on top of the other, the ground was salted, and the Carthaginians were slaughtered. He described it: They made a desert, and they called it peace.

We are seeing a repetition of history. My friends, Mr. Assad, Mr. Putin, the Iranians, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, Hezbollah are making a desert, and they will call it peace. This is one of the most shameful chapters in American history.

I ask my friend and colleague, how many hospitals, markets, schools, and playgrounds do Russian and Syrian regime aircraft have to bomb before we realize that Putin and Assad are not interested in stopping the violence? They are interested in victory; they are not interested in stopping the violence. How many aid warehouses and U.N. humanitarian convoys do they have to destroy before we realize Putin and Assad are not interested in delivering aid to those in need? Four hundred thousand Syrian civilians have been murdered. Six million are refugees. When will the President of the United States do what is necessary to stop this slaughter before they make it a desert?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his passion and caring for the people of Aleppo and Syria. History will judge Senator McCain well. I am proud to be by his side.

But let's be honest with each other. It is not just the Obama administration that is the problem here. Where is the United Nations? A convoy carrying aid to Aleppo was bombed, and we all believe it was by the Russians. What has the U.N. done? What about the countries in the region that border Syria? What do they know? Our friends in France have been attacked several times based on ISIL's ability to project wars by having the caliphate in Syria. They have dropped bombs. All of us have used air power. Where is Trump? If you can understand what he would do differently, I would love to hear it. I don't understand it. I can tell you this, Secretary Clinton really disappointed me when she said "no ground forces in Iraq and Syria."

Mr. MCCAIN. May I ask my colleague, when former Secretary of State Clinton said "no ground troops in Iraq or Syria," do you think that means the 4,500 that are there now have to be withdrawn? Does she really believe that you can destroy ISIS with air power alone, which was basically what she said last night?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes, I agree. We have over 5,000 troops on the ground in Iraq, and if we count the people who come and go, it is closer to 7,000. So from their point of view, I think that is a pretty offensive statement. We have lost one SEAL, and other people are definitely at risk.

We live in an interesting time. It is probably much like the 1930s, when Hitler was building up. I am not saying al-Assad is Hitler, and I am not saying Putin is Hitler. But I am saying there is evil on the march, and most people are not doing anything about it. If you are in Aleppo right now, you feel as the Jewish people must have felt in the 1930s—and other countries who were being overrun by evil—when a lot of people just stood along the sidelines and issued statements.

To Samantha Powers, whom I have known and actually personally like

her: Do you think anybody listens to you, Samantha? Do you think anybody cares what you say? Because it is just all words. You have been up there for months now, and every ceasefire agreement has been broken.

To my good friend John Kerry: You said it would be diplomatic malpractice not to try to get a ceasefire solution. At what point does it become malpractice to misread the person you are talking to? At what point will you understand that the Russians are not interested in a ceasefire agreement? They want to install al-Assad in a military fashion so that he cannot be overtaken by power, which means they win.

So to me, the real crime here is that the world, not just Obama, has let this happen, and to the people in this body.

Several years ago, we were in an authorization-to-use-military-force debate after al-Assad used chemical weapons in violation of the redline that President Obama drew. To Senator MCCAIN's credit—and I went with him during Labor Day several years ago. The President called us up and said: I want to take action because it is clear to us that al-Assad used chemical weapons. We went outside the Oval Office in the driveway and stood by our President, called the Speaker of the House, Mr. Boehner, who stood with the President. There was a lot of Republican support for the idea that the President must act to put this brutal man back in check. That was early in the week. By Friday, President Obama takes a stroll in the Rose Garden with Denis McDonough, and, all of a sudden, now we are coming to Congress.

I have yet to get a call. I read it in the paper. When it came to Congress, it completely melted down. People on our side objected to the use of force, saying we would be the Air Force for Al Qaeda. People on our side did not understand what it meant to draw a red line and not use some force.

There is plenty of blame to go around. People on the Democratic side almost never come to the floor and challenge what is going on in Syria. President Obama is getting a complete pass, except from pockets, like Senator MCCAIN and every now and then an editorial. Why? Most people don't care about Syria because it seems distant.

When you talk about the young boy, it breaks our heart, and then we move on. Most people think we can't get involved ever again in the Middle East because it is just hopeless over there. Here is what I would suggest to you that we learn: If you let Syria continue to deteriorate, you will regret it. The King of Jordan, one of our best allies, is being overrun with Syrian refugees. One in five children in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee. This war will never end until America leads.

Back to Obama—you and your administration are very deceitful when it comes to foreign policy. You are the

ones who told us, as to Benghazi, that this was a protest caused by a hateful video rather than an organized terrorist attack, for weeks. In the debate last night, Secretary Clinton said that the reason we had no troops in Iraq was because the Iraqis did not want them and would not agree to leave some troops behind.

All I can say is that is a lie. I know that to be a lie because I was called by her before the decision to leave was made, and she asked that I, Senator MCCAIN, and Senator Lieberman go to Iraq to talk to the parties about a follow-on force. We did. We went to Prime Minister Maliki, President Barzani of the Kurds, and Mr. Allawi, who was representing the Shia group—the Iraqiya Party, I believe it is called.

The bottom line is that we left there with an understanding that all three groups would work with each other to have a follow-on force because they understood the need for it. This is the moment I will never forget as long as I live. During the meeting with Prime Minister Maliki, when it was my turn to ask him questions, he turned to me before I could speak and said: How many troops are you talking about leaving?

I turned to General Austin, who was the commander, and Ambassador Jeffrey, who was the Ambassador at the time, and I said: General, what is the answer to the Prime Minister's question?

He said: We are still working on that.

Here is the truth. There never was a protest outside the consulate in Benghazi. It was always a terrorist attack. They should never have had the Ambassador there to begin with, and they left him hanging.

Here is the truth. The Obama administration wanted to leave. They wanted to get to zero to fulfill a campaign promise. The reason the general could not answer Prime Minister Maliki's question is because the White House was trying to get the numbers down to the point where it wouldn't matter if he left anybody because they were so low.

You can say a lot about Trump. You can say a lot about Republicans, and a lot of it is true. You can say a lot about President Obama and Hillary Clinton when it comes to Iraq. But the one thing you can't say is that it was the Iraqis' fault that we left.

The reason I will not tolerate that is because too many people fought and died to get Iraq back in a better place. The surge did work, and they held it as a success.

Back to Syria, if you don't realize that we have several hundred people on the ground today in Syria, you are dishonoring them. If you don't realize that the strategy Obama has come up with will never work, you are not doing your homework. The people we are training to take ISIL down and to hold

Raqqa after they take ISIL down are YPG Kurds. That may not mean anything to you, but it means a lot to the region.

The Kurdish element that is being trained cannot hold Raqqa, cannot liberate Raqqa. General Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said that. The people we are relying on to destroy ISIL can't take them down and hold the territory because it is an Arab town. As to the people we are training to fight ISIL, the vast majority of the force has no interest in going after Assad.

If you leave Assad in power, the war never ends. Some 450,000 people have been slaughtered by Assad's forces—mostly through barrel bombing and brutal tactics. There is no plan to create a military counter push coming from the Syrians themselves to create negotiating space. Without power, there is no diplomacy. The force to destroy ISIL will never be successful in holding the territory. The force we are training to destroy ISIL has no interest in going after Assad. If you leave Assad in power, this never ends.

This whole foreign policy approach of the Obama administration is ill-conceived, shortsighted, and deceitful, and they know everything I am saying is true. There are people in the White House who know that the reason we left Iraq was because of politics in the White House. There are people in the White House who know—and the Pentagon who know—that the Kurdish force being trained can't get the job done. They are just trying to buy time until the next President comes along.

All I can say about Syria is that it seems to be a faraway place with strange sounding names. It seems to be something we shouldn't get involved in, in the minds of a lot of people. The one thing I would challenge you to think about is that the last time powers gathered up to murder and butcher hundreds of thousands of people, it eventually mattered to us. It is going to matter to you sooner than you think because all of these children who lost their parents and all of these parents who lost their children are looking at us, and they are going to hate our guts, along with the world community at large, because we sat on the sidelines and watched it happen.

Come with me and Senator MCCAIN to a refugee camp and look into these kids' eyes. I see broken-hearted children who need somebody to help them and a good investment. The terrorists see a recruiting opportunity, a literal gift from the world at large. You may not think it will affect you, but I promise you that the policies of the Barack Obama administration—when it comes to Syria—are going to haunt the world for generations if we don't do something about it soon and change course.

Mr. MCCAIN. My colleague mentioned this meeting that we had with

Maliki about maintaining a residual force. I would also like to point out to my colleague that the reason given by Obama and then-Secretary of State Clinton was that we couldn't get a status of forces agreement with the Iraqi government, which then would not make it tenable for our troops to remain. We now have 4,000 or 5,000—whatever it is—there. Where is the status of forces agreement that was so necessary then? It is not there because they wanted out.

By the way, I believe it was the President of the United States who said we are leaving behind the most peaceful, prosperous, and democratic Iraq in its history. Last night, Mr. Trump was right when he said that Al Qaeda went to Syria and became ISIS. We had Al Qaeda defeated. It was over.

I would also remind my colleague that one of the most consequential hearings in the history of the Armed Services Committee was when we were about to have a resolution through the Congress calling for the withdrawal of all troops because our strategy had failed. There was no strategy. The Senator from South Carolina and I called for the resignation and the firing of the then-Secretary of Defense of our own President, George W. Bush, because we were failing. Then along came the surge and David Petraeus. It was then-Senator Clinton at that hearing who said—and whoever wrote it for her, in clever style: I would have to have a willing suspension of disbelief in order to think that the surge will work.

She was wrong then, and she is wrong now because the surge did work—thanks to the sacrifice of so much precious American blood at places like Fallujah. Then, we had it won. Then, the worst lie that I have seen in my time in the Senate was this: Well, we couldn't have stayed because we had to withdraw.

That is a lie. We could have stayed. The Senator from South Carolina just described the meeting we had with Maliki. The fact is clear. Al Qaeda then moved to Syria. It became ISIS. Now we have seen the consequences of the abject failure of that administration, that President, and that Secretary of State. You cannot deny the facts.

I would say to my friend from South Carolina that this didn't have to happen. But what is happening now, as a consequence of that failure—as much as we want to revisit history—is that we could stop it now. We could stop it now. We could declare a no-fly zone. We could have a 100,000-person force—90 percent of them from Sunni Arab countries—and go into Raqqa and take them. We could tell Bashar Assad that he has to stop the slaughter. The barrel bombs have to stop, or we will take their planes out of the air.

You know what would happen? The next time one of them was shot down after dropping bombs and these terrible

weapons on innocent civilians, it would stop.

Mr. GRAHAM. You have been a fighter pilot in combat, flying for your Nation, and you know what it is like to risk your life. I would say this. If we had an American President who would tell the Russian President that we are going to train forces inside of Syria to replace Assad because Assad must go for the benefit of the region and the world at large, and if you come after the forces we trained, then you put your own people at risk, they wouldn't come. If you shot down one Syrian jet that was trying to bomb innocent people or the people we are training, it would be hard to get the next pilot to fly. That is the fact. That is a fact, I think.

Here is the other fact. We are doing none of that. We are watching people get slaughtered. Here is the question for those who want to be President and for this body. You are never going to win in Iraq again unless you have some troops left behind this time. Here is the question. Let's say we liberate Mosul, and that is going to be hard to do with the number of troops we have on the ground, because every American soldier is a force multiplier—a trainer, an adviser bringing capability to the fight that the Iraqis don't have themselves. So everyone we have over there, within reason, ensures the demise of ISIL and accelerates the chance of destroying ISIL and not having to rely on the Shia militia from Iran.

If you are worried about Iran being the big winner in Iraq, you should be because they are. The only way you are going to stop this dynamic is to have more American forces—somewhere around 10,000, and we are getting close at about 7,000 now—and they have to stay behind to keep Iraq from falling apart again. That is my humble opinion.

JOHN MCCAIN has been far more right than he has been wrong. Everybody tells us that every time we suggest something, that would create a lot of problems. All I can say is this: At what point do you realize we have a lot of problems? This thing is going to get worse if it doesn't get better, and the only way for it to get better is to do something different. The 5,000 troops are appreciated. Incrementally, they are doing what we suggested 3 years ago. We are still not there.

But look at Syria. Here is my warning to the American people and to the world at large. What we have on the ground in Syria cannot possibly destroy ISIL and hold the territory. You are going to need a lot more troops from the region who would be welcomed in the area in question. The Kurds cannot liberate Raqqa. They cannot destroy ISIL. They cannot hold the territory. Until you get regional forces involved, this will never work.

You will never have any diplomatic solution until there is military pressure put on Assad.

Currently, if you are joining the American effort to destroy ISIL, you are prohibited from going after Assad. The people in Syria and the region want two things—the destruction of ISIL and the removal of Assad, who has been the butcher of Damascus. We are not providing the second. The Russians and the Iranians are all in behind Assad. We have abandoned the people who joined our cause years ago. Four years ago Assad was on the ropes. Obama blinked; the rest is history. Going forward, if we don't have a different ground component in Syria, we will never destroy ISIL and hold the territory, and we will never end the war without putting military pressure on Assad, and that is going to require a regional commitment with an American component. If you don't do that, another 9/11 is coming here because they have the ability to plan and project force. We have seen it in Paris and other places. I am not talking about one or two people; I am talking about a group of people who can do a lot of damage to the United States. Every day that we let Syria get worse, every day that ISIL enjoys the ability to operate, the longer it takes to get them destroyed will put us more at risk. This strategy will not work.

Secretary Clinton's approach is no different than Obama's. She is for a no-fly zone, and I give her credit for that, but if you don't realize we need a new ground component in Syria, then you are giving ISIL the time they need to send their forces throughout the world, including here. If we don't stop them over there, they are coming here, and our plan to stop them over there will never work unless we change it.

Mr. MCCAIN. I will leave my colleagues again with the words of former Secretary of State George Shultz:

The truth is, power and diplomacy must always go together, or we will accomplish very little in this world. Power must always be guided by purpose. At the same time, the hard reality is that diplomacy not backed by strength will always be ineffectual at best, dangerous at worst.

That is the situation we are in today. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOSE FERNANDEZ

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I awoke early Sunday morning to familiar news

in Florida. Three boaters had lost their lives in an accident, and at the time their names were not known. Unfortunately this happens quite often, especially at night and during this time of the year. A couple of hours later, as I was driving to church with my family early that morning, I got a text that I didn't get to look at until we had parked, and it basically said that Jose Fernandez, the all-star pitcher from the Miami Marlins, had lost his life in a boating accident. Immediately I was able to connect the two events and realized that one of the three boaters who had lost their lives in the boating accident was Jose Fernandez—and his two friends, Emilio Macias and Eduardo Rivero.

His death at just 24 years of age has obviously devastated his family, but it has also had an extraordinary impact on our community. It has shaken the Miami Marlins organization and its fans. It has rocked Tampa, FL, where he played in high school, and South Florida communities where he lived and was just starting to make his mark. It has had a deep impact on immigrant communities, especially the Cuban exile communities in South Florida, and, of course, the entire baseball and sporting world.

His talents were unquestionable, even though he had only a brief and shining career in Major League Baseball. He had played for a year, was injured over the past 2 years, and when he came back, he had a better year than he did in 2013 when he was Rookie of the Year. He was obviously a young man on his way to a distinguished career that I believe would have led to the Hall of Fame and, perhaps along the way, a couple of pennants.

It is interesting that his impact goes well beyond what one would normally think of a star baseball player. You ask yourself: Why did this young man, who had been with us for just a brief moment, lead to such an outpouring of grief from a community? Anywhere you go in Miami, that is all anyone could talk about over the last 48 hours. I think that to understand it, you have to understand his story.

I had never met Jose Fernandez, yet I feel as though I knew him, and that is how millions of people feel. They had never met him, but they feel as if they know him. They feel as though they know him because his story, his family, and his passion, in the end, is our story, both as Cuban Americans and as Americans.

By now, most of the Nation has seen tributes to Jose. They have seen commemorations showing footage of what he accomplished on the field in the way most baseball fans knew him—as Jose Fernandez, the dominant baseball player, the Tampa Alonso High School phenom who led them to two State titles. He was a first-round draft choice, Rookie of the Year, and two-time All

Star. As a baseball player, quite frankly, there were few better than Jose Fernandez. But, from everything we know, off the field, as a human being, a son, a grandson, a teammate, and a neighbor, I believe he was even better.

He was born in Santa Clara, Cuba, in a place where tree branches and rocks are what passes for Louisville sluggers and Rawlings balls. He was drawn to the national sport of Cuba. He would spend countless hours swinging branches at rocks he had collected, dreaming of the day his talents could and would take him somewhere else. Thanks to sacrifices by his mother, who would take him to the ballpark so he could play youth baseball, he started to demonstrate a special talent at a young age.

By the time he was a teenager, like more than a million Cubans during the past 50 years, Jose faced a difficult choice. His stepfather, a baseball player in his own right, had defected after 13 attempts and made himself a life in Tampa. Jose could stay in Cuba, a place that, to this day, is still ruled by a despotic regime where your talent and work can take you only as far as unelected dictators say you can go, or he could risk it all for a chance at freedom. He risked it, not once, but on four separate occasions. So desperate was he to leave that island that he took his chances crossing the Florida Straits on boats that probably had no business being more than a few miles off shore. Three times he tried, and three times he failed. After his third attempt, the Cuban Government put him in prison for 2 months. He was 14 years of age at the time and was placed in a prison cell with hardened criminals, murderers—a boy among the worst.

Then came a fourth try, but instead of a short and treacherous journey to Miami, they chose a longer and more dangerous journey to Mexico. At one point during that fourth journey on a boat being tossed by crashing waves and high seas, he heard a splash and saw someone in the water thrashing about 60 feet away from the boat. He didn't know who it was, and without thinking, he jumped in to save that person. It was only when he got close to the person who had fallen overboard that he realized who it was—his mother. He recalled swimming toward her and watching her struggle in the rough seas. When he finally reached her, he calmed her and told her: Grab my back, but don't push me down. Let's go slow and we will make it. She held his left shoulder, and with his right arm—by the way, his pitching arm—he paddled. He swam 15 minutes back to the boat in waves he later described as “stupid big,” and he pulled himself and his mother to safety. Jose was 15 years old.

Before America ever met Jose Fernandez and before his fastball earned him millions of dollars and countless fans, this young man of only

15 had struggled against all odds in the middle of the night in rough seas, revealing who he was and what he would one day be. As he would later tell us, the harder part of his life was still to come.

Like so many immigrants, my parents included, his first years were difficult. He struggled when he first arrived, feeling overwhelmed by his new surroundings and new language. He was helpless, alone, and missing his family, especially his grandmother, who he once said was the love of his life: "She was my everything." He said it was the toughest period of his young life. It was even tougher than the time he spent in a Cuban prison after he tried to defect, but he overcame all of that and eventually came into his own.

He was a star on the high school diamond in Tampa, and the scouts took notice. Before the 2011 draft, Major League Baseball released their scouting report on him. He got high marks for his athletic abilities, but what set him apart was how he rated when it came to his poise, instincts, and aggressiveness. The notes on the official scouting report read: "Exudes confidence. No fear approach." This was not cockiness or arrogance. It is the kind of peaceful self-assurance that comes from a kid who had known life and death, had known freedom and captivity, and had lived more life in 19 years than a kid his age should have to.

He finally reached the Major Leagues with the Marlins, and right away you saw a young man blessed with Hall of Fame talent, blue-collar work ethic, and played the game with the energy and enthusiasm of a boy who understood and appreciated just how blessed he was.

One of Jose's proudest accomplishments—in fact, he said his proudest—was not on the diamond. We know this because he told us. Last year, Jose became an American citizen, and afterward he said:

This one is my most important accomplishment. I'm an American citizen now. I'm one of them. I consider myself now to be free.

I thank this amazing country for giving me the opportunity to go to school here and learn the language and pitch in the major leagues.

It's an honor to be a part of this country, and I respect it so much.

Jose knew. He knew how special and fortunate and blessed he was and we are. He knew how improbable his journey was, from the rocks and branches in Santa Clara to the brightest lights of the show, from a Cuban prison to a Major League clubhouse, from living in a Communist nightmare to living the American dream. And that is why Jose's death has hit so many so hard; Jose's story is our story. He reminds so many in my community of someone they know—a brother, a son, or a nephew. Jose represented not just all of us

who were fortunate to live our own American dream; he represents countless others who never made it, the ones who lie in unmarked graves along the Florida Straits, those who died in political prisons in Cuba, those who sent their children to America hoping to join them later only to never see them again, those who long gave up hope that life in Cuba could ever return to what it once was but had found new hope, joy, and gratitude in this, the greatest country the world has ever known.

We loved him just a little more and took more pride in him than most, but Jose didn't just belong to Cuban Americans. He was a young man from Santa Clara, Cuba, playing America's pastime in a truly unique American city on a team with players from Taiwan; Venezuela; Japan; Dominican Republic; Mobile, AL; and Panorama, CA. Jose Fernandez was the pride of Miami, but he belonged to every fan who loved to watch him pitch. When Miami saw Jose, they saw more than just a great athlete, they saw all their hopes, dreams, and aspirations—all we are and all we could be, and we said to ourselves: This is what the American dream looks like, and, boy, is the American dream alive and well.

This young man meant a lot to a lot of us for different reasons and in different ways, and now, just as quickly as he came into our lives and was coming into his own and really starting to fulfill his athletic potential—just as we were getting to know him, he was gone.

In a moment of unimaginable grief, I thank his family for bringing him into this world and raising him, despite difficult obstacles, to become the man he was, and for encouraging Jose to never give up in the search for freedom—a freedom that eventually allowed him to share his many gifts with us on and off the field.

Jose Fernandez made Tampa's Alonso High better, the Miami Marlins better, and he made all of baseball better. He made Miami and Tampa better, and the way he lived his life reminded us of how blessed we are to live in this, the greatest Nation on Earth. My friends, that is not bad for a 24-year-old kid from Santa Clara, Cuba.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold his suggestion?

Mr. RUBIO. Yes.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to associate myself with those remarks that were made. It is a tragedy to lose such a fighter, talent, and hero like that.

Speaking of heroism, we need a little bit of it on the floor here. We need to have a leadership here that understands when children are being

poisoned by lead in their water, we need to do something about it. We need leadership that understands that, just as the people of Louisiana deserve every bit of help, so do the families of Flint. We need a leadership that understands our responsibility to children.

What good are we?

Now, I have to say, I stand here as the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, and we are responsible for the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. My partnership with Senator INHOFE, which has been noted by a few around here, has extended to taking care of the people of Flint. We took care of the people of Flint and all of the kids who were exposed to lead in the water in the Water Resources Development Act that passed here with over 90 votes. That is good. That says there is goodness in the U.S. Senate, but unless we can deliver this bill and put it on the President's desk, it is a meaningless goodness. It is for-show goodness.

I have to say, it is so simple. The continuing resolution has in it help for Louisiana, and those people deserve that help but so do the people of Flint.

How easy is it? It is already paid for. We figured it out. It doesn't cost a penny. Unlike helping the people of Flint where we put that into the emergency spending, we have paid for the way to help the people of Flint and the children all over this country who have suffered from the impact of lead.

I want to show you some charts that demonstrate what it is like. This is what corrosive water has done to leach the lead out of these pipes. These are the drinking water pipes. Why did it happen? Because unelected people in Flint, appointed by the Governor there, decided they wanted to save a few bucks and they changed the source of the drinking water. They switched to a very corrosive drinking water. It leached all this lead out, and the lead poisoned the children. That is a simple fact in evidence. We need to fix it. We need to replace it.

I want to show you something else. This is what it looks like. If you saw this color water coming out of your tap, you would get out of the house with your family. I would get out of the house with my family. We are lucky. We have more resources than a lot of folks.

I want to show you some more pictures and some more charts. This headline: "Pregnant women, kids cautioned over Jackson water, lead."

This is Newsweek: "WITH LEAD IN THE WATER, COULD SEBRING, OHIO BECOME THE NEXT FLINT?"

The next Flint? These are other cities in our country where the lead is leaching into the drinking water. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. We fixed it over here, all of us together. Now we are being told by the

Republican leader that he can't possibly take care of it in the continuing resolution while he takes care of other places. Since when do we play God and decide which people are deserving of our help? When they are suffering, you help people. When there has been terrible mistakes made with the drinking water supply, you help people, and we did it in a way that is financially and fiscally responsible. We figured out a way to pay for this new program that will not only help Flint pay for their pipes but will help cities like this all over the country.

Here is another headline: "Elevated Lead Levels Found in Newark Schools' Drinking Water."

"Lead in water not confined to Flint."

Our provision that we put in helps people all over this great Nation of ours. What else do we have to show? I want to tell you the list of organizations who are calling to add aid to Flint and these other cities into the continuing resolution: The AFL-CIO, Catholic Charities, First Focus Campaign for Children, the Congressional Black Caucus, Human Rights—represents more than 200 national organizations—A. Philip Randolph Institute, the ACLU, African American Ministers, American University Women, American Family Voices, American Federation of Government Employees, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, American Federation of Teachers, American Islamic Congress, American Rivers, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Americans for Democratic Action, Andrew Goodman Foundation, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific American Alliance, Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Campaign for America's Future, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, Center for Community Change Action.

We can see all the interfaith groups. Every religion is asking the majority leader to take care of these children. For God's sake, where is your heart? Where is your heart?

We have paid for it. We have taken care of it. We are helping Flint. We are helping all the communities. Let's continue to see these groups: Center for Law and Social Policy, Children's Defense Fund, Children's Health Fund, Common Cause, Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, Environment America, Every Child Matters, International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, National Association of Social Workers, National Black Justice Coalition, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation Black Women's Roundtable, Jobs With Justice, the League of Conservation Voters, the League of United Latin American Citizens, MomsRising, the NAACP, the United Automobile, Aero-

space and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States.

Where are your values? Where are your religious values, I say to the majority leader. You can take care of this, and it doesn't cost a penny, and you will shut down the government rather than do this? You have to be kidding.

Here are some more organizations: National Council of La Raza, National Disability Rights Network, National Education Association, National Employment Law Project, National Fair Housing Alliance, National Jobs for All Coalition, National Urban League, National Women's Law Center, the National WIC Association.

Do you know what WIC stands for? Women, Infants and Children. They make sure our babies are healthy, and they know there is no safe exposure of lead in a child, and they know lead builds up.

Here are more organizations: Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, Service Employees International Union, the Sierra Club, the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries, the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, Voices for Progress, People for the American Way.

We don't want to listen to Democrats? Listen to the churches. Listen to the great religions. Listen to the people who fight for children. Put Flint in the continuing resolution. It doesn't cost a penny.

I want to go back to the photo of what it looks like when lead comes out of the water. I want to show you that picture. That is what it looks like. The majority leader, when asked about this, says: Oh, I don't have to put this in the continuing resolution. I just know, I know that we are going to get this in the Water Resources Development Act.

As I started out saying, this Senate voted by more than 90 votes to fix Flint and to fix this problem with lead in the drinking water by setting up a paid-for program in the WRDA bill. I thank Senator INHOFE, my chairman. What a joy to work with him and his staff office. He is committed to this. I am committed to this.

What about the House? Because I don't have to tell you or explain to you how a bill becomes a law. It has to go to the Senate. It has to go to the House. It has to go through a conference committee to debate the differences, then it has to go to the President to either sign or veto. OK. The House passed a WRDA bill. Guess what is not in their bill? Flint.

Guess what is not in their bill? Any provision to deal with lead in drinking water. They think: Trust us. We don't need it in the CR. Let's take care of these other people, but we don't need a continuing resolution. Don't shut down

the government. Come on. We will take care of it in WRDA. Really? Well, they had a chance yesterday to allow an amendment to add Flint's provisions to the WRDA bill. Guess what they did. They said no. They said no. They will not even allow a vote. Chairman SESSIONS—not Senator SESSIONS, this is Chairman SESSIONS over there in the Rules Committee. He said: You know, Flint can be an earmark. Well, No. 1, it is not an earmark because we take care of all areas where there is lead in the drinking water.

No. 2, what did PAUL RYAN say? The Speaker over there, the one who said he is so compassionate for poor people, said: This is a local matter.

A local matter? How is it a local matter, when the people of Flint were being governed by people appointed by the Governor and they decided to save money and they didn't care what happened? They went to a cheaper water supply and they poisoned the people.

A local matter, really? Is it a local matter to not have safe drinking water? Really? Ask the people who served when Richard Nixon was the President, and he started all the environmental landmark laws.

People have a right to clean air. People have a right to clean water. People have a right to safe drinking water. People have a right to these things, and we have a responsibility to ensure that they have that right because the consequences are dire.

A local matter? That is Speaker RYAN, the Republican Speaker, who said he is so compassionate. Why isn't he making this happen? Why isn't he helping us? We cannot trust the House to address Flint. They proved it yesterday. They will not even allow an amendment. All they have to do is allow an amendment and the amendment passes, same as the Senate, send it to the President. It is in the bill. We are done. We are happy. Then you don't have to put it in the continuing resolution. All you have to do is take up and pass the Senate bill, the Senate WRDA bill, which passed here with over 95 votes. Do you think they would take it and pass it in a time when we can't even agree on a resolution commending Mother's Day? We can't even agree on something simple.

We agreed with 95 votes on a WRDA bill. Take it up and pass it, get it off the plate, and then we can get this issue behind us. They will not do it.

The suffering in Flint has gone on for far too long. The crisis began in 2014, when that unelected Flint leadership appointed by the Republican Governor of Michigan cut costs by switching the water supply to the corrosive Flint River. The city managers failed to use corrosion control measures, and that was a disaster because lead began leaching into the water from the aging drinking water pipes.

We will show those pipes again. Look at that picture. That is frightening.

It wasn't until January of 2016 when the government declared a state of emergency. Meanwhile, a local doctor began warning of the high levels of lead in children's blood, but State officials assured those parents their water was safe to drink. One hundred thousand working-class Americans in Flint—African Americans, White Americans, Hispanic Americans—41 percent living below the poverty line, used contaminated water for drinking, for cooking, for bathing for months without knowing about it because these so-called local officials appointed by the Republican Governor refused to tell them there was a problem, and the Republican leadership here has the temerity to say those people don't deserve relief or say that we will take care of it in the Water Resources Development Act, when yesterday the House refused to do it. There are 12,000 Flint children who were exposed to lead-tainted water, according to NBC. Those children will be dealing with the harmful consequences of lead contamination for the rest of their lives. No safe level of lead is known. There is no safe level, and the exposures are generally irreversible.

What does lead do? It harms the developing brains and nervous systems of children and fetuses. This is a tragedy. Yet the Republican leader comes to the floor and says: Oh, we will take care of it after the election. Don't worry about it.

No, that is wrong. That is not right.

In my position as the ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee and before that, as chairman, I swear I could stand here and tell you I gave my heart and soul for the people of Louisiana and the gulf coast when they were hit by strife. I went to Louisiana. I stood with the people of Louisiana. I stand with them now. They deserve our help. So do the people of Flint, and so do the people of all the communities that are suffering from lead in drinking water.

It has been over 9 months since Flint was granted an emergency declaration, and the citizens continue to deal with the horrible water crisis. They do not have access to safe drinking water. This started in 2014, and in 2016 the Republican leader doesn't understand that is wrong, that we haven't helped those people. Come on. Don't hide behind the Water Resources Development Act because in the House they have not agreed to fix it. Why are Republicans picking and choosing communities that deserve our help?

We are going to have a vote today, and that vote is important. We need to be strong. We need to say we are for helping the people of Louisiana, we are for helping people, but we are not for leaving out these poisoned children and this community that has been suffering when we can fix it without a penny of taxpayer cost.

I hope we are going to vote no on that, and maybe then the leader will

decide to put Flint into this continuing resolution. We cannot play games with this. This can be fixed. Ninety-five Senators know how to fix it. This can be fixed.

We are very worried about this issue of lead in drinking water because millions of homes across America receive water from pipes that date to an era before scientists fully understood the harm of lead exposure, so there are lead pipes. If you put the wrong type of water into those pipes, it will leach the lead out. So families are unknowingly bathing in lead, they are drinking lead, and they are cooking with lead. This is wrong.

The Presiding Officer has to hear this. This is very important to hear. We don't just fix the problem in Flint, we set up a new program to help communities all over the country. The American Water Works Association estimates that as many as 22 million Americans have lead service lines. So what are we going to say? We won't take care of this in the continuing resolution; we will just throw it over into the water bill. Yet the House Republicans are very disinterested in this.

I have read the organizations—and this is the first time I have actually looked at all those organizations.

I just wish to make this last plea to the Republican leader and to all of you who run this place here, for now, and that is this: If we are here for any reason—and we thank God we are here. What an honor it is to be here. As I look at my days dwindling down in the Senate, I am filled with an emotion that I have been able to help so many people. Why are we here? Not to hurt people, not to turn a blind eye to the suffering of people, but to step up to the plate and say: You know what, we understand, and we are going to help. We have a chance to do that.

I was so proud of my partnership with my Republican friends on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We took care of this in the WRDA bill. We solved the problem in a fiscally responsible way and a judicious way. We have it solved. It is done. The work is done, and 95 Senators stood behind that work.

What we want to say to the House is this: Take up and pass the Senate bill. Take care of this matter. If you can't do that, give us an ironclad commitment that you will absolutely get it done.

Short of that, it has to go into the continuing resolution. Until then, what we are doing in the continuing resolution is saying yes to the suffering and pain of some of our beloved citizens and no to the suffering and pain of another set of our beloved citizens. This is the United States of America, not the Divided States of America. We care for all our children, for all our families. We look at safe drinking water as a right. That is why we have the Safe

Drinking Water Act. That is why we have the Clean Water Act. These were signed by Republicans and Democrats, signed into law by Republican and Democratic Presidents.

I hope that the leader, with whom I have had some excellent relations of late, will rethink this and that we can leave here in an election year knowing we helped all the people.

Thank you very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the Senate is scheduled to vote at 2:15 on the continuing resolution. The resolution will provide \$1.1 billion in emergency funding to respond to the Zika virus outbreak. Funds are included to accelerate vaccine development, provide mosquito control in areas where the virus is being transmitted, and address health conditions related to the Zika virus.

The bill also includes \$500 million to help Louisiana, West Virginia, and other States recover from devastating floods. We will continue to assess the total recovery needs in those States, but this funding is needed immediately to help get residents back into their homes and businesses.

The fiscal year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill is also included in this legislation. The bill provides record levels of funding for medical care and other important veterans programs. It also funds housing for military personnel and their families and supports infrastructure that sustains U.S. military forces.

Enactment of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill would mark the first time since 2009 that a regular appropriations bill has been signed into law before the end of the fiscal year. This would be another step in the right direction as we seek more regular consideration of appropriations measures.

This legislation also includes a continuing resolution to sustain government operations at current levels until December 9. This will give us additional time to complete work on the fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills. I am pleased that the Appropriations Committee reported all 12 of the regular appropriations bills for the second year in a row. The Senate has approved three of these bills. We look forward to completing our work on the remainder.

I urge the Senate to approve the continuing resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support this cloture motion this afternoon and move forward in passing the continuing resolution to fund our government through December 9.

Flooding is a national emergency. I have heard many Members talk about

the flooding in Louisiana, West Virginia, and Texas.

It is a devastating circumstance we find ourselves in in the State of West Virginia. Twenty-three West Virginians lost their lives. Amazingly, the last victim was found—a 14-year-old girl—probably just a month ago. Twelve counties were declared Federal disaster areas. For some areas of West Virginia, this was a thousand-year event. It came up so quickly. Some of our oldest and our poorest communities suffered serious destruction, and nearly 90 percent of the homes and businesses affected did not have flood insurance.

I toured most all of the affected areas and talked to some very brave people and very brave local mayors, who were doing a great job. There are 5,100 homes and businesses that have suffered a loss, as verified by FEMA. Seventy-five percent of the affected homes have been deemed unsafe by inspectors, so we have thousands of people who are not living in a permanent home situation. Some are still living in temporary situations that are unsafe, and certainly, moving into the fall, it would be very unhealthy.

There is a significant need for resources to help communities, individuals, and small businesses to recover, and disaster-related needs go beyond the disaster reimbursement provided by FEMA. Our Governor, Earl Ray Tomblin of West Virginia, wrote to President Obama earlier this month outlining the significant need for disaster aid. The Governor's letter identified \$310 million in flood-related needs from the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program.

I am a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. I very much appreciate our chairman, Senator COCHRAN, coming to the floor today to implore, after all this hard work trying to get this continuing resolution confirmed.

I have worked hard to secure the resources in this bill for our West Virginia flood victims. The legislation we will vote on today takes an important step to address flood recovery in disaster-stricken portions of West Virginia and certainly for our friends in Louisiana and other parts of the country. I thank my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. I thank the leader for listening to me. I thank Chairman COCHRAN and Senator COLLINS, who chairs the subcommittee, for responding favorably to my request for these desperately needed resources.

This bill begins to address this by including funds for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. Those funds will help meet housing and infrastructure needs in communities impacted by the flooding in West Virginia and all across the country.

Given the need in my State and other States, such as Louisiana and Texas,

additional disaster funds beyond those in this bill will be needed. This is an emergency. This means now. These floods occurred several months ago.

I could have easily come to the floor today and heralded the record funding this bill includes for our Nation's veterans or the important resources it provides to help combat our opioid and heroin epidemic—something that is devastating my State and many States across this country. These are needs facing all States. They should have been addressed by our regular appropriations bills.

No one likes the fact—well, I don't think anyone likes the fact that a continuing resolution is necessary. The Senate Appropriations Committee, of which I am a member, passed all 12 of the appropriations bills. Many of them were bipartisan and worked out between the chair and the ranking member. I wish the Senate had acted on all of these. We tried for weeks and weeks to get cooperation to move through these bills in a predictable and very responsible manner so that we could have addressed our Nation's priorities in a fiscally responsible way. But this bill today keeps our government open and provides the additional resources to help our flood victims who are still suffering so much. It helps our veterans, and it helps to address those who are suffering this new and devastating scourge of opioid and heroin addiction. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to also speak about the continuing resolution, and I speak in opposition to the continuing resolution.

I just want to say to the Senator from West Virginia that I so respect the leadership role she has played in the Senate. What a diligent Senator she is, in her advocacy for West Virginia and the flood victims who really have not only my sympathy but as the vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations, I would like to be of help to her and to the people of Louisiana and West Virginia, but I would also say we can't leave out Flint, MI. We just can't.

Now, we don't want to “Christmas tree” the bill—she and I are experienced legislators—but really, when we think about Flint, imagine living off of bottled water. Imagine trying to run a small business. I don't know if my father who had a small grocery store could have kept it open. I do hope we can put our heads together to come up with a solution, get rid of the poison pill riders, and meet the compelling human needs, as the Senator articulated so well, and find a solution to keeping the doors of government open. Right now we need an open mind in talking with each other, and so I look forward to being able to do that.

Mr. President, I do come here to discuss keeping the government open. That is really important to me. I have 300,000 Federal employees in Maryland, and they do everything from working at NIH to find a cure for cancer or find a cure for Alzheimer's to working at the weather service so we can provide communities large and small throughout America the information about the weather they need to prepare for everything from natural disasters to planning to prevent our oranges and peaches from freezing on the trees.

The Senate has until Friday of this week to avoid a government shutdown. As I said last week—and I have said many times—Democrats are ready to negotiate. We are willing to compromise, but there are certain things we cannot capitulate on, and Flint, MI, is one.

Last week, the majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, filed a Republican continuing funding resolution. The leader has “filled the tree,” which is Senate speak for meaning we cannot amend the continuing resolution before us. So we are stuck. We are stuck in the same old ways, with the drama of being so close to the deadline, it can threaten a showdown, a slamdown. This is not where we want to go.

What do Democrats want? Well, we want what the American people should want. No. 1, let us keep the government open through December 9. Now, I am not saying shut it down December 9. I am saying that by December 9, we could come to a complete omnibus bill, meaning our total funding for the fiscal year that lies ahead.

Second, as Americans, we need to look at each other across the aisle, across State borders, and meet compelling, urgent needs, such as Zika, such as the floods in Louisiana and West Virginia and other States, and in Flint, MI.

We need to be free of poison pill riders like the rider preventing the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring companies to tell investors where they are putting their political contributions. What is wrong with that? Shouldn't we have an open and transparent process? We are not asking any company to reveal their trade secrets, but trading in political contributions should not be a trade secret. It is about are you trading, are you ashamed—are you ashamed of your political contribution? Wow. Is that what you want to do? You want to hide it? I don't think that is America. We are not saying to whom companies should give, but they should tell us to whom they did give.

Let us also provide a full year of funding for our veterans and our military construction, most of all for our veterans. Talk about compelling human needs. We are just weeks away from once again celebrating Veterans

Day. Celebrating veterans shouldn't be just 1 day a year. It has to be every day of every year.

We have men and women—some of whom have served in the Senate, such as the distinguished Senator from Georgia, Mr. Max Cleland, and others—who come back bearing the permanent wounds of war, and we need to pay and bear the permanent responsibility for caring for those who did serve. We need to be able to back our veterans and not just with lip service and wonderful yellow ribbons. We need to do our duty. We have the funding ready for the defense of the Nation and the things to protect America outside of DOD.

We have agreed on helping with Zika and victims in Louisiana, but the Republican continuing resolution doesn't help Flint, MI, and it includes poison pills. So I want to end the partisan gamesmanship—no shutdowns, no slamdowns, no showdowns. That is why I want to be clear about three changes I strongly recommend.

No. 1, we need Flint, MI, funding. I see the Senator from Michigan is now on the floor. She is a sister social worker, and I so admire her unabashed, unrelenting, unflagging support, particularly for the children and particularly for the small businesses for Flint, MI. She has been so steadfast, unflagging and unrelenting, and we need to be the same way.

We had \$220 million for water infrastructure that passed in the Water Resources Development Act on a vote of 95 to 3. Guess what. It is fully paid for. So what is the problem? What is the problem with Flint, MI?

When I think about Flint, I think about little children with lead in their drinking water. What does that do? It stifles intellectual development. It inhibits you for the rest of your life from fulfilling your God-given full intention. If we respect life, we should do all we can to sustain it.

Then, think about small businesses. Think about trying to run a business when you don't have water. Water, water, everywhere water, water, but none of it fit to drink. How do you run a little diner? How do you run a little diner or a produce stand?

As I said, my father owned a small grocery store. Everything was spotless. Everything was meticulously clean. He made sure his fruits and vegetables were clean. Everything was clean. He didn't have lead in the water. So let's get on with it.

We know there are people in this country who have been hit by floods. They have too much water. Flint has too much of the wrong water. We can right that wrong by just joining our hands and understanding compelling human need. It doesn't come from a Democrat or a Republican ZIP Code, it comes from the United States of America, and we should be united in dealing with it.

We should strip out the poison pill riders, such as the SEC political contribution transparency rider. We should reduce the Zika offset package to \$375 million. These are reasonable changes that if the Republican caucus is willing to agree, we could pass the continuing resolution today.

I remind my colleagues that when I became the first woman to chair the Committee on Appropriations upon the death of the esteemed Senator Inouye, the funding to respond to Hurricane Sandy was on the floor. Working together, we were able to pass that bill and meet compelling human need. I would like to be able to do that now.

Throughout my tenure as the chair and vice chair of the Committee on Appropriations, I have lived by the principle that we owe the American people help when disaster strikes. We should respond to Zika that is now affecting 23,000 people, 2,000 pregnant women. We need to help the victims of Louisiana and other States that have been hit. We just saw the terrible things going on in Iowa. We must help the 100,000 people in Flint who are still waiting for the water in their pipes to be clean and their children, being exposed to lead, protected. The people of Flint need help.

We passed the WRDA bill, and we need now to pass a CR that gets rid of poison pill riders, meets compelling human needs in every part of our country, and also makes sure our veteran funding is there to ensure there is no backlog in applying for their disability benefits and no backlog when they try to get to see a doctor.

I am so proud of my Committee on Appropriations that is working with the VA on the veterans bill. We have a wonderful bipartisan bill working to meet the needs of rural veterans and veterans who had to wait in line for mental health needs and the other support we need to help with.

So let's do our job, really. Hello? Let's do our job. I believe there is still time to work this out, but until we do, I oppose cloture on the McConnell substitute.

Mr. President, that concludes my remarks, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, the first thing I want to do is thank our very distinguished Democratic ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations, the former chair, Senator MIKULSKI. She has been with us every step of the way.

I have learned a lot about lead exposure. I thought I knew a lot, but by sitting down with Senator MIKULSKI, when we have had an opportunity to

have discussions about potential treatments to help and impacts regarding the lead, I have learned how very frightening it is, particularly for children what lead poisoning means.

Over the years, I have appreciated Senator MIKULSKI's advocacy and leadership with the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and in other areas on health care. That leadership has made a tremendous difference, including helping to create a way to have some options on treatment for children. So I want to thank her. We are going to greatly miss her. I don't think we are going to let her go. She is just amazing, as is her staff and their commitment and support and understanding of what the people in Flint are going through.

Two weeks ago now, we were feeling like we were on our way finally. We spent the last 8 months getting through various procedural hurdles and objections to get help for Flint and other communities with lead poisoning and other water issues. We had a bill come to the floor, and I greatly appreciate the majority leader bringing it to the floor. We had a terrific bipartisan team, with Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER leading us in passing a very important bill. As I have said, it passed 95 to 3. That doesn't happen a lot around here—95 to 3. We thought we were on our way. The families of Flint were in town at that time, and we felt like, finally, maybe there was some hope.

We were told WRDA would be coming up quickly the next week in the House. That didn't happen. What we saw instead were comments that House leadership—the Speaker and the chairman of the committee—would not support Flint being a part of the House WRDA bill.

We have heard, on the one hand, that we should wait for WRDA, and then the same people say, but we don't support putting Flint in WRDA. OK. We have the same people saying this is a local issue, while the House Government and Oversight Committee and Chairman CHAFFETZ held hearings, bringing in the EPA Administrator and challenging her to step down because of what the EPA did in Flint. So, OK, it is local. No, it is the EPA, which is Federal.

We feel like we are being bounced back and forth and back and forth, and the bottom line is, people in Flint still can't drink the water. Since mid-August, we have had more than 611,000 cases of bottled water delivered to families in Flint. In fact, "delivered" is the wrong word because most of the time they have to figure out a way to pick it up. If you are riding a bus, walking, or if you have a car, you are trying to figure out when you are going to get the bottled water to bathe in, feed your children with, cook with. This has gone on day after day after day.

So while we thought we had a path, now it is extremely unclear. I trust our

leaders here—Senator INHOFE and Senator BOXER—in the Senate, but we are getting a very different message from the House of Representatives, and then all of a sudden we have a short-term appropriations bill, a continuing resolution, where we could, in fact, stop all the back-and-forth, ping-ponging, and get this done for the people of Flint. We are told no. The people of Flint are told no. Then all of a sudden there is help for Louisiana.

I am happy to support the people of Louisiana. It would be a tragedy and, frankly, an outrageous way to make decisions if the answer, after all of this, is, OK, we won't help Louisiana, either. That is not what we are suggesting. We are saying that whether it is hurricanes, floods, disaster assistance; whether it is livestock disaster assistance, which I put in the last farm bill, which affects very few people in Michigan but an awful lot of people in the West and the South; whether it is that or a fertilizer plant explosion caused by various issues of malfeasance in West Texas that exposed people to chemicals, and the Federal Government came in to help—wherever it is, we step up together in extraordinary circumstances when there is an emergency, a disaster beyond the control of the citizens and the community involved, and we help. This has not been partisan in the past. We have not decided by ZIP Code or whether you had a Republican Senator or a Democratic Senator representing you. We have stepped up together to support efforts, and I supported every single one of them. What is different about Flint, MI? That is the question. The only thing I know that is different is that we have actually agreed to eliminate a program to fully pay for what we are doing to help. Normally it is not paid for; it goes on the deficit. We don't see a program being eliminated to fund the floods in Louisiana or other areas, but we took the extra step. We are actually phasing out a program that affects predominantly Michigan, that I authored in the 2007 Energy bill, because of the urgency and the dire circumstances in the city of Flint. That is the only difference I see, is that it costs nothing to do this—nothing. We could do it by unanimous consent today. It costs nothing.

So then the real question is, well, why? Why is there such a problem? Why is there such a problem including something that costs nothing on this short-term appropriations bill? I don't get it. The people of Flint don't get it. The fact is, I hear from people all over the country who don't get it.

This is an opportunity today, and I am strongly urging that we reject the continuing resolution in front of us and ask the leaders to go back to the drawing board and get it right and to indicate that we see, we hear, and we care about 100,000 people in Flint, MI; about

9,000 children under the age of 6; about people who live in homes that have some lead levels higher than a toxic waste dump; about the mom who was here 2 weeks ago whose daughter was bright and engaged and going to school and now, after lead exposure, is lethargic, is not focused, and she can't eat a sandwich because her teeth are crumbling because she had zero vitamin D—zero. When she was tested, the doctors immediately put her into the hospital to give her massive doses of vitamin D for her bones. How do I tell that mom that we could help her now and it is not going to happen? I don't get it.

It is time to vote no on this procedural motion on the CR and get back to work and make sure that families who had floods in Louisiana, in West Virginia, and other places get the support they need and that we help in partnering—to help, not total, but help with some of the costs that will put the water back on in Flint.

When you turn on the faucet today, wherever you are, think about what would happen if you didn't have confidence that what came out of that faucet wasn't going to poison you. This is the United States of America. We can do better than this. This body has supported doing better than this. It is time to get it done.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:37 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No.

5082, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. McCONNELL, to H.R. 5325, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Leg.]

YEAS—45

Alexander	Donnelly	Murkowski
Ayotte	Enzi	Nelson
Barrasso	Ernst	Portman
Blunt	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Flake	Roberts
Burr	Gardner	Rounds
Capito	Grassley	Rubio
Cassidy	Hatch	Shelby
Coats	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cochran	Isakson	Tester
Collins	Johnson	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Tillis
Cornyn	Manchin	Toomey
Cotton	McCain	Vitter
Crapo	Moran	Wicker

NAYS—55

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Perdue
Bennet	Heller	Peters
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Inhofe	Reid
Boxer	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Sasse
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Lankford	Schumer
Carper	Leahy	Scott
Casey	Lee	Sessions
Coons	Markey	Shaheen
Cruz	McCaskill	Stabenow
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Franken	Mikulski	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Graham	Murray	
Heinrich	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 55.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 5325, an act

making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 40, nays 59, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Alexander	Enzi	Portman
Ayotte	Ernst	Risch
Barrasso	Fischer	Roberts
Blunt	Flake	Rounds
Boozman	Gardner	Rubio
Burr	Grassley	Shelby
Capito	Hatch	Sullivan
Cassidy	Hoeven	Thune
Coats	Isakson	Tillis
Cochran	Johnson	Toomey
Collins	Kirk	Vitter
Corker	McCain	Wicker
Cornyn	Moran	
Crapo	Murkowski	

NAYS—59

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Paul
Bennet	Heller	Perdue
Blumenthal	Hirono	Peters
Booker	Inhofe	Reed
Boxer	Kaine	Reid
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sasse
Cardin	Lankford	Schatz
Carper	Leahy	Schumer
Casey	Lee	Scott
Coons	Manchin	Sessions
Cruz	Markey	Shaheen
Daines	McCaskill	Stabenow
Donnelly	McConnell	Tester
Durbin	Menendez	Udall
Feinstein	Merkley	Warner
Franken	Mikulski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden
Heinrich	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—1

Cotton

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 40, the nays are 59.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me just say to my colleagues that Senate Republicans are prepared to pass a clean CR-Zika bill. We hope that important flood relief will be a part of it. We will continue working on this important matter.

We are now going to an important security briefing, and I will have more to say about the matter later today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2555

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 446, S. 2555. I further ask that the Thune amendment be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Bob Dole, whom we all knew and still know and who is a wonderful man, said: "As we all learn around here, if you don't keep your word, it doesn't make much difference what agenda you try to advance."

So it is very difficult for me to allow Senator THUNE's bill to advance today. I have great respect for him, and that is without any question.

I am still waiting, though, on Republicans to keep a promise they made nearly 18 months ago on the Senate floor. They came to me and said: It is so important to John Kyl, whom I also like, from neighboring Arizona. They had somebody whom they wanted to put on a very important commission. I didn't want to do it because I thought it was fair that we had somebody to pair with him. That is what we do around here. That is what Senator MCCONNELL has done, and I respect that.

But I said: Give me your word, and we will go ahead and do this.

No problem, I got their word—Senator MCCONNELL and Senator THUNE. They said they would do it as soon as the new Congress started. That is almost 2 years ago, and this woman is in limbo. There is an extremely important vote now before the Commission dealing with top boxes on television sets, and she has not been confirmed in that job.

It is wrong.

I brokered that agreement between MCCONNELL and THUNE. I didn't want it. It wasn't my idea—it was theirs—to confirm Republican Commissioner Michael Riley, the Kyl person, to a 5-year term in the FCC.

In return, I repeat, Senators THUNE and MCCONNELL assured me they would confirm Jessica Rosenworcel—I have been working on that name for 2 years—to a new term when they were in the majority. They got in the majority just a few months after that. This was in December.

She spent many years in public service. No one questions her qualifications. The Senate confirmed her unanimously in 2012. Her credentials and integrity are unquestionable. There is no doubt that she will continue to serve the FCC well.

Yet Republicans have refused to keep their promise and hold a vote on her nomination. That is breaking someone's word. As Bob Dole said: "As we

all learn around here, if you don't keep your word, it doesn't make much difference what agenda you try to advance."

JOHN THUNE, from the great State of South Dakota, knows that when Senators make agreements, they should be honored. The American people also expect Congress to do its job. They are not doing their job because of what we are facing every day with Republicans.

Here is something from one of the major newspapers in America, the Washington Post. I will only read part of it:

With no budget resolution or regular appropriations bills ready to go, Congress is now merely trying to extend current funding levels for a few more months. This would allow legislators to return to the campaign trail and delay the hard decisions until after Election Day.

So far they still haven't even been able to execute that second-rate plan, though, because legislators have repeatedly tried to tuck poison-pill provisions into this must-pass bill.

The result is that with a little more than a month before the election, Congress is again flirting with a shutdown. And a year into the worldwide Zika epidemic, Congress still hasn't successfully appropriated a cent toward the crisis, nor has it passed any funding to help families affected by emergencies in Louisiana or Flint, Mich.

It can't get anyone confirmed, either.

Merrick Garland, President Obama's Supreme Court pick, famously can't get a hearing, but he's hardly the only nominee being snubbed. The Republican-led Senate has confirmed just 22 federal judges this Congress, putting it on pace for the lowest number of confirmed judges . . . [in almost 70 years] according to the Alliance for Justice. For context, the Senate had confirmed more than three times as many judges by this point in the final Congresses of previous two-term presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan. In all these cases, mind you, presidents had also faced Senates controlled by the opposing party.

But it is not just that.

Continuing:

This Congress, the Senate has confirmed the fewest civilian nominees in modern history. . . . As of mid-September, just 248 nominees had been confirmed. That's, again, half the average. . . .

It is a shame that we are at a point here where I have to come to the floor—I have been in Congress for 34 years—and talk about people not keeping their word. Let somebody deny what was done.

It is unfair, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks with respect to this subject.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I am disappointed that the minority has again chosen to put partisan politics ahead of passing noncontroversial, bipartisan, pro-growth legislation.

My understanding is that their sole objection to passing the MOBILE NOW Act is the wholly unrelated nomination of FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. I know that the distinguished minority leader is frustrated that Commissioner Rosenworcel has not yet been confirmed to another term. On the floor previously, he also said that I have done everything possible within my authority as chairman of the Commerce Committee to advance her nomination through the process, and that is correct.

We had her hearing. We voted her out of the committee. Scheduling the floor is not something that I control.

What I don't understand, however, is why Senate Democrats believe that blocking the MOBILE NOW Act and other bipartisan bills that come out of my committee will help her cause. We invited Commissioner Rosenworcel to testify at one of our hearings leading up to the bill. Ironically, many of her ideas are reflected in this legislation.

The bill also reflects the priorities and hard work of so many Commerce Committee Democrats. In particular, two of the most important additions to the bill were Senator SCHATZ's Promoting Unlicensed Spectrum Act and Senator KLOBUCHAR's "dig once bill," or the Streamlining and Investing in Broadband Infrastructure Act.

If the MOBILE NOW Act is not passed by the Senate soon, their legislative efforts will have been made in vain. While I respect how important it is to Senator REID and to other Democrats that Commissioner Rosenworcel be confirmed this year, there is simply no reason for that effort to jeopardize the good-faith effort that Senators on both sides of the aisle did to create this bill. These two issues have been inexplicably linked, but they need not be.

I urge my colleagues to separate these unrelated matters and to pass the MOBILE NOW Act now without further delay.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. How do you feel about the American people? How do you feel about how they are being treated, with case after case hung up in the Supreme Court?

We cannot even get a hearing on Merrick Garland. Why? Because they know the appearance he will make will be a good one. After a public hearing, they will be even more embarrassed by not voting for this man.

Even though a couple of Senators didn't keep their word—and it wasn't just me and them. We have staff here who would be willing to vouch for what I just said. Even if it weren't two Senators not keeping their word, at the very least, shouldn't they be concerned about the Supreme Court, what is not going on there?

So I have no reservations whatsoever. It is unfair to come and ask for

legislation to pass when we have a Supreme Court that is stymied and is working shorthanded. It is incredible that justice is not being served well in our great country.

As indicated in this article of which I read only part, Congress is dysfunctional.

As I mentioned this morning, my Republican friend, the leader, said that, well, he can't understand what is going on. There seems to be some dysfunction here.

Talk about dysfunction, during the time Lyndon Johnson was leader, we had one or perhaps two filibusters. The second was arguable. As for me, for my first 8 years, there were 644 filibusters—how is that for dysfunction—led by the Republican minority, trying to embarrass Barack Obama and bring this country to its knees. So I do not apologize to anybody for objecting to this legislation. He can bring it out every other day, and I will object to it every other minute, every other hour. It is wrong that Republicans are treating the American people the way they are.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I realize that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle just voted against the short funding resolution because it doesn't include critical funding for Flint. Unfortunately, I believe this is a misguided strategy. Now, I voted against it but on the basis of something that can be corrected, having to do with the funding of the increased number of troops that we will have in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But I must be clear that the \$300 million Flint package that passed this body several weeks ago will become law by the end of the year. It is a mistake to take the country to the brink of a shutdown over an issue when we already have a bipartisan agreement on the solution.

When the national press opened the eyes of America to the lead water contamination crisis affecting Flint, MI—a city of roughly 100,000 people—I told my staff it was time to get to work, to see what went wrong and what could be done. We are so close to making this a reality.

I urge my colleagues to not create a standoff on the CR when we are taking care of the people of Flint and communities around the country, which is very important. We did this in our WRDA bill.

I know that Leader MCCONNELL spoke with Speaker RYAN and Minority Leader PELOSI this morning and assured them that he is dead serious about ensuring the Flint package becomes law once we return from the break. Let me remind you that on September 15, when the Senate passed WRDA 2016 with an overwhelming 95-to-3 vote, I pledged to not let politics

or any lameduck session jeopardize the emergency relief in WRDA and to get this signed into law by the end of the year.

I have been standing with my colleagues in Michigan from the very beginning in support of our fiscally responsible solutions to help not only the Flint community but also other communities facing drinking water emergencies and water infrastructure challenges and solutions that the Republican majority Senate has supported strongly.

The Senate-passed WRDA bill not only provides the critical support that Flint needs but also would help to prevent future water and wastewater infrastructure crises across the Nation. WRDA is the right vehicle. I am committed to getting this bill to the President's desk with Senator BOXER and my good friend Senator STABENOW by the end of the year.

I know that many on the other side of the aisle are skeptical of our resolve, in particular, because of the uncertainty about the WRDA bill moving through the House this week without the Senate Flint compromise attached. It is important to understand that, unlike the Senate, different committees in the House have jurisdiction over the Corps of Engineers and the Safe Drinking Water Act. On our side, on the Republican side, they are both in the committee that I chair, and Senator BOXER is the ranking minority member.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has jurisdiction over the Army Corps of Engineers. However, it is the House Energy and Commerce Committee that has jurisdiction over the Safe Drinking Water Act. The House WRDA bill only includes issues that are under the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. That is why the House WRDA bill does not include Safe Drinking Water Act amendments, like the Flint package. Once the House sends us their T&I version of the WRDA bill tomorrow, hopefully, Senator BOXER and I will immediately attach the Senate Flint compromise as we conference with the House for a final bill. The Republican House leadership has already assured me this is the plan.

So it is time for us to stop playing politics with the CR on this issue and focus our attention on making WRDA 2016 a reality. I can assure you that Senator BOXER and I are in lockstep agreement to get this done. People doubted us on the 5-year highway bill we passed last year, and we showed this body that when we work together on issues such as this, our word is as good as a guarantee, even during difficult political gamesmanship like what is happening on the continuing resolution.

I urge my colleagues to trust in our unique relationship and our ability to

get the Flint package and make sure it is on the President's desk this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I trust my colleague totally. My chairman—I trust him totally but as far as the House is concerned, no. Trust but verify.

My friend says we have the wrong-headed strategy on objecting to the CR. He has the right to his opinion, but we don't agree. This is the only way we can make the case because right now the House has the WRDA bill. All they have to do is allow a vote to cover Flint. Yesterday the Rules Committee said no. Yesterday, Chairman SESSIONS of the Committee on Rules in the House said it is an earmark, which it is not because it does not just affect Flint. In fact, it is a program to help all cities that have lead in the water that is poisoning the families.

So, trust? I have been around here a long time. I think Ronald Reagan was right when he said trust but verify. Show me the language. Show me the commitment.

I see my friend here from Louisiana. He wasn't in the Senate at the time I was here with his predecessor, but I will say this: Senator INHOFE and I—when there was a tragic problem in Louisiana with Hurricane Katrina, we stepped up and we put aside any issues in our own States to go where the suffering was. I fought so hard for Louisiana. I fought my heart out for them to get the money they needed after Katrina. And, actually, with the help of my colleague, we made sure that all the Gulf States got the money from BP to rebuild.

My heart is open to every person in this country—every child in this country, no matter where they are, whether in Louisiana, West Virginia, California, Oklahoma, or Michigan. We are one Nation under God, indivisible. And when we have an issue and a crisis, we need to move.

Here is where I see it a little differently than my friend. I think it is absolutely the right strategy to keep fighting to get the help to Flint in the CR. That is called leverage. That is called smart politics. That is called fairness. That is called justice. At the same time, I support my friend and colleague in trying to get an ironclad commitment from the House leaders.

It wasn't a good day yesterday for Flint. They turned down Congressman KILDEE's request to have a simple vote. Speaker RYAN said this is a local issue, and so did BILL SHUSTER. They called it a local issue. They do not even understand it if they call it a local issue because there was no elected local government in Flint, MI. There were leaders appointed by the Republican there.

My friend is so sincere, and I trust him 100 percent. I don't have to verify a thing he says because he is a man of

his word. That is it. He knows how we feel about each other. We have never, ever, ever walked away from each other. But the fact that he and I may be in agreement doesn't necessarily bring along the people in the House.

My colleague says he has heard it on good authority. That is great. Show me in writing. Show me where it is going to happen. Show me the guarantees. Show me they are not going to load up WRDA poison pills that my friend and I know we can't—either side—accept poison pills. I don't see it. So right now, I think what we are doing is right.

I want to make a point. Many Republicans voted against the CR. It could be for other reasons. But even if many more Democrats had voted for the CR today, it would have gone down with the number of Republicans being so large voting against it. So we have a lot of work to do.

I would say, through the Chair, to our majority leader, MITCH MCCONNELL: You can add this thing in 2 minutes. You can talk about jurisdiction. We add all kinds of things to CRs. This would be something where we could keep in Louisiana, we could keep in everything else, and we could add in a totally paid-for bill.

None of the other emergencies are paid for, by the by. They just go on the debt, on the credit card, pretty much. But we have paid for every penny of this, thanks to my friend's leadership and thanks to my friend from Michigan, who stepped up and did away with a program in the auto industry that was very important to her because she wanted to do the right thing.

Here is the path forward. Our leader can look at the vote. It was pretty sad for his clean CR, as he calls it. It is not clean. That went down in flames. He can simply add Flint to it, and we would pass it in a heartbeat. Or the House can take up and pass the Senate WRDA bill or send us a completely ironclad statement as to time, place, venue, and when they are going to fix the Flint issue.

I know my friend from Michigan would like to be heard, but this is not rocket science. We have a bill fully paid for that takes care of the whole country and is not an earmark. It passed here with 95 votes. Let's get it done. Disentangle it from WRDA. Disentangle it from WRDA and pass it on the CR. Disentangle it. Take care of the people. Whether they are in Louisiana, West Virginia, Maryland, Michigan, let's take care of the people. That is our job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I believe I actually had the floor anyway, and I am glad to yield the floor, which I will do to my colleague from Michigan. But I want to make sure I am clear in the statement I made in that I don't dis-

agree and that my colleague doesn't disagree with the statements I made.

We have a commitment to do everything we can to ensure this is in the WRDA bill. I tried to explain the difference in jurisdiction, which makes it impossible for them to do it over there within the T&I Committee. They have jurisdiction over WRDA but not these particular provisions.

I have a lot of things in the CR I am really wanting to get done. I mentioned the military end, but on the Zika funding, I have given speeches on the floor saying how important this is because I happen to have a grandniece in Florida who is pregnant right now. So I am really interested in getting this thing done, and it is going to get done. It is going to be a part of the ultimate CR.

I just wanted to say—and I listened to the statement by the ranking member of the committee that I chair, and I don't think she disagrees with anything I am saying in terms of our commitment to getting it done. I understand where she is coming from, and I will yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, through the Chair, I would just like 1 minute to respond.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I agree with my colleague. If we can get an ironclad commitment to fix the Flint issue in WRDA and not just a vague conversation that somebody had—that NANCY PELOSI had with PAUL RYAN, but I have to look at the public statements. The public statements are that a big leader in the House said this is an earmark. It is not. The Speaker over there, who is supposed to care about poor people and kids, said it is a local issue, which it is not. They voted down a chance to have a vote. It is not very encouraging.

I am always encouraged when my colleague from Oklahoma speaks because he is the most positive person I have ever met. He says we are going to get it done. And if it is up to us, it gets done. But there are other people who don't view this issue the way he and I view this issue. All I am saying is, as I wind down my days here, I have had a lot of experience in expecting that I get things done.

People have said to me: Oh my God, you are right. You are so right. You are on target. Don't worry. Well, that is all good, but show me the money. Show me the path. Show me the ironclad path for Flint, and I will step out of the way in a heartbeat, believe me.

I encourage my friend to keep working with the Republicans, and I will work with the Democrats. Let's get an ironclad way that assures the people of Michigan that, finally, they are going to have some light at the end of the tunnel.

In closing, I would say the simplest way to do it is just to add the package

to the CR. It is easy. Just do it. It doesn't have a cost, it has all been thought out, and 95 of us have voted for it. Get it done. For the life of me, I don't know how the majority leader can't do this thing. Just do it. As they say in the Nike ad: Just do it.

Every religious organization in the country from the Catholics to the Jews, to the Muslims, to everybody else has said: Yes, this is a moral issue. Take care of these people. I had the list today. It is in the RECORD.

We are all supposed to be people who care about moral issues and care about our children. When my friend said he has a pregnant niece in Florida, my heart skipped a beat. It is a scary time. That is why we have to take care of the Zika issue.

At the same time, if his niece was in Flint and bathing in water that still has lead in it, he would be just as upset. I know he cares deeply. My friend cares deeply. If everybody cared as deeply as he does, we would be in good shape.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank two really great leaders on the Environment and Public Works Committee—the chairman and ranking member. I absolutely take the chairman at his word. I have since the beginning. Chairman INHOFE has been an extraordinary leader on this issue and other infrastructure issues. I believe him completely in terms of what he wants to get done, and the same goes for our ranking member, Senator BOXER. I have no doubts whatsoever.

Two weeks ago, when we passed the WRDA bill 95 to 3 in the Senate—the bill that helped the people of Flint as well as other communities that have water and lead-in-water issues—I was prepared to go and, in fact, went to House colleagues, Democratic colleagues, and said: I trust the chairman and ranking member. Let's get the bill going in the House, even if Flint is not in it. Let's get it to a conference committee and work it out because I trust them, and we will make sure it is in the final package.

Well, the bill didn't get taken up in the House due to whatever problems they had a week ago. Then we began to hear there was not support for Flint in a final bill. We heard, on the one hand, from the Speaker that the CR was not the appropriate place—that WRDA was the appropriate place to help families in Flint. But, by the way, he said: I don't support helping the families in Flint in WRDA. It was the same thing with the chairman of the committee.

I know there are multiple jurisdictions. The distinguished chairman of the committee that has jurisdiction in the House, Congressman FRED UPTON, supports the provision, and we are very grateful for his leadership and help as

well. So this is easily worked out in terms of the jurisdictions because the people with the jurisdiction are not objecting to this.

We have been given every signal now, coming from the Republican majority in the House, that there is not a willingness to help. As late as yesterday, with the Committee on Rules, there was an amendment offered to put it in order to vote on it in the House, and it was rejected. We were looking for some sign that was concrete, that was real, that we can actually do this, and over and over we are getting exactly the opposite messages. So then we find ourselves in a situation where the one thing we do know is going to happen is the short-term continuing resolution, and another State, other communities—Louisiana being the principal one with flooding—are going to get help. I support that. I have supported every disaster effort that has come before the U.S. Senate on behalf of many, many, many other States and communities that are not even close to Michigan because I think that is what we should do.

So the people in Flint, MI, have been waiting and waiting and waiting every day—bottled water—every day, trying to figure out how to get more bottled water, and once again they are being told wait and maybe something will happen—maybe something will happen—but Louisiana is so important, we are going to do it now. I don't think it should matter what your ZIP Code is or whether you have Democratic or Republican Senators. I believe it is our requirement—our obligation—to help.

Then, to add insult to injury, we are the only disaster situation coming forward that is fully paid for by eliminating a program. We phase out a program I authored in 2007 that predominantly affects my State in order to pay for help for Flint and other communities—we are not just helping Flint but other communities with lead and water problems because it is so important. It is about lifesaving measures, literally, for people. It is easy to put this on the CR. It is totally paid for. We are not cutting another program to put the \$500 million in for Louisiana, but the fund for Flint and other communities is totally paid for. So it adds insult to injury to families in Flint who have waited so long.

Again, I trust the chairman completely. What I don't trust is what I am hearing from the House of Representatives. Given that fact and given the fact that we have the ability to actually help them right now through the CR, I believe we should do that.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:32 p.m., recessed until 4 p.m. and reassembled

when called to order by the Presiding Officer.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this Republican Senate that had such promise, according to the Republicans, has been a flop. The Senate hasn't kept its word to the Nation. When Republicans assumed the majority in the Senate, the Republican leader made grand promises to the American people. He pledged bipartisanship. He promised to bring an end to the Senate's dysfunction, which he spearheaded.

As I mentioned this morning on the floor, how many filibusters Lyndon Johnson overcame in his 6 years as a majority leader is debatable—there was one for sure and maybe two—but it is easy to figure out as far as when I was majority leader for 8 years. There were 644 Republican filibusters.

The Republican leader pledged that the Senate would do its work. For all his lofty rhetoric, the Republican leader has failed to fill his promises time and time again. There is no better example than the Senate Republicans' refusal to consider the nomination of Merrick Garland to be a member of the U.S. Supreme Court. Chief Judge Merrick Garland was nominated by President Obama 195 days ago. For 195 days, Republicans have blocked this good man from getting a hearing or a vote in spite of the fact that Merrick Garland is extremely qualified.

Some ask, why wouldn't they hold a hearing? It is obvious. Merrick Garland would show the American people what kind of a man he is, what kind of a judge he would be, and it would be very hard for the Republicans to vote against him. So they decided to double down and not even allow a hearing. Even Republicans can't dispute his qualifications. The senior Senator from Utah, who formerly chaired the Judiciary Committee, said that there was "no question" that Garland could be confirmed and that he would be a "consensus nominee." No one questions Judge Garland's education, his qualifications, his judicial temperament, his experience, or his integrity, but Senate Republicans refuse to give this person a hearing. It is shameful.

So I ask, where is the bipartisanship? The Republicans and Democrats agree that this man is exceptionally qualified. Yet his nomination languishes day after day, week after week, now month after month.

Where is the end of the dysfunction? Where is the regular order? There is no bipartisanship. There is a lot of dysfunction. There is no end to it. Where is the regular order? It doesn't exist. No Supreme Court nominee in modern

times has waited this amount of time without at least getting a hearing. This is unprecedented.

As legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin has noted, there is only dysfunction to be found in the Republican leader's actions. This is what he said: "Such premeditated obstruction by a Senate leader, aimed at a President with nearly a full year remaining in his term, [is] without precedent."

Where is the hard-working Senate? With Republicans acting as they are, we have established that bipartisanship is really elusive. We have established that the dysfunction hasn't ended. We have established that there is no regular order. Now we have established that we are not working hard, and that is an understatement.

The Senate isn't attending to one of its basic constitutional duties—providing its advice and consent on the President's Supreme Court nomination. Instead, this Senate has worked the fewest days of any Senate in modern history. After we have this next 10-week break, it will be the longest break in some 80 years. How about that?

Chief Judge Garland deserves a hearing; he deserves a vote. Across the street from where we are standing now, at the Upper Senate Park, at 5 o'clock, Democratic Senators will be gathering at a rally in support of Merrick Garland. The people there are of good will, only interested in our country. At that time, they are going to call on Republicans, as we will, to heed their constitutional duty and act on Garland's nomination.

Republicans have another chance to keep the promises they made to the American people. Republicans should right this historic wrong on Judge Garland. They should give him a hearing and a vote, and they should do it right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I agree with what the Democratic leader said. We have waited far too long.

I would like to give some history. Eleven years ago this week, following the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist, the Senate confirmed John Roberts to the Supreme Court and as Chief Justice. He had his Judiciary Committee hearing in September and was given full and fair consideration by the Senate. He was confirmed about 2 weeks later, September 29. All of us, whether or not we supported John Roberts, felt it was important to get this done so that the Supreme Court was not missing a Justice when it began its term on the first Monday in October, as it always does. The Senate acted responsibly. That was 11 years ago. There was a Republican in the White House. I was one of those who voted for Chief Justice John Roberts. There are others who voted against him, but he was con-

firmed. That is what we did then with a Republican President but not today. In fact, under Republican leadership, the Senate is deliberately leaving the Supreme Court shorthanded. None of us, whether for or against Justice Roberts, felt we should delay and have the Court come into session with a four-four makeup.

I believe Chief Judge Merrick Garland deserves the same consideration that Chief Justice Roberts received 11 years ago. What is the difference? There was a Republican President then, a Democratic President now. This is playing politics with the U.S. Supreme Court, and it hurts the credibility of our whole Federal court system.

Like Chief Justice Roberts, Chief Judge Garland is eminently qualified. Like Chief Justice Roberts, he hails from the Midwest. He is a D.C. Circuit judge who has earned the respect and admiration of those who work for him. But, unlike Chief Justice Roberts, who was confirmed in about 2 months, Chief Judge Garland has been pending before the Senate for more than 6 months. I mentioned that to my colleagues. I went back and checked the history. No Supreme Court nominee in the history of our country has waited that long. There has been no hearing, no vote, no consideration at all by the Senate because the Senate refuses to do its job—the job we are required to do under the Constitution.

Maybe the Republicans feel this somehow benefits their party. It doesn't. Our independent judicial branch is fundamental to our constitutional system of government. The Senate's duty to consider judicial nominations under the Constitution is not a political game. This Republican obstruction has consequences for all Americans. Because Senate Republicans refuse to do their jobs, the Supreme Court has been repeatedly unable to uphold its essential constitutional role as a final arbiter of the law. The uncertainty in the law has been harmful to businesses, and it has been harmful to law enforcement and to families and children across our country.

I don't know if the American people realize how much this refusal of the Republican leadership to do their jobs has hurt them. This term, the Supreme Court will consider cases that will impact our voting rights—all of us—our religious rights, our access to fair housing, even the ATM fees we pay. The Court may also decide to hear important cases on the right of transgender students to be treated equally, environmental protection and climate change, women's reproductive health, and money in politics. The Supreme Court should be at full strength and provide the American people certainty and clarity of our rights under the Constitution.

The same Republicans who expedited consideration of Chief Justice Roberts have since February used the excuse of the election year to justify their unconstitutional, prolonged obstruction. Yet there is no election-year exception in the Constitution for the President's duty to nominate Supreme Court Justices. The Constitution says the President shall nominate. The President did that. It also says that every one of us who held up our hand and took a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution—it says that we shall give advice and consent on these nominations. There is no election-year exception in the Constitution. None of us hold up our hands and say we will uphold the Constitution, so help me God, except in an election year. There is no election-year exception in the Constitution for the Supreme Court's role as the final arbiter of the law. Our history proves this case.

There have been more than a dozen vacancies in election years—in fact, most recently, Justice Kennedy. I was here. We had a Democratic-led Senate. It was President Reagan's last year in office. It was a Presidential election year, and it took a Democratic Senate just over 2 months to confirm Justice Kennedy.

President Obama's nominee, Chief Judge Garland, has been pending in the Senate with no action for 195 days; 195 days and we haven't done one solitary thing. When we had a Democratically controlled Congress and a Republican President's last year in office, we confirmed him in 65 days.

The Judiciary Committee plays an important role in the examination of Supreme Court nominees, reviewing the nominee's records and holding public hearings so that the American people can hear from that individual. Ever since the Judiciary Committee started holding public confirmation hearings of Supreme Court nominees more than a century ago, the Senate has never denied a Supreme Court nominee a hearing and a vote. The current Republican leadership has broken with this century of practice to make its own shameful history.

Even when a majority of the committee has not supported a Supreme Court nominee, the committee has still sent the nomination to the floor so that all 100 Senators can fulfill their constitutional role of providing advice and consent on Supreme Court nominees. When I became chairman of the Judiciary Committee in 2001 during the Bush administration, I and Senator HATCH—who was then the ranking member—memorialized in a letter this agreement regarding President Bush's Supreme Court nominees.

This is an important point. Senators are free to make their own decision to vote against a Supreme Court nominee, but that does not justify the complete refusal to provide any process whatsoever. I have heard the other side offer

the example of some Republican Senators pledging to vote “no” on Justice Fortas’s nomination to replace Chief Justice Warren in an election year as justification for their obstruction today. That example does little to prove their point. In 1968, there was no current vacancy on the Court, as Chief Justice Warren’s resignation was conditional upon the confirmation of his successor. That meant that there was never any fear that the Supreme Court would be operating at less than full strength. Just as importantly, public hearings went forward and the full Senate was able to consider the nomination. Everett Dirksen, the Republican leader who also served as the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee at the time, did not sign on to that pledge and proceeded to work with the chair of the committee to move forward with hearings.

We worked across the aisle to ensure that the Supreme Court would be fully functioning with Chief Justice Roberts’ nomination 11 years ago. Thirty years ago, the Senate voted to confirm both Justice Scalia and Chief Justice Rehnquist. More than a dozen Supreme Court justices have been confirmed in the month of September. That is not surprising given that the Supreme Court begins its terms on the first Monday in October.

By the standards the Democrats gave to Republicans, Chief Judge Garland should have been confirmed by Memorial Day. We have had more than 6 months to examine his record. It is not as though the Senate has been consumed and overworked considering other nominees; the last time we confirmed any judicial nominee was on July 6.

Republicans refuse to allow votes even on uncontroversial district court nominees who have been pending more than a year, even those supported by Republicans in their States, and our independent Federal judiciary is suffering as a result of this unprecedented obstruction, as a result of the Senate not doing its job. It is long time past for the Senate to do its job. We have to treat our coequal branch of government with respect. There is no reason the Senate should not do its job in an election year. There is much work to be done.

Senate Republicans are calling for another very long recess. The resolution introduced today by the senior Senator from Connecticut would keep the Senate here to do its job for Chief Judge Garland’s nomination. It should not require a resolution to keep us accountable to the oath we all swore to uphold the Constitution. The Senate majority leader should let us get to work for all American people. We have had more recesses than anytime since I have been here. Why not take a few days and immediately consider Chief Judge Garland for the Supreme Court

of the United States? Our highest Court should not be diminished further by Republican obstruction in the Senate. When the Supreme Court comes into session on the first Monday in October, the American people deserve to have nine members on the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court deserves to have nine members, and the American people deserve to have us do our job.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter I referred to from myself and Senator HATCH be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, June 29, 2001.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: We are cognizant of the important constitutional role of the Senate in connection with Supreme Court nominations. We write as Chairman and Ranking Republican Member on the Judiciary Committee to inform you that we are prepared to examine carefully and assess such presidential nominations.

The Judiciary Committee’s traditional practice has been to report Supreme Court nominees to the Senate once the Committee has completed its consideration. This has been true even in cases where Supreme Court nominees were opposed by a majority of the Judiciary Committee.

We both recognize and have every intention of following the practices and precedents of the Committee and the Senate when considering Supreme Court nominees.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman.
ORRIN G. HATCH,
Ranking Republican
Member.

Mr. LEAHY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for coming to the floor this afternoon for a historic presentation.

I just spent this last weekend—an enjoyable weekend—being a babysitter. My wife and I were able to babysit our 5-year-old grand-twins. It is always a kick to hear what is on their minds and have conversations. We spend a lot of time discussing the concept of fiction and nonfiction. They were trying to figure out which things were fiction and which were nonfiction. We went back and forth through superheroes and all the rest of it, and it was a lot of fun.

I thought about that as I came to the floor today because when it comes to looking for fiction and nonfiction, the Executive Calendar of the U.S. Senate on our desk would have to fall in the category of fiction. It is not true because in this calendar, you will find the nominations sent from the committee to the floor of the Senate to be considered. At least that is what you think you are going to find, but instead what we find are the names of 30 nominees to become Federal judges and have

cleared the committees, such as the Judiciary Committee, and languish on this calendar never to be called by the Republican majority. Some have been here for a year. They cleared the committee with bipartisan votes. Many of them were nominated and approved by Republican Senators, but when they come to the floor, it comes to a full stop.

Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, is not scheduling votes for Federal judges under President Obama. He argues that whether it is the Supreme Court or other Federal district courts, this is a lameduck President, and he has no obligation, being of the opposite political faith, to give this President anything when it comes to judges. That is the Republican Senate position, that is Senator MCCONNELL’s position, but it is totally inconsistent with two things.

The tradition of the Senate is the first issue. When George W. Bush was in his last term in office and the Democrats were in control, we approved 68 judges in that last Congress—in his “lameduck” Congress. So far this Congress Senator MCCONNELL has allowed only 22 judges to come through the Senate, and 30 of them are sitting on the calendar. By the tradition of the Senate, where the Senate fills the vacancies when they need to be filled, regardless of the President’s party or the year of his term—Senator MCCONNELL ignores that. We have 91 Federal judicial vacancies across the United States that need to be filled. Nearly half of them are emergencies. The caseload is overwhelming and justice is not being served in those districts, but Senator MCCONNELL says no.

The most egregious example is the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. You can almost look through the windows and outside of the doors of the Chamber here and see that beautiful building, the Supreme Court, and realize that in a matter of days they will reconvene to consider the most important cases pending before the United States of America. What is different about this Supreme Court is that there are only eight Justices seated on the Court. The untimely passing of Antonin Scalia in February led to a vacancy on the Supreme Court. President Obama met his obligation under the Constitution. Article II, section 2 says the President shall nominate someone to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court. President Obama did it. As the Constitution directs him, he sent that name to the U.S. Senate for advice and consent 195 days ago.

Senator MCCONNELL announced he would not fill that vacancy and would not even give that nominee, Merrick Garland of the D.C. Circuit, a hearing so he could be asked the basic questions about his service on the Court. In fact, Senator MCCONNELL took another step and said: I will not even meet with

him. How many times has that happened in the history of the U.S. Senate? Never. Politicians are careful when they use that word—"never." We have never had a President submit the nominee to fill a pending vacancy on the Supreme Court who has been denied a hearing in the Senate—never.

Why? Senator MCCONNELL says: Well, President Obama is leaving soon, as if he were elected only for a 7-year tenure and isn't entitled to be President in his eighth year, but the real reason is pretty obvious. Senator MCCONNELL and the Republicans are praying that Donald Trump will be able to fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court. After watching the performance last night, can you imagine that man choosing a Justice for life on the Supreme Court? That is what they are counting on. That is why they are leaving these vacancies open, too, so that Donald Trump can fill those vacancies.

It is a sad moment in the history of this country. It is the most accurate reflection of the dysfunction of the U.S. Senate I can think of—that the Senate Republican leadership would ignore the Constitution and the traditions of the Senate, leave these poor judicial nominees languishing for up to a year on the calendar, and refuse to meet their constitutional obligation to give Merrick Garland—even though the American Bar Association deemed him as being unanimously "well qualified"—his time to come before the Senate for an open hearing, answer questions under oath, and receive a vote on the floor of the Senate.

The Republicans in the Senate want to brag about their great record of performance this year as the party in control of the U.S. Senate, but what they cannot explain or live down is the embarrassment they brought to this institution by refusing to meet their constitutional responsibility.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to join my colleagues who have already noted that we are now at an unbelievable, unprecedented 195 days—over 6 months—since the President nominated Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court.

Do you know what else could have happened in this time period? We could have gone through the confirmation process for the last Republican-nominated Justice twice and still have 11 days leftover. We could have sailed around the world almost four times or flown to the moon and back 30 times, but Senate Republicans have refused to even hold one hearing for Judge Merrick Garland.

By allowing this absurd political game to continue, Republicans are preventing the rest of us from upholding our constitutional duty to consider the Supreme Court nominee. Senate Re-

publicans will not say that their historic obstruction is because they are opposed to Judge Garland; they are just refusing to consider him, even though many Republicans have met with him and admitted that Judge Garland's distinguished career and work history show that he is, without a doubt, someone who deserves fair consideration by all of us here in the U.S. Senate. He deserves a hearing and a vote. I should add that by refusing to do their jobs and by saying they want to leave it to the next President, Republicans are telling the American people they would rather save the seat for their Presidential nominee to fill than give a strong nominee a fair hearing and a vote. We all know what that means.

This is far too important to the people of this country to hold off any longer. They have now seen the results of a short-handed Supreme Court with split decisions and continued uncertainty about important issues. The Court is now days away from beginning its October session. With every day that goes by and every Supreme Court decision that comes down without a full bench, the need for action is clearer and clearer. This gridlock and dysfunction that has dominated too much of our time and other work here in the Congress should be pushed aside right now. Republicans blocked the Zika emergency funding bill for 7 months, and the gridlock has once again brought us far too close to another manufacturing crisis—a government shutdown.

I hope Republicans will realize how ridiculous this partisan gridlock is. After 195 days of being one Justice short on the Supreme Court of the United States, I urge our colleagues to fulfill our constitutional responsibility, hold a hearing for Judge Merrick Garland, and give him a vote. We owe that to the people we represent, and it is simply the right thing to do.

Washington State families should have a voice. Families across America should have a voice. They have waited long enough—nearly 200 days—to have nine Justices serving on the highest Court in the land, and they deserve better.

SHOOTING IN BURLINGTON, WASHINGTON

Mr. President, while I have the floor, I want to bring another issue to my colleagues' attention, and that is the anguish of the people in a community in my home State of Washington, the city of Burlington. This is yet another community that is hurting after another senseless act of violence in a mall—a shooting that left five people dead. This is a headline that has become all too common in our country.

I urge everyone listening today to keep the victims, their families, their friends, and their coworkers in their thoughts and prayers. I implore every-

one in this Chamber to come together and address the scourge of gun violence that has devastated one too many communities once again. Enough is enough.

I thank the Presiding Officer and yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Washington for her remarks. As for me, this is the third time this month that I have come to the Senate floor to speak about the Supreme Court nomination currently pending before the judiciary and the judicial vacancy crisis as a whole in our country.

It has been 7 months since Chief Judge Merrick Garland's nomination to the Supreme Court, and it is still pending. It has been about 19 months since Judge Julien Neals was nominated to the District Court of New Jersey, and it is still on hold.

As was the case in the last two times I have come to the floor to speak, our country is not only operating with an incomplete Supreme Court, but it is also operating with a judicial vacancy crisis across the Nation in multiple Federal courts.

The Supreme Court's term is about to begin next week, and without action to schedule a vote and confirm Judge Garland's nomination, the Supreme Court will still be operating without a ninth Justice, just as it has been for the past 7 months. I do not believe that was the intention of our Framers. I do believe that because this body is not doing anything about this nomination, it is having a material effect on another branch of government, which I believe is a subversion of the framing of our Constitution and the functioning of our government.

By failing to hold the vote on Judge Garland's nomination, we are continuing to cripple one of our coequal branches of government. It is unacceptable that we would consider taking a 7-week break from the business of the Senate before ensuring that one of our coequal branches of government is operating as it was intended by our Framers.

There is no credible reason for the refusal of a vote for Judge Garland's nomination, and this kind of wait for a Supreme Court Justice's confirmation is unprecedented in our history.

Republicans and Democrats have clearly stated over the years how well qualified Judge Garland is as a nominee. In fact, we have seen multiple people remark that he is not just well qualified, but in the grand scheme of the partisan divides in our country, he is relatively moderate in his judicial history. Unfortunately, though, with that, we are still failing to see an up-or-down vote in this body.

There is no reason this distinguished body should not confirm Chief Judge

Garland so that we have a full complement of Justices on the Supreme Court when the next term convenes. We also know that across the country, as I said earlier, Federal judges are overworked and, of course, understaffed because of the vacancy crisis.

The last time I came to the floor on this issue, I noted that we faced 90 judicial vacancies in our courts across the country, 35 of which have been deemed judicial emergencies. A judicial emergency is not some subjective conclusion; it is an objective conclusion by judicial experts and judicial staff that has nothing to do with the partisan politics of our land. Yet we are seeing no action being taken.

There are 30 nominations currently pending on the Senate Executive Calendar, and all but two were voted out of committee by unanimous vote. That includes 20 district court nominees. Both Republicans and Democrats in this body gave a unanimous vote in the Judiciary Committee. The nominations pending on the Executive Calendar are from States all across the country, from east to west. These places include New Jersey, New York, California, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Utah, Massachusetts, Maryland, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Indiana, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Idaho. Today, when we are perhaps days from adjourning for another long recess—7 weeks—I rise, as I said, for the third time not only to ask Republicans with great respect and reverence for all nominations going on in the Senate, but also to ask that we push this bipartisan package of well-qualified nominees that includes two people who are next on the list, Ed Stanton and Julien Neals, the two longest waiting judicial nominees from Tennessee and New Jersey, as well as nominees from New York, California, Rhode Island, and two nominees from Pennsylvania, again supported in a bipartisan fashion in the Judiciary Committee. The nominees from New Jersey and Tennessee are the two longest waiting nominees currently before the Senate, and as such, deserve to be the next two scheduled nominees up for a vote. I have rejected or stood up in opposition to any efforts to skip those two nominees.

Mr. Stanton is the nominee for the Western District of Tennessee. He is highly qualified, and his experience will suit him well as a judge in the Federal court. Mr. Stanton is a highly regarded member of the Memphis community and someone recommended to the President by my colleague Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER.

Judge Neals is the nominee for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, possessing undeniably strong qualifications. He possesses significant legal experience, a distinguished judicial career, and an unwavering commitment to justice. His skill,

legal aptitude, and unique thoughtful perspective are needed on the Federal bench now more than ever. I know Julien Neals personally. I worked by his side for close to a decade when I was a mayor—7 years to be exact—and I have seen the thoughtfulness of this individual. He is one of the more impressive people I have met in my professional journey.

There is no reason why Judge Neals or Edward Stanton, the two longest waiting nominees, have had to wait so long to be confirmed. So I hopefully and simply ask that the Senate promptly vote on the next two nominees in line, making sure our judicial system is functioning at its highest capacity. This isn't a Republican or Democratic issue. It is an American issue.

I have been honored to serve people in New Jersey in the Senate for nearly 3 years. During my time in this body, I have been surprised, inspired, and challenged by colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but I have come to a point of hope and hopefulness that when it comes to real issues, such as the functioning of another branch of government, we can come together, and we have the capacity to do the right thing.

I know this body is better than a tit-for-tat process, where we measure how many nominees President Bush got versus President Obama. This was not the intention of the Constitution, not the intention of our Framers, and it is not something that has been the tradition of our country.

I know the good the Senate can do for Americans across the country. Part of our obligation is to ensure a functioning judicial system that can deliver justice for America. This Senate is failing to uphold its duty now and has plunged our Nation into a level of judicial crisis that is unacceptable. We can and we must do better.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The Senator from New York. Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Madam President.

Today I join my colleagues in rising to remind the Republican majority of its abject failure to fulfill its constitutional duty.

I first spoke on the floor urging the majority to schedule a hearing and vote on the vacant Supreme Court seat on February 23 of this year, over 7 months ago. Just to remind everyone, that was before Judge Garland was even nominated by the President. We shouldn't forget that, even before the nominee was named, the Republican majority told the American people they were planning to ignore their responsibility to consider a Supreme Court nominee. That is the one promise they have actually kept.

Unlike their promise to "get the Senate back to work," they have kept their promise not to do their jobs when it comes to the Supreme Court and so

many other issues. It certainly is not because they have been too busy. In the last 200 days since the President nominated Judge Garland, instead of giving him a fair hearing and vote, the Republican Senate has taken the longest recess in 60 years; spent time fighting partisan battles over Planned Parenthood, instead of combatting Zika; neglected to act on economic issues for working families, such as college affordability; done nothing to address the influence of special interest money in politics; and failed to take action to keep guns out of the hands of terrorists. Make no mistake, the Republican Senate has not done its job, and that failure has real consequences.

With the Nation's highest Court shorthanded and often deadlocked, it has been unable to serve its constitutional function as the final arbiter of the law. Because of Republican obstruction, the Court was unable to reach a decision on the final merits in seven cases in its last term, leaving millions of families and children, law enforcement, and businesses uncertain of the law. From immigration to consumer privacy to a case about whether lenders can discriminate against married women, the Court has been unable to produce a final verdict.

The Supreme Court handles "the people's business" as President Reagan put it. Every day that goes by without a ninth Justice is another day the American people's business is not getting done.

Now we are only a week away from a new Supreme Court term, during which it will hear another docket of important cases involving voting rights, racial discrimination in housing, and cases that will impact women's reproductive rights and the rights of transgender children in schools. Because Republicans will not schedule a hearing and a vote on Judge Garland to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court will again go into these cases shorthanded.

Seven months later, I again say to my Republican colleagues, to the distinguished majority leader, and to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee: Schedule a hearing and a vote on Judge Garland. Because you refuse to do your job, the people's business is not getting done.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak again about the dangerous effects of leaving the current vacancy on the Supreme Court unfilled and the real consequences that the current vacancy has caused for this country.

It has now been more than 6 months since President Obama nominated Judge Merrick Garland to fill the current vacancy on the Supreme Court, and we still haven't had a hearing,

much less a vote. As a result, Judge Garland is now the longest pending Supreme Court nominee in history.

Since the Senate has not acted, the Supreme Court will still be without a full complement of Justices when it begins its October term next week. There is a lot at stake in the Supreme Court's upcoming term. The cases that the Court will hear focus on significant issues that affect Americans' everyday lives.

Among those cases are important questions involving voting rights and discrimination in housing. The Court will also take up cases on immigration and environmental protection that would impact millions of people across the country. We know they have been taking less cases, and we also know there have been a number of split decisions, including a recent one on a death penalty case.

Further delay in the confirmation of a new Justice will compromise the Court's ability to resolve these questions of law effectively. If we do not have a fully staffed Court in the next term, we risk more cases in which the Court is unable to issue binding precedent and in which access to justice is denied for too many Americans. In some decisions where there is a 4-4 split, the result is effectively the same as if the Supreme Court had never heard the case. That is certainly not what our Founding Fathers intended with the Constitution.

But more split decisions are not the only risk that we are facing here. The current vacancy on the Supreme Court also has implications for the number of cases that the Court is able to take in the first place. We saw this played out many times last spring. In March of last year, the Supreme Court granted certiorari on eight cases. This year, it only did so for two. Indeed, we have seen time and again over the Court's last term that the Supreme Court simply cannot function well without a ninth Justice—with split decisions, diminished decisions, delayed decisions, and no decisions.

With only eight Justices, the current Court could not reach a final decision on the merits in seven cases during its most recent term. In five of these cases, the Court deadlocked in split decisions with four Justices on either side. In the other two cases the Court had to remand the case back to the lower courts when it was unable to render a decision on the merits.

The lower courts rely on the Supreme Court as the final decision-maker. There are courts all over the Nation that may have different decisions, and they are waiting for the final word from the Supreme Court. That is how our system of justice has worked. But what is most important is that in each of these cases the Court was unable to carry out its constitutional obligation.

The potential for worse during the Court's next term is real. For instance, what if some of the landmark cases that are familiar to citizens, such as *Miranda v. Arizona*, were a 4-to-4 decision? Or an emergency case like *Bush v. Gore*—what if that were 4 to 4? Or *Brown v. Board of Education*?

Former President Ronald Reagan recognized the importance of having a fully staffed Supreme Court in 1987. He said: "Every day that passes with the Supreme Court below full strength impairs the people's business in that crucially important body."

President Reagan made that statement around the same time he nominated Justice Kennedy, who was confirmed unanimously by the Senate, which was controlled by the opposite party—the Democratic Party—in the last year of a Republican Presidency.

Over the past several months, I have tried to put myself in my colleagues' shoes, and I asked myself: What if we had the opposite case? What if we had a Republican President and a Democratic-controlled Senate? What would I do? Well, I would demand a hearing. I would never let a nominee float out there for 6 months while we have less decisions, diminished decisions, and no decisions.

I don't know how I would vote on the nominee. I would like to ask the nominee questions and decide if they were qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

Our job under the Constitution is to advise and consent. It is not to advise and consent only after a Presidential election has occurred. This has been our practice in the Senate for more than a century. For more than 100 years the Senate has had a process that worked under both Democratic and Republican Presidents and even in—yes—Presidential years. Through World War I and World War II, through the Great Depression, through the Vietnam war, through the economic downturns, we were somehow able to make it as a democracy. We were somehow able to do our job to advise and consent.

I would also add in closing my remarks about Judge Garland's widely credited ability to draft thoughtful, narrow legal opinions and build consensus among his colleagues on the bench. The President was well aware when he nominated Judge Garland that he would need to nominate someone who had that ability, and, with the kind of votes that we have seen in the Senate, someone who is a fine man. He deserves the opportunity to make his case to the Senate, and the public deserves the opportunity to see the kind of Justice he would be.

It remains my sincere hope that he will have that opportunity for a hearing to prove himself in the months to come.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I rise today to join my Democratic colleagues on the floor in opposition to this Chamber's inability to do its job and fulfill our constitutional obligation by holding a public hearing and taking a vote on President Obama's nomination of Chief Judge Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court.

As this body appears to apparently head home for the next month and a half, let me share yet another reason why it is so important that we put partisan politics aside and do our jobs. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have had the opportunity to travel to many other countries. Just this past June, I spent a week in South Africa to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Robert F. Kennedy's "Ripples of Hope" speech in Cape Town. Robert F. Kennedy, a former Senator himself, inspired the early, nascent anti-apartheid movement in South Africa with this uplifting and challenging speech.

Just earlier today, I had a chance to meet with a friend from South Africa with whom I connected on that trip. I had a reminder in our conversation—a reminder that what we do teaches, engages, and challenges much of the rest of the world. The United States and South Africa, although we are very different countries with different histories, are similar in important ways.

What struck me on this trip to South Africa back in June and in the months since has been some of our important similarities and our important current challenges. We share powerful foundational commitments to our original documents—to the Freedom Charter in South Africa and to our Declaration of Independence here—and to our respective constitutions. We have historically shared a strong respect for the rule of law. We share deep understanding of the importance of capable and independent judiciaries to preserving our multiparty democracy.

But, today in the United States, as in South Africa, divisiveness and dysfunction are beginning to genuinely challenge the institutions that protect our constitutional order. Here we need look no further than the matter that drives us to the floor today—the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court that is now approaching 200 days without any sign of promise or compromise from our Republican colleagues, without any expression of a willingness to do what has been done routinely for a century here.

On the Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, we have not had a hearing, and we have not had a vote. I have heard no significant issues or questions raised about the qualifications of Chief Judge Garland. Frankly, I don't think one could raise significant questions. This is one of the most seasoned, most experienced judges ever nominated to

the U.S. Supreme Court. Yet no progress—no hope of progress—seems to be heard on our committee or here on the floor.

Even if we were to confirm Chief Judge Garland today, I think we need to realize that our inaction has already had a significant impact. All around the world, what the United States says and does sends a strong message. It matters what we say. It matters what we do. In this case, it matters deeply what we aren't doing.

This Chamber alone cannot heal a divided country with a single committee hearing. We cannot heal congressional dysfunction with just one vote, but these actions could serve as the first in a series of concrete steps to help repair the dysfunction and the division in our Senate. We should start by holding public hearings, by letting the people of the United States understand what, if any, questions or concerns there might be about this talented, capable, decent man, Judge Merrick Garland, who has been nominated to the Supreme Court, and then build on that momentum by giving timely, thorough consideration to the President's other nominees for judgeships across the country. With 89 judicial vacancies—with 89 current judicial vacancies—from district courts to courts of appeals, to the U.S. Supreme Court itself, our inaction doesn't just create uncertainty for those involved, it impairs our courts and actively harms our constitutional commitment to justice.

From Justice Marshall to Justice Warren, to Justice Scalia himself, the Supreme Court has been home to many icons of American jurisprudence, men and women whose work, writings, and reflections are known around the world, but as I suspect they might themselves have been the very first to remind us, nations don't endure because of unique or historic individuals, free nations endure because of institutions.

When it comes both to ensuring the proper functioning of our treasured American institutions and to ensuring its future independence and liberty, we are not doing our job. We are failing to fulfill our constitutional obligations and, in doing so, we are directly challenging the strength of our constitutional order.

We must not forget that everything we do here and everything we do not do here sends forth a message to the rest of the world, to those who we hope watch and imitate our democracy. This inaction is something I hope they do not imitate.

If we were to take action on Chief Judge Garland's nomination, we would have the opportunity not only to strengthen our own institutions but to return to setting a constructive and positive example for the rest of the free world. We must leave no doubt that our democratic institutions can handle all the challenges they face.

I urge all my colleagues to seriously consider the consequences of this tragic inaction, for nearly 200 days, to consider this able and qualified nominee.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am proud to join my colleagues who have come to the floor, including the distinguished Senator from Delaware and my friend and colleague from the great State of Vermont, and with other colleagues who will follow us in saying, very simply, we should do our job and avoid the damage to our democracy that will result from our dereliction of duty if we leave town without a hearing and a vote to fill the vacancy created by the tragic death of Justice Scalia.

I know something about the Supreme Court, having clerked there for 1 year with Justice Harry Blackmun, having argued cases there as attorney general of the State of Connecticut. I walk by or ride by the U.S. Supreme Court every day as I come to work at the Capitol, and I have tremendous respect, in fact, reverence, for the U.S. Supreme Court. Its power derives from its credibility and trust. It is being above politics. It has no armies, no police force. Its decisions are enforceable and enforced simply because the American people have confidence in its credibility.

The reason for that credibility was well stated by Chief Justice John Roberts, who said: "We don't work as Democrats or Republicans, and I think it's a very unfortunate impression the public might get from the confirmation process."

That confirmation process is stymied and stopped, stalled now by bipartisan paralysis that reinforces the misimpression among the public that the Supreme Court may simply be another part of the political process.

The Supreme Court should be above politics. This dysfunction and dereliction of duty does damage to our democracy because it drags the Supreme Court into the muck and morass of partisan politics and deprives it of the credibility and trust that are the underpinning of its force as a democratic institution. Think of it for a moment. There are two elected branches, the President and Congress, and then an unelected one, appointed for life, totally dependent on its being above politics.

We have a constitutional duty to advise and consent, not when it is politically convenient, not when it fits into our schedules but when the President makes a nomination. We have fulfilled that duty consistently during the last 100 years, taking action on every pending nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court.

The current impasse has real, practical consequences in depriving individ-

uals in this Nation of justice they need and deserve. It has real consequences for real people. As we saw last term and as we are about to see on Monday with the beginning of a new term, issues of law essential to a functioning democracy and basic fairness will be left unresolved because of a deadlocked Court. The resulting uncertainty causes harm across the land and across our economy, creating confusion among businesses that need to know what the rules of the road are going to be. If money is borrowed, when does it have to be repaid? If regulation is to be challenged, will it be upheld?

These kinds of decisions are, in fact, real cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. The uncertainty and confusion resulting from deadlocked Court decisions and the lack of law—because indecision means a lack of resolution of legal issues—have consequences that impede job creation and economic growth in this country. By refusing to do its job, the Senate of the United States is precluding others from doing their jobs, from creating jobs, and from growing our economy, as all of us would like to see done.

I am not arguing that any individual Senator has an obligation to vote for Merrick Garland. I believe he is preeminently qualified. I have known him for years. I have tremendous respect for his intelligence and integrity. I believe he will convince other of my colleagues that he is extraordinarily well qualified to serve as the next Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

That job of convincing our colleagues is his to do. He should be given an opportunity to do it in a hearing, as he has done for many of us in his individual conversations with us. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues have denied him even a hearing, not to mention a vote.

It adds insult to injury when this body not only stonewalls Judge Garland's nomination but departs for lengthy breaks, as we did in August and as we will now do again, without giving him consideration. This year, the Senate has worked fewer days and taken a longer recess than in the past 50 years, despite leaving our constitutional duty unfulfilled.

That is why I am proud to submit today, along with 42 of my Democratic colleagues, including Senator LEAHY of Vermont, the ranking member on the Judiciary Committee, along with my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, a resolution that says to the Senate of the United States: Do not leave town for a recess until we have provided a hearing and a vote on the pending Supreme Court nomination. Do not leave town without doing your job. Do not leave town without fulfilling your constitutional duty to advise and consent.

That is what we should be doing.

I am not going to read the resolution, but it essentially says the President

has the obligation to nominate. We have the obligation to advise and consent. We have done so in past years. We should do so now. I will quote this one sentence: "Whereas forcing the Supreme Court to function with only 8 sitting justices has created several instances, and risks creating more instances, in which the justices are evenly divided as to the outcome of a case, preventing the Supreme Court from resolving conflicting interpretations of the law from different regions of the United States and thereby undermining the constitutional function of the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the law."

Paraphrasing: Be it resolved that the Senate should not adjourn, recess, or convene solely in pro forma session until we have taken action on the pending nomination through holding a hearing in the Judiciary Committee, holding a vote in the Judiciary Committee, and holding a vote in the full Senate.

Some of the threats to our democracy come from outside this country, from violent extremists or military aggressors who mean to do us harm, but the threats to our democracy can also include self-inflicted wounds—unintentional, perhaps.

I know my colleagues—and I say this with the greatest respect—believe they are justified in what they are doing. We have legitimate disagreements. We may disagree whether Merrick Garland is qualified to be on the U.S. Supreme Court. I believe, without question or reservation, he would be a great Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, and he will be, but let's at least give him a vote. Let's do our job and avoid the self-inflicted damage to our democracy that will result from our leaving without upholding our constitutional duty.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I am pleased to join Senator BLUMENTHAL on the floor this afternoon as a cosponsor of his resolution. I share his concerns that Merrick Garland has not yet gotten a hearing nor a vote in this body on his nomination to be on the Supreme Court of the United States.

Since the beginning of our Nation, the U.S. Senate has respected an important, bipartisan tradition of giving timely and fair consideration to Supreme Court nominees, even during the years when there is a Presidential election.

Sadly, this year the majority party has broken that tradition by refusing even to hold a hearing on the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to serve as a Justice. The current vacancy was created more than 200 days ago. President Obama nominated Judge Garland more than 7 months ago. I am joining my colleagues on the floor this after-

noon to urge the majority party and the leadership of this body to give Judge Garland a hearing, to give him a vote. It is time to extend to Judge Garland the same fair treatment the Senate has given to every other person previously nominated to the Supreme Court by an elected President during a Presidential election year.

The majority party's refusal, to date, to consider the nomination of Judge Garland is a shocking break with Senate tradition. Article II, section 2 of the Constitution is unambiguous about the respective duties and responsibilities of the President and the Senate when there is a Supreme Court vacancy. I do not believe the Founders intended that these rules should be optional or should be something that could be disregarded. Article II states that the President "shall hold this office during the term of four years"—not 3 years, not 3 years and 1 month, but 4 full years.

Time and again, Senators have done their constitutional duty by considering and confirming Supreme Court Justices in the final year of a Presidency. Most recently, Justice Anthony Kennedy was confirmed in the last year of President Reagan's final term in February of 1988. Indeed, it was a Senate with a Democratic majority that confirmed President Reagan's nominee, Justice Kennedy, and they did it unanimously—97 to 0.

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary began holding public confirmation hearings on Supreme Court nominees back in 1916. In the 100 years since then, never before has the committee denied a hearing to a nominee to be a Justice of the Supreme Court. So never before in our history have we seen this happen, that the majority party in the Senate has refused to conduct a hearing.

Since 1975, the average length of time from nomination to a confirmation vote for the Supreme Court has been 67 days because our predecessors in the Senate recognized just how important it is for the Supreme Court to be fully functioning. This bipartisan tradition regarding the Supreme Court has been put at risk by the majority's actions this year, but the Senate will have another opportunity to act on the nomination of Judge Garland when we reconvene after election day during the lameduck session. Once we get through this election, I hope that the majority party will honor the Senate's tradition, that it will do the right thing, that it will give Judge Garland the hearing and the floor vote he deserves.

We all know that, as Senators, we have sworn to support and defend the Constitution. Our oath doesn't say: Uphold the Constitution most of the time or only when it is not a Presidential election year. The American people expect us, as Senators, to be faithful to our oath of office, and they also expect

us to do our jobs regardless of whether it is an election year. So let's respect that oath of office. Let's do the job we were sent here to do by the American people. Let's follow the Constitution.

As former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor—a Justice nominated by a Republican President—said just days after the current vacancy occurred back in February, "I think we need somebody [on the Supreme Court] now to do the job, and let's get on with it." Well, let's get on with it. It is time for us to do our jobs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, on other judicial business, today the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard oral argument in *West Virginia v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, which is the case that will determine the fate of the EPA's Clean Power Plan. As that court considers our national plan to reduce carbon pollution from powerplants, which is our largest source of carbon emissions, I rise now for the 148th time to urge us all to wake up to the threats of climate change.

In the runup to today's argument, Leader REID, Senator BOXER, Senator MARKEY, and I released a report entitled "The Brief No One Filed" highlighting who is behind the legal challenge to the President's Clean Power Plan. Our report, which is structured as an amicus brief, although not filed with the court, shows how State officials, trade associations, front groups, and industry-funded scientists in the case are connected to the fossil fuel industry. In short, the court of appeals has been barraged with briefs by amici curiae and parties who are funded by oil, gas, and coal interests. I hope the court considers the appalling conflict of interest these briefs present when it considers this case.

Let's begin with why there is such a big effort by the fossil fuel industry to launch its proxies in this case. A working paper by the International Monetary Fund puts the effective subsidy of the fossil fuel industry in this country at nearly \$700 billion per year. For the record, that is billion with a "b." That includes the climate harm they get away with for free.

To protect this massive subsidy—perhaps the biggest subsidy in the history of the world—the fossil fuel polluters have concocted a complex web of climate change denial. The web includes deceptively named nonprofits and fake think tanks—to use Jane Mayer's apt phrase, "think tanks as disguised political weapons"—whose purpose is to propagate phony science, manipulate public opinion, and create an echo chamber of climate science denialism. The polluters also wield their influence in our election campaigns, with especially devilish effect since the dreadful

Citizens United decision of 2010. A lot of this fossil fuel apparatus has turned up in the DC Circuit.

If we examine the Members of Congress filing amicus briefs against the Clean Power Plan, we find massive funding to them from the fossil fuel industry. The Center for American Progress Action Fund and the Center for Responsive Politics report that since 1989, Member amici signing these briefs have received over \$40 million in oil, gas, and coal campaign contributions. Thirty-four Senators opposing the Clean Power Plan received over \$16 million in direct contributions, and 171 Representatives opposing the Clean Power Plan received nearly \$24 million. And that is just direct spending to candidate campaigns. On top of that come fossil fuel-related political action committee contributions, over \$42 million more to Member amici since 1989—nearly \$12 million to the 34 Senators and nearly \$31 million to the 171 Representatives.

In total, the fossil fuel industry's disclosed political spending to Members on these briefs amounts to nearly \$83 million, with approximately \$55 million split among 34 Senators and nearly \$28 million split among 171 Representatives. And, of course, Citizens United opened the door to unlimited spending that is not disclosed as well. So we actually don't know the full amount or the full effect of fossil fuel political spending above and beyond that disclosed \$83 million.

The CAP Action Fund has labeled 135 of the 205 Member amici as "climate deniers" based on their past statements and their voting records. Climate deniers reject the overwhelming consensus of peer-reviewed science about the causes and effects of carbon in our atmosphere and oceans, often, interestingly, contradicting the research of scientists and academic institutions in their home States, even as to the effects of climate change manifesting in their home States. In this path, climate deniers are not following their constituents. Seven in ten Americans in a nationwide survey released this month favor the Clean Power Plan. More than 80 percent acknowledge the health benefits of the plan.

Of course, the big polluters don't spend just to influence legislators at the Federal level, they also spend big on State officials, and they prop up trade associations, think tanks, and front groups willing to push their anti-science agenda. Many of these State politicians, trade associations, and front groups sure enough showed up in the Clean Power Plan litigation.

From the 27 States currently challenging the Clean Power Plan in court, the CAP Action Fund has identified 24 climate-denying attorneys general and Governors based on their own past statements. These State officials have received over \$19 million in contribu-

tions from the fossil fuel industry since 2000. One small example of this: Documents obtained by the Center for Media and Democracy show that Murray Energy, a coal company, donated \$250,000 to the Republican Attorneys General Association in 2015 and received a closed-door meeting with State prosecutors to discuss the Clean Power Plan. According to research director Nick Surgey:

It's no coincidence that GOP attorneys general have mounted an aggressive fight alongside the fossil fuel industry to block the Clean Power Plan. That appears to be exactly what the industry paid for.

Other energy companies and trade groups that gave money last year to the Republican Attorneys General Association include Koch Industries, ExxonMobil, Southern Company, and Cloud Peak Energy.

Then there are the industry trade groups, such as the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity and the National Association of Manufacturers also petitioning against the EPA. To pick just one, the National Association of Manufacturers has been described as a "trade association and corporate front group that has a long history of hiring lobbyists to promote anti-environmental, pro-industry legislation."

Other front groups, such as the Energy and Environment Legal Institute, have also filed briefs. E&E Legal advances what it calls "free-market environmentalism" using strategic litigation. It has made it its hallmark to harass climate scientists who work at public institutions and are vulnerable to State and Federal FOIA requests. E&E Legal received significant funding from the fossil fuel industry to engage in this harassment.

Documents made public in the bankruptcy proceedings of three separate coal companies—Arch Coal, Peabody Coal, and Alpha Natural Resources—reveal payments to E&E Legal or to its senior fellow, Chris Horner, a gentleman who has written not one but two books on why global warming is a hoax. E&E Legal is also an associate member of the State Policy Network, which the Center for Media and Democracy's SourceWatch describes as an "\$83 million right-wing empire" that in turn receives money from a Koch family foundation and from the identity-scrubbing Donors Trust and Donors Capital, organizations set up to launder the identities of big donors. Such is the web of denial.

Madam President, I could go on. Our report contains substantial detail on the network connecting the opponents of the Clean Power Plan to the fossil fuel companies behind their effort. ExxonMobil's CEO may pretend concern about climate change and mouth support for a carbon fee, but on his political gun decks, all their cannons are aimed to protect the freeloading, polluting status quo. And the Koch broth-

ers don't even pretend; they will send us off a climate cliff to enforce their extremist ideology and to maintain their power to socialize their costs. These Koch brothers are fine capitalist free-marketeers when it comes to extracting private profits, but when it comes to imposing public costs, they are more socialist than Trotsky. The fossil fuel powers whistle, and the hounds all come running to bay at the court. Before the court of appeals takes their arguments seriously, it should consider the industry's financial relationship with so many of the Clean Power Plan opponents, it should consider their sordid record of deceiving Americans about climate science for years, and it should consider the massive, massive conflict of interest of the industry lurking in the shadows behind their front groups.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

REMEMBERING GEORGE "FLIP" MCCONNAUGHEY

Mr. ENZI. Madam President, last week I lost my chief of staff whom I have worked with in various roles for over 40 years. A member of my staff, Ron Hindle, wrote a remembrance on behalf of the staff that begins with this:

September 21st was a day that my fellow Enzi staffers and I will never forget. It was on that day we learned that George McConnaughey, or Flip, as we all knew him, had lost a valiant battle he had waged against cancer for the past year. His loss has made these past few days a time of reflection and remembrance for us all about Flip and his life.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the entire statement be printed in the RECORD following my comments.

Yesterday we had a celebration in Casper, WY. It was well attended. It turned out to be a kind of reunion of people who had been touched by his life and his actions and particularly those who had worked with him. I am sorry I can't share the video we all got to see of him growing up and his interactions with family and others, particularly since family meant so much to him. Since we can't see that video, I will share some of my remembrances, some of my memories.

In the end, there is only faith, family, and friends. Flip was one of the richest men I know in all three categories.

Flip had faith. Senate Chaplain Black lists Flip as his hero because of Flip's faith, in spite of the fight that went on inside him. Chaplain Black drove out to Flip and Sheila's home when they were moving back to Wyoming to do an anointing. I think that helped Flip make the long drive to Wyoming.

Flip quietly shared his faith with others. Flip participated in the Chaplain's weekly Bible study. Flip attended a men's prayer breakfast on

Saturdays. Flip attended church faithfully. Flip had strength through his faith.

Flip knew the importance of family. His closest friend, of course, was his wife Shelia. He knew how lucky he was that she said yes when he proposed. He said it was the best thing that ever happened to him. He also said his parents liked her better than him.

Flip knew about cancer since he was the caregiver through Shelia's bouts of chemotherapy. Then, she was the caregiver and researcher through his operations, tests, and treatments. Her research saved his life more than once. Her love kept him going.

Flip knew family as a son, as a brother, as a husband, as a father, and especially as a grandfather. He filled all those roles well, and he was an example to others. My wife Diana and I feel like we are part of his family and his family is part of our family. Flip has been a caring brother to me, and Flip has also always treated staff as family.

Now, I didn't know Flip when he was the center for the Glenrock Herders football team, and I wasn't there when his dad lost the race for mayor by one vote and years later found out that his own wife didn't vote for him. I didn't know Flip when his dad found out he had skipped school for a few days, and his dad was on the school board. He loved his parents, but he revered his mother and he feared his father.

I didn't know him when he graduated from the University of Wyoming, or when he married Shelia, or when he got the job as Casper's assistant city manager. I didn't get to know him until I was mayor of Gillette. As an accountant, I ran on a balanced budget plan and attended council meetings. Then I found out—and you can imagine the shock I had when I learned that as mayor you had to learn about sewer and sewer treatment, garbage, police, fire, parks, not to mention water, which in Gillette smelled and was color-coded and in short supply, or that the town owned its own dilapidated electrical system.

Now, it is hard to entice somebody with knowledge of those issues to come to a boomtown, but I was able to persuade Flip to pull up roots and become Wyoming's first city administrator. It wasn't until he had bought a house and moved Shelia to Gillette that he found out the ordinance he was to work under was only through the first of three readings and that the mayor had to break the tie with a vote to get it that far.

Flip and I have gotten a lot of things done working together over 40 years, starting with that job in Gillette. Flip has never worked for me, he has always worked with me. As a team, we used his city skills. I was just a salesman.

I remember when his son Jeff was born and then his daughter Sarah. I remember their excitement for each of

these gifts of Heaven. I also remember when our two sons discovered Star Wars and each wanted a Millennium Falcon transporter. We were able to find models, and Flip and I spent our lunch hours for 2 weeks helping each other with the difficult instructions to meet the Christmas deadline.

As a team in Gillette, we also negotiated industrial siting agreements with 12 coal mines. We insisted that the companies provide a town that their employees would want to live in and to work from. Some of those companies were hard to convince. In their first trip to city hall, they would bring a small plan. I would look at it, suggest that they weren't serious, and then throw their plan in the garbage as I left the room. Flip would be the good guy and stay behind to put them on the right track. I am sure those old-line company execs wondered about negotiating with two kids just 30 and 27 years old.

Earlier I mentioned the color-coded smelly water that was in short supply. Thanks in large part to Flip, the town got a water system for 30,000 people, with only 10,000 people to pay for it. Together we were able to convince Standard & Poor's and Moody's that we had a sound plan for the system. What made our job more difficult at the time is that we were taking this on while New York City was facing bankruptcy.

Flip had to put back together a town, too, that was ravaged by a man on a stolen D9 Cat. The man drove over cars. He particularly didn't like sports cars, and he would go over them and back again. He pushed over power lines. He ripped up sprinkler systems and gas lines. He drove through a bank drive-up and through a schoolyard, and he wound up in an apartment basement after the D9 Cat pushed the building off its foundation. The Governor was in China at the time and sent the article about the incident in Chinese. My college roommate was in Saudi Arabia at the time and sent an article about the D9 Cat in Arabic—those were both a little hard to read.

Madam President, I also mentioned garbage. That is always a huge problem in towns and cities. In Gillette we had a landfill that was about full, and we needed another site. We made our annual visit to the county commissioners to request \$25,000 from the county people for the use of the landfill. The chairman said: Why, with that amount of money, we could run the whole thing. Flip said: We would be willing to pay you \$25,000. They agreed. Flip had the paperwork to them that afternoon and had it signed. It saved the city millions. After that, everywhere Flip went, other towns would ask: Now, how were you able to get the county to take that landfill over? I can tell you, it hasn't happened since.

Even recently, reflecting on the lack of money we saved and the problems we

worked to solve, he said, only partly joking: We can finally tell about all the things that happened since the statutes of limitation have run out. I think Gillette was the test case in court for every new way the State suggested that towns could operate.

After our time together in Gillette, Flip got a job as city manager in Laramie—an actual city manager. You know he did his usual excellent job because his 15 years of serving there set a new record for longevity. He was a leader in other ways, including by serving on the board of the Wyoming Association of Municipalities until he came to Washington. He attended conferences for, spoke to, and was a part of the International City Management Association for the rest of his life. In Washington, his municipal reputation followed him. Any State with a city or town problem referred the administrators to Flip, and he usually could work with them to find a solution. He also counseled city managers, often resolving their situation—although sometimes also helping to find them a more suitable occupation.

Let me tell you how he came to be in Washington. When I was elected Senator, I had over 500 applications to be my chief of staff. Flip had not applied. He was the only one I could picture working with in that role—organized, focused, a superb manager; he knew how I liked to operate, could find good people, was able to successfully juggle multiple crises. So my son Brad and I drove to Laramie. I caught him at the office after everyone else had left, which was normal for Flip.

I said: Flip, I need you to come to Washington and be my chief of staff. He said: I never went to Washington. I don't like Washington. I don't want to go to Washington. I won't go to Washington. So we visited about our families. Then, as Brad and I left to drive home, Brad said: I think you got him. In disbelief I asked: What part of "absolutely no" do you think was yes? But Brad turned out to be right. I got a call the next day from Flip, who said: If that job is still open and I can get a few answers, Shelia and I talked it over, and we might be interested. Well, I got the answers, and he and Shelia came to Washington, and he and I were a team again for the next 20 years.

Flip knew the importance of working with everyone and co-founded the bipartisan chiefs of staff organization here in the Senate. He organized and managed a Senate team that helped pass a record number of bills.

Flip was also the best planning meeting facilitator in the country. He led our staff in an annual planning session to focus everyone on what they would be expected to get done the next year, and then he pushed to get those things done. He insisted that we never call it a planning retreat. He would emphatically slap his hand on the desk and say, like General Patton: We never retreat.

Flip was also competitive. I remember a contest between him and my first legislative director, Katherine McGuire, to see who could take the most spice in their Mongolian barbecue—without beer.

Sometimes Flip traveled with Diana and me on the weekends and the Wyoming work periods. Now, you know, in Wyoming that can include bad weather. One time Flip was driving us in a blizzard that hit us between towns, and it was one of those wet, heavy storms—the kind that clogs up your windshield and you have to stop your car every few miles and clean the wipers off and clean the windows off. We were wondering if we would ever get to Kemmerer. He stopped once, then quickly got back in the car, laughing vigorously. It was very un-Flip. I got out to see what was so funny. We had almost run over the sign that said: “Welcome to Kemmerer.” What a relief.

Flip was always quick to take the blame for any setbacks. That infuriated me, since I usually knew who really set us back. But he always got to the source, and like a good father, he turned the employee error into a teaching moment. Flip was a people person. He was a brother to me, and through the years he provided me with teachable moments too. I can still hear him say: “Mike, that is something you really need to do.” Of course, if it was a really tough assignment to talk me into, he knew to enlist my wife Diana.

Everyone learned to listen closely to Flip’s commonsense instruction. He always downplayed his role. The most prideful thing I ever heard him say was “Not bad for a butcher’s son from Glenrock.”

I mentioned faith, family, and friends. Let me conclude with a few notes from friends, as I ask you, the staff, his friends, to jot down any and all memories that you can think of about Flip and share them with Shelia and the rest of his family. I assure you, that is the best way to fill the hole of the hurt we all feel.

From Leader MCCONNELL’s chief of staff: “He had a great knack for knowing when to encourage, when to kid and when to make you laugh through the stresses we all face.”

From a new leader of the chiefs of staff:

Our beloved friend, colleague and fellow chief, Flip has passed after a long and courageous battle with cancer. We appreciated Flip’s self-deprecating humor, straight talk and professionalism. We were witness to tremendous character, faith and courage as he walked through the blow of cancer. He was a friend and mentor when I was a young chief of staff. I was privileged to be part of a weekly prayer group with him.

From Steve Northrup, who was the health policy director of the HELP Committee:

What Flip went through these last several months would have broken the spirit of a

lesser man. We can take solace knowing he is with God now, with no more pain, only peace. He was a friend and mentor and an inspiration as a public servant. He was a “scary man” when he needed to be, but he was always there when I needed support, advice, or [to give you] a kick in the pants.

So you can see that Flip had friends everywhere he went and even ones whom he didn’t know because he served and he listened. Many people have mentioned that he actually heard what they said.

Flip, we know you have been welcomed into your Heavenly home and the Lord has told you: Well done, my good and faithful servant.

Flip, I thank you for calling me in your last hours to say goodbye. We miss you, Flip.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Staff of Senator Enzi]

REMEMBERING GEORGE “FLIP”
MC CONNAUGHEY

September 21st was a day that my fellow Enzi staffers and I will never forget. It was on that day we learned that George McConnaughey, or Flip, as we all knew him, had lost a valiant battle he had waged against cancer for the past year. His loss has made these past few days a time of reflection and remembrance for us all about Flip and his life.

If we could turn back the hands of time and take a trip to Casper, Wyoming on September 10, 1947, we would arrive just in time to witness Flip’s birth and see the pride on the faces of his parents, George and Phyllis.

Although I never had a chance to meet or get to know his parents, his Dad was a part of our everyday life. Over the years, George had collected quite a collection of sayings and colorful phrases and Flip had acquired them and kept them close to his heart. Whenever a time came that brought one of those reflections to mind he would share them with us. “My Dad used to say,” became a phrase we would not only hear quite often, but look forward to, as well.

Now that Flip has been taken from us all too soon, it means even more to me and to all our staff that our boss has shared so much with us about his life and their history together. It really is a remarkable story.

When Flip was still in college he met the person who was to completely change his life and get him pointed in the right direction from that day to the end of his life. Her name was Shelia and I don’t think we have ever met anyone quite like her. Flip took a great deal of pride in her and her willingness to go along with him on a number of adventures.

That was important because, after graduation, Flip found his calling when he took on the responsibilities of Administrative Assistant and Assistant City Manager in Casper. The job of a City Manager isn’t easy. It’s his responsibility to make sure the resources of the town are used wisely in the present to take care of current needs, and a reserve is put aside to take care of future demands.

While Flip was taking those first steps as a local official, Mike Enzi and his wife Diana were busy running NZ Shoes. A set of interesting circumstances would soon bring them together. It all began with Mike’s decision to run for Mayor and his subsequent election.

Mike knew that winning the election would turn out to be the easy part of the job. He now had an agenda of challenge and change before him and he needed someone with the experience and the knowledge that could help him make Gillette a better place to live. That someone was Flip McConnaughey.

As the story goes, when Flip was offered the job, he was less than enthusiastic. He had achieved a reputation for his skills and knowledge already and he had a good future in Casper. All he had to do was to keep doing what he was already doing.

It was either Mike’s way with words or Shelia McConnaughey’s willingness to take on an adventure, or a combination of both, but soon Flip and Shelia were heading to Gillette to take on the job of bringing that town from a small town to a city of 30,000 plus.

In many ways, Gillette was fortunate. They had the jobs and they had the people. What they needed to do was to ensure they had the infrastructure in place so that people would have good homes in which they could raise their families. A survey showed them that they needed a lot of things—roads, sidewalks, schools and so much more. They couldn’t get any of that done, however, without a short term plan and long term goals.

Flip was now to be the first City Administrator in Wyoming. He had a vision for what could be done and how to accomplish it that proved to be invaluable. The boom he helped guide the city through lasted seven years. Thanks to Flip, not only were they able to get those first projects done, they set off on a more long term plan to provide city services of every kind, especially water, and oh, yes—garbage collection—to 30,000 people while upgrading the whole city-owned electrical system.

Somehow it was all done. Then, when Mike headed to the State Legislature to continue to serve the people of the community of Gillette, Flip went to Laramie where he became the longest serving City Manager.

While Mike was serving in the State Legislature, Al Simpson announced his retirement from the Senate. After some thought, Mike decided to take on what some thought would be a very difficult campaign with no promise of success.

Once again, he took on the challenge with his family. Once again, somehow he got the job done.

He probably knew—once again—that winning the election would be the easy part. What he needed now was someone who could once again help him put together a team that would face a very different challenge—running a Senate office.

That was the perfect job for Flip. At least Wyoming’s newest Senator thought so. It turned out that Mike would be number 100 on a roster of 100. The beginning of his service in the Senate wouldn’t be easy, but if he could convince Flip to work with him as his Chief of Staff it still might work.

Flip was less than enthusiastic. Actually, I’m told that Flip said something to Senator Enzi like—absolutely not! He was flattered to be asked, but he and Shelia had established a routine in their lives and they were enjoying life in Laramie. I think Flip would have considered it but he didn’t want to completely disrupt their lives in Wyoming. He knew Shelia loved Wyoming and probably wouldn’t want to leave.

I will always believe that at this point Flip must have sat down at the kitchen table for a cup of coffee and some serious conversation with Shelia. I also think Shelia expressed

her willingness to do whatever she could to make the whole thing work.

Soon, Flip was in Washington spending part of his time setting up our Senate office and the other part looking for a new home for the McConnaughey's—Flip and Shelia.

It seems like yesterday when they arrived in Washington, but it was years ago—just about 20 years in fact. That's when I and our Washington staff met Flip. For each of us there was a moment as we got to know Flip in which we understood why Mike knew there was no more valuable part of his Senate team than Flip.

Flip had an amazing ability to understand people and to help them grow professionally and personally. He was a mentor in every sense of the word. All of us felt very fortunate to have had the chance to know him and to work with him.

Over the years we would often continue to hear stories about Flip's father and a saying or two he or his Dad had collected would shortly make their appearance. One of his favorites was "if you like what you do, you never have to work a day in your life."

That is a good description of Flip and the way he lived his life. Flip accepted every moment with the same determination and focus and none of us ever heard him complain—about work, life and just about everything else that came his way.

One of his great contributions to the office was his commitment to annual planning meetings. Each year he would lead us—Washington and Wyoming staffs—on a nearby adventure where we would settle in to a local hotel or meeting place—where we would come up with a plan for the coming year that would build on the previous year's successes.

Our first session produced our Mission Statement. Those words would stay with us from that day on as we proudly displayed its message on the walls of our offices. Here is the text as we worked on it together—

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

We have been given a sacred trust to work for our families, grandparents and grandchildren. We will respect the wisdom of those before and the future of those to follow. We will discharge this trust through our legislative policy, our constituent services and the way we treat each other, guided by these three principles:

Doing What Is Right.

Doing Our Best.

Treating Others as They Wish to be Treated.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In all that we do our purpose will be to allow the family to be strengthened by keeping more of what they earn, assuring jobs and their future with sound financial policies; restoring common sense to law and regulation; and, to promote decision-making at the level closest to the people—our communities, counties, school districts and most importantly our homes.

I know we missed a year here and there, but for the most part we found time to get away for a strategy session every year.

One thing I will always remember is how much he hated to hear us say we needed to "communicate" better. No, he would say, that is a what—tell me how you're going to do it and more importantly tell me the standards we'll use to grade our success and see if we're making progress.

Then came that awful day. I can't even put into words how we felt on that day when we learned that Flip had received a diagnosis of cancer. We all thought it was unfair, but

Flip was too focused on continuing to live his life day by day with all the strength, determination and enthusiasm he could muster.

We went on one of those planning meetings earlier this year. It was to be our last with Flip in charge. We were surprised we went on the annual adventure, given Flip's health issues, but Flip would hear nothing of a change in schedule. Having that part of our routine still there for us meant a lot to us, but it meant a lot to Flip, too. It energized him and gave him a sense of routine that helped to bring him a moment of calm in what had been a very difficult and complex time in his life.

Over the past months, day by day we watched as Flip battled cancer with the strength and determination of a warrior. Now we can see much more clearly what that battle was like, but once again, he never complained or felt he was being treated unfairly by life—or by God. He knew his future was in God's hands—but his present—the day to day of his life—was his to live—each day—as it was given to him.

Now he has gone home to be with his Lord and Savior, and I'm sure heaven is glad to have him. As the old adage reminds us, God must have needed someone with his skills and abilities to take him from us—well before any of us were ready to say goodbye. Moving on, we will always remember Flip for the way he taught us how to do our jobs—better—how to get along with friends, family and fellow staffers—better—and how to live our lives fully focused on what we can do today to make our tomorrows better and brighter.

In the years to come, that will be Flip's legacy. There will be so many things that will bring him to mind. There is that chicken dish at the carryout he always enjoyed. The park where he would stroll around to give some problem or issue some quiet reflection. His love of his family and especially his grandchildren.

I know I speak for all our staff when I offer our heartfelt sympathy to Shelia and to all who knew and loved that remarkable guy. He was a good friend, a helpful and supportive coworker and a loving husband, father and grandfather. Flip had one dream his whole life—making the world a better place—and in more ways than we will ever know—he succeeded.

Well, maybe he had one more dream. There wasn't anything in his life he enjoyed more than going on an adventure with his beloved Shelia. Together they may have grown older, but they never grew up. They loved baseball games, shopping trips, exploring new restaurants and eateries and so much more. In my heart I would like to believe that Flip is sitting in Nationals Park—in the good seats—and waiting patiently for Shelia to join him.

God bless you, Flip. We couldn't be more proud of all you accomplished in your life and all you made possible for us to accomplish in our own lives. We will never forget you.

Mr. ENZI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, the Republicans are threatening to shut down the government again. In less than 100 hours, the U.S. Government will run out of money. Why? What is so important that Republicans are willing to destroy thousands of jobs and cost our economy billions of dollars the way they did in 2013? The answer is money. Not tax money. Not government spending. No. This is all about secret money for political campaigns. Republicans who control Congress are refusing to fund the government unless everyone agrees to let giant, publicly traded companies that spend millions of dollars trying to influence our elections keep all that money hidden.

In just 6 years, the world has turned upside down. Since 2010 when the Supreme Court said in *Citizens United* that American corporations are "people," those corporations have been allowed to spend as much corporate money as they want to get their friends elected. And, boy, have they spent money—more than half a billion dollars from 2010 to 2015. Today a powerful group of millionaires and billionaires runs around tossing out checks for millions of dollars to influence who wins and who loses elections. Anyone whose eyes haven't been glued shut can see that these waves of money are drowning out ordinary citizens, corrupting our politics, and corrupting our government.

We need to reverse *Citizens United* and take back our government. We need to reaffirm the basic principle that corporations are not people. But that is going to be a long haul. The first thing we can do—the least we can do, the thing we can do right now—is make sure publicly traded corporations at least tell us when they spend money on political campaigns.

Let's be brutally frank about this. Despite the impression that they usually give on television and in congressional hearings, public companies do not belong to their executives. They are not piggybanks for rich CEOs who want to advance their own personal political ideologies. By law, these companies can spend money only in ways that will benefit their shareholders. So when a public corporation decides to spend \$1 million on politics, one of two things is true: Either the corporation is trying to buy a politician or some government favor or it isn't. If it is, then that is corruption, plain and simple, and if it isn't, that is a waste of shareholder money, and it is illegal. Either way, shareholders and the public have a right to know.

The next time you buy cookies or shop on a Web site or use a credit card, you may be contributing to the profits of a corporation that is funneling millions of dollars to political candidates you detest. You may be helping some corporation buy a Senator who will help roll back environmental regulations or privatize Social Security or

block a woman's access to birth control. That may be OK with you, but if it isn't, you might want to know about it and buy different cookies. The Republicans don't want you to know. They are saying they will shut down this government before they will let the SEC make corporations tell about the secret money they are pushing into political campaigns.

The American people want to know if giant corporations are buying politicians, and the SEC can make those corporations tell. More than 1 million people and organizations have written to the SEC, asking it to issue such a rule. This massive show of support has spooked Republicans. After all, there is an election in 6 weeks. At this very moment, billions of dollars in secret money are flowing into our political system—much of it to prop up Donald Trump and his Republican friends in Congress. Just turn on your TV and you will see it.

Senator MITCH MCCONNELL and the rest of the Senate Republicans have billions of reasons for keeping this funding secret and billions of reasons to defend this rotten system. They are willing to shut down the government to do it.

If Republicans think they can quietly hold the government hostage to protect the anonymous corporate donors who want to buy off politicians, if they think nobody else will notice, they should think again. If the Republicans really think the American people sent us here to protect political corruption, then let's get it right out here in the open and let the American people see who is standing up for them and who isn't.

There is a second threat the Republicans have issued. They will not help Flint, MI. The people of Flint, MI, have been poisoned by lead seeping into their drinking water; poisoned by a rightwing State government that decided to play fast and loose with the health and safety of a largely African-American town; poisoned by a fraudulent coverup that hid what happened while lead built up in the bodies of thousands of young children and caused terrible developmental problems and chronic health issues that will last for the rest of their lives; poisoned by a philosophy that says: Let's give tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations and then shrug it off when there is no money left to build infrastructure for clean water or provide education or opportunity for anyone else; poisoned by a Republican philosophy that says: No one matters but me and my children. Your children can drink lead; poisoned by the callous indifference of the Republicans who control the United States Congress.

It has been over a year since Flint's water was declared undrinkable. It has been 9 months since it was designated a Federal disaster eligible for our help.

During that time, 100,000 residents of Flint—mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, children and babies—haven't had access to drinking water because of a Republican-State government that didn't care about the people living in Flint and a Republican Congress that didn't care either.

Michigan's two Senators, DEBBIE STABENOW and GARY PETERS, have spent nearly a year trying to work out some kind of solution—any kind of solution—that the Republicans who control Congress would agree to. They even got a fully paid for emergency relief package to move through the Senate with 95 votes—95 votes in the Senate—only to watch in horror as Republicans in the House are trying to tank it.

Recently, major floods hit Louisiana. Like Flint, Louisiana received a Federal disaster declaration to make the thousands of people who have lost their homes eligible for our help. Congressional Republicans, urged on by the two Republican Senators from Louisiana, have decided to give Louisiana the support it needs to recover from this disaster as part of the government funding bill, and that is great. The Republicans who control Congress said: There will be nothing for Flint. This is raw politics. Two Republicans represent Louisiana and two Democrats represent Michigan. Congress is controlled by Republicans so Louisiana gets immediate help, but after a year of waiting, Michigan gets told to pound sand.

Is this what we have come to? Is this what politics has become? There are 100,000 people in Flint, a town where more than half the residents are African-American and nearly half live in poverty. They get nothing because voters sent two Democrats to the Senate?

This is not a game. Flint is not a Democratic city or a Republican city; it is an American city. The children who have been poisoned are American children. The principle of standing up for those in need is an American principle.

I am a Democratic Senator from Massachusetts, but I will help the Republican Senators from Louisiana. I stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their hour of need, but I am sick and tired—I am past sick and tired—of Republican Senators who come here and demand Federal funding when their communities are hit by a crisis but block help when other States need it. Their philosophy screams, "I want mine, but the rest of you are on your own." It is ugly, un-American, and just plain wrong.

We must stand with the Senators from Michigan. We must stand with the children of Flint, and we must put aside ugly partisanship that is literally poisoning a town full of American families. Any Member of the House or Senate who doesn't stand with them lacks

the moral courage to serve in this Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SURVIVORS' BILL OF RIGHTS BILL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about an overwhelmingly bipartisan piece of legislation. I had hoped to be on the floor today to celebrate the passage of the Survivors' Bill of Rights; however, as is the case far too often here in Washington, political gamesmanship is taking precedence over sound policy.

The Democratic leadership is holding up this bill for purely political reasons. The Democratic leadership is delaying passage of this noncontroversial bill despite the fact that it enjoys broad bipartisan support. They are holding up this bill despite the fact that it is critical to help victims of sexual violence. They are holding up this bill despite the fact that the same language passed the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously. They are holding up this bill despite the fact that it passed the Senate 89 to 0 and the House of Representatives 399 to 0.

The Survivors' Bill of Rights has been championed by a courageous rape survivor named Amanda Nguyen. Amanda is the founder and president of an organization that goes by the acronym RISE, a group that worked closely with me on the development of this survivors' rights package to establish new rights for survivors of sexual assault.

Amanda was the victim of sexual assault as a college student. Her struggle with the criminal justice system in the aftermath of this event transformed her into a tireless young advocate for survivors of sexual violence. Sexual violence, as you know, impacts millions of American women and men in our country every year. Victims of such crimes should not face an uphill battle in their pursuit of justice, as Ms. Nguyen did, and that is why I included this language in the Adam Walsh Reauthorization Act. That bill, which makes grants available to help States track convicted sex offenders, unanimously passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and the full Senate just a few months ago.

I am very proud to have shepherded this bill through the Judiciary Committee. It is a commonsense piece of legislation. For months, I urged the House Judiciary Committee to pass this very bill. Thankfully, that committee and the full House passed this bill just a few weeks ago. Now the Senate must act, of course, so we can send it to the President. Unfortunately, the Democratic leadership has chosen partisan politics over helping victims of sexual violence.

Since the House passed this legislation, Amanda has been checking in with my office nearly daily on the status of when the Senate will pass this

bill. While Republicans are poised to move forward on this bill, Democratic leadership has continued to stall Ms. Nguyen's efforts.

Among other things, this bill ensures that each and every survivor of sexual assault should have equal access to all available tools in their pursuit of justice. This includes proper collection and preservation of forensic evidence. The Survivors' Bill of Rights also secures a package of new rights for sexual assault survivors. Amanda Nguyen has been working with both political parties to help fellow survivors.

It has been an honor to work alongside Ms. Nguyen on this critical piece of legislation. I will fight for Amanda and every survivor of sexual assault until this bill passes.

I call on the Democratic leadership to stop delaying this bill immediately. We have an important bipartisan opportunity to improve the criminal justice system for survivors of sexual assault.

Today I ask the Democratic leadership to simply put the victims of sexual violence on the highest of priorities. Put these courageous individuals above partisan politics. We have done this before, and we should do it again, particularly in this environment of today's speeches from the other side of the aisle, decrying the fact that there might be too much partisanship in this body. This is a chance to demonstrate not only bipartisanship but also unanimity in the U.S. Senate that has already been demonstrated on this piece of legislation and get it to the President so we can help these courageous people who are fighting to help victims of sexual assault.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today, like many of my colleagues, to express frustration and outrage that we are once again considering leaving town without helping the people of Flint, MI, and people in other communities afflicted by lead poisoning across our Nation. It is the height of irresponsibility, and we are neglecting our duty as representatives of the American people.

It has now been over a year since doctors first reported that the high levels of lead in children's blood was caused by Flint's water supply. It has been 9 months since health officials reported that an increase in the cases of Legionnaires' disease was connected to the city of Flint after it changed its source of water, but still, the 100,000 residents of Flint are unable to drink the city's water, so they are still tied to bottled water.

Up to 12,000 children living in Flint now have to live with the specter of what their future might be after being exposed to lead in their water, and we know what lead does to developing

brain cells. It leads to lower IQ scores, poor performance in school, inattention and impulsive behavior, as well as aggression and hyperactivity. It severely damages the prospects of the children it has poisoned.

This is a tragic story that has outraged our Nation. Yet here we are after more than a year, and we still have not taken action.

What have we done in this last year to help the families of Flint? While we have heard speech after speech in this Chamber, we have held hearings in which my colleagues have questioned Michigan officials about what happened and what needs to be done. There have been press conferences, there have been op-eds, there have been media interviews discussing the need to take action, but here we are without taking any action and without a bill on the President's desk.

Some here may say: Well, we passed the Water Resources Development Act, which did include money to assist the citizens of Flint, but we all know that the House hasn't passed their WRDA legislation. We all know that if they did pass their bill today, it doesn't have support for the citizens of Flint. We all know that a conference committee is far into the future since the House hasn't acted; therefore, a solution is not nearby. The prospect of a water development bill to aid the people of Flint by getting it to the President's desk is simply a hope, but it is a hope that is far away.

We have a better vehicle right here, right now, and that is the continuing resolution, which will make sure that the people of Flint get the help they need. It is the bird in the hand, not the bird in the bush. However, at this moment the continuing resolution before us does not contain a single cent for Flint or other communities affected by lead poisoning. It does contain millions of dollars for the people in Louisiana hurt by the terrible flooding that hit the State, and it is certainly the right thing to do to assist the citizens in Louisiana.

Thousands of families lost their homes, their belongings, and everything they owned. There were 60,000 homes damaged by the flood. The Coast Guard, National Guard, and local first responders rescued more than 30,000 residents, and in the immediate aftermath, more than 7,000 were living in shelters.

What happened in Louisiana is a major natural disaster. It was the largest to hit our Nation since the devastation brought on by Hurricane Sandy. We need to act, but we also need to act on Flint and other cities affected by lead poisoning. Louisiana needs our help, and Flint needs our help.

When disaster strikes, we should not weigh our response by whether a community's representatives here in Congress are Democrats or Republicans.

Disaster knows no party. When disaster strikes, we should not pay more attention to helping the rich and influential than assisting the poor. When disaster strikes, geography should not determine one's worthiness to receive assistance. When disaster strikes, race should play no part in our response, but when it comes to the failure to act on Flint, I believe that we in this Chamber should reflect on the role race has played.

Does anyone here think that it would take more than a year for Congress to act if this disaster in Flint had befallen a wealthy White suburb of Dallas or Orlando or Chicago or L.A., or if it were the upper middle-class White kids of lawyers and doctors and corporate executives who had been poisoned by lead? Does anyone here believe that we would have sat and done nothing?

But with Flint, which is a poor African-American community, we have done nothing. Our Nation was founded on a legacy of slavery and racism, but we were also founded on a vision of equality and opportunity, and we have moved step-by-step to put the legacy of discrimination behind us and to embrace the vision of equality and opportunity for all. We still have a long road ahead of us to achieve that vision in its entirety.

We have often been too slow to respond to the pain, the suffering, and the loss of life in our minority communities. That is why the phrase "Black Lives Matter" resonates powerfully. It is not OK to profile Americans based on race. It is not OK to target one community with stop-and-frisk tactics. It is not OK to treat one race as a client and another as a problem. Black lives matter, and it is time we acted like that here in the Senate.

Let's start by responding quickly from this point forward on this crisis in Flint. Let's respond with the same urgency as the crisis in Louisiana. The flooding in Louisiana wreaked havoc on Louisiana families, but we all know that the poisoned water in Flint, MI, wreaked havoc on the families there. If you go to Flint today, you see pallet after pallet filled with water, and it is scattered all over the city, necessary for drinking, cooking, washing dishes, and brushing teeth. They use it because they don't have another choice.

Yes, the people of Louisiana have suffered a great loss, and I want to help them rebuild. But we know the people of Flint have suffered a great loss, and I want to help the people of Flint—not at some vague point after the election, not at some uncertain future date. They need action now. The people of Louisiana need action now, and the people of Flint need action now. Well, actually, they needed action a year ago.

We cannot choose between helping these two American communities. Both are suffering, both are in need, and

both deserve our attention. We cannot play election-year politics with people's lives hanging in the balance. We must provide in this continuing resolution—the opportunity we have before us at this very moment—aid to help the citizens of both tragedies.

I hope that our leadership from the right of the aisle and our leadership on the left of the aisle come together to negotiate a compromise that treats the people of Louisiana and the people of Flint equally. If it doesn't, I will be voting against this continuing resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about one of the most important responsibilities we have, which is the responsibility to help every community in a time of crisis.

When Sandy struck back in my home State of New Jersey, more than 100 people lost their lives, 8.5 million people lost power, and more than 650,000 homes were damaged and 40,000 more were severely damaged or destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of businesses were forced to close, with a \$65 billion pricetag in economic loss in 13 States up and down the east coast. Unfortunately, emergency relief languished for weeks as some of my colleagues on the other side actually debated the value of helping others.

The junior Senator from Louisiana wouldn't vote for Sandy funding because it wasn't paid for, but now it seems he has found Jesus and seeks funding for flooding in Louisiana—and I would say rightfully so. The fact is that we can't have a disaster policy that says blue States have to pay for disasters, purple States have to partially pay, and no pay is needed for red States. We shouldn't be playing politics with disaster funding. When we do, real people suffer.

When it came to Sandy, a party that never had a second thought about giving billions of dollars in subsidies to Big Oil and never saw a tax break for millionaires they didn't like didn't step up to help families recover from one of the most devastating and ferocious coastal storms in history.

The decision to turn the responsibility of government into a political calculation is not how this Nation responds to disasters. But, unfortunately, the unthinkable is becoming all too common. We saw it this summer in a fight over providing Zika funding, which should have been a no-brainer. Alarm bells had been ringing for months, but instead of being proactive in preparing an adequate and appropriate response, Republicans chose to poison our efforts with rightwing ideological policy riders that prevented us

from appropriately addressing these issues. So thanks to the majority, we did nothing while 20,000 Americans in Puerto Rico contracted the virus. We did nothing while the virus spread to the mainland, forcing the CDC to take the virtually unprecedented step of issuing a travel advisory in the continental United States—not some third world country but one of our Nation's largest and most vibrant cities, Miami. Yet, even after all of this, once again we did nothing. Why? Once again three words come to mind as they have for the last 8 years, which is Republican political obstructionism.

Now my friends on the other side seem to have moved past their state of suspended political animation and dropped their rigid ideological opposition to the Zika funding. But there are still serious issues that have a major impact on children's health that we have not acted on—namely, the lead crisis confronting not only those in Flint but those in our schools in New Jersey.

It took 3 full months for the victims of Sandy to get relief. It has taken months for this Congress to act against a clear threat of Zika. Here we are, 1 year after we learned about Flint, and yet the Republicans in Congress have done what they do best, which is absolutely nothing.

I have even heard the lame counterargument: "Well, Flint was a man-made disaster, not a natural disaster—so we don't have an obligation to help—others." Seriously? We don't have an obligation as a nation to help others? I reject that argument.

The Federal Government always has an obligation to help a community facing a crisis, whether leading the initial response to the BP oil spill, responding to wildfires, superstorms, tornadoes, floods, or manmade disasters such as the failure of the levies in Hurricane Katrina. We were there as a nation. The question should not be manmade versus natural disaster. It should be the relief of human suffering in any event.

Last week, one of my colleagues dismissed the crisis in Flint as "other people's grief." Other people's grief? That is a pretty stunning statement, shocking in its blatant disregard in our fundamental mission to protect every American.

In this Chamber there is no "other people's grief." We are all Americans—one Nation, one community, indivisible—and in the community there is no room to brush off the crisis as "other people's problems." In the case of Flint, the other people are 100,000 fellow Americans, the majority of whom are African Americans. Forty percent live in poverty, and 1 in 10 are unemployed. The so-called other people are children facing a lifetime of challenges, poisoned by a substance that we have known is toxic for decades. The other

people are parents whose hearts are heavy with the thought that one of life's most basic needs—clean water to drink—is being denied to their children. The other people are community advocates who have spent the last year knocking on tens of thousands of doors trying to get the latest information to their neighbors about the ongoing health crisis. The other people were those whose health has been threatened by a local government that was more concerned about saving a buck than protecting their residents' lives. Now the Federal Government is failing them as well, by a callous dismissal that these are other people's problems—not ours, as Americans, but theirs—and they are on their own.

That is not the America I know. The America I know is one that stands together in times of crisis. We saw it in the aftermath of a disaster, whether it was first responders running into the burning towers on the morning of September 11, whether it was neighbors offering a place to sleep and a home-cooked meal to those whose homes were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina, whether it was hundreds of people who lined up to donate blood in the Orlando shooting. In a time of crisis, Americans stand together. We don't dismiss cries of help as the problems of others.

We heard talk of the urgency of providing aid to the people of Louisiana in the wake of the flooding, and I agree. But we cannot let the people of Flint be an afterthought. Now, some say the majority leader is thinking about removing the disaster aid that will help Louisiana just to prove a political point. Think about it. He would hang out communities to dry because some in his party don't want to look out for Flint. If the majority leader decides to withhold disaster assistance to both Flint and Louisiana, that would be a cynical stunt that would hurt real people and, frankly, we are better than that.

We cannot turn what should be a question of the basic health and safety of our citizens into a political calculation. But, unfortunately, the Republican continuing resolution doesn't see it that way. It focuses on corporate giveaways at the expense of families, businesses, and communities trying to recover from a disaster. While our colleagues are fighting over which communities are more worthy of disaster relief—a calculation I do not understand—they are also shamelessly pushing policy riders that favor corporations over investors, constituents, and the American public at large. They pat themselves on the back for funding to address flooding in Louisiana while quietly working behind closed doors to shield the pathways of dark money in politics.

Let me take a moment to tell our constituents what they won't see in their Republican Senators' press releases. They won't see any mention of

a policy rider intended to block the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring companies to disclose their political spending.

Here is why that is so important. The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United* fundamentally changed our Nation's campaign finance laws by opening the floodgates for unlimited and unchecked corporate spending on campaign ads, Federal and State law advocacy efforts, and many other methods of political communication.

In the 2012 elections, outside groups spent more than \$1 billion, with much of it funneled through trade associations and nonprofits with minimal disclosure. In the 2016 cycle, which I don't need to remind my colleagues is far from over, outside groups have already spent \$790 million. For 6 long years companies have had free rein to solidify their influence in politics and maximize their impact on elections. With no corresponding requirement to disclose how this money is being spent, there is simply no way to know if corporations are spending more money to defund Social Security or Medicare, dismantle environmental protections, undermine education programs, or eviscerate Wall Street reform, including taking down the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Think about that.

The Republican Party is trying to make it harder for the American people to know how much money is being poured into the efforts that hurt consumers. In the past weeks alone, Wells Fargo perpetuated a huge scam on their customers, costing account holders millions of dollars and creating over 2 million fraudulent accounts. It was the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that was instrumental in uncovering the scam and levying the largest fine in history.

So here we are just 2 weeks later sticking in riders to hide dark money from shareholders. That is exactly the type of dark money that attacks the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and the American people deserve to know who is funding those attacks.

The significance of this should not be understated. Ultimately, this is about silencing the voice of hard-working American families in favor of amplifying the speech and magnifying the influence of corporations. Unfortunately, it is all too emblematic of my Republican colleagues' approach to lawmaking. When corporations ask Republicans to jump, they say: How high? When big banks ask Republicans to roll back critical Wall Street reforms, they say: How far? When the oil industry asks Republicans for a tax subsidy, they say: How much? It is shameful. Clearly, my Republican colleagues are defiantly turning their backs on consumers.

We cannot continue down this obstructionist path paved with the shattered remains of our long-held willing-

ness to help each other in times of crisis. If we continue down this path when Republicans are in charge, no assistance would be provided if the east coast suffered another superstorm because those are blue States. It would mean that a slow-moving infrastructure crisis in an inner city would be ignored as "other people's grief." It would mean that when Democrats are in charge, no relief would be provided for tornadoes in Oklahoma or floods in Kentucky because those are red States. That is not what we Democrats would do, and it is not, at the end of the day, the way to govern. We need to stop dividing our country into us versus them when it comes to fundamental human needs.

In this election season, let's remember that, above all, we are all Americans with common votes and shared values. Let's focus on doing right by the American people, rather than telling them we can solve all of our problems if we just turn the clock back to a better time and blame someone else—those people, the others—for our problems. That is not good politics, it is not good government, and it is not who we are as a nation or as a people.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I voted to move forward with a continuing resolution because I believe it is a fundamental responsibility of Congress to keep the government open. I am deeply frustrated, however, that, among the policies included in the amendment, the authors have failed to provide funding to address the Flint lead crisis or to allow the Export-Import Bank to operate at full capacity. As this body continues to work to develop a plan to keep the government operating, I strongly encourage both the majority leader and my colleagues to address these commonsense priorities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NATIONAL RICE MONTH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, famously known as the Natural State, my home State of Arkansas holds the proud distinction as the Nation's leader in rice production.

Last year, Arkansas produced more than 50 percent of the total rice grown in the country. On average, farmers in Arkansas grow rice on 1.5 million acres each year. Ninety-six percent of those farms are family owned and operated. As the No. 1 producer of this crop, Arkansas has a unique role in the industry. That is why I am proud to recognize the 26th anniversary of National Rice Month.

I am pleased to promote policies that enable our farmers to manage risk and ensure that high-quality U.S. rice remains a staple on tables across the globe.

This industry is not only contributing to a nutritious and balanced diet,

it is also an economic engine in rural America. Nationwide, the rice industry accounts for 125,000 jobs and contributes more than \$34 billion to the U.S. economy. In Arkansas, rice contributes more than \$1.8 billion to our State's economy and provides thousands of jobs. We can increase both of these numbers even more if we open additional markets for our rice producers to compete in.

Rice farmers all across America would benefit from a changing policy with Cuba because rice is a staple of the Cuban diet. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that U.S. rice exports could increase by \$365 million per year if financing and travel restrictions were lifted. Arkansas' agricultural secretary has said that the economic impact on the State's rice industry could be about \$30 million.

Rice production is efficient. More rice is being produced on less land, using less water and energy than 20 years ago. As great stewards of the land, rice farmers are committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources. I am proud to celebrate 26 years of National Rice Month and honor the more than 100,000 Americans involved in the rice industry.

Additionally, I wish to make a comment about the devastating floods that northeastern Arkansas experienced in August. The recent floods caused serious damage to crop production, including rice. Many of these crops were near harvest stage.

The University of Arkansas estimates that the State suffered \$50 million in crop losses due to the recent flooding. This damage has largely flown under the radar, and the final damages may be more than this preliminary estimate. The Governor of Arkansas has requested disaster assistance from the USDA, and last week the Arkansas congressional delegation wrote a letter in support of the Governor's request. Secretary Vilsack committed to me that he would expedite this request as quickly as possible, and I encourage him to do so.

Agriculture accounts for nearly one-quarter of Arkansas' economic activity. One out of every six jobs in Arkansas is tied to agriculture. Rice production is a vital part of agriculture's contribution to Arkansas' economy. I am committed to helping our rice producers succeed in today's global economy.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECENT EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to bring the Senate's attention to the Ethiopian Government's brutal crack-down on protestors over the past 9 months. According to Human Rights Watch, more than 500 people have been killed by Ethiopian security forces in antigovernment demonstrations since November 2015, including over 100 gunned down in early August of this year alone.

These protests by the country's two largest ethnic groups, the Oromos and Amharas, reflect enduring tensions brought on by the Ethiopian Government's longstanding marginalization and persecution of these communities. But such grievances are shared by even broader segments of Ethiopian society, including from other communities that have been forcibly evicted from their land in the name of development and the journalists, civil society activists, and countless other political prisoners sitting in Ethiopian jails for speaking out against the government's repressive rule.

The international community, including the United States, has paid too little attention to the Ethiopian Government's repressive policies, focusing instead on the country's rapid development gains and the government's cooperation on regional security. But it is time for the Ethiopian Government to acknowledge that grievances stemming from marginalization, abuse, and exclusive governance cannot be effectively addressed through the provision of basic services alone.

The United States should set an example by redefining its relationship with Ethiopia, starting with the recognition of this reality. In too many developing countries, legitimate concerns about unaccountable governance are given short shrift as aspirational and inconvenient tradeoffs for positive relations with host governments. But the quiet diplomacy of the past—back-room condemnation and public praise—has proven unable to ensure the sustainability of U.S. investments by failing to protect and promote stability, let alone encourage meaningful reform by the Ethiopian Government.

It is precisely because Ethiopia is a strategic partner of the U.S. that we should encourage remedies to the underlying tensions in the country. That does not mean we walk away from our partnership, but we should examine the type of assistance we provide to the Ethiopian Government to ensure it aligns with shared interests and activities that contribute to government capacity in a manner that addresses local concerns.

This is not without its challenges, and the only government that has the ability to successfully reform Ethiopia is its own. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and the rest of the Ethiopian leadership should begin

by reassessing its crowd control tactics and ensuring accountability for those who have committed abuses. I support the call by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights for an independent, transparent, thorough, and effective investigation into violations of human rights committed during the unrest, and if the Ethiopian Government is interested in demonstrating its legitimacy, it would welcome such an inquiry.

I look forward to working with other Members of Congress, the Obama administration, and their successors to determine how best we can ensure that the assistance U.S. taxpayers provide to Ethiopia serves our long-term interests in the region.

IMPRISONMENT OF AYA HIJAZI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to speak about a matter in Egypt, a longtime ally of the United States, a country with a rich history and culture, but whose people have suffered for years due to corrupt, repressive governments and an anemic economy that stagnates under excessive statist control. This is the situation despite more than \$75 billion in U.S. economic and military aid for Egypt over the past 50 years.

Today, more than 5 years after public protests led to the resignation of President Mubarak, followed by the election of the Muslim Brotherhood, the military-supported coup that forcibly removed and imprisoned President Morsi and thousands of his followers, and the election that brought President al-Sisi, a former army general, to power, the United States and Egypt are struggling to preserve a long history of security cooperation.

That cooperation is important to the Middle East region as a whole, but U.S.-Egypt relations face increasing challenges as President al-Sisi tightens his grip on power by persecuting political opponents, silencing members of the media, including deporting American and other foreign journalists who criticize his policies and imprisoning representatives of civil society.

The brutal torture and killing of Giulio Regeni, an Italian student and journalist who many believe was an innocent victim of the Egyptian police, occurred only 4 months after the Egyptian army attacked a convoy of tourists in September 2015, killing 12 and injuring 10, including an American who continues to suffer from her injuries for which she has received no compensation.

Just last week, a court in Cairo froze the assets of some of Egypt's most prominent human rights defenders in an attempt to silence them and put their organizations out of business. The State Department responded by urging the Egyptian Government to ease restrictions on association and expression.

These and other incidents have cast a dark cloud over efforts to find a common way forward with the al-Sisi government.

In May 2015, after repeated appeals by me, Secretary of State Kerry, and others, the Egyptian Government finally released Mohammed Soltan, a young Egyptian-American who was imprisoned, along with his father, for nearly 2 years. His crime, if one can call it that, was taking part in a public protest. In return for his release, he was forced to give up his Egyptian citizenship, a Hobson's choice that no citizen of any country should have to make.

In the meantime, on May 1, 2014, the government arrested Aya Hijazi, 29 years old and also an Egyptian-American, whose husband, an Egyptian citizen, was also arrested, along with Sherif Talaat Mohammed, Amira Farag, and eventually Ibrahim Abd Rabbo, Karim Magdi, and Mohammed al-Sayyed Mohammed, for operating a nonprofit organization called the Belady Foundation, which is dedicated to helping abandoned and homeless children.

Backing up for a moment, Aya's mother and father came to the United States to pursue master's degrees and because Aya's grandmother, who lived in Virginia, wanted her family nearby. Three of Aya's uncles, an aunt, and their families live in Houston and are all American citizens. Aya grew up here, went to middle school and high school in Virginia, and graduated from George Mason University. At George Mason, she was a volunteer for Search for Common Ground, a respected peacebuilding organization based in Washington.

After graduating, Aya moved to Cairo where she met Mohammed Hassanein, whom she married, and who, like Aya, wanted to be involved in social work. Together they founded Belady, which means "our country," and which Aya and the members of her organization call "an island of humanity." That same year, Aya was accepted to study at the American University in Cairo, a prestigious institution that receives funding from the U.S. Government, focusing on social work and children's welfare, but she and her husband were arrested before she began her studies.

The charges against them are as salacious as they are farcical: sexually abusing children and paying them to participate in antigovernment demonstrations. Since then, Aya, her husband, and the five Belady volunteers have been in prison. After more than 2 years, the government has yet to disclose a shred of evidence to support the allegations, and Aya, her husband, and the other defendants are still awaiting a fair, public trial and a chance to defend themselves.

Aya Hijazi's case fits a pattern. We have seen it time and again, not only

in Egypt, but in other repressive societies where governments are unaccountable and abuse the judicial process to silence dissent and intimidate those who are perceived, rightly or wrongly, to be engaged in activities that may reflect poorly on the authorities.

We all want relations with Egypt to improve, just as we want the Egyptian people to enjoy the rights and opportunities they deserve. With ISIS and other extremist groups infiltrating throughout the Middle East and beyond, impoverished Egyptian youths, who have few educational and professional options, are particularly vulnerable to ISIS recruitment.

But the more governments curtail the rights and ability of people with grievances to express themselves and to seek redress through peaceful means, the more likely it is that they will resort to violence. This is not a new concept. Anyone who has read the Declaration of Independence understands it. It is what ultimately brought about the downfall of President Mubarak.

The Egyptian Government has imprisoned Aya without trial for more than 850 days. That alone is inexcusable and a violation of Egyptian law, which holds that no one can be subjected to pretrial detention for more than 2 years without being released with or without bail. On February 3, 2016, the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights published a petition signed by 25 Egyptian human rights organizations against the detention of the Belady founders and volunteers. On May 20, 2016, the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights organization submitted Aya's case to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, seeking her release. On May 21, Aya's trial date was postponed, yet again, to November 19, 2016. Last week, White House officials called for her release.

Aya has suffered emotionally and physically. She is often prohibited from writing to or receiving correspondence from her family, and her reputation and that of the other defendants, as well as her organization, has been tarnished by unproven allegations. She and the others should be immediately released. Absent proof, made available for all to see, that they have committed a punishable offense, the charges should be dismissed.

Egypt was among the 48 countries that voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948. That is a vote to be proud of, but the al-Sisi government's persecution of Aya Hijazi and others who have been subjected to lengthy imprisonment without trial or whose only offense is to criticize government corruption and abuse or to participate in nonviolent social activism makes a mockery of Egypt's vote.

The Universal Declaration, among other rights, includes the following: ar-

ticle 9, No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile; article 10, Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him; article 11(1), Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense; article 19, Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers; and article 20, Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Each of these articles has been violated in Aya Hijazi's case.

On January 20, 2017, the next President of the United States will take the oath of office. That is 116 days from today. The next President will immediately face every imaginable challenge, foreign and domestic, including the instability and violence in the Middle East and North Africa.

I therefore urge the Government of Egypt, in the remaining months of the Obama administration, and in particular President al-Sisi, who also has a daughter named Aya and who I believe, if he examined this case, would agree that Aya Hijazi does not belong in prison, to recognize this opportunity and take steps to enable our next President to immediately engage with Egypt in a manner that brings our countries closer together, not farther apart. A key step would be the satisfactory resolution of the cases of Aya Hijazi, her husband, and the Belady volunteers and of United States nongovernmental organizations that have been prevented from working in Egypt on behalf of the Egyptian people.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA

MR. LEAHY. Mr. President, according to recent reports, more than 3,000 people have been killed in the Philippines in the 12 weeks since President Duterte announced his campaign to wipe out illicit drug use.

More than 1,000 of those deaths were at the hands of the Philippine National Police during counternarcotic operations, compared to 68 such killings this year in the months prior to President Duterte taking office, half of which happened in the period between his election and inauguration. The rest were killed apart from police operations, incited by President Duterte's violent rhetoric, which has been well documented. The vast majority of these individuals were low-level drug users, victims of a government seeking

to make up for years of ineffective, corrupt law enforcement and rampant crime by terrorizing the population into submission.

As the ranking member or chairman for more than 25 years of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that funds U.S. foreign assistance programs, I have been frustrated that we often fail to learn obvious lessons when it comes to foreign assistance investments. One example is that economic opportunity and security alone cannot assure stability. Stability requires legitimate governance and the protection of human rights. This is not just an aspiration; it is a practical, strategic imperative.

As a former prosecutor and now ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I know the difference between those who need help versus those who deserve to be punished. I also know, as do most people, that, when governments condone extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances and prey on vulnerable populations, they are sowing the seeds of instability, not preventing it.

For roughly 700,000 Filipino drug users, the prospect of being summarily executed on the street has led them to turn themselves into the authorities. That would seem to be a good thing. But given the shortage of drug treatment centers, these individuals are either told to pledge that they will remain drug free and sent home to recover on their own, or they are imprisoned in overcrowded, inhumane conditions. By failing to address the needs of those who have risked coming forward, President Duterte is missing an opportunity to combat the drug trade in one of the most sustainable ways possible: by helping hundreds of thousands of people get the help they want to beat their addiction.

No amount of killing will result in reforms that improve the judiciary, end corruption and impunity in law enforcement, or rehabilitate those caught in the vicious cycle of addiction. To the contrary, if President Duterte is serious about improving conditions in the Philippines, he should be focusing on improving services for Filipinos, not casting them aside; holding law enforcement accountable, not giving them a blanket license to kill suspects; and strengthening the judiciary, not undercutting it.

In a troubling sign that these concerns are falling on deaf ears, President Duterte's most vocal opponent of his antidrug policies, whom President Duterte has publicly accused of being involved in drug trafficking and attempting to smear him, was recently removed from her position as the head of the senate human rights panel investigating the killings. She was replaced by a senator who supports giving the police the authority to arrest anyone without a warrant.

I know that as ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator CARDIN also has concerns with the situation in the Philippines, and I yield to him for any remarks he may wish to make.

Mr. CARDIN. I thank my friend from Vermont for his raising this important issue and appreciate the opportunity to join him today.

The relationship between the United States and the Philippines is tremendously important for both our nations and both of our people; yet I fear that today, because of the way in which the new government of President Duterte is approaching this issue, we may find ourselves at something of a crossroads.

If the current trends continue, we can expect that over 6,000 people will be dead as a result of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines by the end of this year—6,000 people. This is not a situation in which there is occasional error or the overzealous application of force. This is systematic, widespread, brutal, and beyond the bounds for a constitutional democracy.

And as my colleague from Vermont pointed out, these dead are not just drug dealers—although that would be troubling enough given the lack of due process—but also include addicts, who need help, as well as innocent bystanders.

I understand President Duterte's desire to stop the devastation caused by illegal narcotics. I believe that most of my colleagues do. We, too, have seen what drug trafficking and addiction can do in our communities. We also have a long history of both successful and unsuccessful efforts to combat narcotics, but we have learned that there is a right way to approach this issue—with law enforcement, due process and rule of law, with treatment—and a wrong way. President Duterte, in advocating and endorsing what amounts to mass murder, has chosen the wrong way. Senator LEAHY is absolutely right when he said that a lack of respect for rule of law and democratic governance breeds instability, distrust, and sometimes violence.

Filipino police have attributed most of the killings to suspects who "resisted arrest and shot at police officers." Yet it has been impossible to assess police claims that the killings were all lawful, since President Duterte has rejected calls to investigate these deaths. He has instead declared the killings as proof of the "success" of his antidrug campaign and, along with other more forceful and "colorful" statements which appear to endorse vigilante killings, urged police to "seize the momentum." Human rights groups, the United Nations, the U.S. Government, and a Philippine Senate panel have expressed concerns about the killings, which allegedly have been carried out without legal proceedings as provided for under Phil-

ippine law and international obligations.

As the distinguished gentleman from Vermont knows, I have been a strong supporter of the Philippines' law enforcement institutions, including recently introducing legislation which would increase law enforcement cooperation between our two countries.

But these recent reports of thousands of extrajudicial killings, as well as detentions and a lack of respect for international human rights commitments, are profoundly troubling. They undermine our mutual goals of upholding liberal democratic values in the region and to strengthening international law.

Indeed, as the Senator from Vermont knows, just this past week, President Duterte said that he intends to reconstitute the constabulary, the most abusive parapolice under the Marcos regime. For any historian of human rights abuses in the Philippines, this is a deeply troubling development.

I would ask my friend and colleague if he shares my concerns with the direction that the Philippines appears to be going and the implications for the US-Filipino relationship.

Mr. LEAHY. Yes, like the Senator from Maryland, I am deeply concerned with these events, and I believe that, if the extrajudicial killings and state-sanctioned violence continue and there is no accountability for the abuses that have been committed, there will need to be an appropriate response by the U.S. Government.

Mr. CARDIN. Indeed, as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we should underscore that our alliance is needed now more than ever. With a more assertive China in the maritime domain, a changing global economic landscape, and an increase of transnational challenges confronting the region, the U.S.-Philippines alliance is critical to both our nations.

But this alliance is about more than just interests narrowly construed. The relationship between our nations is more than an alliance. It is a genuine friendship. This is a deep relationship built on shared values and a deep appreciation, both here and in the Philippines, of the importance of democracy, of rule of law, of due process, of the proper application of justice, and of constitutional order. It is because these extrajudicial killings shake the very foundation of that shared vision of shared values that I find these developments so deeply troubling.

So I would also ask my colleague his opinion, as the author of the "Leahy Law," whether he thinks that the application of ordinary U.S. policy and law, and the Leahy Law in particular, is sufficient to meet the challenges that we see in the Philippines. Given the nature of these extrajudicial killings, how would unit-level vetting

apply? And if the United States is unable to use the normal tools available, what are the other options that we might need to consider?

Mr. LEAHY. I share the Senator's views about the importance of the U.S.-Philippines alliance and his concerns with the implications of President Duterte's antidrug policies for that alliance. I wrote the Leahy Law, which applies worldwide, to ensure that the U.S. is not complicit in human rights violations committed by forces that might receive U.S. assistance and to encourage foreign governments to hold accountable perpetrators of such abuses. While there are ways we can find out which units were involved in these abuses, if President Duterte's government is unwilling to work with us, including by refusing to investigate allegations of abuses, then we are faced with a broader issue that cannot be remedied simply by withholding assistance from specific units or individuals.

The Leahy Law should be used to encourage reform and accountability, but to address these systemic challenges, it may be necessary to consider further conditions on assistance to the Duterte government to ensure that U.S. taxpayer funds are properly spent and until that government demonstrates a commitment to the rule of law. I have asked the State Department to discuss this with us to help inform our deliberations on current assistance for the Philippines and on decisions we will make for appropriations in fiscal year 2017.

Mr. CARDIN. I thank my colleague for his thoughtful response. I, too, am greatly concerned that, unless we are able to see a more constructive approach on these issues from the government of President Duterte—an approach that is just as serious about combatting the scourge of narcotics, but approaches the issue in a legal framework—that we may need to consider taking these steps. This is an important relationship. I have many Filipino-American citizens in Maryland, and I care deeply about strengthening the US-Philippines Alliance, especially given the challenges that the regional order faces from a rising China, but this issue is critical as well.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank my friend from Maryland for his leadership on the Foreign Relations Committee and for his interest in this issue. I look forward to working with him to respond to the challenges President Duterte's policies pose to our relations with his government, as we seek to continue our strategic cooperation with the Philippines.

Mr. President, on a separate but related matter, we are seeing another missed opportunity to reform the criminal justice system in Indonesia. President Joko Widodo took office in 2014 amid the hopes of many that he would improve on the country's history of human rights abuses. Instead, he reinstated the death penalty for drug

trafficking, and the head of his government's antinarcotics agency recently expressed his approval of President Duterte's approach to combating illicit drugs. To the contrary, it is a serious mistake, and I urge President Joko to reverse course and focus on improving his police force and judicial system.

Any government that uses capital punishment risks taking innocent life. But it is a particularly egregious practice in a country like Indonesia, where executions are peddled as effective justice despite a weak judicial system that is vulnerable to abuse, and to the detriment of its reform—nor is torturing and burying those suspected of involvement in the drug trade effective law enforcement. It is an abuse of power, it prevents remedies to deeply flawed practices within the security forces, and it belies the legitimacy of the government.

We have a complex relationship with both Indonesia and the Philippines due to our own history in the region. However, we also share many interests. I have supported assistance for both countries, but I have also supported conditions on U.S. assistance related to progress on human rights and reform of the judiciary, police, and armed forces. Unfortunately, I fear that the progress that has been made is now at risk of being eroded.

Often, we are presented with the false choice of supporting human rights or national security. I see no such dichotomy here. Consider the impact of our complicity in these governments' actions, both on our own legacy and on the efforts we are undertaking to help improve security and stability in the region. The Philippines and Indonesia cannot combat extremism or profess to govern legitimately by murdering innocent and nonviolent people, by creating a culture of lawlessness and impunity.

The United States is far from perfect. We have not done as well as we should in addressing the illicit drug problem in our own country. Many Americans need and want treatment and cannot get it. But we should not support those who make a practice of using excessive force or the death penalty, rather than protecting the rights of due process and fair trials.

I ask unanimous consent that two articles on this subject, both published in the New York Times last month, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Aug. 13, 2016]

INDONESIA'S PUSH TO EXECUTE DRUG CONVICTS UNDERLINES FLAWS IN JUSTICE SYSTEM

(By Joe Cochrane)

JAKARTA, INDONESIA.—Sixteen years ago, Zulfiqar Ali left his native Pakistan for Indonesia in search of a new life. Last month, that life was on the verge of ending in front of a firing squad.

Mr. Ali has been on Indonesia's death row since 2005, after he was convicted of heroin trafficking. A government-ordered inquiry later found that he was probably innocent. Still, in July, he was one of 14 convicts, most of them foreigners, who were taken to the prison island of Nusakambangan off Java's southern coast to be put to death.

Minutes before they were to be executed, on July 29, Mr. Ali and nine other convicts were given a reprieve, for reasons the government has yet to explain. But four were shot dead as scheduled, including a Nigerian who supporters say was framed. And Mr. Ali, like the rest who were spared, remains condemned.

More than a year after Indonesia drew international censure by putting to death 12 foreigners convicted of drug crimes, the country has resumed a war on narcotics by way of executions—and has again put a spotlight on its profoundly flawed justice system.

Critics in Indonesia and abroad say those flaws go so deep that the country should not employ the death penalty at all. Researchers have found that many condemned convicts were tortured by the police into confessing, did not receive access to lawyers or were otherwise denied fair trials.

The resumption of executions means “that the government has ignored that there is something seriously wrong with our judiciary and law enforcers,” said Robertus Robet, a lecturer and researcher at the State University of Jakarta's sociology department. He characterized the government as “trigger-happy.”

“When you execute someone, you execute the possibility of finding out the truth,” he said.

Amnesty International has denounced “the manifestly flawed administration of justice in Indonesia that resulted in flagrant human rights violations.” Similar concerns have been raised by the United Nations and the European Union, which sent a delegation to try to persuade Indonesia to spare inmates who were condemned to die last year.

Indonesia has long had the death penalty, but its use was sporadic in the years before President Joko Widodo took office in October 2014. Declaring drug abuse a “national emergency,” Mr. Joko denied clemency appeals from 64 death row inmates who had been convicted of drug crimes, most of them foreigners, and the government set a goal of executing all of them by the end of 2015.

That did not happen, but five drug convicts were put to death in January of that year, and eight more in April. (An Indonesian was also executed for murder in January.) Among the convicts executed in April, seven of whom were foreigners, were Andrew Chan, 31, and Myuran Sukumaran, 34, Australians who were arrested in 2005 trying to smuggle heroin out of Bali, the resort island.

The men admitted their guilt, but their lawyers said the judge in the case was corrupt, having offered a lesser sentence in exchange for a bribe. Indonesia rejected appeals by the Australian government to spare them, and Australia withdrew its ambassador in protest.

Also executed in April was Rodrigo Gularte, 42, a Brazilian convicted of drug smuggling who had repeatedly been given a diagnosis of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Indonesian law forbids the execution of mentally ill convicts.

Dave McRae, a senior research fellow at the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne in Australia who has researched the use of capital punishment in Indonesia, said

that the deficiencies in the justice system here could be found in most countries that still used the death penalty.

“A lot of the objections to Indonesia's use of the death penalty—inconsistent and arbitrary sentencing and application of the death penalty, allegations of corruption and wrongful convictions, questions over access to lawyers and interpreters and adequacy of representation—are questions that are raised all over the world,” he said.

Such concerns have been raised about the cases against some of the convicts spared last month—and some who were executed, including the Nigerian, Humphrey Jefferson Ejike Eleweke.

Mr. Eleweke was arrested in 2003 after the police found heroin at a restaurant he ran in Jakarta, the capital; he said an employee had planted it. His lawyers say that the police beat him until he confessed.

They also say that by law, an 11th-hour appeal for clemency issued to Mr. Joko should have automatically halted his execution. Last week, legal activists filed a complaint with a judicial watchdog against Indonesia's attorney general, saying that Mr. Eleweke's execution and those of two others should have been stopped because of those appeals, according to local news reports.

“We cannot have the death penalty here because of the judicial system—it's problematic, it's dysfunctional,” said Ricky Gunawan, director of the Community Legal Aid Institute, a nongovernmental organization that represented Mr. Eleweke.

Another allegation of corruption emerged just before the executions last month, when one of the men put to death, an Indonesian named Freddy Budiman, was quoted as saying that he had paid senior law enforcement officials more than \$40 million to let his drug smuggling operation continue before he was arrested.

That accusation was included in a report released by a rights activist, Haris Azhar, who had interviewed Mr. Budiman in prison; shortly thereafter, the police, the military and Indonesia's anti-narcotics board, all of which were implicated in the report, filed a criminal defamation complaint against Mr. Azhar. On Thursday, Mr. Joko ordered those agencies to investigate the corruption allegations.

The case of Mr. Ali, the Pakistani who was spared execution, has also raised concerns.

Mr. Ali, who immigrated to Indonesia in 2000, was accused of drug dealing in 2004 by a friend, Gurdip Singh, who had been caught with heroin; Mr. Singh later said the police had pressured him and offered a reduced sentence to name accomplices. Mr. Ali's lawyers say their client was arrested without a warrant at his home, where no drugs were found, and signed a confession after being beaten so badly in custody that he needed two operations.

Though Mr. Ali retracted his confession and Mr. Singh withdrew his accusation, both men were sentenced to death in 2005. But the severity of Mr. Ali's beating drew attention to the case, and the government ordered an unusual inquiry, which concluded that he was likely to be innocent.

The government never acted on those findings, and Mr. Ali and Mr. Singh were among those who nearly faced a firing squad.

“He was never involved in drugs,” Mr. Ali's wife, Siti Rohani, who lives in West Java Province with their three children, said in an interview.

A spokesman for Mr. Joko, Johan Budi, denied that the judicial system was dysfunctional, saying the executions had followed legal procedures.

Mr. Ali, along with Mr. Singh and several of the other convicts who were given reprieves, is still in prison on Nusakambangan Island, where Indonesia conducts executions. Ms. Siti said she and her husband's family in Pakistan were in a torturous state of limbo. "We're just confused because there is no certainty about my husband's fate," she said.

M. Rum, a spokesman for the attorney general's office, declined to explain why Mr. Ali and the other convicts had been given reprieves, saying only that it was "for judicial and nonjudicial reasons." But he said the executions would eventually be carried out.

[From the New York Times, Aug. 2, 2016]
 BODY COUNT RISES AS PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT
 WAGES WAR ON DRUGS
 (By Jason Gutierrez)

MANILA.—Since Rodrigo Duterte became president of the Philippines just over a month ago, promising to get tough on crime by having the police and the military kill drug suspects, 420 people have been killed in the campaign, according to tallies of police reports by the local news media.

Most were killed in confrontations with the police, while 154 were killed by unidentified vigilantes. This has prompted 114,833 people to turn themselves in, as either drug addicts or dealers, since Mr. Duterte took office, according to national police logs.

Addressing Congress last week in his first State of the Nation address, Mr. Duterte reiterated his take-no-prisoners approach, ordering the police to "triple" their efforts against crime.

"We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financier and the last pusher have surrendered or been put behind bars or below the ground, if they so wish," he said.

But human rights groups, Roman Catholic activists and the families of many of those killed during the crackdown say that the vast majority were poor Filipinos, many of whom had nothing to do with the drug trade. They were not accorded an accusation and a trial, but were simply shot down in the streets, the critics say.

"These are not the wealthy and powerful drug lords who actually have meaningful control over supply of drugs on the streets in the Philippines," said Phelim Kine, a deputy director of Human Rights Watch in Asia.

Critics of the president's campaign have rallied around the case of Michael Siaron, a 29-year-old rickshaw driver in Manila, who was shot one night by unidentified gunmen as he pedaled his vehicle in search of a passenger. When his wife rushed to the scene, a photographer took a picture of her cradling his body in the street, and the photograph quickly gained wide attention.

Scribbled in block letters on a cardboard sign left near his body was the word "pusher." His family members insist that he was not involved in the drug trade, though they said he sometimes used meth.

Indirectly acknowledging criticism that his policies trample over the standard judicial process, Mr. Duterte said that human rights "cannot be used as a shield to destroy the country."

He has called for drug users and sellers to turn themselves in or risk being hunted down, a threat backed up by the bodies piling up near daily on the streets of Philippine cities.

The approach appears to be driving down crime: The police say that they have arrested more than 2,700 people on charges related to using or selling illegal drugs, and that crime nationwide has fallen 13 percent

since the election, to 46,600 reported crimes in June, from 52,950 in May.

Mr. Duterte's crackdown has been hugely popular. Filipinos, pummeled by years of violent crime and corrupt, ineffective law enforcement, handed him an overwhelming victory in the May presidential election, and have largely embraced his approach.

A national opinion poll conducted after his election and just before he took office found that 84 percent of Filipinos had "much trust" in him.

The model for Mr. Duterte's policies is Davao City, where he was mayor for most of the past 20 years. Draconian laws there, including a strict curfew and a smoking ban as well as a zero-tolerance approach to drug users and sellers, have been credited with turning the city into an oasis of safety in a region plagued by violence.

The dark side of that approach was that more than 1,000 people were killed by government-sanctioned death squads during his administration, according to several independent investigations.

Mr. Duterte has denied having direct knowledge of death squads, but he has long called for addressing crime by killing suspects, whom he calls criminals and has referred to as "a legitimate target of assassination."

He has repeatedly said that those hooked on meth, the most popular drug here, were beyond saving or rehabilitation.

He ran for president largely on the pledge of applying the same policies nationwide, promising to kill 100,000 criminals in his first six months in office. While the number may have been typical Duterte bravado, the threat of mass killing appears to have been real.

On Tuesday, the International Drug Policy Consortium, a network of nongovernmental organizations, issued a letter urging the United Nations drug control agencies "to demand an end to the atrocities currently taking place in the Philippines" and to state unequivocally that extrajudicial killings "do not constitute acceptable drug control measures."

Ramon Casiple, a political analyst at the Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, said that he shared those concerns but that it was too early to decide whether Mr. Duterte's approach is effective. "Let's give him his 100 days," Mr. Casiple said.

Mr. Duterte has recently raised his sights beyond street-level users and dealers, accusing five police generals of protecting drug lords, though he presented no specific evidence.

He also publicly accused a mayor, the mayor's son and a prominent businessman of drug trafficking, threatening their lives if they did not surrender.

But the people killed on the street tend to be more like Mr. Siaron, the rickshaw driver.

Mr. Siaron lived with his wife in a shack above a garbage-strewn creek. Having never finished high school, he survived on odd jobs like house painting and working in fast-food restaurants.

Lately he had been pedaling a rickshaw, earning about \$2 a day ferrying passengers through the warren of alleyways in a run-down part of metropolitan Manila.

On the night he died, he had stopped by his father's fruit stand to ask for an apple.

Then he told his father he would seek one more fare before heading home. As he rode off, gunmen on motorcycles sped by, pumping several bullets into him.

What happened next turned him into a national symbol of the human toll of Mr. Duterte's war.

When she heard he had been shot, Mr. Siaron's wife, Jennilyn Olayres, ran into the street, burst through police lines and collapsed next to him on the asphalt. The photographer snapped the picture: a distraught woman cradling her lifeless husband under a streetlight, a Pietà of the Manila slums.

The police have not commented publicly about the case and have not accused Mr. Siaron of selling drugs.

"My husband was a simple man," Ms. Olayres said at his wake several days later. "He may have used drugs, but he was not violent and never bothered anyone. His only concern was looking for passengers so we can eat three meals a day."

During his speech to Congress, Mr. Duterte dismissed the photo, which had appeared on the front page of The Philippine Daily Inquirer the previous day under the banner headline "Thou shall not kill."

"There you are sprawled on the ground, and you are portrayed in a broadsheet like Mother Mary cradling the dead cadaver of Jesus Christ," he said. "That's just drama."

But if the antidrug campaign has targeted people on the margins of society, Mr. Siaron is an apt symbol.

"We're small people, insignificant," Ms. Olayres said through sobs as she stood next to her husband's coffin. "We may be invisible to you, but we are real. Please stop the killings."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN HOMER CALDWELL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to briefly call the Senate's attention to a Vermonter who, more than any other individual, has been responsible for the sport of cross-country skiing becoming a winter pastime and passion for countless Americans of all ages. I count myself and my wife, Marcelle, among them.

There have been many articles written about former Olympic combined skier John Caldwell of Putney, VT, who in 1964 wrote the how-to guide to cross-country skiing, and about his sons and daughter and granddaughter Sophie and grandson Patrick, each of them outstanding cross-country skiers in their own right, two of whom, son Tim and Sophie, have represented the United States at the winter Olympics. Chances are they are not going to be the last Vermonters with the Caldwell name to do so.

I will not repeat what those articles have said, but I ask unanimous consent that one of them, published in the Rutland Herald on February 23, 2014, entitled "Vt. ski pioneer sustains Olympic spirit," be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks. It gives you a pretty good idea of the 87-year-old Vermonter I am talking about.

John Caldwell, known to his many friends as Johnny, is a pioneer and legend in every sense of the words. After the 1952 Olympics, he embarked on a lifelong campaign to teach and coach others to enjoy the sport of cross-country skiing as he did, whether as a simple way to get out in wintertime and experience the snow-filled woods and fields of Vermont or to ski competitively. I think it is fair to say that just

about every cross-country skier in this country, from the fastest racers to the recreational ski tourers like me and Marcelle, owes our love of the sport, directly or indirectly, to Johnny. He got us started. He convinced us to not be deterred by up hills or down hills or subfreezing temperatures and to get outside and enjoy a sport that requires nothing more than a pair of narrow skis and poles, a bit of wax, and a love of using your own power to glide silently over the snow.

Johnny has a way with words, and the Rutland Herald article captures a bit of it. He is dry wit who doesn't suffer fools easily, a fiercely loyal Vermonter who I think it is fair to assume finds a lot to like in the words of Robert Frost, whose poem "New Hampshire," a long poem that compares the people, geography, and traditions of various States, ends with these lines:

"Well, if I have to choose one or the other, I choose to be a plain New Hampshire farmer With an income in cash of, say, a thousand (From, say, a publisher in New York City). It's restful to arrive at a decision, And restful just to think about New Hampshire.

At present I am living in Vermont."

There is a lot more I could say about John Caldwell, who besides coaching and writing about skiing, among other things taught mathematics for 35 year at the Putney School, has been a long-time gardener and wood splitter and for years was a tireless maker of maple syrup.

But most important are his personal qualities: a devoted husband to his wife, Hester, affectionately known to everyone as "Hep," who he first met at the Putney School 75 years ago; a role model for his children and grandchildren in good times and sad times; an inspiration to everyone who puts on boots and skis and propels themselves forward in all kinds of weather; and an octogenarian who will be out on skis for years to come, even if it is just to cheer on others a fraction his age, who has contributed in exceptional and lasting ways to the sport of skiing, to the Putney community, to Vermont, and to this country.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Rutland Herald, Feb. 23, 2014]

VT. SKI PIONEER SUSTAINS OLYMPIC SPIRIT
(By Kevin O'Connor)

John Caldwell, the Vermonter who literally wrote the book on cross-country skiing 50 years ago—his trailblazing 1964 how-to guide reaped the Boston Globe rave "the bible of the sport"—stopped writing updated editions after the eighth a quarter-century ago. Now 85, he's entitled to sleep in.

But the man considered the father of U.S. Nordic is also the grandfather of 2014 Olympian Sophie Caldwell, 23, of the Green Mountain town of Peru. That's why he has risen the past two weeks before dawn to watch the third generation of his family compete in the Winter Games.

"Despite what the governor says, and he's a Putney boy, we don't have high-speed

Internet here," says Caldwell, who has been waking in the town he shares with Peter Shumlin as early as 4 a.m., then driving to his nephew's ski shop down the road to watch live online races from Sochi.

So much has changed since Caldwell himself competed in the 1952 Olympics, where a lack of television coverage required family and friends seeking results to await the newspaper the next day.

"That was back in the dark ages," he says only half-jokingly. "When I was racing, nobody knew much about cross-country, and people hardly knew we were there. Everything is much, much better than it used to be. All this ease of communication has helped."

Caldwell has helped, too—by turning his lowest point of adversity into a lifetime of achievement.

Some Vermonters may remember his Oslo Winter Games as the ones where Rutlander Andrea Mead Lawrence became the only U.S. woman to win two skiing gold medals. But while the late female legend experienced the thrill of victory, Caldwell felt the agony of defeat.

"I was on the combined team—cross-country and ski jumping—but I was poorly prepared."

Born in Detroit in 1928, Caldwell had moved to Putney with his family in 1941. When his high school needed a cross-country racer for the 1946 state championships, he strapped on his sister's wooden alpine skis. Continuing on to Dartmouth College, he borrowed his coach's slats before the school bought him a pair.

Caldwell tried out and made the 1952 Olympic team. But knowing little about proper training, he toured too many Norwegian bakeries beforehand. The onetime 145-pound athlete weighed 170 by the time he dressed for his event. But that wasn't why he needed help buttoning his shirt—his shoulders ached from falling so often in practice.

The rest is history—just not Olympic history.

"That really inspired me to help better prepare athletes so they wouldn't be so flummoxed, overwhelmed and thoroughly thrashed."

Caldwell started by coaching at his alma mater, the Putney School, where he worked with such up-and-coming skiers as Bill Koch, the first U.S. Nordic athlete to win an Olympic medal (silver in 1976). That, in turn, led him to help the American team in a succession of Winter Games.

Off the job, Caldwell befriended Brattleboro publishers Stephen and Janet Greene.

"They said, 'Are there any books on cross-country?' I said no."

Soon there was one—his simply titled "The Cross-Country Ski Book"—which he updated until its eighth and final edition in 1987.

Caldwell also nurtured the sport by helping found the New England Nordic Ski Association and by forging a family with his wife, Hep, and their four children: Tim competed in the Olympics in 1972, 1976, 1980 and 1984. Peter raced undefeated in college. Jennifer made the U.S. ski team. And Sverre coached the Americans in 1988 and fathered the latest generation of family champions, Sophie.

John Caldwell has been waking in the dark the past two weeks to drive to Putney's Caldwell Sport—owned by his nephew Zach, who's assisting U.S. skiers in Russia, and wife, Amy—to watch live Sochi races that, because of the time difference, have started as early as 4:15 a.m.

"I'm a Luddite," he says, "but I emailed Sophie before the sprint and said, 'Go fast.'"

Caldwell then cheered her sixth-place finish (the best U.S. women's Olympic cross-country result ever) before, a week later, she ended up eighth in the team sprint.

Seen the way skiers collapse after a race? "I joke with them, 'Are you suffering?'" I spell and say it 's-u-f-f-a-h.' It sounds masochistic, but that's the way it is. When you do it you hurt, but you feel great afterward—like when you stop hitting your head against the wall. All of us must be nuts, but it's a lifestyle, a culture."

It's the same for the spectator back home.

"It takes me a long time to recover from these early mornings," the grandfather says.

Even so, after rising this past Wednesday before dawn, Caldwell still stayed up for his weekly 7 to 10 p.m. bridge game. Then on Saturday, he was set to watch grandson Patrick, a freshman at Dartmouth College, compete in the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association championships in Middlebury.

The grandfather of 10 still takes a turn himself. But the cross-country pioneer says he's going downhill fast—as an alpine season pass holder at Stratton.

"A guy who's 88 and I go over together. It's slow getting the strength back. I got a new hip in May and two new knees in October. I have a plastic heart valve and fake shoulder, too."

So goes life. So much "s-u-f-f-a-h-ing." So much satisfaction.

"I'm bionic—and still plugging along."

TRIBUTE TO DR. ROBERT LARNER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, those who call the Green Mountains home know that Vermonters value hard work and community in equal measure. The two often go hand in hand when individuals give back to the institutions and communities that played roles in their success. Today I am honored to recognize both an outstanding individual and an exceptional institution for their respective roles in supporting the future of medical excellence in Vermont.

Dr. Robert Larner and his wife, Helen, recently donated \$66 million in a bequest to the University of Vermont, UVM, medical school, which has since been renamed in honor of the 1942 alumnus. The Robert Larner, M.D., College of Medicine at the University of Vermont will continue to provide a first-class medical education while encouraging groundbreaking research in the medical field, from cancer to infectious diseases, to neuroscience and beyond.

Born in Burlington's Old North End in 1918, Robert Larner is the youngest of seven children, and the only one among his siblings to go to college. He attended the University of Vermont after receiving a scholarship for winning a Statewide debate competition and finished his undergraduate studies in just 3 years. After completing college in 1939, he pursued his medical degree at the UVM College of Medicine and graduated in 1942. Dr. Larner then served in World War II before settling in southern California to establish his own medical practice.

Though he remained in California for many years, the Vermont native credits his home State's flagship university

for providing the education he needed to succeed. To ensure that future generations also receive a similar experience, regardless of personal finances, Dr. Larner and his wife have made a number of generous contributions to his alma mater. For example, the Larner Scholars Program has created a culture of giving by encouraging alumni to support current and future medical students. In 2012, the Larners contributed \$300,000 for the purchase of five cardiopulmonary simulators for the UVM/Fletcher Allen Clinical Simulation Laboratory. These are just some of the contributions that in 2013 led the university to recognize Dr. Larner with the UVM Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy Award.

It is through the generosity of Vermonters like Dr. and Mrs. Larner that ensure bright futures for Vermont's students and the patients they ultimately will serve. Combined with the excellent education offered by the University of Vermont, the Larners' contributions create opportunities for first-class physicians and researchers who will undoubtedly go on to transform the medical field.

RECOGNIZING CONCEPT2 OF MORRISVILLE, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont's business landscape boasts dozens of cutting-edge startups and successful small ventures. True to this entrepreneurial and independent spirit found throughout the Green Mountains, Concept2, based in Morrisville, VT, has once again put our small, rural State on the world stage.

Concept2 is a manufacturer of rowing equipment, founded in 1976 by two brothers, Dick and Pete Dreissigacker, dedicated to the sport of rowing. There, they first designed and started selling composite racing oars. Many years and many innovative models later, these Concept2 products have become an integral presence in the rowing community and have unmistakably changed an international sport.

Propelled by these lightweight, Vermont-crafted Concept2 oars and sculls, 32 Olympic rowing teams recently brought home medals in the summer 2016 Olympic Games regatta in Rio de Janeiro. Bob Beeman of Morrisville was sent to Rio as a representative and on-site technician for Concept2. As a trusted and true employee, Beeman, too, was recognized with a medal and certificate from the International Olympic Committee for Concept2's continuous and fair support of the athletes and their equipment.

With a nod to Vermont's core values of ethical business standards and giving back to our communities, the mission of Concept2 is to support the international rowing community and create equal opportunity for all. Regardless of nation or team flag, the

crew has worked with rowing teams from around the world to combine Concept2 technology with human skill and training. Characterized by honesty, fairness, and integrity, these values of Concept2 embody the true Olympic spirit to level the playing field and allow the best team to win. As Vermonters, we are proud to see such a passionate and committed company rise to the global platform and help athletes accomplish their Olympic dreams.

My grandson, Roan, and I still talk of our visit to Concept2 when he was on his high school rowing team.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the September 2, 2016, article, "Concept2 Oars Used in Majority of Olympic Rowing Wins," from the Stowe Reporter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Stowe Reporter, September 2, 2016]

CONCEPT2 OARS USED IN MAJORITY OF OLYMPIC ROWING WINS (By Kayla Friedrich)

With the help of Concept2 oars and sculls, 32 rowing crews—76 percent of all medal-winning crews at the Olympic regatta—were able to step onto the platform in Rio de Janeiro to receive their awards this year.

Nine of those medals were gold.

Concept2 is one of the world's most prominent manufacturers of lightweight oars. They're built by former U.S. Olympian Dick Dreissigacker and his brother Pete in Morrisville.

The company also produces an indoor rowing machine, and all of the athletes have trained on the Concept2 Indoor Rower to build their fitness to Olympic caliber.

The company produces 80 to 90 percent of the world's market of competition oars, and it sends an accredited technician—Bob Beeman of Morrisville—to the Olympics to make any equipment repairs the athletes need.

Sometimes oars are damaged in transit, practice or a race, and Beeman is able to provide replacement parts and adjustments if requested.

Thanks to his decades of work at the company, Beeman became a five-time Olympian this year, not competing, but helping teams—regardless of what country they represent.

"Everything we do is free of charge," Beeman said. "It's all part of the service when using Concept2 oars."

"Some of the athletes look at me like I'm Santa Claus. There are 70 countries in rowing, and we try to even the playing field. One team didn't have good oars to use at the Olympics, so we lent some out."

Beeman has been the on-site technician for Concept2 at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996; Sydney, Australia, in 2000; Beijing, China, in 2008; London in 2012; and now Rio.

As a result, he's known some of the athletes for many years.

"Athletes want to know that there is nothing wrong with their equipment, and they rely on me. It makes me so proud," Beeman said.

U.S. rower Gevvie Stone was at the Concept2 tent every day, not because she needed repairs, but because it gave her a

place to relax. Beeman said Stone's father thanked him profusely. Stone took silver in the women's single sculls using Concept2 oars.

Beeman also was able to wear a gold medal at this year's events. The gold-medal winning team from New Zealand, Eric Murray and Hamish Bond, returned to the tent following their men's pair final. Murray took off his gold medal and placed it over Beeman's head for a photo-op.

"Just to be around this level of athlete is amazing," Beeman said. "They train daily, many of them two or three times a day at a few hours each time. They train like that not just for months, but for years."

For Beeman, Rio was the best of the five Olympics that he has been to. Everything worked well logistically, there were over 200 volunteers assisting at the rowing venue, and he had a chance to watch some of the other events, including water polo and table tennis.

"It was great to be right in the middle of it all," Beeman said.

This was also the first Olympics at which Beeman was officially recognized for his work. Even a senior adviser thanked him, and "that was a big deal," he said.

Before leaving Brazil, Beeman received a thank-you medal and a certificate from the International Olympic Committee for Concept2's support of the athletes and their equipment.

The next Summer Olympics will be in Tokyo in 2020, and Beeman looks forward to being a rowing-equipment technician for the sixth time.

"I'm also super excited to go to some of the other international regattas," Beeman said. "One is in Serbia this year, and Switzerland. The World Rowing Championships will be in Florida."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, American historian and author Wallace Stegner called our national parks "the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst." The National Park Service turned 100 on August 25, 2016. I wish to celebrate a century of recreation, conservation, and historic preservation programs.

Congress created the agency in 1916 for the specific purpose of caring for America's special places. The National Park Service was given the responsibility not only to conserve and protect parks, but also to leave them "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The job got bigger as parks expanded in number and type. In the 1930s, military parks and national monuments were added. Then came national parkways and seashores, followed by urban parks in the 1960s. During the next decade, the National Park System nearly doubled with the addition of 47 million acres in Alaska.

I am proud of the national parks and programs in Maryland's backyard. Maryland is home to 18 national parks, which attract 6,443,376 visitors every year. This national park tourism generates \$216,700,000 in economic benefit.

I am proud of the range of parks in the State, from national battlefields such as Antietam and Monocacy in western Maryland to Assateague Island National Seashore, which offers visitors sandy beaches, salt marshes, maritime forests, and coastal bays on the edge of the continent.

I am especially proud of the recently established Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historic Park in Maryland's Dorchester, Caroline, and Talbot Counties. The vision for the Tubman National Historical Park is to preserve the places significant to the life of Harriet Tubman and tell her story through interpretive activities, while continuing to discover aspects of her life and the experiences of those who traveled on the Underground Railroad through continued historical and archaeological research and discovery.

Unfortunately, few of the structures associated with the early years of Harriet Tubman's life remain standing today. The landscape of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, however, is still evocative of the time when Harriet Tubman lived there. Farm fields and loblolly pine forests dot the lowland landscape, which is also notable for its extensive network of tidal rivers and wetlands that Tubman and the people she guided to freedom used under cover of night. If she were alive today, Ms. Tubman would recognize much of the landscape that she knew intimately as she secretly led freedom-seekers of all ages to the North. This park helps connect people today to America's history while establishing an important destination for tourists to come visit, learn, and experience Maryland's Eastern Shore.

For 7 years I worked with my colleagues, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator SCHUMER, Senator GILLIBRAND, and Senator Clinton to establish the first national historical park to honor an African American woman. Harriet Tubman is an extraordinary American, and Marylanders are extremely proud to have her as a native daughter. In 2014, I was so proud to finally get our legislation enacted, and I am pleased that development and planning for this park is well underway.

Only recently has the National Park Service begun establishing units dedicated to the lives of African Americans. Places such as Booker T. Washington National Monument on the campus of Tuskegee University in Alabama, the George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri, the National Historic Trail commemorating the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, and, most recently, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial on the National Mall are all important monuments and places of historical significance that help tell the story of the African-American experience.

In a similar, overdue spirit, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture will be opening this Saturday. I attended the grand opening weekend of this extraordinary addition to the National Mall. The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to documenting African American life, history, and culture.

On August 25, 2006, the 90th anniversary of the National Park Service, then-Secretary of the Interior—and former Senator—Dirk Kempthorne launched the National Park Centennial Initiative to prepare national parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. Since then, the National Park Service asked citizens, park partners, experts, and other stakeholders what they envisioned for a second century of national parks. A nationwide series of more than 40 listening sessions produced more than 6,000 comments that helped to shape five centennial goals. The goals and overarching vision were presented to President Bush and to the American people in May 2007 in a report, "The Future of America's National Parks."

Continued and better stewardship was one of the five goals.

We must be better stewards of national parks when it comes to clean water. More than one-half of our 407 national parks have waterways deemed "impaired" under the Clean Water Act and in need of attention. These are parks whose local domestic water supply and protected natural resources are dependent upon and often affected by the quality of surface water flowing into and through their respective designated boundaries.

As stewards, we must carry out our responsibilities with respect to clean water. I am particularly sensitive to this responsibility. One hundred thousand streams and rivers, as well as thousands of acres of wetlands, provide the freshwater that flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is managed by the Chesapeake Bay Program, in which the National Park Service serves as a Federal agency partner. In order for our restoration efforts to succeed, we must ensure clean water flows in the streams that lead into the Chesapeake Bay.

Our national parks are our legacy to the next generation; conserving them is our shared responsibility. The 2016 centennial of our parks is a prime opportunity for renewing this commitment.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE USO

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I would like to honor the United Service Organizations, USO, and especially the USO of Illinois, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary of keeping servicemembers

connected to their family, home, and country throughout their service to the Nation.

Since 1941, the USO has been the Nation's leading organization to serve our military men and women and their families. The USO has continuously adapted to the needs of our servicemembers and their families as they have provided support from the moment servicemembers join the military, through their assignments and deployments, and when they transition back to their communities.

USO centers are found throughout the world at airports and military installations, providing around-the-clock hospitality to service-members and their families. In addition to supporting servicemembers and their families at home, the USO has a tradition of bringing American entertainment and music to our troops overseas.

The USO of Illinois touches the lives of over 330,000 Active-Duty, Guard, and Reserve military servicemembers and their families throughout the State. The USO of Illinois provides over 300 programs and services throughout the year to enhance the quality of life for our servicemembers and their families, including family support events like tickets to the theatre or sporting events, programs designed for military children, prepare care packages for Illinois servicemembers deployed abroad, and providing support and appreciation at homecomings and deployments at airports. The USO of Illinois is a non-profit organization relying on the generosity of individuals and corporations and hundreds of volunteers.

I congratulate and commend the USO and the USO of Illinois for their continued efforts to support Illinois' servicemembers, their families, and our veterans.

LYME DISEASE

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss a serious threat my constituents face when they travel on one of the 270 trails, spread out over 700 miles, in Illinois. Unfortunately, hikers share these trails with bacteria-carrying ticks, which can infect travelers with a variety of diseases, including Lyme disease.

For those infected, Lyme disease manifests in multiple ways, including fever, fatigue, rashes, and severe pain. Current diagnostic tests are unreliable, causing many people with the condition to be misdiagnosed. Left untreated, it can lead to even more serious and debilitating illnesses.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the country, with an estimated 300,000 people infected each year. The CDC also reports that the species of ticks that spread Lyme disease now live in 46 percent of the Nation's counties.

I commend Senators BLUMENTHAL and AYOTTE for introducing the Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act, S. 1503, and I urge my colleagues to join me as a cosponsor of this critical bill. The legislation will better coordinate the Federal Government's response to tick-borne diseases by creating an advisory committee within the Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS, to be comprised of patients, physicians, researchers, and government officials who will be tasked with identifying best scientific practices to combat tick-borne diseases. The bill requires the HHS Secretary to strengthen disease surveillance and reporting, develop better diagnostic tests, create a physician-education program, and establish epidemiological research objectives for Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses.

The prevalence of Lyme and other tick-borne disease cases in recent years demands a strong and coordinated effort at the Federal level. Now is the time to pass this critical legislation.

TRIBUTE TO GROVER FUGATE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the career of one of Rhode Island's most respected ocean and coastal experts, my friend Grover Fugate.

Grover has served as executive director of the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, CRMC, for nearly 30 years, protecting Rhode Island's coastal resources through research, regulation, and restoration.

One of the shining jewels of CRMC's work has been its innovative Special Area Management Plans, or SAMPs. These plans are ecosystem-based management strategies developed in collaboration with government agencies, municipalities, and other stakeholders to best manage coastal systems. During Mr. Fugate's tenure, the council has developed eight management plans, including the groundbreaking ocean SAMP, the first formally adopted ocean spatial plan in the country. The ocean SAMP guides future uses of Rhode Island's marine areas. In developing the plan, CRMC engaged a diverse group of stakeholders and laid the groundwork for cooperation among a multitude of regulatory agencies that led the way for the successful development of the Nation's first offshore wind farm off the coast of Rhode Island.

The council has also helped Rhode Island towns and residents understand the increasing effects of sea level rise and storm surge. Using the latest climate change predictions and state of the art modeling, CRMC, in cooperation with the University of Rhode Island and others, developed an online tool, STORMTOOLS, that gives anyone with an Internet connection free access to information that can be used to help

decide everything from what neighborhood to buy a home in to where to site a new stormwater treatment plant. Mr. Fugate has been a key leader in establishing STORMTOOLS and educating decisionmakers about the realities of sea level rise and flooding.

In addition to his work for the Coastal Resources Management Council, Mr. Fugate serves as the State colead for the Northeast Regional Ocean Council's Ocean Planning initiative and the Northeast Regional Planning Body established under President Obama's 2010 Executive order. He also serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Rhode Island's marine affairs program and a guest lecturer of coastal and marine law at the Roger Williams University Law School.

Mr. Fugate has earned many awards for his work, including the 2010 Susan Snow-Cotter Award for Excellence in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the 2010 Regional Sea Grant Outstanding Outreach Award, the 2008 Coastal America Award for Habitat Restoration, and the 2008 Rhode Island Sea Grant Lifetime Achievement Award. He has authored numerous academic journal articles on coastal and natural resources management issues.

Mr. Fugate's work on the ocean SAMP and Northeast Regional Planning Body has placed Rhode Island at the forefront of ocean planning and offshore wind development. He is a leader with a passion and commitment to protecting ocean and coastal resources. His technical expertise, ability to foster good working relationships with key stakeholders, and talent for finding solutions within the existing regulatory framework are a few of the many reasons I wish today to recognize him.

TRIBUTE TO CURT SPALDING

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize a notable Rhode Islander. Curt Spalding, the outgoing Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's region 1, is retiring this year. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a deep commitment to protecting our environment.

The iconic waters of New England are part of what make this region a very special place to live. Since taking the helm of EPA region 1 in 2009, Administrator Spalding has worked to bolster coastal resilience, clean our lakes and rivers, and improve New England communities through innovation and science. Among his priorities was renewing the region's focus on bettering stormwater pollution control, a particular concern for Rhode Island's coastal communities as they prepare for sea level rise and increased rainfall. His focus on stakeholder engagement

led to EPA's first-ever, real-time water quality reporting tool, which relies on New England citizen scientists, professional researchers, and a myriad of other groups for data and outreach.

Administrator Spalding has routinely been a leader identifying innovative and cooperative solutions to difficult problems. He worked with Senator REED and me to establish the Southeastern New England Coastal Watershed Restoration Program, SNEP. SNEP, a collaboration between government agencies, researchers, and nongovernmental organizations, works to protect and restore coastal watersheds by addressing the excess nutrients and other pollutants that undermine water quality in the region. So far SNEP has made available over \$12 million to improve coastal water quality, restore coastal ecosystems, and address nutrient pollution.

Administrator Spalding has also championed programs to clean the waters of Cape Cod and restore Lake Champlain, and his work in Boston Harbor is another national success story, turning one of the most toxic harbors in the country in the 1980s into one of the cleanest urban beaches in the Nation today.

Prior to serving with region 1, Administrator Spalding was the executive director of Rhode Island's Save the Bay for nearly two decades. While executive director, he oversaw construction of the Save the Bay Center at Fields Point in Providence, RI. The center, which won the Phoenix Award for brownfields redevelopment, transformed a former landfill into a landmark facility that provides classroom spaces for Save the Bay's educational programs and serves as a living example of the organization's approach to environmentally friendly shoreline development. Under his leadership, Save the Bay grew into a nationally recognized, 20,000-member environmental advocacy and education organization.

Administrator Spalding's passion for his work and the environment is obvious. His vision for a vibrant, resilient New England had shaped the great work of our region's environmental and coastal communities for the last three decades. I hope during his retirement Administrator Spalding finds the time to enjoy some of the very areas he has spent a career protecting.

Curt, my friend, may the wind always be at your back.

REMEMBERING BENJAMIN CHARLES STEELE

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the statement I previously delivered about the life of Benjamin Charles Steele printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BENJAMIN CHARLES STEELE, BILLINGS, MT

I rise to honor the life of an exceptional Montanan and a true American hero, Benjamin Charles Steele. He passed away on Sunday, September 25 in Billings, surrounded by his loving family. He was 98.

Ben was born on November 17, 1917, in Roundup, MT. He was 22 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in Missoula, MT, on September 9, 1940. A year later, assigned to serve in the Philippines, he arrived in-country and was promptly handed a rifle and told: "now you're in the infantry." Then, 10 hours after Pearl Harbor, the Japanese invaded the Philippines. A few weeks later, Ben's unit was ordered to the Bataan Peninsula. Soon after, Ben's unit was captured, and he and his fellow soldiers began the infamous Bataan Death March. Ben was a prisoner for 3.5 years and was sent to Japan where he did hard labor in the Japanese mines. He was liberated once the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, with Ground Zero less than 80 miles from Ben's coal mine.

Ben was discharged from the U.S. Air Force on July 10, 1946. After beginning his art career drawing on the concrete floor of a prison in the Philippines, Ben pursued a formal art education. In 1955, he received a master's degree in art from the University of Denver and then taught art at Montana State University-Billings.

Up until his final days, Ben continued to paint, even while fighting his final battle in a nursing home in Billings. Ben Steele never requested any acclaim for his service, but he deserves recognition for his incredible courage in the face of daunting odds.

Ben's life story and legacy will be forever remembered across Montana, and on the west end of Billings, a middle school is currently being constructed that will bear his name.

Ben is survived by his wife, Shirley, and their two daughters, Julie Jorgenson and Rosemarie Steele. He will be remembered by a grateful State and Nation for his brave service in our time of greatest need.

TRIBUTE TO MICHELE CRAIG

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a dedicated public servant and advocate for the people of West Virginia, Michele P. Craig, on her retirement. Ms. Craig stepped down from her role as executive director of KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission and Region II Planning and Development Council on July 1. Her 30 years of service have benefited the State of West Virginia and the Huntington area.

Michelle received a bachelor's degree in economics from Queens College in Charlotte before completing graduate work at West Virginia University and American University. After beginning her career in Washington, she returned home after losing her father in the Marshall University plane crash of 1970 and began working in the family business. During this time, she also served in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1973 through 1978.

In 1986, Michele went to work for Region II Planning and Development Council; within a year, she became executive director. During her tenure, Michele oversaw a staff that grew from

4 to 13 individuals, serving Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, and Wayne Counties. I have had the pleasure of working with Michele and her staff on numerous projects benefiting the citizens of West Virginia. Her wealth of knowledge, professional expertise, and poise were integral to these accomplishments. My staff and I will miss Michele as she moves on, but she has left behind a strong foundation for the future.

Aside from her role as executive director, Michele has served her community through several organizations, including the Pretera Foundation, Ronald McDonald House, and Hospice of Huntington. She is also an avid reader, gardener, and world traveler. Michele is married to Thomas L. Craig, and together, they have three children.

I wish Michele all the best as she spends more time with her children and grandchildren, enjoying her favorite activities and continuing her philanthropic endeavors and service to the Huntington area. Throughout her career, she has made a positive difference in the lives of many West Virginians. It has been an honor working with her, and it is an honor to call her my friend and fellow West Virginian. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WANDA DRAPER

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, a fellow Baltimorean and dear friend of mine, Wanda Queen Draper, is retiring today from WBAL-TV, where she has worked for the past 25 years. In a sense, Wanda and I grew up together professionally in a city we both love so much. But Wanda is not the "retiring" type so she is becoming the executive director of the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, an important part of Baltimore's history and culture that she helped to found.

Wanda joined the Hearst Corp. as a student correspondent at the Baltimore News American in 1968. She worked on the Sunday paper until 1973, when she graduated from the University of Maryland. Wanda spent the next 10 years as a reporter and local editor at the Baltimore Sun. She subsequently worked as an assignment manager and local show host at WJZ-TV, director of public affairs for the Governor's office, and director of community affairs for the National Aquarium in Baltimore. In 1991, she joined WBAL-TV as public affairs manager and was ultimately promoted to director of programming and public affairs, making her responsible for all of the station's programming.

Wanda has won numerous local and national awards over the years and has

been cited by the National Association of Broadcasters for her outstanding achievements. In short, she has had a stellar career. But she is also very active in several community endeavors, and this is what I would like to highlight: her tireless dedication to the people of Baltimore, especially those who are less fortunate. Wanda serves on the boards of the WBAL Kids Campaign, St. Timothy's School, the Brigrance Brigade Foundation, and Journey Home. The WBAL Kids Campaign is involved in many community events, the largest of which is the Coats for Kids program each fall. Wanda was able to partner with Burlington Coat Factory and has provided over 300,000 children with coats over the past 13 years. Over the last 3 years, with Wanda's help, the Brigrance Brigade has provided services to more than 40,000 ALS survivors and has raised over \$1.5 million. The Journey Home campaign supports the mayor's 10-year plan to end homelessness in Baltimore. Over the past 6 years, the campaign has assisted 2,000 people, and Wanda has helped to raise \$6 million. For the past 8 years, she has been active in the St. Vincent DePaul Empty Bowls program, which has helped to feed 440,000 people and raised more than \$2 million.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: "To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded."

By these measures, Wanda has been wildly successful. Wanda is married to Dr. Robert Draper and is surrounded by her wonderful family each and every day. But it seems that the residents of Baltimore are a part of her extended family, and she is determined that they will all "breathe easier" because of her efforts on their behalf. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Wanda Draper for her extraordinary professional and personal commitment to the people and city of Baltimore and congratulating her as she moves on to her next great endeavor.●

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Baltimore Gas and Electric, BGE, which celebrated its 200th anniversary earlier this year. BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest natural gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than

1.25 million electric customers and more than 650,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. BGE's electric service territory is approximately 2,300 square miles, including Baltimore city and all or part of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties. BGE's gas service territory is approximately 800 square miles, including Baltimore city and all or part of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties. The company employs approximately 3,200 people.

BGE was founded on June 17, 1816, and has the distinction of being the Nation's first and oldest gas distribution company. BGE's rich heritage is intertwined with the city of Baltimore, dating back to the days of acclaimed American portrait painter and museum keeper Rembrandt Peale when he lit the first gas lamps at his museum on Holiday Street, which made quite an impression. Peale envisioned lighting the streets of Baltimore and held an important gas lighting patent. With some business associates, he incorporated BGE, originally known as the Gas and Light Company of Baltimore. Baltimore's first gas street lamps were lit on February 1817, which was 64 years before Baltimore's first electric companies appeared in the city.

In 1906, the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light and Power Company was formed through a series of mergers, operating until 1955 when it was renamed Baltimore Gas and Electric; today it is proudly known as BGE and supports 10,000 direct and indirect jobs in Maryland and contributes almost \$4 billion to the region's economy each year.

The company and its employees have a long history of investing in the community and continue to strengthen that commitment by supporting more than 260 nonprofit organizations each year through charitable contributions and volunteer hours. The company also is a leader in promoting energy efficiency through a variety of means. I was proud to help secure a "smart grid" stimulus grant in 2009, which was instrumental in helping BGE install 2 million electric and gas smart meter devices throughout central Maryland. Today the company continues to help its customers take more control of their energy supply and management, and it will keep working with its customers and communities to promote clean energy resources while delivering energy in a safe, reliable, and clean manner.

I would like to ask my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating BGE on its 200th anniversary and thanking the dedicated employees, customers, businesses, and communities who helped BGE to achieve this milestone.●

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JULIUS D. SPAIN, SR.

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize MGySgt Julius D. Spain, Sr., U.S. Marine Corps, on the occasion of his retirement following 26 years of service in the Marine Corps.

A native of Conway, SC, Julius entered the Marine Corps in August 1990 as a recruit at Parris Island, SC. In the years after completing school there, Julius received several promotions, as well as orders to many assignments within the Marine Corps, including being deployed to combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2002 and reporting to the U.S. delegation to the North Military Committee, Joint Staff, NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium, in 2004, where Julius provided administrative and operational support for the U.S. Ambassador to NATO, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and the President of the United States.

In 2010, Julius was selected as one of two staff noncommissioned officers in the Marine Corps to participate in the 2011 Congressional Fellowship Program on Capitol Hill. I met Julius in January 2011, when he began a 12-month stint in my Senate office as my defense fellow. During that year, he assisted on numerous military issues and was an excellent representative of the Marine Corps. Julius also was selected for promotion to the rank of master gunnery sergeant during his time in my office.

Since leaving my Senate office, Julius has served as the senior enlisted legislative adviser for the Marine Corps Office of Legislative Affairs and later as a special senior enlisted detailee with the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General. He will retire from this detailee position this month.

MGySgt Julius Spain is married to the former Adriana Contreras of Houston, TX, and she is a Marine Corps veteran herself. They have three children: Monique, 22; Julius, Jr., 21; and Leana, 17. I wish the entire Spain family fair winds and following seas as they enter this new phase of their lives together. Thank you all for your commitment to our Nation.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:22 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill with an amendment and an amendment to the title, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2754. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the "Tom Stagg Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1877. An act to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

H.R. 3216. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the emergency hospital care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain veterans.

H.R. 3537. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add certain synthetic substances to schedule I, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3779. An act to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5162. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disclose to non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers certain medical records of veterans who receive health care from such providers.

H.R. 5346. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5392. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

H.R. 5459. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance preparedness and response capabilities for cyber attacks, bolster the dissemination of homeland security information related to cyber threats, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5460. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a review process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5509. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House".

H.R. 5873. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

H.R. 5883. An act to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5943. An act to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5978. An act to amend title 14, United States Code, to clarify the functions of the Chief Acquisition Officer of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1877. An act to amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3216. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the emergency hospital care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3537. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to add certain synthetic substances to Schedule I, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3779. An act to restrict the inclusion of social security account numbers on documents sent by mail by the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5162. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disclose to non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers certain medical records of veterans who receive health care from such providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5346. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5459. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance preparedness and response capabilities for cyber attacks, bolster the dissemination of homeland security information related to cyber threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5460. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a review process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5509. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs temporary lodging facility in Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Dr. Otis Bowen Veteran House"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 5873. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 5978. An act to amend title 14, United States Code, to clarify the functions of the

Chief Acquisition Officer of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5963. An act to reauthorize and improve the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2966. A bill to update the financial disclosure requirements for judges of the District of Columbia courts, and to make other improvements to the District of Columbia courts (Rept. No. 114-359).

S. 2968. A bill to reauthorize the Office of Special Counsel, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-360).

S. 2975. A bill to provide agencies with discretion in securing information technology and information systems (Rept. No. 114-361).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2421. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Tanana Tribal Council located in Tanana, Alaska, and to the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation located in Dillingham, Alaska, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-362).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2959. A bill to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund (Rept. No. 114-363).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2607. A bill to ensure appropriate spectrum planning and interagency coordination to support the Internet of Things (Rept. No. 114-364).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3183. A bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Robert D. McMurry, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Reynold N. Hoover, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report

favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Scott E. Williams, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of John D. Cinamon, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Alfred G. Traylor II, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Mark C. Anarumo, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Steven C. M. Hasstedt, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Karl E. Nell, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Todd D. Wolford, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Lance L. Jelks, to be Major.

Army nomination of Matthew A. Levine, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Daniel J. Donovan, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Donna A. McDermott, to be Colonel.

Navy nominations beginning with Jordan M. Adler and ending with Richard C. Wong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with John A. Allen and ending with Timmeron C. Vanzant, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher D. Ayala and ending with Andrew S. West, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Francis B. Carnaby and ending with Rebecca I. Summers, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Benjamin R. Addison and ending with Russell P. Wolfkiel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua C. Alcazar and ending with Jui I. Yang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Silas O. Carpenter and ending with Christopher E. Wells, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Galo A. Cavalcanti and ending with Audra M. Vance, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher T. Abplanalp and ending with Ryan E. Zvyth, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Steven M. Arbogast and ending with Joseph M. Stark, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Dorian R. Acker and ending with Jason York, which

nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael A. Ammendola and ending with Michael B. Zimet, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 22, 2016.

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Rena Bitter, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Nominee: Rena Bitter.

Post: Laos.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$100, 2012, Barack Obama; \$500, 2015, Hillary Clinton.

2. Spouse: NA.

3. Children and Spouses: NA.

4. Parents: Herbert and Frieda Bitter—deceased.

5. Grandparents: Sylvia and Joseph Bitter—deceased; Sima and Morris Schuman—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Mitchell Bitter, \$200, 2012, Obama; \$200, last race, Udall; \$200, last race, Bennett; \$200, last race, Romanoff.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Eileen and Mark Rosenzweig, \$250, 2012, Obama; \$100, 2012, DSCC; \$35, 2012, Obama; \$100, 2012, Obama; \$100, 2012, DCCC; \$250, 2012, Obama; \$300, 2012, Obama; \$54.44, 2012, DSCC.

*Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines.

Nominee: Sung Y. Kim.

Post: Manila.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: none.

3. Children and Spouses: none.

4. Parents: none.

5. Grandparents: none.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Joon Y. Kim, 1875.00, Sept 2014, Squire Patton Boggs Political Action Committee.

7. Sisters and Spouses: none.

*Andrew Robert Young, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Burkina Faso.

Nominee: Andrew Robert Young.

Post: Burkina Faso.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$300, 08/01/2012*, Jennifer Roberts for Congress.

2. Spouse: Margaret Hawley-Young: none.

3. Children and Spouses: Nathan Young: none; Claire Young: none.

4. Parents: Robert Richard Young—deceased; Joyce Joann Young, none.

5. Grandparents: Lowell Hulsebus—deceased; Betty Hulsebus—deceased; Odile Davis Young—deceased; Richard Young—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Daren Scott Young—deceased; Jonathan Richard Young, none; Blair Benton Young, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Danee Suzanne Young: \$500, 03/27/2016, Sanders, Bernard via Bernie 2016; \$1,000, 09/19/2012, Sen. Harry Reid via Friends for Harry Reid; \$1,000, 10/06/2012, Chris Murphy via Friends of Chris Murphy; \$1,000, 09/19/2012, Sen. Claire McCaskill McCaskill for Missouri; \$500, 10/18/2010, Friends for Harry Reid; \$500, 09/21/2006, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; \$250, 06/30/2004, Joseph Hoefliff for Senate Committee; \$250, 06/29/2004, Paul Babbitt for Congress; \$250, 06/29/2004, Lois Murphy for Congress; \$250, 06/29/2004, Patty Wetterling for Congress; \$1,000, 03/08/2004, John Kerry for President Inc.

*W. Stuart Symington, of Missouri, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Nominee: W. Stuart Symington.

Post: Abuja, Nigeria.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: \$500.00, 12/2011, Klobuchar for Minn.

3. Children and Spouses: Daughter: Jane W. Symington: \$50.00, 9/2012, Obama for America. Jessen Wabeke (husband): none. Son: W. Stuart Symington VI: \$116.00, 08/25/2015, Hillary for America; \$25.00, 03/14/2016, Hillary for America; \$20.00, 05/05/2016, Hillary for America; \$100.00, 06/15/2016, Hillary Victory Fund.

4. Parents: Stuart Symington Jr.: \$250.00, 12/31/2011, Klobuchar for Minn.; \$250.00, 07/10/2012, McCaskill for Mo.; Janey B. Symington: \$250.00, 12/31/2011, Klobuchar for Minn.; \$250.00, 07/10/2012, McCaskill for Mo.

5. Grandparents: Stuart Symington—deceased; Evelyn Wadsworth Symington—deceased; Jane Sante Studt—deceased; Sidney M. Studt—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: Sidney S. Symington, none; John Sante Symington, Margaret Symington (spouse), \$1,000.00, 12/29/2011, Klobuchar for Minn.; \$1,000.00, 05/21/2012, Klobuchar for Minn.; \$100.00, 09/10/2012, Obama for America; \$100.00, 09/10/2012, Democratic Senate Campaign Comm.; \$50.00, 12/18/2013, Mark Pryor for Alaska; \$150.00, 05/09/2014, DSCC; \$100.00, 07/11/2015, Hillary for America; \$100.00, 07/11/2015, DSCC; \$150.00, 02/16/2016, Hillary Victory Fund.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Anne Wadsworth Symington—deceased.

*Joseph R. Donovan Jr., of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Indonesia.

Nominee: Joseph R. Donovan Jr.

Post: Jakarta, Indonesia.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.

2. Spouse: Mei Chou Donovan: none.

3. Children and Spouses: James R. Donovan: none. Matthew W. Donovan: none.

4. Parents: Joseph R. Donovan: none; Mary Helen Donovan—deceased.

5. Grandparents: James C. Donovan—deceased; Margaret Donovan—deceased; Arthur Priest—deceased; Mary Priest—deceased.

6. Brothers and Spouses: David A. Donovan, none; Julia Downey, none.

7. Sisters and Spouses: Marianne Donovan, none.

*Christopher Coons, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Seventy-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

*Ronald H. Johnson, of Wisconsin, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Seventy-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Diana Isabel Acosta and ending with Elisa Joelle Zogbi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 13, 2016. (minus 4 nominees: Michael Ashkouri; Omar Robles; Steven James Rynecki; Ethan N. Takahashi)

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jennisa Paredes and ending with Jamoral Twine, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on July 13, 2016. (minus 1 nominee: Edward Peay)

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with Jorge A. Abudei and ending with Deborah Kay Jones, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 6, 2016. (minus 1 nominee: Leslie L. Johnson)

*Foreign Service nominations beginning with John Robert Adams and ending with David M. Zwick, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 6, 2016.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 3395. A bill to require limitations on prescribed burns; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3396. A bill to require an Air Force report on perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonates (PFOS) contamination at certain military installations and require reparation for identified contaminated sites and affected areas; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 3397. A bill to encourage visits between the United States and Taiwan at all levels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3398. A bill to reform the inspection process of housing assisted by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 3399. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the disclosure of the annual percentage rates applicable to Federal student loans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3400. A bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO:

S. 3401. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to consolidate and expand the provision of health care to veterans through non-Department of Veterans Affairs health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3402. A bill to protect consumers from deceptive practices with respect to online booking of hotel reservations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3403. A bill to authorize payment by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the costs associated with service by medical residents and interns at facilities operated by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and the Indian Health Service, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to expand medical residencies and internships at such facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KIRK, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. 3404. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2B liquid assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3405. A bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 580. A resolution supporting the establishment of a President's Youth Council; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 581. A resolution prohibiting the Senate from adjourning, recessing, or convening in a pro forma session unless the Senate has provided a hearing and a vote on the pending nomination to the position of justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 582. A resolution recognizing and honoring the life of Jose Fernandez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 248

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 540

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees and grants to fi-

nance certain improvements to school lunch facilities, to train school food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1085, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 1127

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1127, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the denial of deduction for certain excessive employee remuneration, and for other purposes.

S. 1509

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1509, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to eliminate the sunset date for the Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2598

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

S. 2795

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2795, a bill to modernize the regulation of nuclear energy.

S. 3026

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3026, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller identification information and to require providers of telephone service to offer technology to subscribers to reduce the incidence of unwanted telephone calls, and for other purposes.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, *supra*.

S. 3111

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3111, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the 7.5 percent threshold for the medical expense deduction for individuals age 65 or older.

S. 3153

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3153, a bill to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to take risk profiles and business models of institutions into account when taking regulatory actions, and for other purposes.

S. 3183

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S.

3183, a bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 3292

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3292, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to make the Postmaster General the importer of record for the non-letter class mail and to require the provision of advance electronic information about shipments of non-letter class mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 3304

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3304, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 3311

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3311, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt individuals whose health plans under the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan program have been terminated from the individual mandate penalty.

S. 3346

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3346, a bill to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 51, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 527

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 527, a resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the opening of the National Gallery of Art.

S. RES. 553

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 553, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the challenges the conflict in Syria poses to long-term stability and prosperity in Lebanon.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. NELSON, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3402. A bill to protect consumers from deceptive practices with respect to online booking of hotel reservations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, the travel and tourism industry plays a significant role in the U.S. economy. Travel and tourism contributed over \$480 billion to the U.S. GDP last year. In Montana, tourism is one of our leading industries. Every year, visitors spend over \$3 billion in our state which supports jobs and reduces taxes for Montana residents.

The development of the online marketplace has made it easier than ever for travelers to do research, plan trips, and make reservations online. Online platforms allow customers to compare thousands of brands in one place. As a result, the number of hotel reservations made online has surged over the past several years. There are now up to 480 bookings every minute. As the number of online bookings has increased, there has also been an increase in the number of online booking scams.

Illegitimate reservation sellers pose as hotel websites, leading consumers to believe they are booking directly with the hotel, when in fact they are booking with an unrelated third party. Transactions on these sites can result in additional hidden fees, loss of expected loyalty points, or even confirmation of reservations that were never made. One study found that as many as 15 million bookings a year are affected by fraudulent websites.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Stop Online Booking Scams Act of 2016 with my colleague Senator NELSON. The bill requires third party sites to disclose that they are not affiliated with the hotel, providing clarity and transparency to consumers booking online. It also empowers state attorneys general to pursue cases on behalf of consumers who have been scammed. Providing clear disclosures that reveal the true identity of websites will give confidence to the millions of consumers who make reservations online

every year. I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this much needed legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3402

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop Online Booking Scams Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Internet has become an important channel of commerce in the United States, accounting for billions of dollars in retail sales every year.

(2) Hotel reservation transactions can be easily made online and online commerce has created a marketplace where consumers can shop for hotels, flights, car rentals, and other travel-related services and products across thousands of brands on a single platform.

(3) Consumers should have the utmost clarity as to the company with which such consumers are transacting business online.

(4) Actions by third party sellers that misappropriate brand identity, trademark, or other marketing content are harmful to consumers.

(5) Platforms offered by online travel agencies provide consumers with a valuable tool for comparative shopping for hotels and should not be mistaken for the unlawful third-party actors that commit such misappropriation.

(6) The misleading and deceptive sales tactics companies use against customers booking hotel rooms online have resulted in the loss of sensitive financial and personal information, financial harm, and headache for consumers.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) consumers benefit from the ability to shop for travel-related services and products on the innovative platforms offered by online travel agencies;

(2) sellers on the Internet should provide consumers with clear, accurate information and such sellers should have an opportunity to compete fairly with one another; and

(3) the Federal Trade Commission should revise the Internet website of the Commission to make it easier for consumers and businesses to report complaints of deceptive practices with respect to online booking of hotel reservations.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AFFILIATION CONTRACT.—The term “affiliation contract” means, with respect to a hotel, a contract with the owner of the hotel, the entity that manages the hotel, or the franchisor of the hotel to provide online hotel reservation services for the hotel.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) EXHIBITION ORGANIZER OR MEETING PLANNER.—The term “exhibition organizer or meeting planner” means the person responsible for all aspects of planning, promoting, and producing a meeting, conference, event, or exhibition, including overseeing and arranging all hotel reservation plans and con-

tracts for the meeting, conference, event, or exhibition.

(4) OFFICIAL HOUSING BUREAU.—The term “official housing bureau” means the organization designated by an exhibition organizer or meeting planner to provide hotel reservation services for meetings, conferences, events, or exhibitions.

(5) PARTY DIRECTLY AFFILIATED.—The term “party directly affiliated” means, with respect to a hotel, a person who has entered into an affiliation contract with the hotel.

(6) THIRD PARTY ONLINE HOTEL RESERVATION SELLER.—The term “third party online hotel reservation seller” means any person that—

(A) sells any good or service with respect to a hotel in a transaction effected on the Internet; and

(B) is not—

(i) a party directly affiliated with the hotel; or

(ii) an exhibition organizer or meeting planner or the official housing bureau for a meeting, conference, event, or exhibition held at the hotel.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD PARTY ONLINE HOTEL RESERVATION SELLERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a third party online hotel reservation seller to charge or attempt to charge any consumer’s credit card, debit card, bank account, or other financial account for any good or service sold in a transaction effected on the Internet with respect to a hotel unless the third party online hotel reservation seller—

(1) clearly and conspicuously discloses to the consumer all material terms of the transaction, including—

(A) before the conclusion of the transaction—

(i) a description of the good or service being offered; and

(ii) the cost of such good or service; and

(B) in a manner that is continuously visible to the consumer throughout the transaction process, the fact that the person is a third party online hotel reservation seller and is not—

(i) affiliated with the person who owns the hotel or provides the hotel services or accommodations; or

(ii) an exhibition organizer or meeting planner or the official housing bureau for a meeting, conference, event, or exhibition held at the hotel; or

(2) includes prominent and continuous disclosure of the brand identity of the third party online hotel reservation seller throughout the transaction process, both online and over the phone.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of subsection (a) by a person subject to such subsection shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) RULEMAKING.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may promulgate such rules as the Commission considers appropriate to enforce this section.

(ii) PROCEDURES.—The Commission shall carry out any rulemaking under clause (i) in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person subject to subsection (a) in a practice that violates such subsection, the attorney general of the State may, as parens patriae, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate relief.

(2) RIGHTS OF FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(A) NOTICE TO FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring a civil action under paragraph (1) before initiating the civil action against a person subject to subsection (a).

(ii) CONTENTS.—The notification required by clause (i) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required by clause (i) before initiating a civil action under paragraph (1), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(B) INTERVENTION BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—The Commission may—

(i) intervene in any civil action brought by the attorney general of a State under paragraph (1) against a person described in subsection (d)(1); and

(ii) upon intervening—

(I) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(II) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(3) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, to administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(4) STATE COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—If the Commission institutes a civil action or an administrative action with respect to a violation of subsection (a), the attorney general of a State shall coordinate with the Commission before bringing a civil action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for the violation with respect to which the Commission instituted such action.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

- (i) is an inhabitant; or
- (ii) may be found.

(6) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under paragraph (1), any other officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under paragraph (1), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this subsection to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3405. A bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, for Montanans, gunsmithing goes hand-in-hand with hunting and sport shooting. Sometimes the difference between a successful hunt and an unfulfilled tag can be a needed modification on a rifle. Throughout Montana and across America, hundreds of thousands of gunsmiths make sure that our firearms are setup to our custom specifications. Many of these gunsmiths do so as a side project or hobby, making a little extra income in the process.

Recently, the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls, DDTC, issued guidance that changed the definition of a manufacturer under the International Traffic in Arms Regulations, ITAR, to be so broad that could include these gunsmiths and require them to register as manufacturers, which includes an annual \$2,250 fee. ITAR was intended to control the production and exportation of products essential to our national security, such as those intended only for military use, but not to unnecessarily hinder American business and innovation or undermine the Second Amendment.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Export Control Reform Act of 2016 with my colleague Senator CAPITO. The bill transfers regulatory responsibility for common, domestic firearms and related items from the Department of State to the Commerce Department, to be regulated like any other commercial business—allowing small business to continue to serve hunters and sports shooters.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3405

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Export Control Reform Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. EXPORT CONTROLS ON CERTAIN ITEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 38(f) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(f)) or any other provision of law, all items described in subsection (b) that are on the United States Munitions List and controlled under section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be transferred to the Commerce Control List of dual-use items in the Export Administration Regulations (15 C.F.R. part 730 et seq.).

(b) TRANSFERRED ITEMS.—The items referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Non-automatic and semi-automatic firearms, including all rifles, carbines, pistols, revolvers and shotguns.

(2) Non-automatic and non-semi-automatic rifles, carbines, revolvers, or pistols of a caliber greater than .50 inches (12.7 mm) up to and including .72 inches (18.0 mm).

(3) Ammunition for such firearms excluding caseless ammunition.

(4) Silencers, mufflers, and sound and flash suppressors.

(5) Rifle scopes.

(6) Barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames), or complete breech mechanisms.

(7) Related components, parts, accessories, attachments, tooling, and equipment for any articles listed in paragraphs (1) through (6).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall not apply to any export license issued before such effective date or to any export license application made under the United States Munitions List before such effective date.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 580—SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRESIDENT'S YOUTH COUNCIL

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. HATCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 580

Now, therefore, be it
Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the creation of a Federal youth advisory council, to be known as the Presidential Youth Council (referred to in this Act as the “Council”), to be privately funded, which shall—

(A) advise the President on the creation and implementation of new Federal policies and programs that pertain to and affect American youth;

(B) provide recommendations on ways to make existing policies and programs that pertain to and affect American youth more efficient and effective, through investment from relevant bodies, for delivery of youth services nationwide; and

(C) carry out activities to solicit the unique views and perspectives of young people and bring those views and perspectives to the attention of the head of each department or agency of the Federal Government and Congress, as needed, or on a case-by-case basis; and

(2) recommends that the members of the President's Youth Council be composed of 24 young Americans—

(A) of which—

(i) four members shall be appointed by the President;

(ii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint—

(I) if the Speaker belongs to the same political party as the President, 4 members; or

(II) if the Speaker does not belong to the same political party as the President, 6 members;

(iii) the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint—

(I) if the Minority Leader belongs to the same political party as the President, 4 members; or

(II) if the Minority Leader does not belong to the same political party as the President, 6 members;

(iv) the Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint—

(I) if the Majority Leader belongs to the same political party as the President, 4 members; or

(II) if the Majority Leader does not belong to the same political party as the President, 6 members; and

(v) the Minority Leader of the Senate shall appoint—

(I) if the Minority Leader belongs to the same political party as the President, 4 members; or

(II) if the Minority Leader does not belong to the same political party as the President, 6 members;

(B) who are between 16 and 24 years of age;

(C) who have participated in a public policy-related program, outreach initiative, internship, fellowship, or Congressional, State, or local government-sponsored youth advisory council;

(D) who can constructively contribute to policy deliberations;

(E) who can conduct outreach to solicit the views and perspectives of peers; and

(F) who have backgrounds that reflect the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 581—PROHIBITING THE SENATE FROM ADJOURNING, RECESSING, OR CONVENING IN A PRO FORMA SESSION UNLESS THE SENATE HAS PROVIDED A HEARING AND A VOTE ON THE PENDING NOMINATION TO THE POSITION OF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. REID, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 581

Whereas the Constitution of the United States provides that the President shall “nominate, and by and with the advice and

consent of the Senate, shall appoint" justices of the Supreme Court of the United States (in this preamble referred to as the "Supreme Court");

Whereas the constitutional duty of the Senate of providing advice and consent on nominees to be a justice of the Supreme Court is one of the most important and solemn responsibilities of the Senate;

Whereas the Senate has taken action on every pending nominee to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court in the last 100 years;

Whereas the Senate has confirmed 13 justices of the Supreme Court in the month of September, including Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Antonin Scalia;

Whereas there has never been a time in history when an elected President has been denied the ability to fill a Supreme Court vacancy, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, prior to the election of the next President;

Whereas the Senate has confirmed more than a dozen justices of the Supreme Court in presidential election years, including 5 in the last 100 years;

Whereas the Senate has confirmed justices of the Supreme Court in election years in which the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government were divided between 2 political parties, including confirming Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy in 1988;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has never denied a hearing to a nominee to be a justice of the Supreme Court since the committee began holding public confirmation hearings for such nominees in 1916;

Whereas the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate has a long tradition of reporting nominees to be a justice of the Supreme Court for consideration by the full Senate, even in cases in which the nominee lacked the support of a majority of the committee, including the nominations of Associate Justice Clarence Thomas in 1991 and Robert Bork in 1987;

Whereas the Federal Judiciary is a coequal branch of the Federal Government and the Supreme Court serves an essential function resolving questions of law that affect the economy and people of the United States and the protection of the United States and its communities;

Whereas forcing the Supreme Court to function with only 8 sitting justices has created several instances, and risks creating more instances, in which the justices are evenly divided as to the outcome of a case, preventing the Supreme Court from resolving conflicting interpretations of the law from different regions of the United States and thereby undermining the constitutional function of the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the law;

Whereas the Supreme Court recusal policy adopted in 1993 and signed by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, Associate Justices John Paul Stevens, Antonin Scalia, Sandra Day O'Connor, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and later adopted by Chief Justice John Roberts, stresses that "even one unnecessary recusal impairs the functioning of the Court" and that "needless recusal deprives litigants of the nine Justices to which they are entitled, produces the possibility of an even division on the merits of the case, and has a distorting effect on the certiorari process, requiring the petition to obtain (under our current practice) four votes out of eight instead of four out of nine";

Whereas since 1975, the average number of days from nomination to confirmation vote

for a nominee to be a justice of the Supreme Court has been 70 days;

Whereas the vacancy on the Supreme Court caused by the death of Associate Justice Antonin Scalia arose on February 13, 2016, and the days since the occurrence of that vacancy now number more than 200 days; and

Whereas on March 16, 2016, President Obama nominated Merrick B. Garland, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, to fill the Supreme Court vacancy caused by the death of Associate Justice Antonin Scalia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "No Vote No Recess Resolution".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITING ADJOURNMENT OR PRO FORMA SESSIONS UNTIL ACTION ON NOMINEE TO SUPREME COURT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—During the period beginning on September 27, 2016 and ending on the last day of the 114th Congress, the Senate shall not adjourn, remain adjourned, or recess for a period of more than 2 days and shall not convene solely in a pro forma session unless, by the date on which the period of adjournment begins or the date of the pro forma session, the Senate has taken action on any nomination made by the President for a position as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States by—

(1) holding a hearing on the nomination in the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(2) holding a vote on the nomination in the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) holding a confirmation vote on the nomination in the full Senate.

(b) ADJOURNING AND RECESSING.—During the period beginning on September 27, 2016 and ending on the date on which the requirements under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a) are met—

(1) a motion to adjourn or to recess the Senate, or any resolution or order of the Senate including a provision that the Senate adjourn at a time certain, shall be decided by a yeay-or-nay vote, and agreed to upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present;

(2) if a quorum is present, the Presiding Officer shall not entertain a request to adjourn or recess the Senate by unanimous consent or to vitiate the yeas and nays on such a motion by unanimous consent; and

(3) if the Senate adjourns due to the absence of a quorum, the Senate shall reconvene 2 hours after the time at which it adjourns and ascertain the presence of a quorum.

(c) NO SUSPENSION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Presiding Officer may not entertain a request to suspend the operation of this resolution by unanimous consent or motion.

(d) CONSISTENCY WITH SENATE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES.—Nothing in this resolution shall be construed in a manner that is inconsistent with S. Res. 296 (108th Congress) or any other emergency procedures or practices of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 582—RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSE FERNANDEZ

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 582

Whereas Jose Fernandez was born in Santa Clara, Cuba, on July 31, 1992;

Whereas Jose Fernandez attempted to escape Cuba on 4 separate occasions and was imprisoned by the Cuban government for doing so;

Whereas during one of his attempts to escape Cuba, Jose Fernandez saved the life of his mother by diving into the water to rescue her after she fell into the Yucatan channel;

Whereas Jose Fernandez came to the United States on April 5, 2008;

Whereas Jose Fernandez was a graduate of Braulio Alonso High School in Tampa, Florida;

Whereas Jose Fernandez was drafted by the Miami Marlins in the first round of the 2011 Major League Baseball Draft as the 14th overall selection;

Whereas Jose Fernandez signed with the Marlins on August 15, 2011;

Whereas Jose Fernandez started his first Major League Baseball game on April 7, 2013;

Whereas Jose Fernandez won the 2013 National League Rookie of the Year award;

Whereas, in 2013, after more than 5 years and with the help of the Marlins, Jose Fernandez was reunited with his grandmother, whom he called the love of his life;

Whereas Jose Fernandez became a United States citizen on April 24, 2015;

Whereas Jose Fernandez was a 2-time All-Star, with a career record of 38 wins, 17 losses, 589 strikeouts, and a 2.58 earned run average;

Whereas Jose Fernandez gave back to his community through charities such as Live Like Bella, the Marlins Foundation, and the Marlins Ayudan;

Whereas, on September 25, 2016, Jose Fernandez died in a tragic boating accident with his 2 friends, Emilio Macias and Eduardo Rivero;

Whereas Emilio Macias and Eduardo Rivero graduated from G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School in Miami, Florida;

Whereas Jose Fernandez, through his hard work, devotion, and optimism, brought great joy to his family, especially his mother and grandmother; and

Whereas Jose Fernandez's pursuit of the American dream was a great source of pride for the Cuban exile community of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and accomplishments of Jose Fernandez;

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to—

(A) the family, friends, loved ones, and teammates of Jose Fernandez; and

(B) the family and friends of Emilio Macias and Eduardo Rivero;

(3) commends the significant contributions that Jose Fernandez made, on and off the field, to—

(A) the City of Tampa, Florida;

(B) the City of Miami, Florida; and

(C) the State of Florida; and

(4) recognizes the memory of Jose Fernandez as an inspiration for all who seek freedom and a better life in the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5103. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5104. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5103. Mr. MCCONNELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Statement of appropriations.
- Sec. 5. Availability of funds.
- Sec. 6. Explanatory statement.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs

Title III—Related agencies

Title IV—Overseas contingency operations

Title V—General provisions

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 6. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

(a) The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about September 22, 2016, by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through D of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

(b) Any reference to the “joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act” contained in division A of this Act shall be considered to be a reference to the explanatory statement described in subsection (a).

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$513,459,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$98,159,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$1,021,580,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$88,230,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$1,491,058,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That of this amount, not to exceed \$143,582,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be for construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 3, at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, unless authorized in an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military construction.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$2,025,444,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That

such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$180,775,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$232,930,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$8,729,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$143,957,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$10,462,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$68,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$7,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine

Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$38,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$3,783,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$188,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$4,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$240,237,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$157,172,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$325,995,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$94,011,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and

maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$300,915,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$61,352,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$274,429,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$59,157,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$3,258,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal

year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5–10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 125. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2021:

"Military Construction, Army", \$40,500,000;
 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$227,099,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$149,500,000;
 "Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$67,500,000;
 "Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$11,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$30,000,000;

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year

2017 submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense: *Provided further*, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 126. For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$89,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: *Provided*, That, such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified by the Department of the Navy in its June 8, 2016, unfunded priority list submission to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing unfunded reprogramming and emergency construction requirements: *Provided further*, That, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 127. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense from prior appropriation Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

"Military Construction, Army", \$29,602,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$51,460,000;
 "Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$171,600,000, of which \$30,000,000 are to be derived from amounts made available for Missile Defense Agency planning and design; and
 "North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program", \$30,000,000;

Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 128. Of the unobligated balances made available in prior appropriation Acts for the fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$25,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 129. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 130. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to consolidate or relocate any element of a United States Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) outside of the United States until

the Secretary of the Air Force (1) completes an analysis and comparison of the cost and infrastructure investment required to consolidate or relocate a RED HORSE squadron outside of the United States versus within the United States; (2) provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress ("the Committees") a report detailing the findings of the cost analysis; and (3) certifies in writing to the Committees that the preferred site for the consolidation or relocation yields the greatest savings for the Air Force: *Provided*, That the term "United States" in this section does not include any territory or possession of the United States.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,119,449,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$17,224,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2018 under this heading shall be reimbursed to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", and "Information Technology Systems" for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and Pensions" appropriation: *Provided further*, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical Care Collections Fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$13,708,648,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: *Provided*, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, \$124,504,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$107,899,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That, during fiscal year 2017, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$198,856,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$36,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,517,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$389,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,163,000.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,856,160,000: *Provided*, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further*, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repay-

ments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$1,078,993,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$44,886,554,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide access to therapeutic listening devices to veterans struggling with mental health related problems, substance abuse, or traumatic brain injury.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$7,246,181,000, plus reimbursements, of which \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020; and, in addition, \$9,409,118,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, \$1,500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$6,654,480,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing

homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$247,668,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$5,434,880,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$675,366,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$286,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$345,391,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided*, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$156,096,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental informa-

tion systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$4,278,259,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,272,548,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed \$37,100,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That \$2,534,442,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$180,200,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That \$471,269,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further*, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution or any successor program, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(1) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the VistA Evolution Business Case and supporting documents regarding continuation of VistA Evolution or alternatives to VistA Evolution, including an analysis of necessary or desired capabilities, technical and security requirements, the plan for modernizing the platform framework, and all associated costs;

(2) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes a strategic plan for VistA Evolution, or any successor program, and the associated implementation plan including metrics and timelines; a master schedule and lifecycle cost estimate for VistA Evolution or any successor; and an implementation plan for the transition from

the Project Management Accountability System to a new project delivery framework, the Veteran-focused Integration Process, that includes the methodology by which projects will be tracked, progress measured, and deliverables evaluated;

(3) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report outlining the strategic plan to reach interoperability with private sector healthcare providers, the timeline for reaching "meaningful use" as defined by the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for each data domain covered under the VistA Evolution program, and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs leverages the State Health Information Exchanges to share health data with private sector providers;

(4) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes the extent to which VistA Evolution, or any successor program, maximizes the use of commercially available software used by DoD and the private sector, requires an open architecture that leverages best practices and rapidly adapts to technologies produced by the private sector, enhances full interoperability between the VA and DoD and between VA and the private sector, and ensures the security of personally identifiable information of veterans and beneficiaries; and

(5) certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has met the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) which require that electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have reached interoperability, comply with national standards and architectural requirements identified by the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office in collaboration with the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology:

Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$160,106,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds

for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$528,110,000, of which \$478,110,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and of which \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account and contracting officers who manage specific major construction projects, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2017, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2017; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2018: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, \$222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(1) enters into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for any Veterans Health Administration major construction project with a Total Estimated Cost of \$100,000,000 or above by providing full project management services, including management of the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes, consistent with section 502 of Public Law 114–58; and

(2) certifies in writing that such an agreement is executed and intended to minimize or prevent subsequent major construction project cost overruns and provides a copy of the agreement entered into and any required supplementary information to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set

forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$372,069,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, along with unobligated balances of previous “Construction, Minor Projects” appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided*, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2017 for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, in this or any other Act, under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities” accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, and “Medical Support and Compliance” accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers among the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, and “Medical Support and Compliance” accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Pro-*

vided further, That any transfers to or from the “Medical Facilities” account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for “Construction, Major Projects”, and “Construction, Minor Projects”) shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the “Medical Services” account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for “Compensation and Pensions”, “Readjustment Benefits”, and “Veterans Insurance and Indemnities” shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from “Compensation and Pensions”.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans’ Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” and “Information Technology Systems” accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2017 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2017 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any

total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$47,668,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and \$3,932,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally

Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Of the amounts appropriated in title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 under the heading "Medical Services" which become available on October 1, 2016, \$7,246,181,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 218. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled "Quarterly reporting", under the heading "General Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", "General Administration", and "National Cemetery Administration" accounts for fiscal year 2017 may be transferred to or from the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the "Information Technology Systems" account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 220. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Construction, Minor Projects", and "Information Technology Systems", up to \$274,731,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to

the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 223 of title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2017, for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", up to \$280,802,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Of the amounts available in this title for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 225. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or

any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 228. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled "Disability claims backlog", under the heading "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

SEC. 229. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for "Medical Support and Compliance" a maximum of \$40,000,000 may be obligated from the "Medical Support and Compliance" account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: *Provided*, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$2,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the "Medical Services" account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2017 in this title (except appropriations made to the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appro-

priated for fiscal year 2017, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, under the "Board of Veterans Appeals" and the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 234. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 235. Of the unobligated balances available within the "DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund", \$40,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 236. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 114-113 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, \$134,000,000 are rescinded from "Medical Services", \$26,000,000 are rescinded from "Medical Support and Compliance", and \$9,000,000 are rescinded from "Medical Facilities".

SEC. 237. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

- (1) "Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research", \$2,000,000.
- (2) "Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals", \$500,000.
- (3) "Veterans Benefits Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", \$12,000,000.
- (4) "Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems", \$8,000,000.
- (5) "Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General", \$500,000.

SEC. 238. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline

under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

SEC. 239. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall treat a marriage and family therapist described in subsection (b) as qualified to serve as a marriage and family therapist in the Department of Veterans Affairs, regardless of any requirements established by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

(b) A marriage and family therapist described in this subsection is a therapist who meets each of the following criteria:

(1) Has a masters or higher degree in marriage and family therapy, or a related field, from a regionally accredited institution.

(2) Is licensed as a marriage and family therapist in a State (as defined in section 101(20) of title 38, United States Code) and possesses the highest level of licensure offered from the State.

(3) Has passed the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board Examination in Marital and Family Therapy or a related examination for licensure administered by a State (as so defined).

SEC. 240. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliarys, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;

(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;

(3) a cost vs. benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;

(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a VA medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care;

(5) an inventory of VA buildings with historic designation and the methodology used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;

(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and

(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: *Provided*, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 242. Paragraph (3) of section 403(a) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) DURATION.—A veteran may receive health services under this section during the period beginning on the date specified in paragraph (2) and ending on September 30, 2017.”

SEC. 243. (a) Section 1722A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to opioid antagonists furnished under this chapter to a veteran who is at high risk for overdose of a specific medication or substance in order to reverse the effect of such an overdose.”

(b) Section 1710(g)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking “with respect to home health services” and inserting “with respect to the following:”

“(A) Home health services”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) Education on the use of opioid antagonists to reverse the effects of overdoses of specific medications or substances.”

SEC. 244. Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection (c)(1) by striking the phrase “that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action.”

SEC. 245. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for “Medical Services”, funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 246. Section 5701(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

VA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SEC. 247. (a) PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“§ 731. Whistleblower complaint defined

“In this subchapter, the term ‘whistleblower complaint’ means a complaint by an employee of the Department disclosing, or assisting another employee to disclose, a potential violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

“§ 732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints

“(a) FILING.—(1) In addition to any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint, an employee of the Department may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with a supervisor of the employee.

“(2) Except as provided by subsection (d)(1), in making a whistleblower complaint under paragraph (1), an employee shall file the initial complaint with the immediate supervisor of the employee.

“(b) NOTIFICATION.—(1)(A) Not later than four business days after the date on which a supervisor receives a whistleblower complaint by an employee under this section, the supervisor shall notify, in writing, the employee of whether the supervisor determines

that there is a reasonable likelihood that the complaint discloses a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

“(B) The supervisor shall retain written documentation regarding the whistleblower complaint and shall submit to the next-level supervisor and the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h) a written report on the complaint.

“(2)(A) On a monthly basis, the supervisor shall submit to the appropriate director or other official who is superior to the supervisor a written report that includes the number of whistleblower complaints received by the supervisor under this section during the month covered by the report, the disposition of such complaints, and any actions taken because of such complaints pursuant to subsection (c).

“(B) In the case in which such a director or official carries out this paragraph, the director or official shall submit such monthly report to the supervisor of the director or official and to the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h).

“(c) POSITIVE DETERMINATION.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint of an employee, the supervisor shall include in the notification to the employee under such subsection the specific actions that the supervisor will take to address the complaint.

“(d) FILING COMPLAINT WITH NEXT-LEVEL SUPERVISORS.—(1) If any circumstance described in paragraph (3) is met, an employee may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with the next-level supervisor who shall treat such complaint in accordance with this section.

“(2) An employee may file a whistleblower complaint with the Secretary if the employee has filed the whistleblower complaint to each level of supervisors between the employee and the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(3) A circumstance described in this paragraph is any of the following circumstances:

“(A) A supervisor does not make a timely determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint.

“(B) The employee who made a whistleblower complaint determines that the supervisor did not adequately address the complaint pursuant to subsection (c).

“(C) The immediate supervisor of the employee is the basis of the whistleblower complaint.

“(e) TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE WHO FILES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint filed by an employee, the Secretary shall—

“(1) inform the employee of the ability to volunteer for a transfer in accordance with section 3352 of title 5; and

“(2) give preference to the employee for such a transfer in accordance with such section.

“(f) PROHIBITION ON EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may not exempt any employee of the Department from being covered by this section.

“(g) WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT FORM.—(1) A whistleblower complaint filed by an employee under subsection (a) or (d) shall consist of the form described in paragraph (2) and any supporting materials or documentation the employee determines necessary.

“(2) The form described in this paragraph is a form developed by the Secretary, in con-

sultation with the Special Counsel, that includes the following:

“(A) An explanation of the purpose of the whistleblower complaint form.

“(B) Instructions for filing a whistleblower complaint as described in this section.

“(C) An explanation that filing a whistleblower complaint under this section does not preclude the employee from any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint.

“(D) A statement directing the employee to information accessible on the Internet website of the Department as described in section 735(d).

“(E) Fields for the employee to provide—

“(i) the date that the form is submitted;

“(ii) the name of the employee;

“(iii) the contact information of the employee;

“(iv) a summary of the whistleblower complaint (including the option to append supporting documents pursuant to paragraph (1)); and

“(v) proposed solutions to the complaint.

“(F) Any other information or fields that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, shall develop the form described in paragraph (2) by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(h) CENTRAL WHISTLEBLOWER OFFICE.—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office—

“(A) is not an element of the Office of the General Counsel;

“(B) is not headed by an official who reports to the General Counsel;

“(C) does not provide, or receive from, the General Counsel any information regarding a whistleblower complaint except pursuant to an action regarding the complaint before an administrative body or court; and

“(D) does not provide advice to the General Counsel.

“(2) The central whistleblower office shall be responsible for investigating all whistleblower complaints of the Department, regardless of whether such complaints are made by or against an employee who is not a member of the Senior Executive Service.

“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office maintains a toll-free hotline to anonymously receive whistleblower complaints.

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office has such staff and resources as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the functions of the central whistleblower office.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘central whistleblower office’ means the Office of Accountability Review or a successor office that is established or designated by the Secretary to investigate whistleblower complaints filed under this section or any other method established by law.

“§ 733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints

“(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse actions against supervisory employees (as defined in section 7103(a) of title 5) whom the Secretary, an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the Inspector General of the Department determines committed a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):

“(A) With respect to the first offense, an adverse action that is not less than a 12-day suspension and not more than removal.

“(B) With respect to the second offense, removal.

“(2)(A) An employee against whom an adverse action under paragraph (1) is proposed is entitled to written notice.

“(B)(i) An employee who is notified under subparagraph (A) of being the subject of a proposed adverse action under paragraph (1) is entitled to 14 days following such notification to answer and furnish evidence in support of the answer.

“(ii) If the employee does not furnish any such evidence as described in clause (i) or if the Secretary determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the determination to propose the adverse action, the Secretary shall carry out the adverse action following such 14-day period.

“(C) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7513 of title 5, subsection (c) of such section, paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7543 of such title, and subsection (c) of such section shall not apply with respect to an adverse action carried out under paragraph (1).

“(b) LIMITATION ON OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS.—With respect to a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c), if the Secretary carries out an adverse action against a supervisory employee, the Secretary may carry out an additional adverse action under this section based on the same prohibited personnel action if the total severity of the adverse actions do not exceed the level specified in subsection (a).

“(c) PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION DESCRIBED.—A prohibited personnel action described in this subsection is any of the following actions:

“(1) Taking or failing to take a personnel action in violation of section 2302 of title 5 against an employee relating to the employee—

“(A) filing a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(B) filing a whistleblower complaint with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(C) providing information or participating as a witness in an investigation of a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 or with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(D) participating in an audit or investigation by the Comptroller General of the United States;

“(E) refusing to perform an action that is unlawful or prohibited by the Department; or

“(F) engaging in communications that are related to the duties of the position or are otherwise protected.

“(2) Preventing or restricting an employee from making an action described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

“(3) Conducting a negative peer review or opening a retaliatory investigation because of an activity of an employee that is protected by section 2302 of title 5.

“(4) Requesting a contractor to carry out an action that is prohibited by section 4705(b) or section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, as the case may be.

“§ 734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses

“(a) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—(1) In evaluating the performance of supervisors of the Department, the Secretary shall include the criteria described in paragraph (2).

“(2) The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

“(A) Whether the supervisor treats whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title.

“(B) Whether the appropriate deciding official, performance review board, or performance review committee determines that the supervisor was found to have committed a prohibited personnel action described in section 733(b) of this title by an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or, in the case of a settlement of a whistleblower complaint (regardless of whether any fault was assigned under such settlement), the Secretary.

“(b) BONUSES.—(1) The Secretary may not pay to a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) an award or bonus under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the determination was made under such subsection.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue an order directing a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) to repay the amount of any award or bonus paid under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, if—

“(A) such award or bonus was paid for performance during a period in which the supervisor committed a prohibited personnel action as determined pursuant to such subsection (a)(2)(B);

“(B) the Secretary determines such repayment appropriate pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary to carry out this section; and

“(C) the supervisor is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing before making such repayment.

“§ 735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints

“(a) TRAINING.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary, in coordination with the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman designated under section 3(d)(1)(C) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), shall provide to each employee of the Department training regarding whistleblower complaints, including—

“(1) an explanation of each method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint;

“(2) an explanation of prohibited personnel actions described by section 733(c) of this title;

“(3) with respect to supervisors, how to treat whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(4) the right of the employee to petition Congress regarding a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 7211 of title 5;

“(5) an explanation that the employee may not be prosecuted or reprised against for disclosing information to Congress, the Inspector General, or another investigatory agency in instances where such disclosure is permitted by law, including under sections 5701, 5705, and 7732 of this title, under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), under chapter 93 of title 18, and pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191);

“(6) an explanation of the language that is required to be included in all nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements pursuant to section 115(a)(1) of the Whistleblower Protec-

tion Enhancement Act of 2012 (5 U.S.C. 2302 note); and

“(7) the right of contractors to be protected from reprisal for the disclosure of certain information under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41.

“(b) MANNER TRAINING IS PROVIDED.—The Secretary shall ensure that training provided under subsection (a) is provided in person.

“(c) CERTIFICATION.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall provide training on merit system protection in a manner that the Special Counsel certifies as being satisfactory.

“(d) PUBLICATION.—(1) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, and display prominently at each facility of the Department, the rights of an employee to file a whistleblower complaint, including the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a).

“(2) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, the whistleblower complaint form described in section 732(g)(2).

“§ 736. Reports to Congress

“(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

“(1) with respect to whistleblower complaints filed under section 732 of this title during the year covered by the report—

“(A) the number of such complaints filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints in which a positive determination was made by a supervisor under subsection (b)(1) of such section;

“(2) the number of whistleblower complaints filed during the year covered by the report that are not included under paragraph (1), including—

“(A) the method in which such complaints were filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints; and

“(3) with respect to disclosures made by a contractor under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41—

“(A) the number of complaints relating to such disclosures that were investigated by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the year covered by the report;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints.

“(b) NOTICE OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives from the Special Counsel information relating to a whistleblower complaint pursuant to section 1213 of title 5, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such information, including the determination made by the Special Counsel.

“(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.”

(2) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such chapter is further amended by inserting before section 701 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended—

(i) by inserting before the item relating to section 701 the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“731. Whistleblower complaint defined.

“732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints.

“733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints.

“734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses.

“735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints.

“736. Reports to Congress.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES AS OFFICIAL DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, as designated by section 2(a)(2)(A), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty

“(a) CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.—An employee of the Department is performing official duty during the period with respect to which the employee is testifying in an official capacity in front of either chamber of Congress, a committee of either chamber of Congress, or a joint or select committee of Congress.

“(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall provide travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, to any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs performing official duty described under subsection (a).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 2(a)(2)(B), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

“715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty.”.

SEC. 248. (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of verifying that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who is recognized pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as having performed active duty service for the purposes described in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall accept the following:

(1) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom no applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner's document or Z-card, or other official employment record is available, the Secretary of Defense shall provide such recognition on the basis of applicable Social Security Administration records submitted for or by the individual, together

with validated testimony given by the individual or the primary next of kin of the individual that the individual performed such service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(2) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom the applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner's document or Z-card, or other official employment record has been destroyed or otherwise become unavailable by reason of any action committed by a person responsible for the control and maintenance of such form, logbook, or record, the Secretary of Defense shall accept other official documentation demonstrating that the individual performed such service during period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, the Secretary shall recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other officers in command of similarly organized groups as agents of the United States who were authorized to document any individual for purposes of hiring the individual to perform service in the merchant marine or discharging an individual from such service.

(b) TREATMENT OF OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Other documentation accepted by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(c) BENEFITS ALLOWED.—

(1) MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND DECORATIONS.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) may be awarded an appropriate medal, ribbon, or other military decoration based on such service.

(2) STATUS OF VETERAN.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such recognized service to any benefit that is not described in this subsection.

SEC. 249. Section 322(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “allowance to a veteran” and inserting the following: “allowance to—
“(A) a veteran”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rated as 30 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs who is selected by the United States Olympic Committee for the United States Olympic Team for any month in which the veteran is competing in any event sanctioned by the National Governing Bodies of the United States Olympic Sports.”.

SEC. 250. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) A veteran with vision impairment, a veteran with a spinal cord injury or disorder, or a veteran with double or multiple amputations whose travel is in connection with care provided through a special disabilities rehabilitation program of the Department (including programs provided by spinal cord injury centers, blind rehabilitation centers,

and prosthetics rehabilitation centers) if such care is provided—

“(i) on an in-patient basis; or

“(ii) during a period in which the Secretary provides the veteran with temporary lodging at a facility of the Department to make such care more accessible to the veteran.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the beneficiary travel program under section 111 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), that includes the following:

(1) The cost of the program.

(2) The number of veterans served by the program.

(3) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 251. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct inspections of kitchens and food service areas at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such inspections shall occur not less frequently than annually. The program's goal is to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) REMEDIATION PLAN.—

(1) INITIAL FAILURE.—If a kitchen or food service area of a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) not to meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector, that medical facility fails the inspection and the Secretary shall—

(A) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 72 hours; and

(B) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 14 days of the failed inspection.

(2) SECOND FAILURE.—If a medical facility of the Department fails the second inspection conducted under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall close the kitchen or food service area at that medical facility that did not meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector until full remediation is completed and

all kitchens and food service areas at that medical facility meet such standards.

(3) **PROVISION OF FOOD.**—If a kitchen or food service area is closed at a medical facility of the Department pursuant to paragraph (2), the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which the medical facility is located shall enter into a contract with a vendor approved by the General Services Administration to provide food at the medical facility.

(d) **QUARTERLY REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary of Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 252. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct risk-based inspections for mold and mold issues at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such facilities will be rated high, medium, or low risk for mold. Such inspections at facilities rated high risk shall occur not less frequently than annually, and such inspections at facilities rated medium or low risk shall occur not less frequently than biennially.

(b) **AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) **ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.**—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) **REMEDIATION PLAN.**—If a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) to have a mold issue, the Secretary shall—

(1) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 7 days; and

(2) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 90 days of the initial inspection.

(d) **QUARTERLY REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary of Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 253. Section 1706(b)(5)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “through 2008”.

SEC. 254. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pro-

grams of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 255. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 256. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 257. Appropriations made available in this Act under the heading “Medical Services” shall be available to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, to include the payment of the administrative expenses necessary to carry out such sections. Of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2017, up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to \$8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A. Of the amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2018, up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to \$8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A.

SEC. 258. (a) In fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year hereafter, beginning with the fiscal year 2018 budget request submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the budget justification documents submitted for the “Construction, Major Projects” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall include, at a minimum, the information required under subsection (b).

(b) The budget justification documents submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, for each project—

(1) the estimated total cost of the project;

(2) the funding provided for each fiscal year prior to the budget year;

(3) the amount requested for the budget year;

(4) the estimated funding required for the project for each of the 4 fiscal years succeeding the budget year; and

(5) such additional information as is enumerated under the heading relating to the “Construction, Major Projects” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(c) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a proposed budget justification template that complies with the requirements of this section.

SEC. 259. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings, in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to exceed \$180,480,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including facilities to support homeless veterans, at the medical center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$105,500,000.

(3) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$287,100,000.

(4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, administrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed \$87,332,000.

(5) Realignment of medical facilities in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed \$194,430,000.

(6) Construction of a medical center in Louisville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,000.

(7) Construction of a replacement community living center in Perry Point, Maryland, in an amount not to exceed \$92,700,000.

(8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to several buildings and construction of a specialty care building in American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$16,260,000.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, \$1,113,802,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 260. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “service-connected” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term “assisted reproductive technology” means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member.

(4) The term “adoption reimbursement” means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113).

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$30,945,000: *Provided*, That \$2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$70,800,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$64,300,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading “Department of Defense—Civil, Cemeterial Expenses, Army”, may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Army”, \$18,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$59,809,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force” \$88,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 401. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017”.

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$394,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the Public Health Service (“PHS”) Act: *Provided further*, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: *Provided further*, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be appropriate: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at State and local laboratories: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated in this paragraph, \$44,000,000 is included to supplement either fiscal year 2016 or fiscal year 2017 funds for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement program to restore fiscal year 2016 funds that were reprogrammed for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$152,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for research on the virology, natural history, and pathogenesis of the Zika virus infection and preclinical and clinical development of vaccines and other medical countermeasures for the Zika virus and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) to other accounts of the NIH for the purposes provided in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$387,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and

other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary medical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out section 501 of the Social Security Act; and for carrying out sections 330 through 336 and 338 of the PHS Act: *Provided*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F–2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act): *Provided further*, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F–2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: *Provided further*, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to the fund authorized by section 319F–4 of the PHS Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$75,000,000, in addition to the purposes specified above, shall also be available for necessary expenses for support to States, territories, tribes, or tribal organizations with active or local transmission cases of the Zika virus, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to reimburse the costs of health care for health conditions related to the Zika virus, other than costs that are covered by private health insurance, of which not less than \$60,000,000 shall be for territories with the highest rates of Zika transmission: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be awarded, notwithstanding section 502 of the Social Security Act, for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$40,000,000 shall be used to expand the delivery of primary health services authorized by section 330 of the PHS Act in Puerto Rico and other territories: *Provided further*, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$6,000,000 shall, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus or other vector-borne diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps (“NHSC”) members to Puerto Rico and other territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: *Provided further*, That for purposes of the previous proviso, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term “primary health services” included health services regarding pediatric subspecialists: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

DIRECT HIRES

SEC. 101. Funds appropriated by this title may be used by the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development to appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309

through 3319 of title 5 of the United States Code, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work relating to Zika response for which—

- (1) public notice has been given; and
- (2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated by this title may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”, “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, and “National Institutes of Health” for the purposes specified in this title following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this title may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 205 of division H of Public Law 114-113 or section 241(a) of the PHS Act.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such plans shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 104. Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, up to—

- (1) \$500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the heading “Office of the Secretary, Office of Inspector General”, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and
- (2) \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Comptroller General shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: *Provided*, That such funds may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other department or agency of the United

States under Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such department or agency for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Repatriation Loans Program Account” for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: *Provided*, That such costs, including costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Operating Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Global Health Programs”, \$145,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for vector control activities, vaccines, diagnostics, and vector control technologies: *Provided further*, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available as contributions to the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Food and Agriculture Organization: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Pro-*

vided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for the Grand Challenges for Development program: *Provided further*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, “Repatriation Loans Program Account”, and “Operating Expenses” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(c) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

(d) No funds shall be transferred pursuant to this section unless at least 5 days prior to making such transfer the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the details of any such transfer.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 202. Funds appropriated by this title shall only be available for obligation if the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation.

CONSOLIDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 203. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a consolidated report to the Committees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of such funds on a country and project basis, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: *Provided*, That such report shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 204. Of the funds appropriated by this title, up to—

- (1) \$500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds available under the heading “United States Agency for International Development, Funds Appropriated to the President, Office of Inspector General”, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and
- (2) \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: *Provided*, That the Secretary of State and the Comptroller General, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS DIVISION

EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Unless otherwise provided for by this division, the additional amounts appropriated pursuant to this division are subject to the requirements for funds contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113).

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. 302. Funds made available by this division may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) to support the purposes of titles I and II of this division, within the United States and abroad, subject to prior consultation with, and the notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided*, That such individuals may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management: *Provided further*, That the authority made available pursuant to this section shall expire on September 30, 2017.

DESIGNATION RETENTION

SEC. 303. Any amount appropriated by this division, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this division shall retain such designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 304. This division shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the “Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act, 2016”.

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2016, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division A of Public Law 114-113), except section 728.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division B of Public Law 114-113).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016 (division C of Public Law 114-113).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division D of Public Law 114-113).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114-113), which for pur-

poses of this Act shall be treated as including section 707 of division O of Public Law 114-113.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114-113).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division G of Public Law 114-113).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division H of Public Law 114-113).

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016 (division I of Public Law 114-113).

(10) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114-113), except title IX.

(11) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division L of Public Law 114-113), except section 420.

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.496 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2016 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2016 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 9, 2016.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable

appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2017 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2016 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section;

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division H of Public Law 114-113; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division H of Public Law 114-113.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 114-113 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2017 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts covered by section 101 of this Act shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. (a) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198), at a rate for operations of \$17,000,000.

(b) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Attorney General to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198), at a rate for operations of \$20,000,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the purposes otherwise provided for amounts that become available on October 1, 2016, under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services” in division J of Public Law 114-113, such amounts shall be used to implement the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act (title IX of Public Law 114-198) and the amendments made by that Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$310,139,000, of which \$236,120,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 118. Amounts provided by section 111 to the Department of Agriculture for “Corporations—Commodity Credit Corporation Fund—Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses” may be used, prior to the completion of the report described in section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11), to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, as reflected in the June 2016 report of its financial condition.

SEC. 119. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485).

SEC. 120. Section 529(b)(5) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)(5)) shall be applied by substituting

the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 102, within amounts provided for “Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” and “Department of Defense—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, except for amounts designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Secretary of Defense may develop, replace, and sustain Federal Government security and suitability background investigation information technology system requirements of the Office of Personnel Management at a rate for operations of \$95,000,000.

SEC. 122. Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), shall be applied by substituting “2017” for “2016” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2016 (title IV of division E of Public Law 114-113) at the rate set forth under “Part A—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Local Budget Act of 2016 (D.C. Act 21-414), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) During the period in which this Act is in effect, the authority and conditions provided in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114-113) which were applicable to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia for any program, project, or activity during fiscal year 2016 shall apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia with respect to such program, project, or activity under any authority.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition” for necessary expenses to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), at a rate for operations of \$9,500,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 is for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred and credited to the “Acquisition Services Fund” or “Federal Buildings Fund” to reimburse obligations incurred prior to enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein related to the Presidential election in 2016: *Provided further*, That amounts available under this section

shall be in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “General Services Administration—Pre-Election Presidential Transition”.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, for expenses of the Office of Administration to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and similar expenses, in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated by law, amounts are provided to “Presidential Transition Administrative Support” at a rate for operations of \$7,582,000: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to other accounts that provide funding for offices within the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President in this Act or any other Act, to carry out such purposes.

SEC. 127. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia” for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration, at a rate for operations of \$19,995,000.

SEC. 128. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “National Archives and Records Administration—Operating Expenses” to carry out the Presidential transition responsibilities of the Archivist of the United States under sections 2201 through 2207 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Presidential Records Act of 1978”), at a rate for operations of \$4,850,000.

SEC. 129. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 130. Amounts provided by section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated in the account and budget structure set forth in the table provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Department to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to the end of fiscal year 2016 pursuant to section 563(e) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114-113).

SEC. 131. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of staff achieved on September 30, 2016.

(b) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of screeners achieved on September 30, 2016.

SEC. 132. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 134. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40

U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106-79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) Section 419(b) of division G of Public Law 114-113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, subsection 35(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(d)) shall be applied, at a rate for operations, through the date specified in section 106(3), as if the following new paragraph were added at the end—

“(5) There is appropriated to the Fee Account established in subsection (c)(3)(B)(ii) of this section, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and transferred to such Fee Account pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(A)(ii) of this section, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.”.

SEC. 136. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System” for security and visitor safety activities related to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies, at a rate for operations of \$4,200,000.

SEC. 137. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, amounts are provided for “Environmental Protection Agency—Environmental Programs and Management” at a rate for operations of \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations needed, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): *Provided*, That fees collected pursuant to such section of such Act and deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses under the above heading and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum provided by this section of this Act from the general fund for fiscal year 2017 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2017, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed \$3,000,000, those amounts in excess of \$3,000,000 shall be deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided under this heading by section 101, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees made available, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

SEC. 138. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 139. The first proviso under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant” in title II of

division H of Public Law 114-113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 140. (a) The second proviso under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs” in title II of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act as if the following were struck from such proviso: “, of which \$141,000,000 shall be available for a cost of living adjustment notwithstanding section 640(a)(3)(A) of such Act”.

(b) Amounts made available in the third proviso under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs” in title II of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall not be included in the calculation of the “base grant”, as such term is used in section 640(a)(7)(A) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(7)(A)), during the period described in section 106 of this Act.

SEC. 141. (a) Section 529 of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied by substituting “in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from the appropriation to the Fund for the first semi-annual allotment period for fiscal year 2017 under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act” for “or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act”; and

(b) Section 530 of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied by substituting “\$541,900,000” for “\$4,678,500,000” and by adding at the end the following: “and of the funds made available for the purposes of carrying out section 2105(a)(3) of the Social Security Act, \$5,669,100,000 are hereby rescinded”.

SEC. 142. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Sami A. Takai, widow of Kyle Mark Takai, late a Representative from the State of Hawaii, \$174,000.

SEC. 143. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” and “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” shall be obligated in the account and budget structure, and under the authorities and conditions, set forth for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” and “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” in H.R. 5394 and S. 2844, as introduced in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(b) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) are provided for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” at a rate for operations of \$235,000,000, to remain available until expended, and for “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation” at a rate for operations of \$1,155,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 144. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Maritime Administration—Maritime Security Program” shall be allocated

at an annual rate across all vessels covered by operating agreements, as that term is used in chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, and the Secretary shall distribute equally all such funds for payments due under all operating agreements in equal amounts notwithstanding title 46, United States Code, section 53106: *Provided*, That no payment shall exceed an annual rate of \$3,500,000 per operating agreement.

This division may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017”.

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 101. (a) Of the unobligated balances available from prior year appropriations under the heading “Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs” designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, \$10,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities” in title II of Public Law 111-212 for responding to economic impacts of fisherman and fishery dependent businesses, \$13,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Secretary and Executive Management” in Public Law 109-148, \$279,045 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(d) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses” from emergency funds in Public Law 107-206 and earlier laws transferred to the Department of Homeland Security when it was created in 2003, \$39,246 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(e) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” in Public Law 110-329, Public Law 109-148 and Public Law 109-234, \$48,075,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrative and Regional Operations” in Public Law 109-234, \$731,790 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this

Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(g) Of the unobligated amounts made available under section 1323(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18043(c)(1)), \$168,100,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(h) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading "Operating Expenses" in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), \$7,522,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(i) Of the unobligated balances of appropriations made available under the heading "Bilateral Economic Assistance, Funds Appropriated to the President" in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113-235), \$109,478,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(j) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading "Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment" in Public Law 109-148, \$4,384,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(k) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading "Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment" in Public Law 102-368, \$990,277 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(l) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Transportation from amounts provided under section 108 of Public Law 101-130, \$37,400,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 102. The first sections 1 through 6 and divisions A through D of the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act" shall have no force or effect.

SA 5104. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3(c)(6) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635a(c)(6)), not more than 2 ex officio members of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States shall be counted toward a quorum only for the purposes of decisions of the Board regarding loans, guarantees, insurance, credits, and other financing activities of the Bank, during the period that begins on the date of the enactment of this Act, and ends on September 30, 2017, if, during that period, there are fewer than 3 individuals holding office on the Board who were appointed to the Board by the President.

(b) EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER DEFINED.—In this section, the term "ex officio Board member" means an individual who—

(1) holds a position, identified in section 1 of article I of the bylaws of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, for which the individual serves as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of the Bank; and

(2) has been confirmed by the Senate to that position.

SEC. ____ . INTERNET DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM FUNCTIONS.

(a) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 539 of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2332), subsection (a) of that section shall continue in effect through September 30, 2017, and shall apply to funds made available by that Act and by this Act.

(b) The Department of Commerce shall maintain and not relinquish, terminate, lapse, cancel, or otherwise cease responsibilities held at any time during fiscal year 2016 with respect to Internet domain name system functions, including responsibility with respect to the authoritative root zone file and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions, through September 30, 2017.

(c) This section shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 27, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 27, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Federal Trade Commission."

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is au-

thorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 27, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Fifteen Years After 9/11: Threats to the Homeland."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 27, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 27, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110-315, announces the reappointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 5325 until 10 a.m.; finally, that at 10 a.m., the Senate resume consideration of the veto message to accompany S. 2040, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Colorado, Mr. BENNET.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF MERRICK GARLAND

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am privileged to be here with the Presiding Officer this evening. I thank my colleague from Arkansas for allowing me to speak at this time.

I rise to discuss the vacancy on the Supreme Court. Nearly 200 days have

passed since the President nominated Judge Merrick Garland to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. Yet the majority still refuses to hold a hearing on his record or a vote on his nomination. As a result, Judge Garland is now the longest pending nominee in the Nation's history.

Next week, the Supreme Court will reconvene for a new term with one seat still vacant. I remember reading Justice Scalia's opinion in a case where he described an eight-member Court as a diminished Court. That was the language he used. We now have a Supreme Court that, not just in one term but in two terms, has been diminished by the inability of this Senate to confirm a nominee.

There is no doubt that anybody with any sense can see this has been an unconventional period in American politics, to say the least, but in many cases, the majority's refusal to even consider Judge Garland's nomination is the most egregious example of Washington dysfunction I have seen.

Within an hour of Justice Scalia's death, the majority leader unilaterally decided the Senate would not consider the President's nominee, even though 342 days remained in the President's term. By taking this unprecedented action, the majority leader hoped that the next President would nominate someone with the same originalist judicial philosophy as Justice Scalia. Indeed, that is what some of my colleagues have said. Waiting would allow the next President to "nominate a justice who will continue Justice Scalia's unwavering belief in the founding principles we hold dear." Another said that we should wait so as to "preserve the conservative legacy of the late Antonin Scalia." By taking this position, they have made clear that they want the next President—perhaps Donald Trump—to replace an originalist such as Antonin Scalia with another originalist. But by taking this approach, the majority leader has radically departed from the plain language of the Constitution and more than 200 years of historic precedent in this Chamber.

As an originalist—and he certainly was—Justice Scalia would interpret the Constitution by examining the meaning of the words when it was enacted.

Article II, section 2 of the Constitution states: "[The President] shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate shall appoint . . . Judges of the Supreme Court." When a vacancy arises, the President has an affirmative duty to nominate a replacement, and the Senate, in return, has an affirmative duty to advise and consent. That is what the plain language of the Constitution requires, and that is what the original meaning would have been.

But beyond the text of the Constitution, we should also consider the tradi-

tions of our predecessors in this Chamber. Members of the majority seem eager to make this point. One of our colleagues said that "we should follow a tradition embraced by both parties and allow his successor to select the next Supreme Court Justice." Another said: "There is significant precedent for holding a Supreme Court vacancy open through the end of a president's term in an election year." The truth is exactly the opposite. In fact, the majority's position today is absolutely unprecedented in the history of the United States or the history of the U.S. Senate.

Recently, Professors Robert Kar and Jason Mazzone combed through the history of Supreme Court nominations and Senate confirmations for a piece I believe appeared in the NYU law journal. Since the founding of the country, there have been 103 instances similar to the moment we face today, where an elected President nominated a person to fill a vacancy before the election of the successor—where an elected President nominated an individual to fill a vacancy before the election of his successor.

The professors found that in all 103 instances, the sitting President was able to both nominate and appoint a replacement Justice by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The professors further wrote: "This is true even of all eight such cases where the nomination process began during an election year."

That is the history. That is the precedent. So when we hear people come to the floor and say the customary practice has been to do this or that, it is not true. I sometimes wonder why people who are committed originalists are out here talking about the customary practice at all because it ought to be the plain meaning of the Constitution folks are following, but if we are going to talk about the customary practice, let's talk about what has actually happened rather than inventing it on the floor of the Senate.

For the last 200 days, the majority has argued we should, for the first time ever—ever—depart from this 200-year tradition. I will say this on this floor: There is nothing conservative about that position. That is a radical position, at war with the Founders' view of this. When the chairman of the Judiciary Committee said that "the fact of the matter is that it's been standard practice"—his language—"to not confirm Supreme Court nominees during a presidential election year," he was incorrect.

The fact is, the standard practice in the Senate is just as clear as the plain text and the original meaning. If the sitting President nominates an individual to fill a Supreme Court vacancy, the Senate acts with an up-or-down vote.

I should say I am not here to say anybody should vote for the nominee.

That is a matter of conscience for every single Member of the Senate, but our job is to have a vote. When Members of the majority say things like, "It's been 80 years since any President was permitted to immediately fill a vacancy that arose in a presidential election year," they fail to mention that in the past 80 years a vacancy has not arisen on the Supreme Court in an election year at all.

The 80-year time period the majority highlights is precisely the 80-year period in which no Supreme Court vacancies occurred during an election year. If you go back just one more election—84 years ago—you will find a case from 1932 that is very similar to ours today. On February 25 of that election year, President Hoover nominated Benjamin Cardozo to replace Justice Holmes on the Supreme Court. The Senate confirmed Cardozo 9 days later.

So when Senators come to the floor and say we have an 80-year precedent of not confirming Justices at this moment in a President's term, that is only because there hasn't been a vacancy. I might as well say we have an 84-year precedent where we do confirm Justices in the last year because that is what happened 84 years ago with Justice Cardozo.

The Senate also confirmed three other Supreme Court nominees in election years in the 20th Century—twice in 1916 and once in 1912. So I can extend my 84-year precedent farther back into history.

Through their research, Professors Kar and Mazzone found only six cases where the Senate acted consistent with today's majority—to deliberately ignore the President's nominee for a Supreme Court vacancy and wait for the successor—but none of these cases is analogous in any way to the vacancy we face in this Senate.

In those six cases, there were questions about the sitting President's legitimacy, either because that President had assumed office by succession, unlike the current President, who was elected to the Presidency and then re-elected to the Presidency, or because the nominations came after the election of the next President, which we know is not the case today because the vacancy occurred 340 or so days before the end of the President's term, and anybody watching television last night would know we have yet to select the next President of the United States.

What is amazing is that even in the remaining 13 cases, where there was some question about legitimacy or it was after the successor had been elected, the Senate still confirmed a majority of the President's nominees. Six were the minority, where they weren't confirmed. The rest they confirmed.

To suggest this President, whom the American people elected twice, should not be able to fill a Supreme Court vacancy is a radical departure from the

Constitution's text and the Senate's historical practice. As the professors conclude, the majority's actions are "unprecedented in the history of Supreme Court appointments."

Whether by interpreting the original meaning of the Constitution or by following standard practice, every other Senate has acted, not by refusing to consider the nomination or stalling until after an election or waiting for the next President to make a nomination but by having a debate in full view of the American people and to give the nominee an up-or-down vote.

As I said earlier, of course the majority can withhold its consent by voting no. That is their constitutional prerogative. That is what it did in 1987, when the full Senate voted against Robert Bork, even after the Judiciary Committee conducted full hearings and a majority voted against his nomination.

The Constitution doesn't say the Judiciary Committee shall advise and consent. It says the Senate shall advise and consent, and that is what a majority of the Senate did in 1795, when it rejected George Washington's nomination of Justice John Rutledge as Chief Justice. By the way, that Senate—which unlike ours actually included some of the Framers who wrote the Constitution—went on to confirm three nominees, all in the fourth year of George Washington's second term—all in the eighth year that George Washington was President.

This was true in 1968, when there were serious concerns about President Johnson's nominee, Justice Abe Fortas, to replace the outgoing Chief Justice. Even then, in President Johnson's final months in office, the Senate held confirmation hearings and floor debates. The Senate had a full and public debate on the merits of the nominee.

In fact, as the professors found, only 12 nominations out of 160 over the entire course of the history of the United States failed to reach the Senate floor. Most of these were made near the end of a legislative session or were later withdrawn by the President, but in every other instance, the Senate brought the nomination to the Senate floor for a full debate and consideration.

If today's majority is concerned with the American people having a voice on who the next Supreme Court Justice is, we should follow our ordinary procedures and allow our representatives in the Senate to consider the merits of the President's nominee. We have denied the American people a debate in a runoff to an election. When we should be debating what the composition of the Supreme Court should look like, when we should be debating what is at stake in this Presidential election, our floor is empty.

I say, again, this action has been taken in the name of conservatism. There is nothing conservative about this—nothing. This is a radical departure from standard practice. It is a threat to our democracy. It is a threat to judicial oversight. It is a threat to the rule of law. It is lawless.

What makes this even worse is that the majority's failure to fulfill our constitutional responsibilities isn't even about policy, it is about politics. It is about rolling the dice on an election, instead of following the plain text of the Constitution and more than two centuries of Senate tradition in the history of the United States.

We have had more than enough time to consider the merits of Judge Garland's nomination. The American people have watched the U.S. Senate take the entire summer off and not do our job. In fact, as some of my colleagues have noted, this Senate has worked fewer days this year than any Senate in 60 years, and a lot of those Senates didn't have a Supreme Court vacancy to fill.

By refusing to consider the President's Supreme Court nominee for nearly 200 days, the majority is creating, I fear—I hope not—a new precedent, one that threatens to shape future vacancies to the Court and further politicizes the one branch of our government that is meant to be above the partisan bickering that has paralyzed this institution.

It is one thing for people in this body to drive the approval rating of the U.S. Congress down to 9 percent, and that is a feat—that is a feat—but to denigrate another institution of government this cavalierly for politics is wrong.

The longer this vacancy remains, the more uncertainty and confusion the American people will suffer. Petty politics is now jeopardizing, as I said earlier, not just one but two terms of the Supreme Court. We have to reject this unprecedented abdication of our most basic constitutional obligation. This is one of those things that is written in the Constitution, and there is no one else assigned the duty of doing it other than the Senate. The House has no responsibility.

Some people here have said let the people decide. As I said earlier, the best way of letting the people decide is by having an open debate in the Senate. But the Constitution doesn't actually say let the people decide, it sets up what we ought to be doing.

I fear that if we start here, where will it end? If a President can't have his nominee considered over 300 days from an election, why not 2 years or 4 years from an election? Why not routinely hobble the Supreme Court until you get your way, until you have your President and your majority? Until

then, we will not do the American people's business.

Even if the Constitution does not in fact oblige us to consider President Obama's nominee, it is, nevertheless, it seems to me, our duty as responsible public servants to do so and the American people's obligation to hold elected officials accountable and demand a full, functioning judiciary.

Believe me, I know it has become fashionable for Washington to tear down rather than work to improve the democratic institutions generations of Americans have built, but as I said, to impair so cavalierly the judicial branch of our government is unacceptable. It doesn't meet the standard of a great nation or a great parliamentary body. Comity and cooperation will not be restored overnight or with a single decision in this Senate. It has taken far too long for us to travel down this destructive road to deadlock, ideological rigidity, and bitter partisanship. Even with all of that, the least we could do is follow centuries of tradition and practice, preserve the judiciary from the partisanship that has paralyzed much of the other two branches, and act as conservatives by fulfilling one of our most fundamental duties as elected representatives.

It is long past time for the Senate to do its job, as every Senate before us since its founding has done.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:44 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

JULIE REBECCA BRESLOW, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE RHONDA REID WINSTON, RETIRED.

DEBORAH J. ISRAEL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE MELVIN R. WRIGHT, RETIRED.

CARMEN GUERRICAGOITIA MCLEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE STUART GORDON NASH, RETIRED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. PAUL A. STADER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, September 27, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 27, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRADLEY BYRNE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of every woman in our country and her right to make her own healthcare decisions in consultation with her doctors.

Women should be free to make those most personal of decisions without the interference of politicians and, specifically, without the interference of the Hyde amendment.

The Hyde amendment is an insidious and antiwomen's healthcare provision that, in its 40 years of existence, has pushed safe and legal abortions out of the reach of women at the lowest ends of our socioeconomic ladder. It overwhelmingly affects women of color, immigrants, and young women.

Instead of lifting up our middle class and working families, Republican politicians have built roadblocks at every corner through the Hyde amendment and countless other restrictions on women's health care. It is long past time for us to remove it from Federal law, and I am proud to be a cosponsor

of the EACH Woman Act, which would do just that.

STOP THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, right now, down the street at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, our very own West Virginia attorney general, Patrick Morrisey, is arguing against the unconstitutional coal and job-killing plan known as the Clean Power Plan.

Time and again, President Obama has put radical leftwing environmentalists ahead of hardworking Americans. Obama's so-called Clean Power Plan is no different. This plan is a laundry list of unnecessary environmental restrictions that will increase energy costs and put even more Americans out of work.

In West Virginia, we rely on coal for over 90 percent of our power generation. This regulation will shut down our power plants, kill our coal jobs, and dramatically raise home energy prices for West Virginians.

I have been working at a Federal level to help put a stop to these job-killing policies. Last year, I sent a letter to Governor Tomblin, along with Representatives MCKINLEY and JENKINS of West Virginia, urging him not to comply with the Clean Power Plan. Under the plan, States are forced to come up with a State Implementation Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a timeline that would be very harmful to our State.

This January, my first bill to pass the U.S. House of Representatives was aimed at putting a stop to the stream protection rule. When the rewrite of the rule was first proposed by the Office of Surface Mining, or OSM, they described it as a "minor" regulation that would only impact one coal region. However, the proposed stream protection rule contains sweeping changes that amount to modifying or amending 475 existing rules. The proposed rule would destroy up to 77,000 coal mining jobs nationwide, including up to 52,000 in the Appalachian region.

My bill, H.R. 1644, the Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Actions in Mining Act, simply requires a study to be completed to determine if the rules governing mining need to be updated or changed. It calls for all scientific data used in rule-

making to be made publicly available and prevents the Office of Surface Mining from overstepping their regulatory role in implementing Clean Water Act provisions.

When I campaigned to represent the people of the Second Congressional District of West Virginia in Congress, I promised that I would fight for the coal industry and the hard workers of our State. West Virginia and our country need the Clean Power Plan to be stopped indefinitely before more damage to the coal industry is done.

DANGEROUS, CHILLING EFFECT OF REPUBLICAN SELECT PANEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, last week, Republicans on the panel they call the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, which we call the Select Panel to Attack Women's Health, voted to recommend criminal contempt against a small biotech company and its owner and also release publicly the name of a doctor who has been interviewed privately by that panel. These actions are a disgrace to the House.

Over the past year, the select panel Republicans have abused congressional authority to harass, intimidate, and bully doctors and researchers, with the ultimate goal of driving companies away from fetal tissue research and ending lifesaving research. They have done this largely out of the public view and, ironically, at the same time that Chair BLACKBURN and other leading Republicans profess support for researchers and for funding 21st century cures.

Tragically, their stealth campaign against lifesaving research is working. One tissue procurement company informed the panel that: "Due in large part to the costs borne from having to respond to these congressional inquiries, our client is no longer doing business."

The University of California at Los Angeles told us that "recent national events have increased the challenge of obtaining the fetal tissues" needed for ongoing research. The negative publicity about fetal tissue research also delayed publication of a study whose findings have the potential to impact "development of therapies for HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis, asthma, and organ transplant rejection."

UCLA went on to explain that one lab "has reduced their effort on studies

that require fetal tissues, despite the importance of this research, due to concerns about personal safety.”

Rockefeller University similarly told the panel that there is now “a paucity of sources from which to obtain human fetal tissue, creating roadblocks to the conduct of important biomedical research” and that one laboratory is “currently unavailable to perform research that it hopes will lead to cures for human disease.”

Other researchers have reported that promising studies and clinical trials for neurological conditions, such as MS and Alzheimer’s disease, have been halted or delayed due to reduced availability of fetal tissue for research. Other leading institutions, including Harvard, the Yale School of Medicine, and the University of Minnesota, have confirmed the importance of fetal tissue as a tool for understanding and treating diseases and conditions that impact millions of Americans.

The Republican attacks on this research are particularly troubling as scientists race to understand how the Zika virus impacts fetal brain development. A leading association of research scientists has explained that “the use of donated fetal tissue, including placental tissue, has provided the best understanding of how Zika viruses behave in the body.” These insights “are already guiding the development of drugs that may protect the unborn baby from the ravages of the Zika virus.”

The Republican select panel’s dangerous witch hunt has put this lifesaving research at risk. It is also endangering individual lives.

Last Monday, Chair BLACKBURN publicly released the name of a healthcare provider who was privately interviewed by the panel. This doctor has already been the target of harassment and threats and repeatedly asked the panel to safeguard her identity. Just last week, her lawyer informed Chair BLACKBURN that her university had to increase security as a result of a prior leak of information by panel Republicans. Even knowing this, they released her name.

This has gone on long enough. We are elected officials. It is our opportunity and responsibility to make things better for the people we serve. That privilege and the power that accompanies it should not be abused. This select panel should be brought to an immediate end.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the University of California at Los Angeles, Rockefeller University, and from university counsel regarding the danger that panel Republicans have created for this doctor and her students.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,

Los Angeles, CA, September 19, 2016.

Hon. JAN SCHAKOWSKY,

Ranking Member, Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, Energy and Commerce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SCHAKOWSKY: On behalf of the University of California, Los Angeles (“UCLA”), I have attached UCLA’s response to your letter of July 28, 2016, requesting that UCLA provide the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives with information to better understand the importance of and risk to fetal tissue research.

UCLA conducts research using fetal tissue that is vital to an understanding of human biology and to efforts directed toward new treatments for a wide variety of adult and childhood diseases and medical conditions. Our research is conducted in full compliance with federal and state law and in accordance with our tripartite mission of education, research, and public service. The information provided below answers the five specific requests made in your letter.

Please note that UCLA has omitted identifying information from the enclosed documents based on concerns for the safety and security of individuals conducting research. Should you have any questions regarding this response, please contact me.

Sincerely,

UCLA HEALTH/DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

1. PAST BENEFITS OF FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH.

Since the 1930’s, fetal tissue has been used in a broad range of research that has led to lifesaving discoveries. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), of which UCLA is a member, has previously noted that human fetal tissue research has been critical in establishing permanent cell lines for use in vaccine research for diseases such as polio, hepatitis A, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, and rabies. These established cell lines are currently being used to develop an Ebola vaccine.

Fetal tissue proved to be necessary for the production of consumer vaccines against measles, rubella, rabies, chicken pox, shingles and hepatitis A. According to the journal *Nature*, at least 5.8 billion vaccine doses have been derived from fetal tissue lines.

2. POTENTIAL FUTURE BENEFITS THAT MIGHT BE GAINED THROUGH CONTINUED FETAL RESEARCH

Biomedical research continues to benefit from the use of new fetal tissue. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “fetal tissue continues to be a critical resource for important efforts such as research on degenerative eye disease, human development disorders such as Down syndrome, and infectious diseases, among a host of other diseases.”

As noted in the journal *Nature*, “In the past 25 years, fetal cell lines have been used in a roster of medical advances, including the production of a blockbuster arthritis drug and therapeutic proteins that fight cystic fibrosis and hemophilia.” Yet, existing fetal material and cell lines “. . . are of limited use for scientists because they do not faithfully mimic native tissue and represent only a subset of cell types. . . . The lines can also accumulate mutations after replicating in vitro over time.” New fetal material is critical if we are to continue to pursue vaccines for HIV and other diseases as well as create treatments and cures for devastating illnesses such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s Disease, blinding eye disorders such as a macular degeneration, diabetes, and schizophrenia.

Our response to question 4 below cites a diverse range of diseases being studied by UCLA laboratories whose research requires the use of fetal tissues. These research activities are critical for the development of new therapies for the treatment of these diseases.

3. UNIQUE ASPECTS OF FETAL TISSUE IN RESEARCH, IN COMPARISON WITH ADULT CELLS OR OTHER CELLULAR ORGANISMS THAT MIGHT BE USED FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES

As described in the following summary of research performed in UCLA laboratories (response to question 4), human fetal tissues are critical for current and future research activities for multiple reasons. First, human fetal tissues exhibit biological properties that are distinct from those of tissues derived from children or adults, and these properties, often related to an enhanced capacity for growth and regeneration, can be highly desirable for the development of novel therapies. It therefore is critical to understand the unique properties of fetal tissues, which can be accomplished only through a direct analysis. Some therapies under development would require the direct use of fetal cells, such as recent clinical trials using fetal neural cells to treat patients with spinal cord injury or Parkinson’s Disease. Most therapies, however, will emerge from the study of fetal tissues rather than directly including the cells in the ultimate drug product.

Second, the direct study of human fetal tissues is essential for an understanding of human development. This understanding is necessary for the advancement of fundamental biology, for the pursuit of therapies for the treatment of developmental diseases, such as Down syndrome and the microcephaly associated with Zika virus infection, and for the pursuit of therapies for the treatment of many other diseases that have been linked to developmental defects, including several cancers.

Third, human fetal tissues are critical for the establishment of mouse models for the study of human diseases and for the testing of potential new drugs and other therapies. For example, rodents are highly valuable for biomedical research, but they are inadequate for many studies of human disease and for the advanced testing of new therapies (e.g. HIV does not infect rodent cells). To circumvent the limitations of rodents, human fetal tissues can be implanted into immunocompromised mice, thereby generating an invaluable model system for studies that require the use of a living animal, such as the testing of new drugs. Importantly, human fetal tissues are essential for the establishment of these models due to their unique properties in comparison to tissues from children and adults.

4. SUMMARY OF ANY RESEARCH CONDUCTED SINCE 2010 THAT UCLA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT USED FETAL TISSUE OR RELIED UPON OTHER STUDIES THAT USED FETAL TISSUE

Research laboratories at UCLA studying a wide array of human diseases have used fetal tissues for their medical research projects since 2010. A survey of these researchers resulted in a consistent response that the use of fetal tissues has been, and will continue to be, essential for progress in their fields. While much remains to be learned about the specific properties of fetal tissues, it has been well-established that their properties are distinct from those of adult tissues. Fetal cells often differ from other cells because the fetal cells need to support the rapid growth and maturation of the tissue

during fetal and neonatal development; in contrast, the functions of cells from children and adults are usually restricted to maintenance of the physiological functions of the tissue. An understanding of the unique properties of fetal cells and tissues is likely to be of great value for the development of new treatments for a number of devastating human diseases.

We provide here a summary of seven representative research efforts at UCLA that rely on fetal tissues and for which the research is strongly dependent on continued availability of fetal tissue.

CANCER: One project focuses on an effort to improve the treatment of a form of lymphocyte leukemia in young children. Although the survival rate of these patients has improved dramatically, approximately 15% of pediatric patients with the most aggressive forms of the leukemia continue to die. A growing body of evidence suggests that these fatal leukemias may be unusually aggressive because they emerged from a unique type of B cell progenitor (B cells are white blood cells that secrete antibodies) generated only during fetal development. Research recently completed at UCLA has shown that the genetic regulation of fetal and adult B cell development is distinct. The aim of the ongoing research is to identify genes expressed only in fetal B-cell progenitors that contribute to the development of the aggressive forms of leukemia observed in young children.

IMMUNITY: Another UCLA research laboratory is immersed in an analysis of fetal T cells, another important type of white blood cell generated in the thymus. A primary goal of this laboratory is to develop improved strategies for rejuvenation of the immune system in cancer patients and in HIV patients whose immune systems have been compromised by chronic virus infection. Human fetal T cell progenitors have been found to be completely different from progenitors found in children and adults in their ability to rejuvenate the immune system. This laboratory has been performing detailed comparisons of the molecular properties of the fetal and adult cells in an effort to understand how to speed up immune system rejuvenation and make the immune system healthier.

As exemplified above, one general reason several UCLA laboratories rely on fetal tissues for their research is that an examination of the properties of the fetal tissues is needed to understand how they differ from older tissues and from tissues derived from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). iPSC are cells with embryonic stem cell like properties that can be generated from a patient's own skin cells (by a method developed less than 10 years ago), and then matured into any of a wide variety of human tissues; these cells hold great promise for the treatment of many degenerative and chronic diseases. One goal of the researchers is to engineer adult cells and iPSC to possess the unique, beneficial properties of fetal cells. This goal can be achieved only if the molecular features of the fetal cells have been clearly defined.

LUNG DISEASES: A UCLA laboratory is pursuing new treatments for a form of lung disease in infants. A long-term goal is to treat this disease by generating iPSC from a patient and then converting the iPSC into therapeutic lung cells. The ultimate therapy would not require the use of fetal cells. However, successful development of the therapy depends on an understanding of the unique properties of fetal lung cells, which have been found by the UCLA laboratory to grow

and divide far more robustly than comparable cells from children or adults. The laboratory has developed a disease model that is being used to understand the unusual growth properties of the fetal cells and how these properties can be harnessed for therapeutic benefit.

GENETIC AND MUSCLE DISORDERS: Another UCLA laboratory studies diseases of muscle, including muscular dystrophy, toward the goal of regenerating functional muscle in patients. Similar to the findings with fetal lung, this laboratory has found that the regenerative capacity of human fetal muscle cells greatly exceeds that of older muscle satellite cells. Recent studies of the underlying mechanisms have revealed possible molecular explanations for the differences between the fetal cells and older cells. This professor considers fetal muscle cells to be the "gold standard" for all efforts to develop therapies for degenerative muscle diseases, due to the powerful and unique regenerative properties of these cells. Quite simply, for an understanding of the important differences between fetal muscle cells and older muscle cells, which are critical for the development of novel therapies, there is no alternative to the ability to analyze the fetal tissues themselves. It is also noteworthy that several of these studies are moving rapidly toward clinical trials, which necessitates the focus on human cells rather than rodent models.

HIV: Another reason several researchers rely on the availability of fetal tissues is that the fetal tissues can be used to create mice implanted with a specific human tissue, thereby providing an animal model in which potential therapies for the treatment of diseases of that human tissue can be tested. Such mice can eliminate the need for the testing of therapies in non-human primates, and are often preferable to studies of non-human primates because they allow the direct study of human cells.

Some UCLA laboratories use mice containing a human immune system for their studies of potential HIV therapies. These mice, which can be generated successfully only with the use of human fetal cells, are extremely important for progress of the HIV field, as HIV does not infect rodent cells. Currently, these mice are being used to study gene therapy approaches for the treatment of HIV infection, with the studies leading rapidly toward clinical trials.

BRAIN/SPINAL CORE INJURY: Human fetal tissues are also of great value for studies of the unique structure of the human brain, which is dramatically different from that of the mouse brain. UCLA research has used human embryonic stem cell lines to generate brain organoids (collections of neuronal cells that self-assemble into structures that resemble small portions of the brain). A comparison to fetal brain tissue is essential for the researchers to evaluate the validity of their organoid method, which is currently being used to understand developmental diseases of the brain, as well as the impact of Zika virus on brain development. The laboratory hopes to use this model to screen for drugs that may protect the fetal brain from the growth impairment caused by Zika virus infection. This same laboratory is also studying strategies for the generation of spinal cord neurons in the laboratory, for use in determining the underlying causes of neurodegenerative diseases, such as spinal muscular atrophy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for screening for drugs that could slow disease progression and extend patient lifespan.

INFERTILITY: The final UCLA laboratory discussed in this report uses fetal tissues for studies aimed at the diagnosis and treatment of human infertility. State-of-the-art genomics methods are being used to develop reference maps of germ cells and of fertilized eggs at the earliest stages of embryonic development. One goal of these studies is to better understand the reasons for spontaneous miscarriages. These studies are strongly dependent on human fetal tissues because early embryonic development in mice differs substantially from that in humans. The reference maps being developed by this laboratory are also of great importance for the study of germ cell cancers.

5. DESCRIPTION OF ANY RECENT CHANGES EXPERIENCED BY UCLA IN THE AVAILABILITY OF FETAL TISSUE FOR RESEARCH AND THE RELATED IMPACT OF THESE CHANGES, INCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT THERE HAVE BEEN INTERRUPTIONS AND/OR DELAYS IN RESEARCH AS A RESULT.

Most UCLA researchers surveyed emphasized that recent national events have increased the challenge of obtaining the fetal tissues required for the research projects described above. One reputable company was forced to close due to legal expenses associated with challenges to its operations. This has delayed important studies and has forced laboratories to spend a considerable amount of time and resources searching for alternative suppliers. One laboratory has identified a reliable source of fetal tissues in Germany. Another laboratory has reduced their effort on studies that require fetal tissues, despite the importance of this research, due to concerns about personal safety. Of further note, recent publicity surrounding the procurement of fetal tissue delayed publication of a manuscript submitted by UCLA investigators to a renowned journal by more than seven months. The findings reported in that study have the potential to impact the development of therapies for HIV, cancer, multiple sclerosis, asthma, and organ transplant rejection.

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY,

New York, New York, September 21, 2016.

Hon. JAN SCHAKOWSKY,

Ranking Member, Select Investigative Panel,
House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SCHAKOWSKY: The Rockefeller University offers our response to your request for information regarding the importance and availability of fetal tissue as a critical resource in aspects of our scientific research. We set forth below your concerns and our responses.

PAST BENEFITS OF FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH

Human fetal cells and tissues have had a decisive and major impact on our current understanding of the molecular and cellular origins of human organs and tissues. Human fetal tissues have allowed researchers to explore and understand the biology and uniqueness of human development. This knowledge has translated into the rational design of both treatment and prevention of numerous human diseases and has saved innumerable human lives.

Fetal tissue has contributed directly to the improvement of child and adult human health. In the 1960s, cell lines derived from fetal tissue were used to manufacture vaccines including those that counter measles, rubella, rabies, chicken pox, shingles and hepatitis A, cumulatively saving millions of lives. The rubella vaccine alone eliminates 5,000 miscarriages each year.

Fetal tissue has been used to uncover disease pathways that overlap with natural developmental processes and may guide development of therapeutic treatments for heart disease. Fetal cell lines have been used in medical advances for the production of pharmaceuticals, including an arthritis drug and therapeutic proteins that fight cystic fibrosis and hemophilia. Every indication emphatically supports the notion that further understanding of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's, and a host of other devastating and as yet incurable conditions, depend specifically on access to fetal tissue.

Ongoing fetal tissue research is critical for continued advances in regenerative medicine, including organ/tissue regeneration of heart, liver, pancreas, lung, muscle, skin, and more, holding out hope for a wide variety of therapeutic discoveries.

Human tissue-based models for studying uniquely human viral diseases are important for understanding mechanisms of disease progression and developing preventive measures and therapies. Fetal tissue has been used to build increasingly complex models of human disease. A single human fetal liver yields material sufficient to produce dozens of humanized mice. Certain human viruses are severely host-range restricted, meaning they infect humans and no other animals. Fetal tissues are essential for production of humanized mice that can be used in learning about such uniquely human conditions.

POTENTIAL FUTURE BENEFITS THAT MIGHT BE GAINED THROUGH CONTINUED FETAL TISSUE RESEARCH

Future benefits of fetal tissue research will include the enhancement of our basic knowledge of human development. It will inevitably impact clinical approaches and provide new means to address currently incurable diseases by providing new technological platforms. Scientists have used information gleaned from studies of motor neuron development to guide stem cells to become neurons and establish stem cell-derived models of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, a currently untreatable and fatal disease. These models have allowed researchers to develop new drugs that already are being used in clinical trials to treat ALS. Another of the most promising novel technical platforms in regenerative medicine is using cell-based therapy strategies to replace defective organs rather than attempting to repair the diseased tissue.

For some conditions, potential future benefits must be gained by human fetal tissue research. Certain humanized mice can be produced best with human fetal tissues. Such mice are unique in their ability to support long term infection, thus allowing evaluation of therapies aimed at finding cures.

It is increasingly important to study infection, disease mechanisms and antiviral interventions in human cells. Fetal tissue provides a rich source of stem cells for studies in cell culture and also engraftment into small animals that can then be used to model infection, disease progression and test therapies. These provide valuable preclinical models that increase the chances of success before progressing to human clinical trials.

Investigators continue to mine existing gene expression information from fetal tissue samples in order to understand gene function and growth-regulating pathways encountered in normal versus tumor samples. Much that applies to cancer can be learned from gene expression analysis in organ development.

Wide ranges of adult diseases and disorders have their origin during very early human

development. Examples include types 1 and 2 diabetes, schizophrenia, and Huntington's disease. Knowledge of how the human fetus generates discrete organs will provide the blueprint for applying human embryonic stem cells for the generation of specific organs used for supportive and regenerative medicine.

UNIQUE ASPECTS OF FETAL TISSUE IN RESEARCH

Neither adult stem cells, nor reprogrammed somatic cells approach the versatility and quality of the natural stem cells derived from the fetus which remains the best resource for regenerative medicine. Model organisms, from the fruit fly to rodents, unfortunately cannot fully model human diseases.

We are aware of how many times promising solutions for diabetes, cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases have been shown to cure the mouse or rat but fail when tested in humans. The human neocortex, for example, contains cells and anatomy that are specifically human, and not found even in other primates. Fetal tissue provides a unique source of human cells that have the potential to be used directly or engrafted into immunodeficient animals. Human fetal tissue offers an important and unique resource for basic and medical research. There is no comparable substitute for fetal tissue for the accurate understanding of human development.

The adult immune system is "educated" to reject animal hosts, complicating the creation and production of animal models with humanized immune systems. In contrast to the adult, fetal immune cells have not yet been educated and therefore do not recognize the host as foreign. As a result, fetal tissues do not reject the host but rather are engrafted, leading to a chimera that is composed of mouse tissues and human immune cells. These mice are uniquely suited to finding cures through research.

Modern technologies have opened the door to studying the cellular interplay in complex human tissues during their development, normal, and disease states, as well as in aging. From single-cell expression analysis of fetal tissue, a great deal about intracellular communication can be learned that will increase our understanding of how normal as well as malignant growth is governed, and how therapeutic interventions may take advantage of these molecular programs.

RECENT CHANGES EXPERIENCED IN THE AVAILABILITY OF FETAL TISSUE FOR RESEARCH

Currently, there is a paucity of sources from which to obtain human fetal tissue, creating roadblocks to the conduct of important biomedical research. Entities that previously provided the sources of human fetal tissue have either closed, due to external pressure, or currently offer more limited options than previously proffered.

Laboratories have experienced significant difficulties in securing fetal tissue for research. One lab reported: We used to receive fetal tissue once or more every week. Over the past year, the supply of fetal tissue has dwindled and become increasingly unavailable and unreliable—to the point where we can no longer depend on this important resource for our studies.

Another lab despaired: In the past, our laboratory was able to obtain fetal tissues nearly every week. For the last several months, we have been unable to obtain any fetal tissue. Humanized mouse production has come to a standstill, and we are currently unable to perform research that we hope will lead to cures for human disease.

Thank you for your interest in our research and the challenges it faces. I hope you find the information provided here responsive to your questions.

—
MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY,
September 20, 2016.

Re Proposed Disclosure of Code Name Dr. Administrator's Deposition Transcript.

Hon. MARSHA BLACKBURN, *Chairman*,
Hon. JAN SCHAKOWSKY, *Ranking Member*,
House Select Panel on Infant Lives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLACKBURN: I am writing today on behalf of my client, the University of New Mexico ("UNM") with regard to the notice posted by the Select Panel on its website last night of a business meeting on September 21, 2016. The Select Panel has proposed the meeting to consider, among other items, a resolution to release of the deposition transcript of UNM's doctor, code name: Dr. Administrator, who you publicly named in your online notice.

UNM objects to a vote to release the transcript at this time. The Select Panel would violate its own rules if it released the deposition transcript without having afforded the witness or counsel to review the transcript as required by the governing deposition regulations. See 161 Cong. Rec. E21-01 ¶18 ("If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days thereafter, the witness may submit suggested changes to the chair.") In fact, UNM counsel addressed this very issue with the Select Panel majority staff by email as recently as September 12, 2016 and offered to review the transcript in the Select Panel's office and at staff's convenience. See email from UNM Counsel, at Attachment 1. Majority staff never responded to this offer.

UNM continues to have grave concerns about the Select Panel Majority's repeated, intentional public disclosure of the names of its doctors, first in the Interim Report from July 2016, and again in the notice published on the Select Panel's website on September 19, 2016. UNM has asked repeatedly for over six months for assurances that the Select Panel would not disclose the names of its doctors or staff, who UNM has shown are in grave danger of harassment or worse by extremists who oppose their profession. One UNM doctor gave sworn testimony detailing the harassment and threats that this doctor and others have already received, both at their homes and at work. She laid out for the members of the Panel in her deposition why her name and the names of other doctors and staff should not be disclosed. She described the real fear these doctors carry with them each day. At various points your staff provided assurances to UNM counsel that they would take measures to protect the privacy and safety of UNM staff. The most recent and totally unnecessary online publication of a UNM doctor's name directly contravenes all of these assurances.

From the very beginning of this inquiry, UNM has expressed its well-grounded concerns regarding the safety and well-being of its students, faculty and staff. The potential for harm to these individuals is real and demonstrable. This is evidenced by the deadly attack at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado last year—an attack where the assailant killed, among others, a police officer—as well as the specific death threats recently received by individuals connected to the procurement of fetal tissue. One of those death threats prompted an investigation by

the FBI, and the arrest of an individual who made that specific threat. Counsel to UNM expressed these specific concerns repeatedly in correspondence to the Select Panel on January 29, February 16, February 19, March 3, April 11, and May 19 of 2016, and in various email correspondence.

The repeated public disclosure of these names demonstrates a knowing and intentional disregard for the safety of UNM personnel by the Select Panel Majority, who has been on notice since January 2016 of the charged environment surrounding these professionals and the potential danger they face. Going forward, the members of the Select Panel who vote in favor of this resolution to release the deposition transcript will personally bear responsibility for any harm that comes to these individuals.

UNM requests that if the Select Panel adopts a resolution to release the transcript, whether prematurely in violation of its rules or after UNM has had a chance to review it, that the Select Panel redact the UNM doctor's name from the transcript. The fact that the Select Panel has previously published the doctor's name does not excuse it from an ongoing obligation to avoid endangering UNM staff. Secondly, UNM requests that the Select Panel postpones the disclosure of the transcript by a minimum of a week so that UNM can work with local law enforcement and campus security to put additional security measures in place to protect students and staff.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. RYAN.

MINERS' PENSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, thousands of retirees and widows in my district and coal States across the country are worried about making ends meet. They are wondering if the promises made to them will be kept. They want to know if Congress will act to preserve the pensions and healthcare benefits they worked hard to earn.

Mr. Speaker, our coal miners and their widows deserve the pensions and benefits they were promised. However, the funds for these vital programs are running out—and time is running out to fix these critical issues.

We have a solution. In the House, it is called the Coal Healthcare and Pensions Protection Act, legislation I proudly cosponsored, along with ALEX MOONEY of the Second Congressional District of West Virginia. This legislation was introduced by our fellow West Virginian, Congressman DAVID MCKINLEY. A companion bill has also been introduced in the Senate.

I want to share the words of a West Virginian who watched her father spend 30 years in the mines. Sherri Armstrong of Boone County wrote me, urging Congress to protect the benefits that her father had earned. She said her dad worked every shift available and counted every penny he earned. He took pride in his job, but his future is

now in jeopardy. Here is what she wrote:

For decades, their work provided for their communities, State, and Nation. If something is not done, and their benefits not protected, many of these people will be forced to either return to the workforce or to lose all they worked for and depend on public assistance to sustain them their remaining days.

Our coal miners made this country what it is today. They mined the coal that made the steel that built the skyscrapers and won world wars. These miners and their families deserve no less than what they worked their entire lives to earn: the peace of mind that comes with a pension.

I urge Congress to act. Pass this important legislation and protect our miners and their families.

HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for an end to the discriminatory Hyde amendment, which has harmed too many women for far too long.

This week marks 40 years since the Hyde amendment was first passed. For 40 years, politicians have denied the full range of comprehensive health services, including abortion coverage, to women just because of their income, employer, or ZIP Code. This must stop.

This bill was passed in 1976 to prevent low-income Medicaid recipients from exercising their constitutional rights. I was here working as a staffer for my predecessor, Ron Dellums, when this amendment first passed. We fought tooth and nail against it then. We knew that this harmful rider would help pave the way for decades of harsh, unfair restrictions.

□ 1015

Now, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, each year I have fought the fight against Republican efforts to double down and to expand the Hyde amendment.

In fact, in 2016, the Hyde amendment now affects more than just Medicaid recipients, to include: Federal employees and their dependents, military servicemembers, Native Americans, Peace Corps volunteers, immigrants, Federal prisoners, and the residents of Washington, D.C.

The discriminatory Hyde amendment also disproportionately impacts low-income women and women of color. More than half of the women subject to the Hyde amendment are women of color.

We also know that when those who seek abortion care are denied, they are much more likely to fall into poverty than a woman who is able to access care.

The Hyde amendment is just wrong. It is not only the Hyde amendment. Since 2010, State legislatures have

adopted 334 abortion restrictions, further expanding the hardship of abortion coverage like the Hyde amendment; again, politicians making decisions for women that they have no business even thinking about. Women deserve the right to privacy and the right to make their own healthcare decisions.

From shutting down clinics to creating longer wait lines, these restrictions impose the greatest burden on low-income women, immigrants, women of color, and young people.

Now, it is not our job, as elected officials, to make family planning decisions for women. Politicians need to get out of personal healthcare decisions for women.

Let me be clear. A woman's access to abortion should never depend on her ZIP Code, her employer, or her income. Whether you agree with women having abortions, that is not the issue. The issue is we should not discriminate against women who are denied the full range of comprehensive health services.

Secondly, politicians need to stop interfering with women's personal decisions about their body. That is why I, along with Congresswoman SCHAKOWSKY, Congresswoman DEGETTE, and 70 of our colleagues, offered and introduced the EACH Woman Act, H.R. 2972. This legislation would end the discriminatory Hyde amendment and ensure that all women can exercise their fundamental right to privacy and their fundamental right to choose.

Specifically, this bill ensures that, first, if a woman gets her care or insurance through the Federal Government, she will be covered for all pregnancy-related care.

Secondly, it means that Federal, State, and local legislators will not be able to interfere with the private insurance market to prevent insurance companies from providing a full range of healthcare services, including abortion coverage.

Right now, we have over 120 cosponsors working to stop politicians from interfering with a woman's reproductive rights, and we are building a coalition of elected officials, grassroots organizers, faith communities, and women who are ready to see this discriminatory and dangerous law taken off of the books.

So, as we mark 40 years of this terrible policy, I urge my colleagues to be bold and to support the EACH Woman Act. Together, we will end the Hyde amendment to ensure equal access to all healthcare services, including abortions for all women, not just for some who have the resources to ensure that their right continues as they make their own personal healthcare decisions.

These are their own constitutional rights. We should not interfere with

any woman's right to make these decisions. So let's move forward. Support the EACH Woman Act.

I want to commend all of the young women and men across the country who are really working to turn back the tide of this terrible amendment and who are working to pass the EACH Woman Act.

CELEBRATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOODWILL INDUSTRIES NORTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Goodwill Industries North Central Pennsylvania located in my district. This organization assists people from across a portion of north central Pennsylvania, including 13 counties.

Goodwill has been a valuable part of this region since its launch in 1966. Over the years, their service area has grown to cover more than a dozen counties, 20 stores, and has created jobs for more than 500 people.

Coming up this weekend, I will visit the community of Falls Creek, in Jefferson County, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District for a celebration of Goodwill's 50th anniversary.

It certainly helps that this great local organization is backed up by a highly-regarded national network. Across the United States, Goodwill is considered one of the top five most valuable and recognized nonprofit brands and is the second largest nonprofit organization.

Pennsylvania alone is served by 10 Goodwill Industries service areas. Goodwill has solid ties to the communities that it serves through partnerships with local businesses, schools, and human service agencies, helping individuals overcome life challenges through opportunity, education, training, and employment.

Those who donate to Goodwill can have peace of mind that their money is going to the right place since 90 cents of every dollar is directed towards its mission and services. Those services were provided to nearly 1,200 people across the north central region in 2013, providing an immeasurable benefit to the region.

This 50th anniversary celebration is a great time to reflect on all of the growth Goodwill Industries North Central has achieved as a team and continue to prepare their plans for the future. I commend them for all of their remarkable achievements, and I look forward to the great things that are yet to come.

ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution encouraging United States' support for strengthening democratic institutions and anticorruption efforts in the Republic of Moldova.

America and its allies are under renewed attack by an aggressive Russia that continues to employ Soviet-style political and economic warfare.

Mr. Speaker, they are sowing discord and dissent whenever and wherever the opportunity presents itself. Without a doubt, Russia has set its sights on the front-line states of Eastern Europe.

One such particularly vulnerable state is the Republic of Moldova. Moldova's strategic location between Russia and Ukraine makes its loyalty to the West increasingly significant.

Also extremely problematic is the fact that Russia continues to violate borders and meddle in others' internal affairs. In 2014, nearly \$1 billion, with a B, or 12 percent of Moldova's GDP was stolen from three major Moldovan Government banks. This banking scandal required the active involvement of a number of oligarchs and elected officials. Current members of the Moldovan Government recently exposed just how susceptible Moldova is to the Russian evil empire influence, as I call it.

This "crime of the century" not only touches financial institutions, Mr. Speaker, that are the world over, but it also exemplifies a systematic pattern of the Russian bear's efforts to undermine the rule of law and empower local agents willing to do its bidding. There is no question that Eastern Europe is at the center of a geopolitical struggle that has consequences for Atlantic security for many generations to come.

As the U.S. considers policies to counter the Russian bear's growing sphere of influence in Eastern and Southern Europe, as well as beyond the continent, we must not overlook the importance of a series of small countries that hang in the balance for our near- and long-term geopolitical goals.

American support for the rule of law, economic freedoms, transparency, and anticorruption initiatives in Moldova, and its neighborhood, at this pivotal time in history will unquestionably pay dividends for years to come.

We must also be considerate, Mr. Speaker, of just exactly what precedents we set today. Russian hegemony will not succeed if we help our allies in the East and their efforts to conduct free and fair elections.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues in the House to join me in supporting Moldova's efforts to rid themselves of Russia's corrupt and antidemocratic antics and influence.

Please join me in efforts to add transparency and fortification to democratic and civil institutions within our ally and friend, the Republic of Moldova.

Mr. Speaker, you know I am right.

FDA OVERREACH WILL DESTROY VAPING INDUSTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the FDA's inappropriate efforts to decimate the vaping industry.

Dozens of my constituents have written to me about the dramatic positive impact vaping has had on their lives. Each of these Americans has also expressed concern that the FDA's regulations will take away the very thing that has helped them begin to lead a healthier lifestyle.

Andrew Driscoll of Boone wrote: "Vaping has allowed me to quit a pack-a-day habit of smoking after years of trying other nicotine products to quit . . . innovation by small businesses to create helpful products that facilitate positive lifestyle changes should not be stifled by overregulation by the FDA." Dorothy Berryhill-Sanderson of Winston-Salem started smoking when she was 16 years old. She wrote that she was "able to finally stop smoking a year and a half ago by vaping. I went off asthma meds within 6 months and high blood pressure meds shortly afterwards."

Seth Marion of Yadkinville tried a variety of measures to quit smoking, but nothing worked until he tried vaping. He wrote to me to stress "how important it is to support vaping and the lives it is changing."

Kayla Hildebran of Taylorsville vowed to quit smoking when her 3-year-old daughter asked her to stop. She wrote about her opposition to the FDA regulating "something that has not only changed my life for the better but hers too."

In addition to numerous individuals, I am also hearing from business owners in my district who will be impacted by these rules. The FDA estimates there are between 5,200 and 10,200 businesses in the United States that make and/or sell electronic nicotine-delivery systems. The agency has said that number could drop between 30 percent and 70 percent with the new regulations, which is outrageous.

Vaping helped Chris Winfrey of Winston-Salem quit smoking. As a result, he organizes nationwide trade shows and conventions for vaping. He wrote that "my businesses will no longer be able to exist, and I will no longer be able to employ the people I do."

Josh Frazier of Statesville owns a local vaping business and asked me

“why the FDA wants to basically eliminate this industry.”

These regulations are yet another example of the Obama administration’s pattern of stifling the American economy through unnecessary rules. It is important for the well-being of citizens across this country that we stop this Federal overreach and that we allow vaping and other nontraditional products to compete in the marketplace.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Greg Young, Brown Deer United Church of Christ, Brown Deer, Wisconsin, offered the following prayer:

O God, author of all that is good, true, and beautiful, we gather together today to give You thanks. Thanks for the privilege of living in this great Nation, and for the privilege of serving its people.

As we journey into this new gift of today, I ask that You bless these who represent our great Nation and all who support them. Grant them inspired thought and action that transcends ideology. Inspire those here today with courageous and creative deliberation and nobility of purpose. Grant, O God, that these walls resound with the clarion call of freedom and justice for all which stand as the bedrock of our Nation.

We humbly ask, God of tender loving mercy, that You guide the collective wisdom and discourse of these Representatives.

May God bless this House and all who serve. God bless the President. May God bless the United States of America.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ASHFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND GREG YOUNG

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, it is really, truly a pleasure to welcome Greg Young here as our guest chaplain.

I just want to note that I met him on an airplane during the time of a great, great distress, illness in my family, and he prayed for me; and he is here today at another time when I am experiencing some family illness.

It just goes to demonstrate that no matter what your race, creed, color, gender, there is always somebody out there who can touch you, someone out there who can bring the spiritual resources to you, if you just open up your heart and your mind.

Thank God for Greg Young, and I thank him for visiting us today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PALMETTO BAY’S GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR VETERANS PARK

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Monday, September 26, the Village of Palmetto Bay, a municipality located in my lovely congressional district, held a groundbreaking ceremony for its Veterans Park, a park solely dedicated to honor the brave men and women who have proudly served our wonderful Nation. It was a collaboration of a south Florida business, local officials, and the American Legion Marlin Moore Post 133 who joined together in support of this noble cause and made this park a reality.

The Miami-Dade Military Affairs Board and other veterans affairs groups will assist the Village of Palmetto Bay in filling the park with memorials and historical data to honor veterans from every conflict in which our great Nation has participated in order to protect our freedoms.

Residents and visitors alike will be able to learn and reflect on the sac-

rifices that so many courageous servicemembers have made and continue to make to this day.

Congratulations to the Village of Palmetto Bay.

BE BOLD AND END THE HYDE AMENDMENT

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the EACH Woman Act, to ensure that every woman receiving care or insurance through the Federal Government be covered for abortion services. I am glad to join leaders in the fight for reproductive rights here on the floor today.

Whether a woman has private or government-funded health insurance, she should have coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion. For 40 years, the Hyde amendment has interfered with a woman’s health decisions simply because she is poor. Research shows that restricting Medicaid coverage of abortion, as the Hyde amendment requires, forces one in four poor women seeking abortion to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term.

Women have the right to determine when and if they have children. That is a right protected under the Constitution for all women, not just those who can afford private health insurance. I am proud to cosponsor the EACH Woman Act, and I call on my colleagues to be bold; end Hyde.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENDALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of Kendall County, Illinois.

Favorable conditions back in the 1830s persuaded hundreds of immigrants to load their wagons and head west to settle on the Illinois prairie. These early settlements became the seeds of Kendall County, a thriving, 320-square-mile area west of Chicago that is home to friendly people, rich farmland, and a strong base of manufacturing and small businesses.

The legislation creating Kendall County, approved by the Illinois Senate and House, was passed into law on February 19, 1841. It was named Kendall in honor of U.S. Postmaster General Amos Kendall, who served under President Andrew Jackson.

Throughout its history, the county has stood the test of time and continues to grow and prosper today. In fact, the county boasts more than

114,000 residents and holds the record as the fastest growing county in the United States, with an impressive rate of more than 110 percent growth.

I am proud to call Kendall County my home and celebrate its 175th year of history and prosperity.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, North Charleston, South Carolina, June 29, 2013:

Maurice Lamark Horry, 41 years old;
Carlos Davis, 39;
Theodore Waymyers, Jr., 36.
Waco, Texas, May 17, 2015:
Jesus Delgado Rodriguez, 65 years old;

Richard Vincent Kirshner, 47;
Charles Wayne Russell, 46;
Daniel Raymond Boyett, 44;
Wayne Lee Campbell, 43;
Manuel Issac Rodriguez, 40;
Jacob Lee Rhyne, 39;
Richard Matthew Jordan, 31 years old;

Matthew Mark Smith, 27.
Manchester, Illinois, April 24, 2013:
Joanne Sinclair, 64 years old;
Roy Ralston, 29;
Brittany Luark, 22;
Nolan Ralston, 5 years old;
Brantley Ralston, 1 year old.
Olympia, Washington, June 22, 2016:
Gerald M. Berkey, 36 years old;
Terron R. McGrath, 31;
Jackson Edens, 28.
New Orleans, Louisiana, August 10, 2014:

Terrance McBride, 33 years old;
Jasmine Anderson, 16.

SEPTEMBER IS VETERANS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

(Mr. BENISHEK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as Veterans Suicide Prevention Month.

America has a veteran suicide epidemic. In 2014, 20 veterans a day committed suicide. Only six of these were users of VA services.

I know that the challenges of military life do not end once our servicemen and -women return home from Active Duty. A veteran in northern Michigan pointed out to me that, when calling a VA medical center, an automated voice directed those in a mental health crisis to hang up and dial a long 800 number. This made no sense.

I am pleased VA has finally taken steps to address this. Now when a veteran calls Iron Mountain VA Hospital, he or she can be immediately connected to a mental health crisis line. I hope this feature will be rolled out to

every VA medical facility as soon as possible.

To all veterans struggling with whether to take your life, know there is no shame in asking for help.

I thank those who have served our country for their immeasurable service and sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARCELO CAVAZOS, 2016 TEXAS SUPER- INTENDENT OF THE YEAR

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2016 Texas Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Marcelo Cavazos, representing the Arlington Independent School District.

From a young age, Dr. Cavazos' parents encouraged him and his five siblings to focus on their education, the great equalizer of opportunity. Dr. Cavazos believes that all children must have someone to advocate for them in order to succeed.

With this belief in mind, Dr. Cavazos began his career as an English teacher in the Mission Consolidated Independent School District in 1990. He also worked in the TEA, the Texas Education Agency, in their school finance department before joining Arlington ISD in 1999. He was named deputy superintendent of Arlington ISD in 2009 and became the superintendent in November 2012.

Under Dr. Cavazos' leadership, the Arlington Independent School District has opened two fine arts/dual language academies, expanded community-based prekindergarten offerings, and signed agreements with the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of North Texas, and Tarrant County College to give kids greater access to dual credit and early admission options.

Dr. Cavazos has made it his life mission to open the doors of opportunity for all of our children.

Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award.

NATIONAL RICE MONTH

(Mr. CRAWFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, September is National Rice Month. For those of us in the agriculture community, there are two numbers that stuck out. One is 2050; the other is 9 billion. Let me explain.

By the year 2050, we expect the human population will be at about 9 billion people. Beyond all the other concerns we have about such a large population, among those concerns is: How will we feed that many people?

I believe that hearty, wholesome grains like Arkansas rice will be a part of the answer to that important ques-

tion. Rice is nutrient-dense, containing over 15 vitamins and minerals, including folic acid, B vitamins, iron, and zinc. It is easily stored, transported, and an incredibly versatile kitchen staple for families around the world.

In an age of concern over healthy, affordable foods, rice supplies an answer that other grains can't match. A one-half cup cooked serving of rice costs less than 10 cents and provides complex carbohydrates that fuel the human body.

But here in the United States Congress, one of the problems I run into is that people don't know that we grow rice in the United States. I do what I can to spread the word about American rice production, including sending other Members Rice Krispies Treats on their birthdays.

If we are going to use rice as a tool for solving the world's need for cheap, affordable foods, we have got to keep telling the story about American rice. I can't think of any other food more important for feeding the world.

CELEBRATING DR. LOURDES GOUVEIA DURING HISPANIC HER- ITAGE MONTH

(Mr. ASHFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to honor a woman who has left an indelible mark on the State of Nebraska and the Second Congressional District.

Dr. Lourdes Gouveia is professor emeritus of sociology and the founding director of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

For over 25 years, with her leadership and knowledge, she has worked to provide educational institutions, government agencies, and the private sector with relevant, culturally competent, and socially responsible research and analysis of Nebraska's vibrant Latino population.

She has directed work that details the economic, social, and political opportunities and challenges facing both the urban and rural sectors of the State. Dr. Gouveia has done this with a particular focus on the impact of migration, immigrant integration, and social justice.

All this has now come full circle as her former students and others she has mentored fill a variety of highly meaningful roles in Nebraska and across the country. This ensures that her legacy, symbolized by the programs she has created and nurtured over the past quarter century, will continue to serve Nebraska and its citizens long into the future.

HONORING HARRELL CHARLES MURRAY, JR.

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Harrell Charles Murray, Jr., of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on Sunday, September 18.

Mr. Murray was an outstanding individual who dedicated his life to his family, his church, his community, and his country. He served his country during World War II as a member of the United States Coast Guard, where he served on a patrol boat guarding the southeastern coast from attack and attempted espionage.

After the war, he joined the family's business, Savannah Lumber and Supply Company. He was loyal to his family's company, working there until his retirement.

With any additional time, he contributed to the Savannah community. A few of his many examples of service include participating in the Lions Club, mentoring young men at the local YMCA, and donating gallons of blood to the American Red Cross.

A lifelong member of Wesley United Methodist Monumental Church in Savannah, he was always devoted to bettering the church and its congregation. The church even gave him a special award for his work.

Mr. Murray's life and work is to be commended. He will certainly be missed.

□ 1215

NEW TRAIN STATION FOR BUFFALO

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, western New York is experiencing a resurgence that was unimaginable 10 years ago. We have reclaimed our waterfront, generated thousands of jobs in the life sciences, and will soon be the largest supplier of solar panels in the Western Hemisphere.

But still there is much work to be done. The Buffalo-Exchange Street Amtrak station is, in terms of function and aesthetics, the worst in the State and among the worst in the entire Nation. It is currently closed because the ceiling collapsed. This is a station that is not in keeping with a city that is on the rise.

Yesterday, I asked the New York State Department of Transportation to begin planning for a new station at our bustling Canalside district or our historic Central Terminal.

If we act quickly to produce a plan for a new, state-of-the-art train station that is shovel-ready, we will position

Buffalo to benefit from a much-needed investment in infrastructure throughout the Nation.

SUICIDE AFFECTS YOUNG CHILDREN

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, The Journal of Pediatrics recently reported many preteen children are at risk for suicide. Previously, it was believed that young children were incapable of suicide because they can't feel as hopeless or didn't have an understanding about death.

Yet, in the United States, children as young as 5 years old die by suicide. According to the study, most of these suicide victims had a mental health problem. For younger children, suicide was associated with attention deficit disorder, and for older kids, depression. Both are treatable but must be diagnosed and treated right.

But today, for every 2,000 children with a mental health disorder, only one child psychiatrist is available. Over 70 percent of psychotropic medications are prescribed by nonpsychiatrists, and 90 percent of psychiatric medications for children are prescribed off label.

The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act addresses this grave reality head-on by increasing the number of child psychiatrists in our Nation. As lawmakers, it is our duty to protect our Nation's future generations.

As the Senate continues to sit on H.R. 2646, I hope they keep in mind our children and our grandchildren. Please do not leave town before passage of H.R. 2646. We can save lives, but, to do so, we must pass this law. Our children need help and hope.

REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 2 years since the public health crisis in Flint, Michigan, exposed thousands of residents—including up to 12,000 children—to lead-tainted water. With only days left to avert a government shutdown, I am absolutely appalled by the continued resistance of Republican leaders to include critical funding in the year-end spending bill to help the families of Flint.

None of our communities are immune to aging infrastructure. We must provide the resources to address these challenges head-on before pipes break, before a bridge collapses, or before a road becomes impassable.

For most of us across the country, that means rebuilding our infrastruc-

ture before the worst happens. For the people of Flint, it means providing emergency assistance in the wake of this crisis that will allow them to rebuild their lives and their communities. Either way, it is incumbent upon us as Members of Congress to protect the health and safety of our constituents, and the time to act is now.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND BRYAN PAGLIANO IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA

Mr. CHAFFETZ, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-792) on the resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Bryan Pagliano in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MENTAL HEALTH

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues in the Senate to act on mental health reform legislation. Back in July, the House passed H.R. 2646, Representative MURPHY's bill, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, with strong bipartisan support; but the Senate has yet to take action on this vital piece of legislation.

There can be no more delay; our Nation has suffered the loss of over 70,000 lives as a result of mental illness, many of which could have been prevented with access to mental health treatment. Mental illness devastates our criminal justice system, our communities, and our families. We cannot arrest our way out of this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our Senate colleagues to advance this bill so that we can intervene before more Americans lose their lives to this treatable disease.

RECOGNIZING TONY LAM

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Mr. Tony Lam. Tony fled Vietnam in 1975 during the Fall of Saigon. He was a political target because of his work for the United States Government.

While at Camp Asan in Guam and Camp Pendleton in California, he

served as a leader for the community of refugees. After settling in Westminster, California, Tony won a seat on the Westminster City Council in 1992, becoming the first Vietnamese American elected to public office in the United States.

Tony will turn 80 next week on October 4, and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate him and thank him for his many years of service to the Vietnamese American community and to the city of Westminster.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, suicide is the second leading cause of death for young Americans ages 10 to 24.

To put that in perspective, for kids in the fourth grade to young adults just starting their careers, suicide is the second leading cause of death.

As a father of four all in this age group, I can't tell you how heartbreaking it is that kids across the country feel hopeless and feel that suicide is their only option.

Tragically, we know that many of the individuals who experience suicidal thoughts suffer from some form of mental illness but have not received proper treatment.

Here in the House, we passed landmark legislation to overhaul our Nation's mental health treatment system to make sure these individuals have access to the care they need, and we need to see it across the finish line.

That is why I am here on the floor today to recognize National Suicide Prevention Month and, more importantly, to bring awareness to this tragic problem and recommit our efforts to help our fellow citizens struggling with mental illness.

DYSFUNCTIONAL REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the dysfunction of this Republican-led Congress.

At every turn, this House has abandoned Americans who are counting on strong action from Congress to protect families. Whether it is Flint, gun violence prevention, or the Zika virus, this Congress has shown its unwillingness to tackle the real issues affecting the American people.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States and its territories, there are now more than 23,000 confirmed cases of Zika. An emergency request for supplemental resources to fight Zika came to this

House more than 6 months ago. Similarly, in the 3 months since House Democrats took to this floor to call for a vote on commonsense gun safety legislation, there has not been a single vote.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress' inaction on these issues has dire consequences for many in communities across the country, including the more than 40 men and women who have lost their lives to gun violence in the Virgin Islands this year and the number of unarmed African Americans killed in police shootings. Are they not important?

The water crisis in Flint is the very issue that this Congress should take up.

Mr. Speaker, I call on this Congress to act now to fully fund the President's emergency request to fight Zika, to support the children and families in Flint, as well as bring a vote on legislation to keep our communities safe from gun violence and aggressive police practices.

MOSES LAKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce in Washington State's Fourth Congressional District as they prepare to celebrate their 75-year anniversary in October.

Moses Lake is truly a vibrant community that has developed as a hub for diverse sectors, including agriculture, aviation, manufacturing, and technology.

This success is no accident. The commitment of hardworking entrepreneurs and local civic leaders has placed Moses Lake on a path of increased opportunity for the residents of the city, in Grant County, and in the entire region.

The growing engagement of Moses Lake businesses in trade and exporting American products overseas shows the importance of access to international markets for the local economy. Moses Lake businesses and leaders know the importance of keeping our ports open and supply chains operating smoothly.

While Moses Lake's natural beauty, freshwater, and recreational and cultural activities attract visitors from all over, its growing economy supports jobs that attract families to stay and call Moses Lake home.

Congratulations to Moses Lake on 75 years of fulfilling its mission to create and maintain a prosperous economy and quality lifestyle.

RELIEF FROM OBAMACARE

(Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to support Congressman ADRIAN SMITH of Nebraska's CO-OP Consumer Protection Act which we will vote on later today.

This bill will temporarily exempt from the individual mandate penalty anyone who had a plan under one of the many failed ObamaCare co-ops; 17 out of 23 co-ops have failed since early 2015.

Community Health Alliance was one such ObamaCare co-op based in my district. When it failed last year, 27,000 Tennesseans were forced to find new plans. This year, Tennesseans have been faced with even more bad news. Earlier this year, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee requested an average 62 percent increase in premium rates. Then just yesterday, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee announced that they can no longer afford to offer any ObamaCare exchange plans in Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis. This will affect over 100,000, including many of my constituents who will now have the option of only one health insurance provider.

Congressman SMITH of Nebraska's bill will provide at least some relief for people who have lost their health insurance because of ObamaCare. I urge my colleagues' support of this very important legislation.

EDEN PRAIRIE: BEST PLACE TO LIVE

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Eden Prairie, Minnesota, for being recognized and named as the Second Best Place to Live in America by Money Magazine. It is not the first time that Eden Prairie has been recognized as a great place to live. It has made the annual list several times over the years and even finished number one in 2010.

Eden Prairie is a wonderful place for families and kids because of its excellent schools, great parks, and over 100 miles of terrific walking and biking trails. There are also 17 lakes that add to our high quality of life. The city also has a lot to offer through its economy as well. There are several great local and global brands that are headquartered in town or nearby.

Mr. Speaker, Eden Prairie residents have known this for a long period of time. It is a great place to work, to live, and to raise a family. I am honored to represent such an outstanding community and to call it home myself.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 27, 2016 at 9:34 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. 1886.

Appointment: Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

□ 1230

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PRO-
VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE
RULES; AND WAIVING A RE-
QUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF
RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO
CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN
RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM
THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 892 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 892

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-65. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a sub-

stitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment pursuant to this resolution, the Committee of the Whole shall rise without motion. No further consideration of the bill shall be in order except pursuant to a subsequent order of the House.

SEC. 2. It shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of September 29, 2016, or September 30, 2016, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

SEC. 3. The requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII for a two-thirds vote to consider a report from the Committee on Rules on the same day it is presented to the House is waived with respect to any resolution reported through the legislative day of September 30, 2016, relating to a measure making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to believe that you requested this time today after having been with the Rules Committee last night debating this measure.

The rule, House Resolution 892, provides for structured debate of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Now, for Members who have been here for more than one term, you are thinking: Didn't we just do a Water Resources Development Act of 2014?

Well, we absolutely did. We were supposed to. This is getting us back on track to—Congress after Congress after Congress—focus on the water resources of our Nation.

In this rule today, we are going to make in order the general debate on the WRDA bill, the Water Resources

Development Act, as well as a number of amendments on both sides. But I want to make it clear that the Rules Committee is not done. When Congressman HASTINGS and I finish here on the floor, we will head back to the Rules Committee and we will make even more amendments in order for debate. There are 25 amendments, bipartisan amendments, made in order by the rule that we are debating today. And, again, we will return to committee to make additional amendments in order this afternoon.

It would, no doubt, have been easier to make all the amendments available in one package. But as so often happens, Mr. Speaker, when you have a bill of this magnitude, of this importance, as the Water Resources Development Act is, you have an abundance of interest from across this Chamber. I believe the Rules Committee has received over 90 amendments to improve upon this legislation from Members who have important issues that they would like to see debated. That is why you see a two-rule process for this particular bill today.

For folks who don't have the pleasure of serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as you and I do, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that the WRDA bill authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for all of their activities across the spectrum from construction to maintenance. It is the water infrastructure maintenance of harbors and locks and dams of flood control projects and of water supply projects across the Nation, coast to coast.

The underlying bill continues the reforms that this Congress began and that the President signed in the WRRDA bill of 2014 by strongly asserting Congress' authority over Corps activities and, again, restoring the 2-year WRDA cycle that has been missing for far too long.

This return to regular order, Mr. Speaker, I would argue, is going to take the politicking out of these projects and return the WRDA bill to being that bipartisan bill that focuses on Congress' priorities, as spoken by our constituents back home, rather than, as sometimes happens, the Corps taking direction from unelected bureaucrats downtown. I believe that we get a better work product when we collaborate together, again, manifesting the will of our constituency back home.

If you need to see what this return to regular order has meant, Mr. Speaker, just look at the 30 Chief's Reports or the 29 feasibility studies included in this bill. Again, if you don't serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Chief's Reports and feasibility studies may not mean much to you. But if you are involved in water infrastructure anywhere in this country, you know that those reports are

vital to moving your project forward and you know that the feasibility study is critical to moving your project forward.

Each one of these has been reviewed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in public hearings, just as we had done in the WRRDA bill of 2014. Mr. Speaker, this kind of open and transparent process, I would argue, has given us a better work product in the underlying bill and is going to give us a better rule here today.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about our waterways—I had to write the stats down here; I don't have them committed to memory—they are mind-boggling. Six hundred million tons of cargo are moving on our waterways, Mr. Speaker. That is \$230 billion in economic value moving on our inland waterways each year—\$1.4 trillion worth of goods moving in and out of our ports each year; \$320 billion in Federal, State, and local revenue generated by those ports. Over one-quarter—over one-quarter, Mr. Speaker, of the gross domestic product of the entire United States of America comes from international trade and 99 percent of cargo moves through the ports controlled by this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about over 40 million American jobs tied to international trade and, again, supported by this bill brought out of committee in a bipartisan and unanimous fashion.

I am very proud to support the underlying bill. This bill makes in order time for the chairman and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to debate this bill. I am very proud that the Rules Committee has seen fit to allow those Members who do not serve on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to make their voice heard as well.

Mr. Speaker, this is a definition of how we should be doing things in this institution. I am proud to bring this rule to the consideration of my colleagues today. I am proud of the underlying bill that this rule supports. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting the rural and the underlying bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), my friend, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to debate the rule.

This legislation historically focuses on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and water resources infrastructure, such as dams and levees, serving as a vehicle to update Corps policies and authorize new individual Corps studies, projects, and modifications to ongoing projects.

This legislation could not be more important for our country, specifically

my State, with its numerous Army Corps projects and water resources that Florida's diverse environment, ecosystem, and economy relies on.

I was pleased to see that this legislation includes authorization for the dredging of Port Everglades. I have lived with that request for 18 years of my career here in Congress. This is a project that has seen a long road to fruition, and that will be an immense boost to south Florida's economy.

Furthermore, as co-chair of the House Everglades Caucus, my fellow caucus members, relevant stakeholders, and I have for years worked tirelessly to make the goal of Everglades restoration a reality. It is with this goal in mind that I support and applaud the inclusion of the Central Everglades Planning Project authorization in this bill.

This authorization will mean almost \$2 billion of Federal and non-Federal money will be put towards vital restoration projects that will help one of the world's most diverse and unique ecosystems thrive once again.

We still have a long way to go to bring the Everglades back to full ecological prosperity, and many challenges remain ahead; but by authorizing this project, we will be able to take a determined step in the right direction, helping Florida's environment and economy.

Mr. Speaker, while I am pleased that this bill includes authorizations for critical water projects important to the State of Florida and for many other States around the country, I am disheartened to see a measure that was reported favorably out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with bipartisan support become shamefully transformed by Republican leadership.

Under the guise of a budgetary point of order, the Republican leadership stripped a provision that would have unlocked the harbor maintenance trust fund to ensure that revenues collected from shippers are used to actually maintain U.S. coastal and Great Lakes harbors.

So after working in a strong bipartisan fashion to craft a bill that all Members could support and after reporting the bill by voice vote, the majority saw fit to sabotage the good faith negotiating and hard work by—and I underscore one Member, a friend of mine—the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN), who has worked on this the entirety of the time that she has been here in Congress, and I am sure serves as a disappointment for her. She will speak to that later.

Mr. Speaker, later today we will be debating a rule for a bill that, once again, attacks the Affordable Care Act. That bill also had two points of order made against it. Yet, the majority provided that legislation with a waiver against those points of order. With

these contrasting decisions, the majority has revealed its hypocrisy.

Work in a bipartisan fashion on a major infrastructure bill that gets favorably voice voted out of committee and leadership changes the bill and provides no waiver.

Attack the Affordable Care Act in a red meat political messaging bill for the extreme right and leadership allows a waiver of the point of order so the bill may move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am also disheartened to see that this legislation does not have any funding to help the people of Flint and that my good friend, the Member who represents the city of Flint in this House, Congressman KILDEE, did not have his amendment, which would have provided much-needed relief to the citizens of Flint, made in order.

□ 1245

I am sure, if time permits, he will speak to the issue as well. Congressman KILDEE sought this waiver of the rules so that his amendment could be made in order. This request was denied.

Mr. Speaker, the majority grants waivers of points of order all the time. I have had the good fortune of being on the Rules Committee, both in the majority—perhaps, not often enough, in my mind—and in the minority. This Congress alone, as when Democrats were in charge, made waivers when they felt like doing so. My Republican friends have granted 249 waivers; yet they denied a waiver to address a critical public health crisis. There is plenty of blame to go around as to the cause of this crisis.

I said last night that I understand the implications of the State and the local governments' responsibilities, but I also feel, when children are poisoned, that the Federal Government has an immense responsibility. To me, women, children, and the elderly becoming ill because of lead-tainted water is an "everybody" problem, and this body has a political and a moral responsibility to help the people of Flint right this wrong.

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, if we can't get a waiver of the rules after this House works in a truly bipartisan way to address the issues of our country or to help children who have been drinking poisoned water in their hometowns, then when can we get a waiver?

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My friend from Florida is very earnest in his comments. One of the reasons I enjoy working with him so much on the Rules Committee is we get to work on issues that affect people's lives—that make a difference for folks back home. Even though we are here debating the WRDA bill, I would be remiss if I let the reference to the CO-OP bill, coming later on today, pass as

being an attack on ObamaCare or even pass as being a waiver of the budget rules.

Mr. Speaker, if you have had a chance to look at that, what you know is that, when U.S. citizens were forced out of the insurance policies that they liked and into the ObamaCare system and when those ObamaCare policies they were forced into failed midyear and they lost the insurance that they were forced into after having already lost the insurance that they had chosen for themselves, the law said we are now going to come and tax you—penalize you—once again because you have let your insurance policy lapse.

This is the absurdity of having lost your insurance policy because the law took it from you, of having the law force you into a second insurance policy, which then collapses under its own weight because it cannot support itself, and then of you, the American taxpayer, having to be on the hook. So the budget point of order, which is absolutely waived, waives the absurd proposition that the Federal Government was entitled to tax American citizens who have been twice failed by ObamaCare because we were expecting them to pay a penalty for having lost their care midyear.

This is something that unites us. This is not something that divides us. We have an opportunity in the next rule that comes up—in the next bill that comes up—to step in for those American families who, again, lost the insurance they wanted, who lost the insurance they were forced into, and who are now being faced with an IRS penalty for their troubles. I think this is something that our constituents have sent us here to do, and I am glad we are going to be taking action on that later today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman mentioned in his opening remarks one of the greatest disappointments. This bill did come out of committee unanimously—bipartisan—in a very fiscally responsible manner, which is that we levy a tax on all goods that are imported into this country. Every American pays a little bit more for any imported good he buys under the premise that that money will be used to maintain and construct our harbors and critical port facilities.

Unfortunately, every year, the Republicans have seen fit to divert \$400 million to \$500 million of that tax into something else. They spend it somewhere else. They pretend they are reducing the deficit—whatever. We do not know. Meanwhile, our harbors are

silting in; our jetties are failing; and many major projects are delayed. In fact, we are going to authorize a bunch of new projects here—billions of dollars worth of projects. Unfortunately, the Corps already has authorized—but yet has unconstructed and unfunded—\$68 billion worth. They are saying we can't use the tax dollars—that we can't use the dollars which Americans are paying a little bit more of for all of their imported goods—for the purpose for which the law was intended: dredging our harbors. Here are just two examples.

We have Savannah—a major project. We have to deal with the post-Panamax ship. Unfortunately, we are going to have a \$15 million-a-year deficit in terms of maintaining that project once it is constructed. We also have the Port of Charleston—\$5 million a year short. Now, if that \$400 million were not being diverted by the Republican majority to other purposes, those projects and others around the country could be fully funded.

I have been working on this provision for 20 years, starting with Bud Shuster, the dad of the current chair of the committee. It came out of committee unanimously with support on the Republican and Democratic sides; yet the Rules Committee stripped it out. They stripped it out because they want to keep playing with that money and diverting it away from critical needs.

Then one other thing. We are talking about critical infrastructure and the huge backlog. There is an earmark in this. Earmarks are banned. Technically, they kind of get around that. There is a \$520 million earmark for a project that has had no cost-benefit analysis, that has not been approved by the Corps of Engineers but that, in fact, will include such critical infrastructure as a splash park, a swimming pool, ball fields, et cetera. Harbor maintenance tax dollars will be spent on these projects in a \$520 million boondoggle that has never had a cost-benefit analysis because one member of the Appropriations Committee managed to slip it into an appropriations bill years ago. Then, with a little sleight of hand, he said: "Oh, well. Yeah. It was never authorized, never evaluated; but if we tweak it a little bit and say, 'Well, we are modifying it,' then we can say, 'Oh, it is okay.'"

This is not exactly on the up-and-up here today, folks. We are diverting precious tax dollars away from critical infrastructure to whatever kind of special things the Republicans have somewhere else that they want to fund, and we are funding boondoggles and earmarks to the tune of a half a billion dollars.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. I yield the gentleman from Oregon an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DEFAZIO. To just get back to the core of this, other than that, it is a pretty good bill.

It is critical that we maintain our ports and our infrastructure, and it is critical for our competition—the world economy; but we need to stop hoodwinking the American people. If you are not going to spend the tax for the purpose for which it was collected—harbor maintenance and construction—then lower the tax, because every American is paying a little bit more for every imported good. Besides that, they are paying a lot more because the ships are way out to sea, in line, because they can't access our ports, again, because of deferred maintenance at portside facilities.

We have got that money. We are collecting the tax. Let's spend the tax in the way in which it is authorized under the law of the United States of America, and let's stop playing games.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I say, in broad terms, that I support what the gentleman from Oregon has just said. I served with him on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I was one of the folks who supported the bill that unanimously left committee. The great State of Georgia is dependent on the Port of Savannah, about which the gentleman from Oregon has just laid out the critical funding infrastructure needs.

The question with the harbor maintenance trust fund, I want to be clear, is not one of the diversions of those resources. We often talk about trust funds as if someone is dipping his hand in and taking money out of the trust funds, and there is not a single person who works at a single port in the great State of Georgia who believes that is true—because it is not. The trust fund still sits there. The gentleman's point is that we should be spending the money in the trust fund, and he is absolutely right about that. Correct any misunderstanding. No one is spending those resources elsewhere. Those resources are still in the trust fund, and they ought to be spent.

The question then becomes for this Chamber: Are we going to delegate that authority, as we do time and time again, to the administration, and the administration will spend that money any way the administration sees fit; or will we, utilizing the constitutional powers not given to this body but required of this body, spend those dollars as our constituents see fit—in an accountable fashion, not by unelected bureaucrats, but by folks who are elected and who stand for election every 2 years?

These dollars need to go out the door. The Port of Savannah is critical because it is so big. The Port of Brunswick, in Georgia, is even more challenged by dredging that hasn't happened but that should have happened.

The project that my friend from Florida mentioned, the Everglades, is not a local port project in Florida; that is a project of national significance. We all stand for the restoration that needs to happen there in the Everglades, a national environmental and natural treasure. We have failed in making those decisions, and if we delegate this authority in its entirety to the administration, I tell you that we will have failed our constituents again.

Mr. Speaker, you were with me and the chairman last night in the Rules Committee. Chairman SHUSTER wants to solve this problem. Chairman SHUSTER wants what I want, and I want what Mr. DEFazio wants; and what Mr. DEFazio wants is for us to live up to our obligation to maintain America's critical port and waterway infrastructure—we can and we should and we will—but delegating it to the administration does none of those things. That, we should not do. We have an opportunity to do it the right way.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN).

Ms. HAHN. I thank my colleague, Representative HASTINGS, for yielding, and I thank the gentleman earlier for recognizing my work on this issue since I have come to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule for this bill. My colleagues and I, first of all, have been fighting for much-needed funding for the children who have been poisoned in Flint, Michigan. This bill should have included help for them. These families have waited too long, and it is inexcusable that we have not passed legislation on their behalf. I am also opposing this bill because an important provision that would take the harbor maintenance trust fund off budget was stripped from this bill after we passed it out of committee unanimously—with true bipartisan support.

When I first came to Congress 5 years ago, I didn't think we were talking about our Nation's ports enough, and I started the bipartisan Congressional Ports Caucus, which now has over 100 members, both Democrats and Republicans. Some are in the caucus who don't even have a port that they represent; but, together, we have brought new attention to the problems that are facing our Nation's ports and the impact that they have on our economy.

One of our caucus' priorities has been taking the harbor maintenance trust fund off budget so that Congress cannot use these funds for any other reason or keep them in a surplus that is not going to the purpose for which they were intended. Shippers have been paying billions of dollars into this fund for the purpose of maintaining our ports so that we can continue to have goods movement and the international trade industry be at the core of our economy in this country.

□ 1300

We had a \$9 billion surplus at one point. That is criminal to have that money just sitting here not going back to our ports. In fact, over the last decade, less than 60 percent of the revenues that we have collected have been used to maintain and dredge our ports. This is unacceptable. Money that is collected at our ports, for our ports, should go back to our ports.

Jo-Ellen Darcy, the head of the Army Corps of Engineers, told me that if she had the appropriate funding—which means we should take the harbor maintenance trust fund off-budget—all of our ports in this country could be dredged in 5 years. Not only would this create jobs, it would prepare ports across the country for the larger ships coming through the expanded Panama Canal.

We made great headway on this issue in 2014 by passing a bipartisan WRRDA bill that established annual spending targets that led to the full use of these revenues by 2025.

However, less than 2 months after that was passed, I was back here on the floor with my colleague, Representative HUIZenga, fighting for the appropriations funding that matched what was set in our water bill, and we have had to keep fighting for that ever since.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I in the Transportation Committee, both Democrats and Republicans, decided to address this injustice in May when we passed a bipartisan bill that included the provision to finally take the harbor maintenance trust fund off-budget. However, much to my shock and dismay, this provision was stripped out after we passed the bill out of committee.

We cannot continue to neglect our port infrastructure and put at risk job growth, our economy, and global competitiveness. For these reasons, I cannot support this rule and WRDA in its current form, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it has to be said the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) is an amazing advocate for the harbor maintenance trust fund. She represents a critically important port infrastructure. It is critically important not just for her area, but to the entire United States of America.

I do the same on the Eastern seaboard, the port in Savannah. Mr. Speaker, is the fastest growing container port in the country. It is not a catalyst for growth in Georgia; it is a catalyst for growth across the United States of America, particularly in the Southeastern portion.

The gentlewoman was absolutely right, we made some great progress in 2014. We came to an agreement that we need to do more. We have the ability to do more, and we need to do more. That is not the question today, Mr. Speaker. You will not find any reference made by any member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee suggesting that they don't want to do more.

The question is: Will we do what we do so often, and that is to decide that Congress cannot be trusted with these decisions and let's just punt to the administration?

Now, I will tell you what that means for Savannah since we saw a banner up here earlier on the floor talking about the Savannah port. What that means for Savannah is that while the Corps of Engineers says that we can get this port fully operational for Panamax ships within 6½ years, providing taxpayers the maximum bang for their buck—the administration funded it not over 6½ years. They didn't provide enough funding for it to get done in 10 years. They didn't provide enough funding for it to get done in 20 years—the funding that was recommended by the administration stretched the construction out over two decades.

Who wins in that? Who wins in that?

I will tell you that an advocate for the port system, as the gentlewoman from California is, would not spend taxpayers dollars that way. I would not spend taxpayer dollars that way and you would not spend taxpayer dollars that way.

Is this institution at fault for not maximizing the utility of the harbor maintenance trust fund?

Yes. Yes.

Will this institution compound that fault by delegating the authority away to the administration?

The answer is yes.

I would say to my friends that the nature of a trust fund is that it is there when we need it most. What the gentlewoman from California described is the spend-up program that was going on over a decade recognized that. It recognized that there is going to be a rainy day here where we are going to need to dip in, where the revenues won't be what we expected. The nature of a trust fund is not to spend it to zero every year. The nature of a trust fund is to have it there when you need it.

We are working together to do more here, Mr. Speaker. But when the objection is made—and I will read it in part. Section 108 is the provision that we are talking about being stripped, and it allows the Corps to use the funds available in the harbor maintenance trust fund without further appropriation by Congress.

Mr. Speaker, in the 1960s, when you looked at the Federal budget, about one-third of that Federal budget was on autopilot, just going right out the

door every year primarily for income support programs. Two-thirds of that budget was investing in the United States of America, growing the United States of America, focused on our kids, focused on our ports, focused on our schools, focused on our parks, focused on innovation and infrastructure.

Today, that same chart has been flipped. Two-thirds of the Federal budget is on autopilot, and only one-third is left to the discretion of this institution.

I say to my friends that I think more of us as a body than to say that we can't get this done. Fair enough if folks want to look back at history and say: But, ROB, we have been trying to get this done and we haven't gotten it done right yet.

I can see that is true. We have come closer together than we have ever come before. More than 50 percent of this body has been here 6 years or less. More than 50 percent of this body does not know of the failures. They only know of their desire to succeed, and that is why we have come closer than we have ever come before. Let's not punt today. Let's not concede failure today. Let's not decide that the President, whoever he or she may be next cycle, is going to know better than us tomorrow, better than our constituents tomorrow. Let's just do the job that we were sent here to do, and we have never been closer to celebrating that success together. I hope we will get there.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my very good friend who also is an appropriator.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS)—who I concur is my very good friend—for his leadership on behalf of Florida and particularly in protecting our beloved Everglades.

While I support the underlying bill because of the critical investments the Army Corps of Engineers will make at Port Everglades and in restoring the Everglades, I, unfortunately, rise today in opposition to the partisan fashion in which the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, has been brought to this floor.

I am proud the Central Everglades project, which is authorized by this bill, will provide over a billion dollars in Federal and non-Federal funds to continue the essential work of restoring the Florida Everglades.

The Everglades, which we call affectionately the River of Grass, is home to thousands of rare species and its survival relies on the flow of water and a high standard of water quality throughout our State of Florida.

Restoring historic water flow is not only critical for the Everglades and for its ecosystem, but it also boosts crit-

ical freshwater supplies that are essential to the daily lives of millions of Floridians and the very future of a Florida we call home.

Additionally, I am proud that WRDA includes authorization for the Port Everglades—not the same—the Port Everglades harbor dredging project. This has been an almost astounding 20-year planning process. It shouldn't have taken that long, and we are thrilled that we are finally here.

The deepening and widening of the channels at Port Everglades will allow south Florida to receive cargo from larger ships, the post-Panamax cargo ships coming from the widened Panama Canal. That will create nearly 1,500 new jobs in south Florida and over 29,000 related jobs statewide through new commerce coming through the port.

However, I also want to reflect on the majority's obstructionism. For months, Democrats, led by Representative KILDEE, have urged the majority to help Flint and other communities that have been exposed to lead to fund the necessary repairs to water infrastructure, as well as replace that which has been corroded and allowed lead to leach into the water system.

I visited Flint in March and spoke to families exposed to lead in their water and whose children may have been exposed. As a mother of three children myself, I am outraged for those mothers in Flint who learned that the water their children have been drinking for months is dangerous and could have long-term effects on their children's development.

As Americans suffer, Republican leadership's continued recklessness—and specifically their refusal to include funding for Flint in WRDA—is unconscionable.

Have you no heart or soul? Do you not feel for someone else's children besides your own?

The tone deafness is astounding. The majority has even withheld a vote on the matter. They won't even let us vote, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the majority has even withheld a vote on the matter, refusing to rule in order Mr. KILDEE's amendment, the Families of Flint Act. They have no conscience. If they did, they would allow a vote.

Vote "no," as I have said many times on this floor. Vote "no."

Have the courage of your convictions, but let the democratic process work. Trust this body. As the gentleman has just said on the harbor maintenance trust fund, trust this body to make the decision together. You can't have it both ways. You ei-

ther trust this body to cast their votes accordingly or you don't. You can't pick and choose because you are playing politics with the lives of children if you do.

For this reason, I urge a "no" vote on the rule.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), who represents the Port of Charleston that we saw on the map earlier.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to first commend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for what he has done on this bill. It would take the wisdom of Solomon to get all the competing interests and all the competing views perfectly happy on this bill.

What I think the gentleman has done in the Rules Committee is to recognize that this is a bill that cannot wait. It is a bill whose time has come. He has absolutely the courage of his convictions. He has got a whole lot of heart and a whole lot of soul, and he has worked with other Members to say this is a bill as best constructed as we can get it and we have got to move.

The question on the underlying bill that I think Ranking Member DEFAZIO and Chairman SHUSTER have worked so hard on is one that is complex in nature but incredibly simple in what it produces. It produces a couple of things that, I think, are worth consideration.

First, it produces something that has everything to do with what Mr. WOODALL was just talking about on the way that our budget used to be configured. There used to be a budget in the United States that was built around what are we going to do, what are we going to invest in our country to make our country more competitive. We have gone on to an entitlement budget that both the Republican and Democratic side would say doesn't work for a lot of folks out there and is a financial train wreck.

I thought it was fascinating, in fact, that Mario Draghi, who is the head of the European Central Bank, said in Brussels yesterday that it is "not enough for delivering real and sustainable growth in the long term" if we continue down this road of low interest rates. In fact, he said a continued path of low interest rates has harmful side effects.

I think we have seen that with a lot of retirees out there. A lot of folks who have pension plans that are depending on what comes next in financial markets are being hurt with this financial engineering. What he said, in short, was to be competitive in the world economy, you cannot continue to rest on this notion of financial engineering as a way to get you there.

So what this bill is ultimately about, as Mr. WOODALL was just pointing out, we have got to move from the European Central Bank's financial engineering as the way in which we are

supposedly competitive as an economy and go back to the basics, back to the basics of where we are on tax policy, back to the basics of where we are on regulatory policy, back to the basics on spending, taxes.

Go down the list, but among the things on that list is this notion of investing in infrastructure. It is important not only in terms of making our economy more competitive; it is also important if you care about the debt and deficit. The only way we can close that gap is not spending restraint, but also by growing the economy; and that this is, in fact, a linchpin to growing the economy and, therefore, it cannot wait.

I think he also recognizes what Thomas Friedman talks about in this so-called flat world that we live in; that it is an increasingly competitive world. I thought it was interesting that Hillary Clinton mentioned last night in the debate that 95 percent of the folks in the world live out there and 5 percent live in the United States, and we have got to trade with them. And disproportionately, the way in which we trade, almost 90 percent of what we buy in markets around this country got here by container.

So we have got to go about this business of upgrading our port facilities, for instance. That is why I think that, as Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ was just mentioning, it is important what is happening in Port Everglades. It is important what is happening in the port in Miami. It is important to what is happening in the port in Lake Charleston.

Do I have a hometown component to the fact that I like Charleston and South Carolina?

Yes. But it has everything to do with the growth of the region based on the Panama Canal being widened and based on post-Panamax-sized ships coming to the East Coast, Gulf Coast, and West Coast ports in this country. To be competitive, we have got to be continuing this process on a regular basis of upgrading our infrastructure.

□ 1315

Finally, this is about a change in process, if you look at the underlying bill. The Founding Fathers talked about *e pluribus unum*—from the many, one—and too often we have gotten away from that; we have gotten to a Balkanized look at the way districts work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. SANFORD. Mr. Speaker, we have got to go about looking at the national needs of this country as opposed to just the regional needs or the local needs.

We got off on the notion of earmarks, and at times our answer is just to cede

to the executive branch that deliberation. I think that what this bill correctly does is it pulls back to Congress that which the Constitution vested with the Congress in deliberation of these kinds of matters, which makes it incredibly important.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, would you advise both of us how much time remains.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 12 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Georgia has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

If we defeat the previous question, I am going to offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a desperately needed \$220 million aid package for the people of Flint, Michigan, who have been without clean drinking water for the last 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, we have known about this manmade catastrophe for more than a year, and we didn't give the waiver last night to Mr. KILDEE's amendment. We have provisions to deal with manmade catastrophes dealing with a variety of issues, prominent among them when a freight rail goes off the tracks and causes their freight, that may very well be harmful to a community, to pollute that community. We act, as we should have here.

The Republican majority continues to do nothing about this, hiding behind House rules to block funding and justify its inaction. I really don't understand it. I said last night to all of our colleagues, if it was any one of our communities—and I might add a footnote right there, there are other communities in the United States of America that do have problems with lead poisoning, and it augurs well that we should consider them as well. However, we all know the circumstances of Flint, Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, American families are being poisoned by lead-contaminated water. When that happens, we have a moral responsibility to act now. We can't wait any longer. I have heard around here that it is a local and a State responsibility. Well, if that is the case, we need to shut this institution down because everything, then, would be a local and a State responsibility, and all of our infrastructure issues of consequence would be a State and a local issue, as they are, but the Federal Government has responsibilities as well.

While there is enough blame to go around about Flint, the simple fact of the matter is—and I am sure the next speaker will point it out—the United States Senate has seen, in its wisdom, 95-3 they have voted—95-3—to provide the \$220 million, which is nothing more than a start to try and do what is necessary in order for people to be uplifted. This is an area of our country, if we were talking 40 years ago, that was

a driving engine of this country, that portion of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), my friend who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, to discuss our proposal. I find it shameful that he has to once again come here and ask for what we could have done in the Committee on Rules last night by giving him the necessary waiver for his amendment to be put on the floor and at least voted on.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. HASTINGS, so much for his kind words, for yielding, and for his unyielding support for the people of my home community. It means a lot to me.

I rise in opposition to the previous question so that I can bring up something that I hoped I was going to be able to bring up through the amendment process or could have been inserted in this bill in the first place, and that is the relief for the people of Flint that, as my friend said, passed the United States Senate 95-3. And yet at every turn, the Republican leadership in this body finds a reason, some kind of an excuse, or some kind of technicality to prevent us from providing help to a whole city that has been poisoned and continues to have water that is unsafe to drink.

This is a water resources bill. The Speaker said that, no, it shouldn't be in the continuing resolution, this help for Flint; it should be in WRDA. The majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, said this should come up in WRDA. So last night, I went to the Committee on Rules, offered the amendment to put the language in WRDA, and on a party line vote, of course, the answer was no, nothing for the people of Flint, a city that is being poisoned by its own water. The Federal Government has the opportunity to help. Nothing.

When the Speaker said that this is where the conversation should take place on Flint, I assumed that that meant a conversation would take place and we could debate the merit of this paid-for provision to help the people of Flint. But the conversation, I suppose, that the Speaker anticipated went something like this: No, nothing for Flint, end of conversation. That is shameful. What are we here for, for God's sake? Why do we come to this place if not to do the work of the American people?

We have waived the rules in this Congress—not just since I have been here,

but in this 114th Congress—to make way for legislation that needs to come to the floor because it was someone's priority 249 times. Twice in this rule we waived the rules of the House of Representatives in order to get legislation to the floor.

Let me ask a question. If there is ever a time when we ought to do everything we can, including waiving a point of order, it would be to take up relief for a city that is drinking poison, relief that the Senate has already passed 95–3. But what do the people of Flint get? Lipservice. Nothing. Excuses. It is a shame.

This is the Congress of the United States. Let me give you a civics lesson for those of you who may be listening. The city of Flint happens to be in the United States of America. We have an obligation to all Americans. So when Mr. HASTINGS is confused, I share that confusion. What is it? Why is it that the majority will do backflips to bend the rules, to break the rules, to amend the rules, and to waive the rules to achieve whatever their particular goal might be? But, no, when it comes to the people of Flint, you are on your own.

Mr. HASTINGS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS. Is the \$220 million that the Senate passed 95–3 paid for?

Mr. KILDEE. It is fully paid for.

I thank the gentleman for the question. Fully paid for.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. KILDEE. So we have a fully paid-for provision. There is no excuse. It will not increase the deficit. So it does beg the question: Why? Or a better way to put it: Why not?

I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, I am coming to a conclusion that I don't want to come to, that the leadership in this House, when they think about Flint or when they look at Flint, sees something different. They don't see American citizens. They don't see people in need. But there is something about this poor community, this poor majority minority community that exempts them from the kind of help that we have provided time and time again to people in crisis in this country.

I hate to come to the conclusion that there is something about these people that causes this Congress to decide they don't deserve that help. That is a shame.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I am so incensed by that presentation. I know my friend is passionate for his folks. I live in a majority minority county. And if you want to know, if any folks are watching this, and they want to know why we can't get things done to-

gether, they could use that presentation as the expose of why we are divided instead of united.

How dare you suggest that folks don't care about your community. How dare you suggest that race is the basis of this. How dare you, when I sat in my committee working on this issue hour after hour and not one Member brought this up, not one Member brought this to the committee.

I am incensed. Mr. Speaker, we owe each other better than that. You all are better than that. This institution is better than that. I know the gentleman is passionate, but that kind of vitriol is not going to get us to where I know you and I both want us to be.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and understand the gentleman's comment. My point is this: Prove me wrong. Prove me wrong. You have it in your power to take up this legislation. It is not me who is blocking this legislation. I don't want to come to this conclusion. It is very difficult to, time and time again, take this question to the floor of the House and wonder why Flint is exempt.

Sympathy does not get anywhere. I understand there is all sorts of sympathy for the people of Flint. Well wishes. But when it comes time to act, when it comes time to actually do something for this community, nothing.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my friend from Florida, I do not have any further speakers remaining, and I am prepared to close if he is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I was happy to see the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure work in such a bipartisan way to address the water infrastructure needs of our Nation. I applaud the chairman and ranking member and all of the members on the committee for negotiating a measure that they were able to report favorably by voice vote. I am also especially happy to see so many important projects from my State included in the measure.

However, leadership has once again proved that they are unable to free themselves from the chains of partisanship and have, therefore, scuttled a bipartisan bill that came out of committee on voice vote, and they did so at the last possible moment.

The American people, many of them, are sickened by and tired of the games that we play here in the House of Representatives. All of the American people deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by picking up where my friend from Florida left off, and that is that this was an amazing work product that came out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I love serving on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. We have got a lot of good men and women from all across the country on it; and, yes, we are able to come together and do things that perhaps other committees in this House could not come together and do.

That doesn't happen on its own. I want to recognize all the folks—not just the members on the committee—like Geoff Bowman, Matt Sturges, and Collin McCune, who serve in a staff role on that committee, bringing all of this paperwork together so that we can get about the people's business.

Mr. Speaker, we have talked about a lot of different things in this rule to deal with the WRDA bill. Most of them don't have anything to do with the WRDA bill. Folks don't know back home. My friend from Florida is absolutely right. People are sick and tired of the games they see going on in Washington. As my friend knows, committee jurisdiction isn't a game. It is the rules that we play by in order to get work done, in order to make sure that subject matter experts are working on individual pieces of legislation.

I sit on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am a subject matter expert on Transportation and Infrastructure. I have absolutely no jurisdiction over the EPA or clean drinking water at all, and I don't have any expertise over it. I don't have any expertise.

When my friend from Michigan asked why more isn't being done, I don't know. I look at a CNN article about my hometown of Atlanta that says our drinking water infrastructure is being delivered with pipes constructed in the 1800s. I look at a report from CNN that says 4,500 drinking water facilities across this country are failing the EPA lead test today—that is 4,500.

I don't know why the folks with jurisdiction over those issues are not at work on it. Do I think the EPA bears responsibility for letting folks, as the articles go on to say, cheat with impunity, that it just became a culture in local drinking waters that you could misreport and the EPA would just wink and nod and go along with it? Is there blame to go around, as my friend from Florida said? Of course, there is.

One of the great surprises, Mr. Speaker, of coming to serve in this body is the caliber of the men and women that I have gotten to serve with. I get to read the reports on TV about Congress playing games, about partisanship, about folks who don't care about one another, and I know it

is not true. I get to read about folks who care only about feathering their own nest or pursuing their own career, who don't care about serving men and women in their times of need, and I know that it is not true. I hear about folks who would rather put party above people, and I know that it is not true. That is because I know him, I know him, and I know him, and right on down the line.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is not going to solve all of the ills of this country. It is not even going to solve a large part of them. It is going to solve one little part as it deals with the critical water infrastructure of our ports and waterways on which so many millions of American jobs depend.

I don't propose that we pass this rule and pass the underlying bill and absolve ourselves of any other responsibility. I propose that we pass this rule and we pass this underlying bill so that we can get about the rest of our responsibilities. One issue at a time, Mr. Speaker, working together, Member to Member, community to community, we would amaze the American people with what we could get done.

I urge all my colleagues to support this rule; support the underlying bill.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 892, the special order of business governing consideration of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, included a prophylactic waiver of points of order against the amendments made in order in House Report 114–790. The waiver of all points of order now includes a waiver of clause 9 of rule XXI, which requires that if a sponsor of the first amendment as designated in a report of the Committee on Rules to accompany a resolution sits on a committee of initial referral, that sponsor must have a list of congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits in the amendment to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to its consideration. However, it is important to note that the sponsor of amendment 1 in the committee report has since submitted the required statement.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HASTINGS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 892 OFFERED BY
MR. HASTINGS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment submitted by Representative Kildee of Michigan for printing in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII dated September 27, 2016, shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment in the report of the Committee on Rules if offered by Representative Kildee of Michigan or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against or-

dering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 954, CO-OP CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 893 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 893

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 954) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 893 provides for consideration of H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act of 2016. The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided among the majority and minority of the Committee on Ways and Means. As is standard with all legislation pertaining to the Tax Code, the Committee on Rules made no further

amendments in order; however, the rule affords the minority the customary motion to recommit.

Under the rule, we will be considering a bill to prevent a tax increase imposed on the American people by the Affordable Care Act. This will affect many Americans through no fault of their own and due to circumstances beyond their control. The bill advanced through regular order and was reported favorably out of the Committee on Ways and Means on a voice vote earlier this month.

The Affordable Care Act established a program to provide taxpayer-funded loans for Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan program, better known as the CO-OP program. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services funded 24 CO-OPs in 23 States. Of those 24 CO-OPs, 1 failed before it ever enrolled a single individual, and just 6 remain open today. The 17 failed CO-OPs received over \$1.8 billion in taxpayer funds and, to date, none of those CO-OPs has paid back any of those loans.

In addition to wasting billions of taxpayer dollars, the CO-OPs have created instability and hardship for hundreds of thousands of individuals who relied on CO-OPs for insurance coverage. Under the Affordable Care Act, individuals must be covered by a health plan that provides minimum essential coverage or pay a tax for failure to maintain coverage. Thus, victims of failed CO-OPs were penalized, despite their efforts to be in compliance with the law.

The magnitude of this problem for affected individuals is significant. They are left without coverage for health care. They face increased financial burdens and tax penalties. H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act of 2016, would provide targeted relief by creating an exemption from the individual health insurance mandate for individuals who have coverage under a CO-OP that fails.

H.R. 954 would be effective retroactively, starting January 1, 2014, and would also protect consumers of the remaining six CO-OPs going forward. While the administration and some of my counterparts have noted that consumers affected by a close CO-OP could have purchased new plans during a special enrollment period, this comes up short. Those victims of failed CO-OPs had to start anew in paying deductibles for a new plan well into the coverage year, and continuity of care could be significantly disrupted, based on changes to provider networks.

H.R. 954 does not make these individuals whole, but it is the right thing to do. Across America, individuals do not even have the basic assurance that their insurance carrier will not simply vanish in the night. We should all be able to agree that these individuals should not also then face penalties under the individual mandate.

H.R. 954 advanced through regular order and was favorably reported out of the Committee on Ways and Means. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Here we are again, Mr. Speaker, discussing a bill that, whatever its merits and noble intentions are, of course, of trying to hold harmless the victims of organizations that go out of business, will meet a veto.

The Statement of Administration Policy says, if the President were presented with H.R. 954, he would veto the bill. That is the strongest kind of veto message that we get. Sometimes they say his advisers say he might or he is going to consider it. It says he would veto it.

So here we are again, in the precious little time that this body has before it sends everybody back to their district, when we could be addressing Zika, when we could be addressing Flint, when we could be addressing immigration reform, when we could pass a balanced budget amendment, or any of those things that I hear from my constituents every day. Instead, we are pursuing a bill that won't become law.

This bill will not become law. The President has indicated he would veto it. So we are just taking up the time of this body to debate a bill that affects people in a few States. Of course, I understand Iowa and Nebraska share one of the CO-OPs that went out of business. New York and Oregon are the others.

I hail from a State where the CO-OP went out of business. I would add that it went out of business, with the actions of State regulators, at the right time, namely, before the enrollment period.

So the question I brought before the Rules Committee yesterday, and I think it is very important for anybody who supports this bill to answer: Why did the State regulators in those States allow those CO-OPs to fail mid-period? Why weren't they ahead of the curve in those States to make sure that, if they had to fail, they did so in an orderly manner prior to the enrollment period? It is irresponsible of State regulators to allow insolvent plans into the marketplace.

Instead of discussing that and instead of launching an investigation into that, instead of having a GAO report on that, we are just doing a bill that effectively bails them out. Another Republican taxpayer bailout bill that we have before us today.

I have always been a big fan of the CO-OPs. In fact, the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan program was created to support the development of nonprofit health insurance options in the individual marketplace. They face

a lot of challenges. And, sadly, in fact, we wouldn't even be dealing with the fact that 17 of them have gone out of business if the Republicans hadn't put a provision in the omnibus in 2016—which I was proud to oppose for this reason, among many others—that defunded the healthcare CO-OPs.

So they already did an attack on the Affordable Care Act by defunding the CO-OPs; and now they are saying we want to bail them out. Of course, you want to bail them out now. You are responsible for letting them fail in the first place.

Look, there are a lot of questions to answer before this body moves forward with this failed Republican bailout bill, namely, where were the State regulators?

□ 1345

Why did they let these fail mid-cycle instead of, as they did in my State, before the enrollment period ended?

Number two, why did you defend them in the first place? Didn't you know that you would probably have to bail them out if you did?

And the third question I brought up in the Rules Committee is, why are we even just talking about CO-OPs? What about if for-profit insurance companies go out of business? Are we going to bail out those consumers, too?

Now, I haven't seen that that has happened yet, but, look, these are private companies; it is only a matter of time until some company makes bad decisions and goes bankrupt and leaves its customers in the lurch.

Now, it is the job of State regulators to try to actuarially make sure that those companies are sound and solvent; and if they are going to disqualify one, to do so before the enrollment period, not midterm.

But let's be honest. Bad things happen, and probably someday a company will go out of business in the middle of a term, despite the best efforts of State regulators.

And what about those customers, and why would they be treated any differently than the customers of CO-OPs?

Look, in the three States where the CO-OPs did close down mid-session because of the ineffectiveness of State regulators, rather than proposing a Republican taxpayer bailout, we should simply point people to alternative insurance options. In fact, CO-OPs contacted every customer over 20 times to assist with the process of finding a new plan by e-mail, mailer, and phone. And in the event the available premiums were too expensive, the Affordable Care Act already has what they call a hardship exemption, where families can avoid paying any penalty. Just as they do under this bill, they can do it without this bill as well.

In the three instances where CO-OP plans were terminated in the middle of the year, the set of circumstances that

this Republican taxpayer bailout bill is designed to address, it appears that individuals had ample time and options to find new coverage, even if their own State regulators were asleep at the switch, and it does not mean that the rest of us, that I have to go back to honest, hardworking Coloradans and say, sorry, you have to bail out the Republican Congress and their failure to include in the omnibus a plan to maintain the solvency of the CO-OPs.

The financial penalty for forgoing coverage is one of the primary incentives for what we call RomneyCare, or some call ObamaCare. By circumventing the individual mandate, H.R. 954 undermines an essential component of what was known as the Massachusetts plan, which is now the Affordable Care Act.

But as we know, over 20 million Americans have obtained health insurance, many for the first time. I am proud to say that in my home State of Colorado, while we have a number of issues with regard to the Affordable Care Act, one positive indicator that we can point to is that the rate of individuals without insurance has dropped by half. It is now a historically low 6.7 percent. It has never been that low in the history of Colorado. For Colorado children, the uninsured rate is even lower, 2.5 percent.

So nationwide, as we know, there are a lot of elements of the Affordable Care Act that are very popular and important to maintain. No one should be denied coverage for having a preexisting condition. Young adults can afford health insurance by staying on their parents' plan.

The individual mandate is the flip side of making sure that people aren't discriminated against because of preexisting conditions. You can't have only a high-risk pool. You have to make sure that healthy people are in the pool to keep the rates low for everybody. That is the fundamental model that went into RomneyCare, and it was later adopted as a bipartisan concept.

In addition, individuals have access to preventative services, affordable prescription drugs, and are no longer subject to lifetime caps that can leave them bankrupt if they have a serious illness. I have heard from a number of constituents for whom that is very important.

So, look, every law can use improvement. There is no doubt about that. I was very strongly against the language in the Omnibus in 2016 that led to these CO-OPs going out of business and led to this Republican bailout package. And the Affordable Care Act, of course, can be improved.

So instead of discussing ways to roll back the successes of the Affordable Care Act or do massive bailouts, we should be discussing ways that we can make the law work better and prevent the need for bailouts moving forward.

To this end, I, along with many of my colleagues, have been a long-time supporter of establishing a public health insurance plan option. A public health insurance plan option would go a long way to revitalizing the individual marketplace through increased competition.

In 2010, I led an effort with my colleague from Maine, Representative CHELLIE PINGREE, to encourage Senator REID to consider a public option in the health care reform legislation that was being drafted. And I have continued to call for a public option even after the Affordable Care Act passed. It has been scored to have reduced the deficit by over \$200 billion and it would help the constituents in my district, particularly in our mountain areas, by providing a more affordable option within the individual exchange.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of Representative SCHAKOWSKY's H.R. 265, the Public Option Deficit Reduction Act, which would require HHS to set up a public health insurance option. I would point out that this Republican bailout plan increases the deficit. Right? Small amount, small amount.

You have the figures, my friend from Texas. I think—was it \$40 million? How much does this bill increase the deficit? 12 million?

Very small amount, right; but still the wrong way.

The plan that I am supporting and that many Democrats support would reduce the deficit by \$200 billion.

So if the Republicans continue to go down this road of bailouts, large and small, we are going to bankrupt this country. We are already \$20 trillion in debt. We have a deficit of half a trillion dollars. Yes, every little bit matters. Again, the amount is small of this Republican bailout that increases the deficit; but we could be going another path which is fiscally responsible, increases consumer choice, and brings down costs.

Furthermore, since this bill will be vetoed anyway and this isn't going to become law, it is hardly worth the time to discuss. What we should be talking about are the very real public health crises. Indeed, public health, health-related bill, let's talk about health.

Let's talk about the fact that it has been over a year since Flint administrators first became aware of toxic levels of lead in the water of the city, which still exist; and over that time the body has sat on its hands, day after day, week after week. Exposure to lead is very harmful to children who are at significantly elevated risk of damage to their nervous system, learning disabilities, impaired development, that not only are crises for them and their families, but ultimately will cost taxpayers even more over time. Yet, Congress hasn't allocated any help to even replace the pipes in Flint while children in the community are still using

bottled water to drink and bathe, at great expense, I might add.

Bottled water, for those of you who drink bottled water—Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you do—you know it is quite expensive, right?

Better to drink water out of your tap. Let's fix the underlying condition.

Then, of course, we have the Zika crisis. Nineteen thousand Americans have contracted the virus so far this year; 1,800 of those Americans are pregnant women who have an elevated risk of having associated consequences for their children, including microcephaly. Funding is essential to reduce the building diagnostic backlog and develop a method of testing, a vaccination, and better ways to address this health crisis as it spreads across Florida, south Texas, and the Caribbean.

But instead of debating Zika or Flint or even a continuing resolution to keep the government open past Friday—which we haven't spent a moment on yet even though Government funding runs out Friday—or a bipartisan balanced budget amendment or any of the other great ideas that have been brought forward in a bipartisan way, instead of doing any of that, a symbolic bill will be met by a veto, yet another Republican bailout that costs taxpayers and increases the deficit.

We have a bill that does nothing, that won't become law. It is a part of a wider effort to increase the deficit and force hardworking taxpayers in Colorado to bail out the failures of State regulators in four States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill adds to the deficit. It undermines a component of the Affordable Care Act. It doesn't even address the failure of State regulators. It doesn't even address the fact that a policy that Republicans put in the 2016 Omnibus has led to the need for this bailout. Simply put, this is not part of the solution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up the bipartisan no fly, no buy legislation. It would allow the Attorney General to bar the sale of explosives and firearms to those on the FBI's terrorist watch list.

Republicans have refused to act on this commonsense legislation. Some of you might have heard at the debate yesterday that both Presidential contenders from both parties support this legislation. It is common sense.

If we don't let somebody fly on an airplane, if they are on the terrorist watch list, why would we let them quietly assemble an arsenal?

We need to check it out. Of course, if they are wrongly put on that list, of

course let's have a way to get them off that list right away. So if they have a legitimate reason to buy a gun and they are not a terrorist, they shouldn't be on that list. But not buying a gun is the least of their inconveniences. If they are on that list, they can't even fly in most cases.

Yet, Republicans continue to fail to act on this commonsense legislation despite being supported by Donald Trump, by Hillary Clinton, by many other leaders of both parties.

We have the opportunity, if I can defeat the previous question with this vote, to actually take action and close this glaring loophole that allows terrorists to buy firearms and explosives right now in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, again, rather than have this Republican bailout bill that increases the deficit, we could be discussing making it harder for terrorists to buy explosives and assemble arsenals. Okay?

That is the choice we have in this vote. It is a choice I am willing to make, Mr. Speaker. It is a choice that every Member will be called upon to make when they vote "yea" and they say, Let's do a bailout that increases the deficit, or they vote "nay" and join me and say, You know what, let's make it harder for terrorists to buy explosives and firearms, a policy supported by both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

That is the choice we will have in moments, and it is one I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to think deeply about before they cast their "yes" vote or before they cast their "no" vote.

Mr. Speaker, we have three calendar days left in this fiscal year, and our limited legislative time is not being spent well. We could be devoting our last few days to addressing Zika, to making it harder for terrorists to assemble arsenals, to addressing the disaster in Flint, Michigan, to stem the tide of opioid addiction ravaging this country and so many families that I have heard from in Colorado.

None of these public health crises will be addressed if we don't consider a bill to keep the government open beyond September 30; instead, we are considering yet another Republican bailout—increases the deficit, unnecessary, and lets State regulators off the hook, bails them out.

H.R. 954 implements an unnecessary, uncalled-for exemption, distracts us from the real conversations we should be having about how we can make

health care more affordable and how we can reduce our budget deficit. This bill is simply an irresponsible process. I urge my colleagues to oppose this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First off, just to correct the record, I was asked about the budgetary effect of this bill, and it is negative \$4 million over the next 10 years.

Congress did not defund the CO-OPs. The risk corridor program that was passed by this Congress in 2010, associated with the Affordable Care Act, was never fully funded in the first place.

This bill under our consideration today does not bail out anyone. It does not bail out the CO-OPs. It eliminates a penalty—a penalty imposed on consumers who did everything they could to comply with the law known as the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act.

Look, if I ran the zoo, I would get rid of the individual mandate tomorrow. These individuals, under the individual mandate, covered by insurance which they were forced to purchase, and then goes bankrupt, through no fault of their own, they are going to get penalized for not having coverage. It is almost Kafkaesque in its design.

State legislators have virtually no control over the CO-OPs. Control of the business model is completely centralized within the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The CO-OP model was fundamentally unsound from the start, another example of this administration's propensity to conduct dangerous experiments with our Nation's health care. Yet, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has continued to stand in the way of the flexibility that the CO-OPS actually need to become fiscally sustainable.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of this important bill to provide relief for a tax increase looming over Americans who tried, tried, and tried to follow the rules of the Affordable Care Act and, yet, have been let down by this administration's failed policies.

I certainly thank Mr. SMITH on the Ways and Means Committee for proposing this legislation and shepherding it through the committee process.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 893 OFFERED BY
MR. POLIS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 2. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1076) to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of a firearm or the issuance of firearms or explosives licenses to

a known or suspected dangerous terrorist. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1076.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT
IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member

who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on adoption of House Resolution 893, if ordered;

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 892; and

Adoption of House Resolution 892, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 244, nays 176, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 559]

YEAS—244

Abraham	Calvert	Duffy
Aderholt	Carter (GA)	Duncan (SC)
Allen	Carter (TX)	Duncan (TN)
Amash	Chabot	Ellmers (NC)
Amodei	Chaffetz	Emmer (MN)
Babin	Clawson (FL)	Farenthold
Barletta	Coffman	Fincher
Barr	Cole	Fitzpatrick
Barton	Collins (GA)	Fleischmann
Benishkek	Collins (NY)	Fleming
Bilirakis	Comstock	Flores
Bishop (MI)	Conaway	Forbes
Bishop (UT)	Cook	Fortenberry
Black	Costello (PA)	Fox
Blackburn	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Blum	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Bost	Crenshaw	Garrett
Boustany	Culberson	Gibbs
Brady (TX)	Curbelo (FL)	Gibson
Brat	Davidson	Gohmert
Bridenstine	Davis, Rodney	Goodlatte
Brooks (AL)	Denham	Gosar
Brooks (IN)	Dent	Gowdy
Buchanan	DeSantis	Graves (GA)
Buck	DesJarlais	Graves (LA)
Bucshon	Diaz-Balart	Graves (MO)
Burgess	Dold	Griffith
Byrne	Donovan	Grothman

Guinta	McCarthy
Guthrie	McCaul
Hanna	McClintock
Hardy	McHenry
Harper	McKinley
Harris	McMorris
Hartzler	Rodgers
Heck (NV)	McSally
Hensarling	Meadows
Herrera Beutler	Meehan
Hice, Jody B.	Messer
Hill	Mica
Holding	Miller (FL)
Hudson	Miller (MI)
Huelskamp	Moolenaar
Huizenga (MI)	Mooney (WV)
Hultgren	Mullin
Hunter	Mulvaney
Hurd (TX)	Murphy (PA)
Hurt (VA)	Neugebauer
Issa	Newhouse
Jenkins (KS)	Noem
Jenkins (WV)	Nugent
Johnson (OH)	Nunes
Johnson, Sam	Olson
Jolly	Palazzo
Jones	Palmer
Jordan	Paulsen
Joyce	Pearce
Katko	Perry
Kelly (MS)	Peterson
Kelly (PA)	Pittenger
King (IA)	Pitts
King (NY)	Poliquin
Kinzinger (IL)	Pompeo
Kline	Posey
Knight	Price, Tom
Labrador	Ratcliffe
LaHood	Reed
LaMalfa	Reichert
Lamborn	Renacci
Lance	Ribble
Latta	Rice (SC)
LoBiondo	Rigell
Long	Roby
Loudermilk	Roe (TN)
Love	Rogers (AL)
Lucas	Rogers (KY)
Luetkemeyer	Rohrabacher
Lummis	Rokita
MacArthur	Rooney (FL)
Marchant	Ros-Lehtinen
Marino	Roskam
Massie	Ross

NAYS—176

Adams	Cuellar
Aguilar	Cummings
Ashford	Davis (CA)
Bass	Davis, Danny
Becerra	DeFazio
Bera	DeGette
Beyer	Delaney
Bishop (GA)	DeLauro
Blumenauer	DeBene
Bonamici	DeSaulnier
Boyle, Brendan F.	Deutch
Brady (PA)	Dingell
Brown (FL)	Doggett
Brownley (CA)	Doyle, Michael F.
Bustos	Edwards
Butterfield	Ellison
Capps	Engel
Capuano	Eshoo
Cardenas	Esty
Carney	Farr
Carson (IN)	Foster
Cartwright	Frankel (FL)
Castor (FL)	Fudge
Castro (TX)	Gabbard
Chu, Judy	Galleo
Cicilline	Garamendi
Clark (MA)	Graham
Clarke (NY)	Grayson
Clay	Green, Al
Cleaver	Green, Gene
Clyburn	Grijalva
Cohen	Gutiérrez
Connolly	Hahn
Conyers	Hastings
Cooper	Heck (WA)
Costa	Higgins
Courtney	Himes
Crowley	Honda

Rothfus	McGovern
Rouzer	McNerney
Royce	Meeks
Russell	Meng
Salmon	Moore
Sanford	Moulton
Scalise	Murphy (FL)
Schweikert	Nadler
Scott, Austin	Napolitano
Sensenbrenner	Neal
Sessions	Nolan
Shimkus	Norcross
Shuster	O'Rourke
Simpson	Pallone
Smith (MO)	Pascarell
Smith (NE)	Perlmutter
Smith (NJ)	Peters
Smith (TX)	Pingree
Stefanik	Pocan
Stewart	Polis
Stivers	Price (NC)
Stutzman	Beatty
Thompson (PA)	Duckworth
Thornberry	Granger
Tiberi	Hinojosa
Tipton	
Trott	
Turner	
Upton	
Valadao	
Vela	
Wagner	
Walberg	
Walden	
Walker	
Walorski	
Walters, Mimi	
Weber (TX)	
Webster (FL)	
Wenstrup	
Westerman	
Williams	
Wilson (SC)	
Wittman	
Womack	
Woodall	
Yoder	
Yoho	
Young (AK)	
Young (IA)	
Young (IN)	
Zeldin	
Zinke	

McDermott	Quigley	Smith (WA)
McGovern	Rangel	Swalwell (CA)
McNerney	Rice (NY)	Takano
Meeks	Richmond	Thompson (CA)
Meng	Roybal-Allard	Thompson (MS)
Moore	Ruiz	Titus
Moulton	Ruppersberger	Tonko
Murphy (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Torres
Nadler	Sánchez, Linda T.	Tsongas
Napolitano	Sarbanes	Van Hollen
Neal	Schakowsky	Vargas
Nolan	Schiff	Veasey
Norcross	Schrader	Velázquez
O'Rourke	Scott (VA)	Walz
Pallone	Scott, David	Wasserman
Pascarell	Serrano	Schultz
Perlmutter	Sewell (AL)	Waters, Maxine
Peters	Sherman	Watson Coleman
Pingree	Sinema	Welch
Pocan	Sires	Wilson (FL)
Polis	Slaughter	Yarmuth
Price (NC)		

NOT VOTING—11

Beatty	Payne	Sanchez, Loretta
Duckworth	Pelosi	Speier
Granger	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland
Hinojosa	Rush	

□ 1422

Messrs. LARSEN of Washington, MURPHY of Florida, and AL GREEN of Texas changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 177, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 560]

YEAS—243

Abraham	Cole	Franks (AZ)
Aderholt	Collins (GA)	Frelinghuysen
Allen	Collins (NY)	Garrett
Amash	Comstock	Gibbs
Amodei	Conaway	Gibson
Babin	Cook	Gohmert
Barletta	Costello (PA)	Goodlatte
Barr	Cramer	Gosar
Barton	Crawford	Gowdy
Benishkek	Crenshaw	Granger
Bilirakis	Culberson	Graves (GA)
Bishop (MI)	Curbelo (FL)	Graves (LA)
Bishop (UT)	Davidson	Graves (MO)
Black	Davis, Rodney	Griffith
Blackburn	Denham	Grothman
Blum	Dent	Guinta
Bost	DeSantis	Guthrie
Boustany	DesJarlais	Hanna
Brady (TX)	Diaz-Balart	Hardy
Brat	Dold	Harper
Bridenstine	Donovan	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Duffy	Hartzler
Brooks (IN)	Duncan (SC)	Heck (NV)
Buchanan	Duncan (TN)	Hensarling
Buck	Ellmers (NC)	Herrera Beutler
Bucshon	Emmer (MN)	Hice, Jody B.
Burgess	Farenthold	Hill
Coffman	Fincher	Holding
	Fitzpatrick	Hudson
	Fleischmann	Huelskamp
	Fleming	Huizenga (MI)
	Flores	Hultgren
	Forbes	Hunter
	Fortenberry	Hurd (TX)
	Fox	Hurt (VA)

Issa	Miller (MI)	Schweikert	Price (NC)	Scott, David	Van Hollen	Clawson (FL)	Hurt (VA)	Ratcliffe
Jenkins (KS)	Moolenaar	Scott, Austin	Quigley	Serrano	Vargas	Coffman	Issa	Reed
Jenkins (WV)	Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner	Rangel	Sewell (AL)	Veasey	Cole	Jenkins (KS)	Reichert
Johnson (OH)	Mullin	Sessions	Rice (NY)	Sherman	Vela	Collins (GA)	Jenkins (WV)	Renacci
Johnson, Sam	Mulvaney	Shimkus	Richmond	Sinema	Velázquez	Collins (NY)	Johnson (OH)	Ribble
Jolly	Murphy (PA)	Shuster	Roybal-Allard	Sires	Visclosky	Comstock	Johnson, Sam	Rice (SC)
Jones	Neugebauer	Simpson	Ruiz	Slaughter	Walz	Conaway	Jolly	Rigell
Jordan	Newhouse	Smith (MO)	Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Wasserman	Cook	Jones	Roby
Joyce	Noem	Smith (NE)	Ryan (OH)	Swailwell (CA)	Schultz	Costello (PA)	Jordan	Roe (TN)
Katko	Nugent	Smith (NJ)	Sánchez, Linda T.	Takano	Waters, Maxine	Cramer	Joyce	Rogers (AL)
Kelly (MS)	Nunes	Smith (TX)	Sarbanes	Thompson (CA)	Watson Coleman	Crawford	Katko	Rogers (KY)
Kelly (PA)	Olson	Stefanik	Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)	Welch	Crenshaw	Kelly (MS)	Rohrabacher
King (IA)	Palazzo	Stewart	Schiff	Titus	Wilson (FL)	Culberson	Kelly (PA)	Rokita
King (NY)	Palmer	Stivers	Schrader	Tonko	Yarmuth	Curbelo (FL)	King (IA)	Rooney (FL)
Kinzinger (IL)	Paulsen	Stutzman	Scott (VA)	Torres		Davidson	King (NY)	Ros-Lehtinen
Kline	Pearce	Thompson (PA)		Tsongas		Davis, Rodney	Kinzing (IL)	Roskam
Knight	Perry	Thornberry				Denham	Kline	Ross
Labrador	Pittenger	Tiberi	Beatty	Payne	Sanchez, Loretta	Dent	Knight	Rothfus
LaHood	Pitts	Tipton	Duckworth	Pelosi	Speier	DeSantis	Labrador	Rouzer
LaMalfa	Poliquin	Trott	Hinojosa	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland	DesJarlais	LaHood	Royce
Lamborn	Pompeo	Turner	Pascrell	Rush		Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Russell
Lance	Posey	Upton				Dold	Lamborn	Salmon
Latta	Price, Tom	Valadao				Donovan	Lance	Sanford
LoBiondo	Ratcliffe	Walner				Duffy	Latta	Scalise
Long	Reed	Walberg				Duncan (SC)	LoBiondo	Schweikert
Loudermilk	Reichert	Walden				Duncan (TN)	Long	Scott, Austin
Love	Renacci	Walker				Ellmers (NC)	Loudermilk	Sensenbrenner
Lucas	Ribble	Walorski				Emmer (MN)	Love	Sessions
Luetkemeyer	Rice (SC)	Walters, Mimi				Farenthold	Lucas	Shimkus
Lummis	Rigell	Weber (TX)				Fincher	Luetkemeyer	Shuster
MacArthur	Roby	Webster (FL)				Fitzpatrick	Lummis	Simpson
Marchant	Roe (TN)	Westerman				Fleischmann	MacArthur	Smith (MO)
Marino	Rogers (AL)	Williams				Fleming	Marchant	Smith (NE)
Massie	Rogers (KY)	Wilson (SC)				Flores	Marino	Smith (NJ)
McCarthy	Rohrabacher	Wittman				Forbes	Massie	Smith (TX)
McCaul	Rokita	Womack				Fortenberry	McCarthy	Stefanik
McClintock	Rooney (FL)	Woodall				Fox	McCaul	Stewart
McHenry	Ros-Lehtinen	Yoder				Franks (AZ)	McClintock	Stivers
McKinley	Roskam	Yoho				Frelinghuysen	McHenry	Stutzman
McMorris	Ross	Young (AK)				Garrett	McKinley	Thompson (PA)
Rodgers	Rothfus	Young (IA)				Gibbs	McMorris	Thornberry
McSally	Rouzer	Young (IN)				Gibson	Rodgers	Tiberi
Meadows	Royce	Zeldin				Gohmert	McSally	Tipton
Meehan	Russell	Zinke				Goodlatte	Meadows	Trott
Messer	Salmon					Gosar	Meehan	Turner
Mica	Sanford					Gowdy	Messer	Upton
Miller (FL)	Scalise					Granger	Mica	Valadao

NAYS—177

Adams	DeLauro	Kirkpatrick
Aguilar	DelBene	Kuster
Ashford	DeSaulnier	Langevin
Bass	Deutch	Larsen (WA)
Becerra	Dingell	Larson (CT)
Bera	Doggett	Lawrence
Beyer	Doyle, Michael F.	Lee
Bishop (GA)	Edwards	Levin
Blumenauer	Ellison	Lewis
Bonamici	Engel	Lieu, Ted
Boyle, Brendan F.	Eshoo	Lipinski
Brady (PA)	Esty	Loebsack
Brown (FL)	Farr	Loftgren
Brownley (CA)	Foster	Lowenthal
Bustos	Frankel (FL)	Lowe
Butterfield	Fudge	Lujan Grisham (NM)
Capps	Gabbard	Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Capuano	Gallego	Lynch
Cárdenas	Garamendi	Maloney, Carolyn
Carney	Graham	Maloney, Sean
Carson (IN)	Grayson	Matsui
Cartwright	Green, Al	McCollum
Castor (FL)	Green, Gene	McDermott
Castro (TX)	Grijalva	McGovern
Chu, Judy	Gutiérrez	McNerney
Cicilline	Hahn	Meeks
Clark (MA)	Hastings	Meng
Clarke (NY)	Heck (WA)	Moore
Clay	Higgins	Moulton
Cleaver	Himes	Murphy (FL)
Clyburn	Honda	Nadler
Cohen	Hoyer	Napolitano
Connolly	Huffman	Neal
Conyers	Israel	Nolan
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Norcross
Costa	Jeffries	O'Rourke
Courtney	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Crowley	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Cuellar	Kaptur	Peters
Cummings	Keating	Peterson
Davis (CA)	Kelly (IL)	Pingree
Davis, Danny	Kennedy	Pocan
DeFazio	Kildee	Polis
DeGette	Kilmer	
Delaney	Kind	

NOT VOTING—11

□ 1430

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES; AND WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(A) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 892) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules; and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 178, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 561]

YEAS—243

Abraham	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (IN)
Aderholt	Bishop (UT)	Buchanan
Allen	Black	Buck
Amash	Blackburn	Bucshon
Amodei	Blum	Burgess
Babin	Bost	Byrne
Barletta	Boustany	Calvert
Barr	Brady (TX)	Carter (GA)
Barton	Brat	Carter (TX)
Benishak	Bridenstine	Chabot
Bilirakis	Brooks (AL)	Chaffetz

NAYS—178

Adams	Cartwright	DeGette
Aguilar	Castor (FL)	Delaney
Ashford	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bass	Chu, Judy	DelBene
Becerra	Cicilline	DeSaulnier
Bera	Clark (MA)	Deutch
Beyer	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Clay	Doggett
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Doyle, Michael F.
Bonamici	Clyburn	Edwards
Boyle, Brendan F.	Cohen	Ellison
Brady (PA)	Connolly	Engel
Brown (FL)	Conyers	Eshoo
Brownley (CA)	Cooper	Esty
Bustos	Costa	Farr
Butterfield	Courtney	Foster
Capps	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Capuano	Cuellar	Fudge
Cárdenas	Cummings	Gabbard
Carney	Davis (CA)	Gallego
Carson (IN)	Davis, Danny	Garamendi
	DeFazio	

Graham Lowey
Grayson Lujan Grisham
Green, Al (NM)
Green, Gene Lujan, Ben Ray
Grijalva (NM)
Gutiérrez Lynch
Hahn Maloney,
Hastings Carolyn
Heck (WA) Maloney, Sean
Higgins Matsui
Himes McCollum
Honda McDermott
Hoyer McGovern
Huffman McNerney
Israel Meeks
Jackson Lee Meng
Jeffries Moore
Johnson (GA) Moulton
Johnson, E. B. Murphy (FL)
Kaptur Nadler
Keating Napolitano
Kelly (IL) Neal
Kennedy Nolan
Kildee Norcross
Kilmer O'Rourke
Kind Pallone
Kirkpatrick Pascarell
Kuster Perlmutter
Langevin Peters
Larsen (WA) Peterson
Larson (CT) Pingree
Lawrence Pocan
Lee Polis
Levin Price (NC)
Lewis Quigley
Lieu, Ted Rangel
Lipinski Rice (NY)
Loeb sack Richmond
Lofgren Roybal-Allard
Lowenthal Ruiz

NOT VOTING—10

Beatty Pelosi
Duckworth Poe (TX)
Hinojosa Rush
Payne Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1437

So the previous question was ordered.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 180, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 562]

AYES—241

Abraham Buchanan
Aderholt Buck
Allen Bucs hon
Amodei Burgess
Babin Dentham
Barletta Calvert
Barr Carter (GA)
Barton Carter (TX)
Benishkek Chabot
Bilirakis Chaffetz
Bishop (MI) Clawson (FL)
Bishop (UT) Coffman
Black Cole
Blackburn Collins (GA)
Blum Collins (NY)
Bost Comstock
Boustany Conaway
Brady (TX) Cook
Brat Costello (PA)
Bridenstine Cramer
Brooks (AL) Crawford
Brooks (IN) Crenshaw

Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance

Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

NOES—180

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownlee (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen

Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaunier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham

Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan

Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)

Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—10

Beatty Pelosi
Duckworth Poe (TX)
Hinojosa Rush
Payne Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1444

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, due to a conflict, I unavoidably missed the following votes on September 26 and 27.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 557, I would have voted “nay” (September 26) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass as Amendment H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act.)

On rollcall No. 558, I would have voted “yea” (September 26) (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act.)

On rollcall No. 559, I would have voted “nay” (September 27) (H. Res. 893, On Ordering the Previous Question Providing for consideration of H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act of 2016.)

On rollcall No. 560, I would have voted “nay” (September 27) (H. Res. 893, On Agreeing to the Resolution Providing for consideration of H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act of 2016.)

On rollcall No. 561, I would have voted “nay” (September 27) (H. Res. 892, On Ordering the Previous Question for H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.)

On rollcall No. 562, I would have voted “nay” (September 27) (H. Res. 892, On Agreeing to the Resolution for Providing consideration of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.)

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING ACT OF 2015

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 253) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 253

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 13. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—In the last quarter of every even-numbered year, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of the communications marketplace.

"(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall—

"(1) assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332), multichannel video programming distributors (as defined in section 602), broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communications services;

"(2) assess the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302)), regardless of the technology used for such deployment;

"(3) assess whether laws, regulations, regulatory practices, or demonstrated marketplace practices pose a barrier to competitive entry into the communications marketplace or to the competitive expansion of existing providers of communications services; and

"(4) describe the agenda of the Commission for the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the communications marketplace that were identified through the assessments under paragraphs (1) through (3).

"(c) EXTENSION.—If the Senate confirms the Chairman of the Commission during the third or fourth quarter of an even-numbered year, the report required under subsection (a) may be published on the website of the Commission and submitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee

on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate by March 1 of the following odd-numbered year.

"(d) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) ASSESSING COMPETITION.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall consider all forms of competition, including the effect of intermodal competition, facilities-based competition, and competition from new and emergent communications services, including the provision of content and communications using the Internet.

"(2) ASSESSING DEPLOYMENT.—In assessing the state of deployment under subsection (b)(2), the Commission shall include a list of geographical areas that are not served by any provider of advanced telecommunications capability.

"(3) CONSIDERING SMALL BUSINESSES.—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission shall consider market entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).

"(e) NOTIFICATION OF DELAY IN REPORT.—If the Commission fails to publish a report by the applicable deadline under subsection (a) or (c), the Commission shall, not later than 7 days after the deadline and every 60 days thereafter until the publication of the report—

"(1) provide notification of the delay by letter to the chairperson and ranking member of—

"(A) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

"(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

"(2) indicate in the letter the date on which the Commission anticipates the report will be published; and

"(3) publish the letter on the website of the Commission."

SEC. 3. CONSOLIDATION OF REDUNDANT REPORTS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ORBIT ACT REPORT.—Section 646 of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 765e) is repealed.

(b) SATELLITE COMPETITION REPORT.—Section 4 of Public Law 109-34 (47 U.S.C. 703) is repealed.

(c) INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND DATA REPORT.—Section 103(b)(1) of the Broadband Data Improvement Act (47 U.S.C. 1303(b)(1)) is amended by striking "the assessment and report" and all that follows through "the Federal Communications Commission" and inserting "its report under section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934, the Federal Communications Commission".

(d) STATUS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKET FOR THE DELIVERY OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING REPORT.—Section 628 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 548) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (g); and

(3) by transferring subsection (g) (as redesignated) so that it appears after subsection (f).

(e) REPORT ON CABLE INDUSTRY PRICES.—Section 623(k) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "annually publish" and inserting "publish with its report under section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), in the heading, by striking "ANNUAL".

(f) TRIENNIAL REPORT IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR

ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.—Section 257 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 257) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(g) STATE OF COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICES.—Section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking the first and second sentences.

(h) PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 9(i), by striking "In the Commission's annual report, the Commission shall prepare an analysis of its progress in developing such systems and" and inserting "The Commission"; and

(B) in section 309(j)(8)(B), by striking the last sentence.

(i) ADDITIONAL OUTDATED REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 4—

(i) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by striking "and shall furnish notice of such action" and all that follows through "subject of the waiver"; and

(ii) in subsection (g)—

(I) by striking paragraph (2); and

(II) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2);

(B) in section 215—

(i) by striking subsection (b); and

(ii) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(C) in section 227(e)—

(i) by striking paragraph (4); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (9) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively;

(D) in section 303(u)(1)(B), by striking "section 713(f)" and inserting "section 713(e)";

(E) in section 309(j)—

(i) by striking paragraph (12);

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (13) through (17) as paragraphs (12) through (16), respectively; and

(iii) in paragraph (14)(C), as redesignated—

(I) by striking clause (iv); and

(II) by redesignating clauses (v) and (vi) as clauses (iv) and (v), respectively;

(F) in section 331(b), by striking the last sentence;

(G) in section 336(e), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) REPORT.—The Commission shall annually advise the Congress on the amounts collected pursuant to the program required by this subsection.";

(H) in section 338(k)(6), by striking "section 396(k)(6)(B)" and inserting "section 396(j)(6)(B)";

(I) in section 339(c)—

(i) by striking paragraph (1);

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (5) as paragraphs (1) through (4), respectively;

(iii) in paragraph (3)(A), as redesignated, by striking "paragraph (2)" and inserting "paragraph (1)"; and

(iv) in paragraph (4), as redesignated, by striking "paragraphs (2) and (4)" and inserting "paragraphs (1) and (3)";

(J) in section 396—

(i) by striking subsections (i) and (m);

(ii) by redesignating subsections (j) through (l) as subsections (i) through (k), respectively;

(iii) in subsection (j), as redesignated—

(I) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (F);

(II) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii)—

(aa) by striking subclause (V);

(bb) by redesignating subclause (VI) as subclause (V); and

(cc) in subclause (V), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (1)(4)(B)” and inserting “subsection (k)(4)(B)”; and

(III) in paragraph (5), by striking “subsection (1)(3)(B)” and inserting “subsection (k)(3)(B)”; and

(iv) in subsection (k), as redesignated—

(I) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “shall be included” and all that follows through “The audit report”; and

(II) in paragraph (4), by striking “subsection (k)” each place that term appears and inserting “subsection (j)”;

(K) in section 398(b)(4), by striking the third sentence;

(L) in section 399B(c), by striking “section 396(k)” and inserting “section 396(j)”;

(M) in section 615(1)(1)(A)(ii), by striking “section 396(k)(6)(B)” and inserting “section 396(j)(6)(B)”;

(N) in section 624A(b)(1)—

(i) by striking “REPORT; REGULATIONS” and inserting “REGULATIONS”;

(ii) by striking “Within 1 year after” and all that follows through “on means of assuring” and inserting “The Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to assure”; and

(iii) by striking “Within 180 days after” and all that follows through “to assure such compatibility.”; and

(O) in section 713—

(i) by striking subsection (a);

(ii) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (j) as subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h), respectively;

(iii) in subsection (a), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (d)” each place that term appears and inserting “subsection (c)”;

(iv) in subsection (b), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)” each place that term appears and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(v) in subsection (c), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(vi) in subsection (e)(2)(A), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (h)” and inserting “subsection (g)”; and

(vii) in subsection (f), as redesignated, by striking “subsection (e)(2)” and inserting “subsection (d)(2)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2012.—Section 6401(b) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1451(b)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “(15)(A)” and inserting “(14)(A)”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “(16)(B)” and inserting “(15)(B)”.

(B) TITLE 17.—Title 17, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in section 114(d)(1)(B)(iv), by striking “section 396(k)” and inserting “section 396(j)”; and

(ii) in section 119(a)—

(I) in paragraph (2)(B)(ii)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking “section 339(c)(3)” and inserting “section 339(c)(2)”;

(bb) in subclause (II), by striking “section 339(c)(4)” and inserting “section 339(c)(3)”; and

(cc) in subclause (III), by striking “section 339(c)(3)” and inserting “section 339(c)(2)”;

(II) in paragraph (3)(E), by striking “section 339(c)(2)” and inserting “section 339(c)(1)”; and

(III) in paragraph (13), by striking “section 339(c)(2)” and inserting “section 339(c)(1)”.

SEC. 4. EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to expand or contract the authority of the Federal Communications Commission.

SEC. 5. OTHER REPORTS.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent the Federal Communications Commission from producing any additional reports otherwise within the authority of the Federal Communications Commission.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. WALDEN

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. WALDEN:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Communications Act Update Act of 2016”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Commission defined.

TITLE I—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROCESS REFORM

Sec. 101. Federal Communications Commission process reform.

Sec. 102. Categorization of TCPA inquiries and complaints in quarterly report.

Sec. 103. Effect on other laws.

Sec. 104. Application of Antideficiency Act to Universal Service Program.

Sec. 105. Report on improving small business participation in FCC proceedings.

Sec. 106. Timely availability of items adopted by vote of the Commission.

TITLE II—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING

Sec. 201. Communications marketplace report.

Sec. 202. Consolidation of redundant reports; conforming amendments.

Sec. 203. Effect on authority.

Sec. 204. Other reports.

TITLE III—SMALL BUSINESS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

Sec. 301. Exception to enhancement to transparency requirements for small businesses.

TITLE IV—KARI'S LAW

Sec. 401. Short title.

Sec. 402. Configuration of multi-line telephone systems for direct dialing of 9-1-1.

TITLE V—SECURING ACCESS TO NETWORKS IN DISASTERS

Sec. 501. Study on network resiliency.

Sec. 502. Access to essential service providers during federally declared emergencies.

Sec. 503. Definitions.

TITLE VI—SPOOFING PREVENTION

Sec. 601. Spoofing prevention.

TITLE VII—AMATEUR RADIO PARITY

Sec. 701. Findings.

Sec. 702. Application of private land use restrictions to amateur stations.

Sec. 703. Affirmation of limited preemption of State and local land use regulation.

Sec. 704. Definitions.

TITLE VIII—IMPROVING RURAL CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY

Sec. 801. Ensuring the integrity of voice communications.

SEC. 2. COMMISSION DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

TITLE I—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROCESS REFORM

SEC. 101. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION PROCESS REFORM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 13. TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY.

“(a) INITIAL RULEMAKING AND INQUIRY.—

“(1) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking proceeding and adopt procedural changes to its rules to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS FOR RULEMAKING.—The rules adopted under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) set minimum comment periods for comment and reply comment, subject to a determination by the Commission that good cause exists for departing from such minimum comment periods, for—

“(i) significant regulatory actions, as defined in Executive Order No. 12866; and

“(ii) all other rulemaking proceedings; and

“(B) establish policies concerning the submission of extensive new comments, data, or reports towards the end of the comment period;

“(C) establish policies regarding treatment of comments, ex parte communications, and data or reports (including statistical reports and reports to Congress) submitted after the comment period to ensure that the public has adequate notice of and opportunity to respond to such submissions before the Commission relies on such submissions in any order, decision, report, or action;

“(D) establish procedures for, not later than 14 days after the end of each quarter of a calendar year (or more frequently, as the Commission considers appropriate), publishing on the Internet website of the Commission and submitting to Congress a report that contains—

“(i) the status of open rulemaking proceedings and proposed orders, decisions, reports, or actions on circulation for review by the Commissioners, including which Commissioners have not cast a vote on an order, decision, report, or action that has been on circulation for more than 60 days;

“(ii) for the petitions, applications, complaints, and other requests for action by the Commission that were pending at the Commission on the last day of such quarter (or more frequent period, as the case may be)—

“(I) the number of such requests, broken down by the bureau primarily responsible for action and, for each bureau, the type of request (such as a petition, application, or complaint); and

“(II) information regarding the amount of time for which such requests have been pending, broken down as described in subclause (I); and

“(iii) a list of the congressional investigations of the Commission that were pending on the last day of such quarter (or more frequent period, as the case may be) and the

cost of such investigations, individually and in the aggregate;

“(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for—

“(i) in the case of a petition for a declaratory ruling under section 1.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, issuing a public notice of such petition;

“(ii) in the case of a petition for rulemaking under section 1.401 of such title, issuing a public notice of such petition; and

“(iii) in the case of a petition for reconsideration under section 1.106 or 1.429 of such title or an application for review under section 1.115 of such title, issuing a public notice of a decision on the petition or application by the Commission or under delegated authority (as the case may be);

“(F) establish guidelines (relative to the date of filing) for the disposition of petitions filed under section 1.2 of such title;

“(G) establish procedures for the inclusion of the specific language of the proposed rule or the proposed amendment of an existing rule in a notice of proposed rulemaking; and

“(H) require notices of proposed rulemaking and orders adopting a rule or amending an existing rule that—

“(i) create (or propose to create) a program activity to contain performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity; and

“(ii) substantially change (or propose to substantially change) a program activity to contain—

“(I) performance measures for evaluating the effectiveness of the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed); or

“(II) a finding that existing performance measures will effectively evaluate the program activity as changed (or proposed to be changed).

“(3) INQUIRY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Commission shall complete an inquiry to seek public comment on whether and how the Commission should—

“(A) establish procedures for allowing a bipartisan majority of Commissioners to place an order, decision, report, or action on the agenda of an open meeting;

“(B) establish procedures for informing all Commissioners of a reasonable number of options available to the Commission for resolving a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding;

“(C) establish procedures for ensuring that all Commissioners have adequate time, prior to being required to decide a petition, complaint, application, rulemaking, or other proceeding (including at a meeting held pursuant to section 5(d)), to review the proposed Commission decision document, including the specific language of any proposed rule or any proposed amendment of an existing rule;

“(D) establish procedures for publishing the text of agenda items to be voted on at an open meeting in advance of such meeting so that the public has the opportunity to read the text before a vote is taken;

“(E) establish deadlines (relative to the date of filing) for disposition of applications for a license under section 1.913 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(F) assign resources needed in order to meet the deadlines described in subparagraph (E), including whether the Commission's ability to meet such deadlines would be enhanced by assessing a fee from applicants for such a license; and

“(G) except as otherwise provided in section 4(p), publish each order, decision, report, or action not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of such order, decision, report, or action.

“(4) DATA FOR PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Commission shall develop a performance measure or proposed performance measure required by this subsection to rely, where possible, on data already collected by the Commission.

“(5) GAO AUDIT.—Not less frequently than every 6 months, the Comptroller General of the United States shall audit the cost estimates provided by the Commission under paragraph (2)(D)(iii) during the preceding 6-month period.

“(b) PERIODIC REVIEW.—On the date that is 5 years after the completion of the rulemaking proceeding under subsection (a)(1), and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall initiate a new rulemaking proceeding to continue to consider such procedural changes to its rules as may be in the public interest to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking.

“(c) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 552b of title 5, United States Code, a bipartisan majority of Commissioners may hold a meeting that is closed to the public to discuss official business if—

“(A) a vote or any other agency action is not taken at such meeting;

“(B) each person present at such meeting is a Commissioner, an employee of the Commission, a member of a joint board or conference established under section 410, or a person on the staff of such a joint board or conference or of a member of such a joint board or conference; and

“(C) an attorney from the Office of General Counsel of the Commission is present at such meeting.

“(2) DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Not later than 2 business days after the conclusion of a meeting held under paragraph (1), the Commission shall publish a disclosure of such meeting, including—

“(A) a list of the persons who attended such meeting; and

“(B) a summary of the matters discussed at such meeting, except for such matters as the Commission determines may be withheld under section 552b(c) of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) PRESERVATION OF OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS FOR AGENCY ACTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the applicability of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, with respect to a meeting of Commissioners other than that described in paragraph (1).

“(d) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION ON COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.—The Commission shall provide direct access from the homepage of its website to—

“(1) detailed information regarding—

“(A) the budget of the Commission for the current fiscal year;

“(B) the appropriations for the Commission for such fiscal year; and

“(C) the total number of full-time equivalent employees of the Commission; and

“(2) the performance plan most recently made available by the Commission under section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code.

“(e) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN FCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The chairman of the Commission shall—

“(1) publish on the Internet website of the Commission any policies or procedures of the Commission that—

“(A) are established by the chairman; and

“(B) relate to the functioning of the Commission or the handling of the agenda of the Commission; and

“(2) update such publication not later than 48 hours after the chairman makes changes to any such policies or procedures.

“(f) FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any document adopted by the Commission that the Commission is required, under any provision of law, to publish in the Federal Register, the Commission shall, not later than the date described in paragraph (2), complete all Commission actions necessary for such document to be so published.

“(2) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this paragraph is the earlier of—

“(A) the day that is 45 days after the date of the release of the document; or

“(B) the day by which such actions must be completed to comply with any deadline under any other provision of law.

“(3) NO EFFECT ON DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION IN OTHER FORM.—In the case of a deadline that does not specify that the form of publication is publication in the Federal Register, the Commission may comply with such deadline by publishing the document in another form. Such other form of publication does not relieve the Commission of any Federal Register publication requirement applicable to such document, including the requirement of paragraph (1).

“(g) CONSUMER COMPLAINT DATABASE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating and processing consumer complaints, the Commission shall present information about such complaints in a publicly available, searchable database on its website that—

“(A) facilitates easy use by consumers; and

“(B) to the extent practicable, is sortable and accessible by—

“(i) the date of the filing of the complaint;

“(ii) the topic of the complaint;

“(iii) the party complained of; and

“(iv) other elements that the Commission considers in the public interest.

“(2) DUPLICATIVE COMPLAINTS.—In the case of multiple complaints arising from the same alleged misconduct, the Commission shall be required to include only information concerning one such complaint in the database described in paragraph (1).

“(h) FORM OF PUBLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In complying with a requirement of this section to publish a document, the Commission shall publish such document on its website, in addition to publishing such document in any other form that the Commission is required to use or is permitted to and chooses to use.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—The Commission shall by rule establish procedures for redacting documents required to be published by this section so that the published versions of such documents do not contain—

“(A) information the publication of which would be detrimental to national security, homeland security, law enforcement, or public safety; or

“(B) information that is proprietary or confidential.

“(i) TRANSPARENCY RELATING TO PERFORMANCE IN MEETING FOIA REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission shall take additional steps to inform the public about its performance and efficiency in meeting the disclosure and other requirements of section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), including by doing the following:

“(1) Publishing on the Commission's website the Commission's logs for tracking, responding to, and managing requests submitted under such section, including the Commission's fee estimates, fee categories, and fee request determinations.

“(2) Releasing to the public all decisions made by the Commission (including decisions made by the Commission’s Bureaus and Offices) granting or denying requests filed under such section, including any such decisions pertaining to the estimate and application of fees assessed under such section.

“(3) Publishing on the Commission’s website electronic copies of documents released under such section.

“(4) Presenting information about the Commission’s handling of requests under such section in the Commission’s annual budget estimates submitted to Congress and the Commission’s annual performance and financial reports. Such information shall include the number of requests under such section the Commission received in the most recent fiscal year, the number of such requests granted and denied, a comparison of the Commission’s processing of such requests over at least the previous 3 fiscal years, and a comparison of the Commission’s results with the most recent average for the United States Government as published on www.foia.gov.

“(j) PROMPT RELEASE OF STATISTICAL REPORTS AND REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than January 15th of each year, the Commission shall identify, catalog, and publish an anticipated release schedule for all statistical reports and reports to Congress that are regularly or intermittently released by the Commission and will be released during such year.

“(k) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the 1-year period beginning on January 1st of each year, the Commission shall prepare a report on the performance of the Commission in conducting its proceedings and meeting the deadlines established under subsection (a)(2)(E) and the guidelines established under subsection (a)(2)(F).

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall contain detailed statistics on such performance, including, with respect to each Bureau of the Commission—

“(A) with respect to each type of filing specified in subsection (a)(2)(E) or (a)(2)(F)—

“(i) the number of filings that were pending on the last day of the period covered by such report;

“(ii) the number of filings described in clause (i) for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was not met and the average length of time such filings have been pending; and

“(iii) for filings that were resolved during such period, the average time between initiation and resolution and the percentage for which each applicable deadline or guideline established under such subsection was met;

“(B) with respect to proceedings before an administrative law judge—

“(i) the number of such proceedings completed during such period; and

“(ii) the number of such proceedings pending on the last day of such period; and

“(C) the number of independent studies or analyses published by the Commission during such period.

“(3) PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION.—The Commission shall publish and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate each report required by paragraph (1) not later than the date that is 30 days after the last day of the period covered by such report.

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AMENDMENT.—The term ‘amendment’ includes, when used with respect to an existing rule, the deletion of such rule.

“(2) BIPARTISAN MAJORITY.—The term ‘bipartisan majority’ means, when used with respect to a group of Commissioners, that such group—

“(A) is a group of three or more Commissioners; and

“(B) includes, for each political party of which any Commissioner is a member, at least one Commissioner who is a member of such political party, and, if any Commissioner has no political party affiliation, at least one unaffiliated Commissioner.

“(3) PERFORMANCE MEASURE.—The term ‘performance measure’ means an objective and quantifiable outcome measure or output measure (as such terms are defined in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code).

“(4) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program activity’ has the meaning given such term in section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, except that such term also includes any annual collection or distribution or related series of collections or distributions by the Commission of an amount that is greater than or equal to \$100,000,000.

“(5) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘agency action’, ‘ex parte communication’, and ‘rule’ have the meanings given such terms in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES AND IMPLEMENTING RULES.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(A) NONPUBLIC COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSIONS.—Subsection (c) of section 13 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a), shall apply beginning on the first date on which all of the procedural changes to the rules of the Commission required by subsection (a)(1) of such section have taken effect.

(B) REPORT RELEASE SCHEDULES.—Subsection (j) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2017 and any year thereafter.

(C) ANNUAL SCORECARD REPORTS.—Subsection (k) of such section 13 shall apply with respect to 2016 and any year thereafter.

(D) INTERNET PUBLICATION OF CERTAIN FCC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—Subsection (e) of such section 13 shall apply beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RULES.—Except as otherwise provided in such section 13, the Commission shall promulgate any rules necessary to carry out such section not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. CATEGORIZATION OF TCPA INQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS IN QUARTERLY REPORT.

In compiling its quarterly report with respect to informal consumer inquiries and complaints, the Commission may not categorize an inquiry or complaint with respect to section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) as being a wireline inquiry or complaint or a wireless inquiry or complaint unless the party whose conduct is the subject of the inquiry or complaint is a wireline carrier or a wireless carrier, respectively.

SEC. 103. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall relieve the Commission from any obligations under title 5, United States Code, except where otherwise expressly provided.

SEC. 104. APPLICATION OF ANTIDEFICIENCY ACT TO UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM.

Section 302 of Public Law 108–494 (118 Stat. 3998) is amended by striking “December 31, 2017” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

SEC. 105. REPORT ON IMPROVING SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FCC PROCEEDINGS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission, in consultation with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) actions that the Commission will take to improve the participation of small businesses in the proceedings of the Commission; and

(2) recommendations for any legislation that the Commission considers appropriate to improve such participation.

SEC. 106. TIMELY AVAILABILITY OF ITEMS ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(p) In the case of any item that is adopted by vote of the Commission, the Commission shall publish on the Internet website of the Commission the text of such item not later than 24 hours after the Secretary of the Commission has received dissenting statements from all Commissioners wishing to submit such a statement with respect to such item.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to an item that is adopted after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION CONSOLIDATED REPORTING

SEC. 201. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

Title I of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.), as amended by section 101(a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 14. COMMUNICATIONS MARKETPLACE REPORT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the last quarter of every even-numbered year, the Commission shall publish on its website and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the state of the communications marketplace.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall—

“(1) assess the state of competition in the communications marketplace, including competition to deliver voice, video, audio, and data services among providers of telecommunications, providers of commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332), multichannel video programming distributors (as defined in section 602), broadcast stations, providers of satellite communications, Internet service providers, and other providers of communications services;

“(2) assess the state of deployment of communications capabilities, including advanced telecommunications capability (as defined in section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302)), regardless of the technology used for such deployment, including whether advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion;

“(3) assess whether laws, regulations, or regulatory practices (whether those of the Federal Government, States, political subdivisions of States, Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)), or foreign governments) pose a barrier to competitive entry into the communications marketplace or to the competitive expansion of

existing providers of communications services;

“(4) describe the agenda of the Commission for the next 2-year period for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the communications marketplace that were identified through the assessments under paragraphs (1) through (3); and

“(5) describe the actions that the Commission has taken in pursuit of the agenda described pursuant to paragraph (4) in the previous report submitted under this section.

“(c) **EXTENSION.**—If the President designates a Commissioner as Chairman of the Commission during the last quarter of an even-numbered year, the portion of the report required by subsection (b)(4) may be published on the website of the Commission and submitted to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate as an addendum during the first quarter of the following odd-numbered year.

“(d) **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.**—

“(1) **ASSESSING COMPETITION.**—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall consider all forms of competition, including the effect of intermodal competition, facilities-based competition, and competition from new and emergent communications services, including the provision of content and communications using the Internet.

“(2) **ASSESSING DEPLOYMENT.**—In assessing the state of deployment under subsection (b)(2), the Commission shall compile a list of geographical areas that are not served by any provider of advanced telecommunications capability.

“(3) **INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.**—The Commission may use readily available data to draw appropriate comparisons between the United States communications marketplace and the international communications marketplace and to correlate its assessments with demographic information.

“(4) **CONSIDERING SMALL BUSINESSES.**—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1) and regulatory barriers under subsection (b)(3), the Commission shall consider market entry barriers for entrepreneurs and other small businesses in the communications marketplace in accordance with the national policy under section 257(b).

“(5) **CONSIDERING CABLE RATES.**—In assessing the state of competition under subsection (b)(1), the Commission shall include in each report required by subsection (a) the aggregate average total amount paid by cable systems in compensation under section 325 during the period covered by such report.”

SEC. 202. CONSOLIDATION OF REDUNDANT REPORTS; CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) **ORBIT ACT REPORT.**—Section 646 of the Communications Satellite Act of 1962 (47 U.S.C. 765e; 114 Stat. 57) is repealed.

(b) **SATELLITE COMPETITION REPORT.**—Section 4 of Public Law 109-34 (47 U.S.C. 703) is repealed.

(c) **INTERNATIONAL BROADBAND DATA REPORT.**—Section 103 of the Broadband Data Improvement Act (47 U.S.C. 1303) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (e) as subsections (b) through (d), respectively.

(d) **STATUS OF COMPETITION IN THE MARKET FOR THE DELIVERY OF VIDEO PROGRAMMING REPORT.**—Section 628 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 548) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (g);

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (g); and

(3) by transferring subsection (g) (as redesignated) so that it appears after subsection (f).

(e) **REPORT ON CABLE INDUSTRY PRICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 623 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 543) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (o) as subsections (k) through (n), respectively.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 613(a)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 533(a)(3)) is amended by striking “623(l)” and inserting “623(k)”.

(f) **TRIENNIAL REPORT IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING MARKET ENTRY BARRIERS FOR ENTREPRENEURS AND OTHER SMALL BUSINESSES.**—Section 257 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 257) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(g) **SECTION 706 REPORT.**—Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) **DETERMINATION.**—If the Commission determines in its report under section 14 of the Communications Act of 1934, after considering the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans (including, in particular, elementary and secondary schools and classrooms), that advanced telecommunications capability is not being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion, the Commission shall take immediate action to accelerate deployment of such capability by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition in the telecommunications market.”;

(2) by striking subsection (c);

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “this subsection” and inserting “this section”; and

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

(h) **STATE OF COMPETITIVE MARKET CONDITIONS WITH RESPECT TO COMMERCIAL MOBILE RADIO SERVICES.**—Section 332(c)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332(c)(1)(C)) is amended by striking the first and second sentences.

(i) **PREVIOUSLY ELIMINATED ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 154), as amended by section 106(a), is further amended—

(A) by striking subsection (k); and

(B) by redesignating subsections (l) through (p) as subsections (k) through (o), respectively.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—The Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in section 9(i), by striking “In the Commission’s annual report, the Commission shall prepare an analysis of its progress in developing such systems and” and inserting “The Commission”; and

(B) in section 309(j)(8)(B), by striking the last sentence.

(j) **ADDITIONAL OUTDATED REPORTS.**—The Communications Act of 1934 is further amended—

(1) in section 4—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)(B)(ii), by striking “and shall furnish notice of such action” and all that follows through “subject of the waiver”; and

(B) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (2);

(2) in section 215—

(A) by striking subsection (b); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(3) in section 227(e), by striking paragraph (4);

(4) in section 309(j)—

(A) by striking paragraph (12); and

(B) in paragraph (15)(C), by striking clause (iv);

(5) in section 331(b), by striking the last sentence;

(6) in section 336(e), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) **REPORT.**—The Commission shall annually advise the Congress on the amounts collected pursuant to the program required by this subsection.”;

(7) in section 339(c), by striking paragraph (1);

(8) in section 396—

(A) by striking subsection (i);

(B) in subsection (k)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (F); and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(B)(iii), by striking subclause (V);

(C) in subsection (l)(1)(B), by striking “shall be included” and all that follows through “The audit report”; and

(D) by striking subsection (m);

(9) in section 398(b)(4), by striking the third sentence;

(10) in section 624A(b)(1)—

(A) by striking “REPORT; REGULATIONS” and inserting “REGULATIONS”;

(B) by striking “Within 1 year after” and all that follows through “on means of assuring” and inserting “The Commission shall issue such regulations as are necessary to assure”; and

(C) by striking “Within 180 days after” and all that follows through “to assure such compatibility.”; and

(11) in section 713, by striking subsection (a).

SEC. 203. EFFECT ON AUTHORITY.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to expand or contract the authority of the Commission.

SEC. 204. OTHER REPORTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to prohibit or otherwise prevent the Commission from producing any additional reports otherwise within the authority of the Commission.

TITLE III—SMALL BUSINESS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

SEC. 301. EXCEPTION TO ENHANCEMENT TO TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The enhancements to the transparency rule of the Commission under section 8.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as described in paragraphs 162 through 184 of the Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order of the Commission with regard to protecting and promoting the open Internet (adopted February 26, 2015) (FCC 15-24), shall not apply to any small business.

(b) **SUNSET.**—Subsection (a) shall not have any force or effect after the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) **REPORT BY FCC.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that contains the recommendations of the Commission (and data

supporting such recommendations) regarding—

(1) whether the exception provided by subsection (a) should be made permanent; and

(2) whether the definition of the term “small business” for purposes of such exception should be modified from the definition in subsection (d)(2).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term “broadband Internet access service” has the meaning given such term in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term “small business” means any provider of broadband Internet access service that has not more than 250,000 subscribers.

TITLE IV—KARI'S LAW

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Kari's Law Act of 2016”.

SEC. 402. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 721. CONFIGURATION OF MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR DIRECT DIALING OF 9-1-1.

“(a) SYSTEM MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, AND LEASE.—A person engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing, selling, or leasing multi-line telephone systems may not manufacture or import for use in the United States, or sell or lease or offer to sell or lease in the United States, a multi-line telephone system, unless such system is pre-configured such that, when properly installed in accordance with subsection (b), a user may directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether the user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for other calls.

“(b) SYSTEM INSTALLATION, MANAGEMENT, AND OPERATION.—A person engaged in the business of installing, managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems may not install, manage, or operate for use in the United States such a system, unless such system is configured such that a user may directly initiate a call to 9-1-1 from any station equipped with dialing facilities, without dialing any additional digit, code, prefix, or post-fix, including any trunk-access code such as the digit ‘9’, regardless of whether the user is required to dial such a digit, code, prefix, or post-fix for other calls.

“(c) ON-SITE NOTIFICATION.—A person engaged in the business of installing, managing, or operating multi-line telephone systems shall, in installing, managing, or operating such a system for use in the United States, configure the system to provide a notification to a central location at the facility where the system is installed or to another person or organization regardless of location, if the system is able to be configured to provide the notification without an improvement to the hardware or software of the system.

“(d) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—Nothing in this section is intended to alter the authority of State commissions or other State or local agencies with jurisdiction over emergency communications, if the exercise of such authority is not inconsistent with this Act.

“(e) ENFORCEMENT.—This section shall be enforced under title V, except that section

501 applies only to the extent that such section provides for the punishment of a fine.

“(f) MULTI-LINE TELEPHONE SYSTEM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘multi-line telephone system’ has the meaning given such term in section 6502 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1471).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), section 721 of the Communications Act of 1934, as added by subsection (a) of this section, shall apply beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) or (c) of such section 721 shall not apply to a multi-line telephone system that was installed before the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act if such system is not able to be configured to meet the requirement of such subsection (b) or (c), respectively, without an improvement to the hardware or software of the system.

TITLE V—SECURING ACCESS TO NETWORKS IN DISASTERS

SEC. 501. STUDY ON NETWORK RESILIENCY.

Not later than 36 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress, and make publically available on the Commission's website, a study on the public safety benefits and technical feasibility and cost of—

(1) making telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points, and other communications technologies operating on unlicensed spectrum, available to the general public for access to 9-1-1 services, without requiring any login credentials, during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable;

(2) the provision by non-telecommunications service provider-owned WiFi access points of public access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable; and

(3) other alternative means of providing the public with access to 9-1-1 services during times of emergency when mobile service is unavailable.

SEC. 502. ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS DURING FEDERALLY DECLARED EMERGENCIES.

Section 427(a)(1)(A) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5189e(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “telecommunications service” and inserting “wireline or mobile telephone service, Internet access service, radio or television broadcasting, cable service, or direct broadcast satellite service”.

SEC. 503. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this title—

(1) the term “mobile service” means commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 332)) or commercial mobile data service (as defined in section 6001 of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. 1401));

(2) the term “WiFi access point” means wireless Internet access using the standard designated as 802.11 or any variant thereof; and

(3) the term “times of emergency” means either an emergency as defined in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122), or an emergency as declared by the governor of a State or territory of the United States.

TITLE VI—SPOOFING PREVENTION

SEC. 601. SPOOFING PREVENTION.

(a) EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING PROHIBITION ON MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

(1) COMMUNICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1)) is amended by striking “in connection with any telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service” and inserting “or any person outside the United States if the recipient is within the United States, in connection with any voice service or text messaging service”.

(2) COVERAGE OF TEXT MESSAGES AND VOICE SERVICES.—Section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service” and inserting “voice service or a text message sent using a text messaging service”;

(B) in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking “telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service” and inserting “voice service or a text message sent using a text messaging service”; and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) TEXT MESSAGE.—The term ‘text message’—

“(i) means a message consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information that is transmitted to or from a device that is identified as the receiving or transmitting device by means of a 10-digit telephone number or N11 service code;

“(ii) includes a short message service (commonly referred to as ‘SMS’) message and a multimedia message service (commonly referred to as ‘MMS’) message; and

“(iii) does not include—

“(I) a real-time, 2-way voice or video communication; or

“(II) a message sent over an IP-enabled messaging service to another user of the same messaging service, except a message described in clause (ii).

“(D) TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE.—The term ‘text messaging service’ means a service that enables the transmission or receipt of a text message, including a service provided as part of or in connection with a voice service.

“(E) VOICE SERVICE.—The term ‘voice service’—

“(i) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1); and

“(ii) includes transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine.”.

(3) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 227(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)) is amended in the heading by inserting “MISLEADING OR” before “INACCURATE”.

(4) REGULATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 227(e)(3)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(3)(A)) is amended by striking “Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009, the Commission” and inserting “The Commission”.

(B) DEADLINE.—The Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this subsection not later

than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(5) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the Commission prescribes regulations under paragraph (4).

(b) **CONSUMER EDUCATION MATERIALS ON HOW TO AVOID SCAMS THAT RELY UPON MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Federal Trade Commission, shall develop consumer education materials that provide information about—

(A) ways for consumers to identify scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and

(B) existing technologies, if any, that a consumer can use to protect against such scams and other fraudulent activity.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—In developing the consumer education materials under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) identify existing technologies, if any, that can help consumers guard themselves against scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, including—

(i) descriptions of how a consumer can use the technologies to protect against such scams and other fraudulent activity; and

(ii) details on how consumers can access and use the technologies; and

(B) provide other information that may help consumers identify and avoid scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(3) **UPDATES.**—The Commission shall ensure that the consumer education materials required under paragraph (1) are updated on a regular basis.

(4) **WEBSITE.**—The Commission shall include the consumer education materials developed under paragraph (1) on its website.

(c) **GAO REPORT ON COMBATING THE FRAUDULENT PROVISION OF MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the actions the Commission and the Federal Trade Commission have taken to combat the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and the additional measures that could be taken to combat such activity.

(2) **REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall examine—

(A) trends in the types of scams that rely on misleading or inaccurate caller identification information;

(B) previous and current enforcement actions by the Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to combat the practices prohibited by section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1));

(C) current efforts by industry groups and other entities to develop technical standards to deter or prevent the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and how such standards may help combat the current and future provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and

(D) whether there are additional actions the Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and Congress should take to combat

the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(3) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under paragraph (1), including any recommendations regarding combating the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to modify, limit, or otherwise affect any rule or order adopted by the Commission in connection with—

(1) the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-243; 105 Stat. 2394) or the amendments made by that Act; or

(2) the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

TITLE VII—AMATEUR RADIO PARITY

SEC. 701. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) More than 730,000 radio amateurs in the United States are licensed by the Commission in the amateur radio services.

(2) Amateur radio, at no cost to taxpayers, provides a fertile ground for technical self-training in modern telecommunications, electronics technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.

(3) There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of amateur stations established at the residences of licensees. Such stations have been shown to be frequently and increasingly precluded by unreasonable private land use restrictions, including restrictive covenants.

(4) Commission regulations have for three decades prohibited the application to stations in the amateur service of State and local regulations that preclude or fail to reasonably accommodate amateur service communications, or that do not constitute the minimum practicable regulation to accomplish a legitimate State or local purpose. Commission policy has been and is to require States and localities to permit erection of a station antenna structure at heights and dimensions sufficient to accommodate amateur service communications.

(5) The Commission has sought guidance and direction from Congress with respect to the application of the Commission's limited preemption policy regarding amateur service communications to private land use restrictions, including restrictive covenants.

(6) There are aesthetic and common property considerations that are uniquely applicable to private land use regulations and the community associations obligated to enforce covenants, conditions, and restrictions in deed-restricted communities. These considerations are dissimilar to those applicable to State law and local ordinances regulating the same residential amateur radio facilities.

(7) In recognition of these considerations, a separate Federal policy than exists at section 97.15(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, is warranted concerning amateur service communications in deed-restricted communities.

(8) Community associations should fairly administer private land use regulations in the interest of their communities, while nevertheless permitting the installation and maintenance of effective outdoor amateur radio antennas. There exist antenna designs and installations that can be consistent with

the aesthetics and physical characteristics of land and structures in community associations while accommodating communications in the amateur radio services.

SEC. 702. APPLICATION OF PRIVATE LAND USE RESTRICTIONS TO AMATEUR STATIONS.

(a) **AMENDMENT OF FCC RULES.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall amend section 97.15 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, by adding a new paragraph that prohibits the application to amateur stations of any private land use restriction, including a restrictive covenant, that—

(1) on its face or as applied, precludes communications in an amateur radio service;

(2) fails to permit a licensee in an amateur radio service to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; or

(3) does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes of a community association seeking to enforce such restriction.

(b) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**—In amending its rules as required by subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) require any licensee in an amateur radio service to notify and obtain prior approval from a community association concerning installation of an outdoor antenna;

(2) permit a community association to prohibit installation of any antenna or antenna support structure by a licensee in an amateur radio service on common property not under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; and

(3) subject to the standards specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), permit a community association to establish reasonable written rules concerning height, location, size, and aesthetic impact of, and installation requirements for, outdoor antennas and support structures for the purpose of conducting communications in the amateur radio services.

SEC. 703. AFFIRMATION OF LIMITED PREEMPTION OF STATE AND LOCAL LAND USE REGULATION.

The Commission may not change section 97.15(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, which shall remain applicable to State and local land use regulation of amateur service communications.

SEC. 704. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.**—The term “community association” means any non-profit mandatory membership organization composed of owners of real estate described in a declaration of covenants or created pursuant to a covenant or other applicable law with respect to which a person, by virtue of the person's ownership of or interest in a unit or parcel, is obligated to pay for a share of real estate taxes, insurance premiums, maintenance, improvement, services, or other expenses related to common elements, other units, or any other real estate other than the unit or parcel described in the declaration.

(2) **TERMS DEFINED IN REGULATIONS.**—The terms “amateur radio services”, “amateur service”, and “amateur station” have the meanings given such terms in section 97.3 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

TITLE VIII—IMPROVING RURAL CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY

SEC. 801. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.

Part II of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 262. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.

“(a) **REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS.**—An intermediate provider that offers or holds itself out as offering the capability to transmit covered voice communications from one destination to another and that charges any rate to any other entity (including an affiliated entity) for the transmission shall—

“(1) register with the Commission; and
“(2) comply with the service quality standards for such transmission to be established by the Commission under subsection (c)(1)(B).

“(b) **REQUIRED USE OF REGISTERED INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS.**—A covered provider may not use an intermediate provider to transmit covered voice communications unless such intermediate provider is registered under subsection (a)(1).

“(c) **COMMISSION RULES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

“(A) **REGISTRY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall promulgate rules to establish a registry to record registrations under subsection (a)(1).

“(B) **SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall promulgate rules to establish service quality standards for the transmission of covered voice communications by intermediate providers.

“(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In promulgating the rules required by paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

“(A) ensure the integrity of the transmission of covered voice communications to all customers in the United States; and

“(B) prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of covered voice communications.

“(d) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REGISTRY.**—The Commission shall make the registry established under subsection (c)(1)(A) publicly available on the website of the Commission.

“(e) **SCOPE OF APPLICATION.**—The requirements of this section shall apply regardless of the format by which any communication or service is provided, the protocol or format by which the transmission of such communication or service is achieved, or the regulatory classification of such communication or service.

“(f) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the regulatory classification of any communication or service.

“(g) **EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt or expand the authority of a State public utility commission or other relevant State agency to collect data, or investigate and enforce State law and regulations, regarding the completion of intrastate voice communications, regardless of the format by which any communication or service is provided, the protocol or format by which the transmission of such communication or service is achieved, or the regulatory classification of such communication or service.

“(h) **EXCEPTION.**—The requirement under subsection (a)(2) to comply with the service quality standards established under sub-

section (c)(1)(B) shall not apply to a covered provider that—

“(1) on or before the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, has certified as a Safe Harbor provider under section 64.2107(a) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; and

“(2) continues to meet the requirements under such section 64.2107(a).

“(i) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **COVERED PROVIDER.**—The term ‘covered provider’ has the meaning given the term in section 64.2101 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

“(2) **COVERED VOICE COMMUNICATION.**—The term ‘covered voice communication’ means a voice communication (including any related signaling information) that is generated—

“(A) from the placement of a call from a connection using a North American Numbering Plan resource or a call placed to a connection using such a numbering resource; and

“(B) through any service provided by a covered provider.

“(3) **INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER.**—The term ‘intermediate provider’ means any entity that—

“(A) enters into a business arrangement with a covered provider or other intermediate provider for the specific purpose of carrying, routing, or transmitting voice traffic that is generated from the placement of a call placed—

“(i) from an end user connection using a North American Numbering Plan resource; or

“(ii) to an end user connection using such a numbering resource; and

“(B) does not itself, either directly or in conjunction with an affiliate, serve as a covered provider in the context of originating or terminating a given call.”.

Mr. WALDEN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for greater transparency and efficiency in the procedures followed by the Federal Communications Commission, to consolidate certain reporting obligations of the Commission, and to update certain other provisions of such Act, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADVANCING HOPE ACT OF 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Commerce be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 1878) to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1878

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Advancing Hope Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM FOR PRIORITY REVIEW TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) The disease is a serious or life-threatening disease in which the serious or life-threatening manifestations primarily affect individuals aged from birth to 18 years, including age groups often called neonates, infants, children, and adolescents.”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(F), by striking “Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012” and inserting “Advancing Hope Act of 2016”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) **NOTIFICATION.**—

“(A) **SPONSOR OF A RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASE PRODUCT.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016, the sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application that intends to request a priority review voucher under this section shall notify the Secretary of such intent upon submission of the rare pediatric disease product application that is the basis of the request for a priority review voucher.

“(ii) **APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BUT NOT YET APPROVED.**—The sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application that was submitted and that has not been approved as of the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016 shall be considered eligible for a priority review voucher, if—

“(I) such sponsor has submitted such rare pediatric disease product application—

“(aa) on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of the Prescription Drug User Fee Amendments of 2012; and

“(bb) on or before the date of enactment of the Advancing Hope Act of 2016; and

“(II) such application otherwise meets the criteria for a priority review voucher under this section.

“(B) **SPONSOR OF A DRUG APPLICATION USING A PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHER.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The sponsor of a human drug application shall notify the Secretary not later than 90 days prior to submission of the human drug application that is the subject of a priority review voucher of an intent to submit the human drug application, including the date on which the sponsor intends to submit the application. Such notification shall be a legally binding commitment to pay the user fee to be assessed in accordance with this section.

“(ii) **TRANSFER AFTER NOTICE.**—The sponsor of a human drug application that provides notification of the intent of such sponsor to

use the voucher for the human drug application under clause (i) may transfer the voucher after such notification is provided, if such sponsor has not yet submitted the human drug application described in the notification.”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) **TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may not award any priority review vouchers under paragraph (1) after December 31, 2016.”; and

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting before the period “, except that no sponsor of a rare pediatric disease product application may receive more than one priority review voucher issued under any section of this Act with respect to the drug for which the application is made.”

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to affect the validity of a priority review voucher that was issued under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of awarding priority review vouchers under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff) in providing incentives for the development of drugs that treat or prevent rare pediatric diseases (as defined in subsection (a)(3) of such section) that would not otherwise have been developed. In conducting such study, the Comptroller General shall examine the following:

(1) The indications for which each drug for which a priority review voucher was awarded under such section 529 was approved under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1)) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)).

(2) Whether the priority review voucher impacted sponsors’ decisions to invest in developing a drug to treat or prevent a rare pediatric disease.

(3) An analysis of the drugs for which such priority review vouchers were used, which shall include—

(A) the indications for which such drugs were approved under section 505(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(1)) or section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a));

(B) whether unmet medical needs were addressed through the approval of such drugs, including, for each such drug—

(i) if an alternative therapy was previously available to treat the indication; and

(ii) if the drug provided a benefit or advantage over another available therapy;

(C) the number of patients potentially treated by such drugs;

(D) the value of the priority review voucher if transferred; and

(E) the length of time between the date on which a priority review voucher was awarded and the date on which it was used.

(4) With respect to the priority review voucher program under section 529 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff)—

(A) the resources used by the Food and Drug Administration in implementing such program, including the effect of such program on the Food and Drug Administration’s review of drugs for which a priority review voucher was not awarded or used;

(B) the impact of the program on the public health as a result of the review and ap-

proval of drugs that received a priority review voucher and products that were the subject of a redeemed priority review voucher; and

(C) alternative approaches to improving such program so that the program is appropriately targeted toward providing incentives for the development of clinically important drugs that—

(i) prevent or treat rare pediatric diseases; and

(ii) would likely not otherwise have been developed to prevent or treat such diseases.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than January 31, 2022, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study of conducted under subsection (a).

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION VETERAN TRANSITION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (S. 2683) to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2683

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Aviation Administration Veteran Transition Improvement Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE IN FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 40122(g)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (H), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (I)(iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(J) subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, section 6329, relating to disabled veteran leave.”

(b) **CERTIFICATION OF LEAVE.**—Section 40122(g) of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) **CERTIFICATION OF DISABLED VETERAN LEAVE.**—In order to verify that leave credited to an employee pursuant to paragraph (2)(J) is used for treating a service-connected disability, that employee shall, notwithstanding section 6329(c) of title 5, submit to the Assistant Administrator for Human Resource Management of the Federal Aviation

Administration certification, in such form and manner as the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may prescribe, that the employee used that leave for purposes of being furnished treatment for that disability by a health care provider.”

(c) **APPLICATION.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to any employee of the Federal Aviation Administration hired on or after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall prescribe policies and procedures to carry out the amendments made by this section that are comparable, to the maximum extent practicable, to the regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management under section 6329 of title 5, United States Code.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS DAY MOMENT OF SILENCE ACT

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 1004) to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1004

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act”.

SEC. 2. OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.

(a) **TWO MINUTES OF SILENCE.**—Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 145. Veterans Day

“The President shall issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the Nation, beginning at—

“(1) 3:11 p.m. Atlantic standard time;

“(2) 2:11 p.m. eastern standard time;

“(3) 1:11 p.m. central standard time;

“(4) 12:11 p.m. mountain standard time;

“(5) 11:11 a.m. Pacific standard time;

“(6) 10:11 a.m. Alaska standard time; and

“(7) 9:11 a.m. Hawaii-Aleutian standard time.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“145. Veterans Day.”

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1004, the Veterans Day Moment

of Silence Act. I am proud to have introduced the House version of this bill, H.R. 995.

This bipartisan legislation calls for two minutes of silence every Veterans Day. The set time of 2:11 P.M., Eastern Standard Time, will allow all Americans from coast to coast and Puerto Rico to come together as one nation to reflect on the service of our veterans, past and present. Generations of brave men and women have served the United States of America with honor, risking their lives to keep us safe and free. They deserve our support and, especially, our gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, our servicemembers have made, and continue to make, immense sacrifices. They leave their loved ones behind, operate in some of the most dangerous places in the world, and put themselves in harm's way to defend our nation. I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting with servicemembers during my Congressional Delegations abroad. I am always moved by their professionalism, courage, and most especially, their dedication to their families, fellow service members, and country. This Moment of Silence legislation will send a powerful message of appreciation to our veterans for all that they do on behalf of our nation.

I would like to express my thanks to the leadership of the Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as to the bipartisan group of cosponsors who were steadfast in their support of H.R. 995. I am grateful to Senators KIRK and DURBIN for their leadership and stewardship of this initiative on the Senate side. I also wish to thank Daniel and Michael Bendetson, along with their father, Dr. Peter Bendetson, who first approached me with the concept of this tribute and have worked tirelessly for years to bring this proposal to fruition. Finally, I would like to thank all the veterans in the Eighth District of Massachusetts and across America, in whose honor I am proud to have introduced and supported the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 1004.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONCERN ABOUT THE ONGOING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 851) expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the

release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, although I do not intend to object, I am proud to be the sponsor of H. Res. 851, which expresses profound concern about the shameful and rampant corruption of President Maduro's government and the plight of the Venezuelan people.

The Maduro regime's efforts to silence political opposition leaders, including by jailing Leopoldo Lopez and Daniel de Ceballos, are unconscionable. And just last week, the National Electoral Council announced an outrageously high barrier to the referendum on his government that millions of Venezuelans are demanding.

His flagrant misconduct has brought a series of devastating crises to Venezuela. Families all across the country are starving. Their local store shelves are barren, many of them empty of both food and lifesaving medicine.

And Maduro still refuses to listen to the will of his people. They are crying out for their voices to be heard and their rights respected, and we must ensure they are not crying out in vain.

I am proud to cosponsor this legislation with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The reservation is withdrawn.

Is there further objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN)?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 851

Whereas the deterioration of basic governance and the economic crisis in Venezuela have reached deeply troubling levels, which in turn have led to an unprecedented humanitarian situation in Venezuela where millions of people are suffering from severe shortages of essential medicines and basic food products;

Whereas Venezuela lacks more than 80 percent of the basic medical supplies and equipment needed to treat its population, including medicine to treat chronic illnesses and cancer as well as basic antibiotics, and 85 percent of pharmacies are at risk of bankruptcy, according to the Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation;

Whereas, despite the massive shortages of basic foodstuffs and essential medicines, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro has rejected repeated requests from the majority of members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations to bring humanitarian aid into the country;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund assesses that, in Venezuela, inflation reached

275 percent and the gross domestic product contracted 5.7 percent in 2015, and further projects that inflation will reach 720 percent and the gross domestic product will contract an additional 8 percent in 2016;

Whereas Venezuela's political, economic, and humanitarian crisis is fueling social tensions that are resulting in growing incidents of public unrest, looting, and violence among citizens;

Whereas these social distortions are taking place amidst an alarming climate of violence as Caracas continues to have the highest per capita homicide rate in the world at 120 per 100,000 citizens, according to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime;

Whereas the deterioration of governance in Venezuela has been exacerbated by widespread public corruption and the involvement of public officials in illicit narcotics trafficking and related money laundering, which has led to indictments by the United States Department of Justice and ongoing investigations by the United States Department of the Treasury and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

Whereas domestic and international human rights groups recognize more than 85 political prisoners in Venezuela, including opposition leader and former Chacao mayor Leopoldo Lopez, Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, former Zulia governor Manuel Rosales, and former San Cristobal mayor Daniel Ceballos;

Whereas, in December 2015, the people of Venezuela elected the opposition coalition (Mesa de Unidad Democrática) to a two-thirds majority in the unicameral National Assembly, with 112 out of the 167 seats compared with 55 seats for the government's Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela party;

Whereas, in late December 2015, the outgoing National Assembly increased the number of seats in the Supreme Court of Venezuela and confirmed magistrates politically aligned with the Maduro Administration and, thereafter, the expanded Supreme Court has blocked four legislators, including 3 opposition legislators, from taking office;

Whereas, during the first 6 months of the new legislature, the Supreme Court has repeatedly issued politically motivated judgments to overturn legislation passed by the democratically elected National Assembly and block internal legislative procedures;

Whereas, in 2016, President Maduro has utilized emergency and legislative decree powers to bypass the National Assembly, which, alongside the actions of the Supreme Court, have severely undermined the principles of separation of powers in Venezuela;

Whereas, in May 2016, Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro presented a 132-page report outlining grave alterations of the democratic order in Venezuela and invoked Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which calls on the OAS Permanent Council "to undertake a collective assessment of the situation";

Whereas, in June 2016, at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico, President Barack Obama stated, "Given the very serious situation in Venezuela and the worsening plight of the Venezuelan people, together we're calling on the government and opposition to engage in meaningful dialogue and urge the Venezuelan government to respect the rule of law and the authority of the National Assembly"; and

Whereas, at the joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Peña Nieto, President Barack Obama

continued, "Political prisoners should be released. The democratic process should be respected and that includes legitimate efforts to pursue a recall referendum consistent with Venezuelan law." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its profound concern about widespread shortages of essential medicines and basic food products faced by the people of Venezuela, and urges President Maduro to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(2) calls on the Government of Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners, to provide protections for freedom of expression and assembly, and to respect internationally recognized human rights;

(3) supports meaningful efforts towards a dialogue that leads to respect for Venezuela's constitutional mechanisms and resolves the country's political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis;

(4) affirms its support for OAS Secretary General Almagro's invocation of Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and urges the OAS Permanent Council, which represents all of the organization's member states, to undertake a collective assessment of the constitutional and democratic order in Venezuela;

(5) expresses its great concern over the Venezuelan executive's lack of respect for the principle of separation of powers, its overreliance on emergency decree powers, and its subjugation of judicial independence;

(6) calls on the Government of Venezuela and security forces to respect the Constitution of Venezuela, including constitutional provisions that provide Venezuelan citizens with the right to peacefully pursue a fair and timely recall referendum for their President this year if they so choose;

(7) stresses the urgency of strengthening the rule of law and increasing efforts to combat impunity and public corruption in Venezuela, which has bankrupted a resource-rich country, fuels rising social tensions, and contributes to elevated levels of crime and violence; and

(8) urges the President of the United States to provide full support for OAS efforts in favor of constitutional and democratic solutions to the political impasse, and to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of United States law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the text of the resolution at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its profound concern about widespread shortages of essential medicines and basic food products faced by the people of Venezuela, and urges President Maduro to permit the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

(2) calls on the Government of Venezuela to immediately release all political prisoners, including United States citizens, to provide protections for freedom of expression and assembly, and to respect internationally recognized human rights;

(3) supports meaningful efforts towards a dialogue that leads to respect for Ven-

ezuela's constitutional mechanisms and resolves the country's political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis;

(4) affirms its support for OAS Secretary General Almagro's invocation of Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and urges the OAS Permanent Council, which represents all of the organization's member states, to undertake a collective assessment of the constitutional and democratic order in Venezuela;

(5) expresses its great concern over the Venezuelan executive's lack of respect for the principle of separation of powers, its overreliance on emergency decree powers, and its threat to judicial independence;

(6) calls on the Government of Venezuela and security forces to respect the Constitution of Venezuela, including constitutional provisions that provide Venezuelan citizens with the right to peacefully pursue a fair and timely recall referendum for their President this year;

(7) stresses the urgency of strengthening the rule of law and increasing efforts to combat impunity and public corruption in Venezuela, which has bankrupted a resource-rich country, fuels rising social tensions, and contributes to elevated levels of crime and violence;

(8) urges the President of the United States to provide full support for OAS efforts in favor of constitutional and democratic solutions to the political impasse, and to instruct appropriate Federal agencies to hold officials of the Government of Venezuela accountable for violations of United States law and abuses of internationally recognized human rights; and

(9) urges the President to continue to stand in solidarity with the Venezuelan people by urging the Maduro government to—

(A) hold a fair and free recall referendum by the end of this calendar year;

(B) release all political prisoners, including United States citizens, from prison;

(C) adhere to democratic principles; and

(D) permit the delivery of emergency food and medicine.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE OFFERED BY MS. ROS-LEHTINEN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the preamble at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas the deterioration of basic governance and the economic crisis in Venezuela have reached deeply troubling levels, which in turn have led to an unprecedented humanitarian situation in Venezuela where millions of people are suffering from severe shortages of essential medicines and basic food products;

Whereas Venezuela lacks more than 80 percent of the basic medical supplies and equipment needed to treat its population, including medicine to treat chronic illnesses and cancer as well as basic antibiotics, and 85

percent of pharmacies are at risk of bankruptcy, according to the Venezuelan Pharmaceutical Federation;

Whereas, despite the massive shortages of basic foodstuffs and essential medicines, President of Venezuela Nicolas Maduro has rejected repeated requests from the majority of members of the National Assembly and civil society organizations to bring humanitarian aid into the country;

Whereas the International Monetary Fund assesses that, in Venezuela, inflation reached 275 percent and the gross domestic product contracted 5.7 percent in 2015, and further projects that inflation will reach 720 percent and the gross domestic product will contract an additional 8 percent in 2016;

Whereas Venezuela's political, economic, and humanitarian crisis is fueling social tensions that are resulting in growing incidents of public unrest, looting, and violence among citizens;

Whereas these social distortions are taking place amidst an alarming climate of violence as Caracas continues to have the highest per capita homicide rate in the world at 120 per 100,000 citizens, according to the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime;

Whereas the deterioration of governance in Venezuela has been exacerbated by widespread public corruption and the involvement of public officials in illicit narcotics trafficking and related money laundering, which has led to indictments by the United States Department of Justice and ongoing investigations by the United States Department of the Treasury and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

Whereas domestic and international human rights groups recognize more than 85 political prisoners in Venezuela, including United States citizens Francisco Márquez and Josh Holt, opposition leader and former Chacao mayor Leopoldo Lopez, Judge Maria Lourdes Afiuni, Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma, former Zulia governor Manuel Rosales, and former San Cristobal mayor Daniel Ceballos;

Whereas, in December 2015, the people of Venezuela elected the opposition coalition (Mesa de Unidad Democrática) to a two-thirds majority in the unicameral National Assembly, with 112 out of the 167 seats compared with 55 seats for the government's Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela party;

Whereas, in late December 2015, the outgoing National Assembly increased the number of seats in the Supreme Court of Venezuela and confirmed magistrates with the Maduro Administration and, thereafter, the expanded Supreme Court has blocked four legislators, including 3 opposition legislators, from taking office;

Whereas the Supreme Court has repeatedly issued politically motivated judgments to overturn legislation passed by the democratically elected National Assembly and block internal legislative procedures;

Whereas, in 2016, President Maduro has utilized emergency and legislative decree powers to bypass the National Assembly, which, alongside the actions of the Supreme Court, have severely undermined the principles of separation of powers in Venezuela;

Whereas democracy is failing in Venezuela, the Maduro government controls the presidency, a majority of the municipalities, the Supreme Court, the military leadership, the state-owned oil company (PDVSA) leadership, and most of the media;

Whereas the former Presidents of Spain, Panama, and the Dominican Republic have pursued dialogue between President Maduro and the National Assembly;

Whereas, in May 2016, Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro presented a 132-page report outlining grave alterations of the democratic order in Venezuela and invoked Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which calls on the OAS Permanent Council “to undertake a collective assessment of the situation”;

Whereas the countries of Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, and Uruguay called on the Venezuelan Government in June 2016 to “guarantee the exercise of the constitutional rights of the Venezuelan people and that the remaining steps for the realization of the Presidential Recall Referendum be pursued clearly, concretely and without delay”;

Whereas, in June 2016, at a joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico, President Barack Obama stated, “Given the very serious situation in Venezuela and the worsening plight of the Venezuelan people, together we’re calling on the government and opposition to engage in meaningful dialogue and urge the Venezuelan government to respect the rule of law and the authority of the National Assembly.”; and

Whereas, at the joint press conference with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Peña Nieto, President Barack Obama continued, “Political prisoners should be released. The democratic process should be respected and that includes legitimate efforts to pursue a recall referendum consistent with Venezuelan law.”: Now, therefore, be it

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS IN EUGENICS COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1698) to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1698

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act”.

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF PAYMENTS FROM STATE EUGENICS COMPENSATION PROGRAMS FROM CONSIDERATION IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR, OR THE AMOUNT OF, FEDERAL PUBLIC BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, payments made under a State eugenics compensation program shall not be considered as income or resources in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, any Federal public benefit.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) FEDERAL PUBLIC BENEFIT.—The term “Federal public benefit” means—

(A) any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency of the United States or by appropriated funds of the United States; and

(B) any retirement, welfare, health, disability, public or assisted housing, postsecondary education, food assistance, unemployment benefit, or any other similar benefit for which payments or assistance are provided to an individual, household, or family eligibility unit by an agency of the United States or by appropriated funds of the United States.

(2) STATE EUGENICS COMPENSATION PROGRAM.—The term “State eugenics compensation program” means a program established by State law that is intended to compensate individuals who were sterilized under the authority of the State.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 1698, the Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act, introduced by my friend and colleague, Senator THOM TILLIS of North Carolina. Senator BURR and Senator TILLIS have been very active in getting this bill passed through the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1698 is a bipartisan bill that will help victims of State government eugenics campaigns by excluding one-time, eugenics-related, compensation payments from consideration when calculating Federal bene-

fits. In essence, this would ensure that the victims of State-based and State-mandated eugenics programs in the early part of the 20th century—which over 30 States actually had—are not further victimized by being kicked off the social safety net, which many of these victims who are still alive depend on.

Many of these victims are still alive today, as I mentioned. In North Carolina, at least, 220 out of the reported 7,600 victims were still living as of September of last year.

My home State has worked to make amends for those that the State victimized. Our State legislators, now led by Senator TILLIS passed—and the Governor signed—legislation that provided large, one-time compensation payments to victims of eugenics programs that are still alive and still in our society today.

In North Carolina, victims can receive payments from the State government ranging from \$20– to \$45,000. Our State is not alone. Virginia has a similar program, awarding \$25,000 in compensation to each victim of the State’s eugenics programs.

These one-time compensation payments count as normal gross income under current Federal law and could have the unintended effect of increasing some of the victim’s reported income, thereby costing them access to some Federal income-based benefits.

Mr. Speaker, such an outcome is unfair. These individuals have suffered great pain at the hands of their State government and must not be further victimized by losing the important benefits they are receiving today.

The takeaway is that this was a State-created problem and the State owed them compensation, and we should ensure that these individuals are able to get the benefits they need and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, this is important legislation that is bipartisan. I am happy to have the support of my colleague, Representative BUTTERFIELD, a Democrat from North Carolina, representing eastern North Carolina as a cosponsor of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1698, the Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act.

In the early 20th century, over 30 States enacted eugenics and compulsory sterilization laws, resulting in the involuntary sterilization of over 60,000 Americans. These horrendous and discriminatory laws targeted low-income individuals, particularly single mothers, African Americans, children from large families, and people with disabilities.

Recently, two States with the most aggressive eugenics programs, Virginia

and North Carolina, passed State legislation to provide compensation to the living victims of these programs. In 2013, North Carolina set aside \$10 million for compensation payments; and, as of January 2015, the State had awarded approximately \$20,000 to each of the 220 victims. Last year, Virginia passed a bill awarding \$25,000 to each of its surviving eugenics victims.

While these payments are intended to compensate individuals for past wrongs, they may also have the unintended effect of causing victims to lose eligibility for Federal benefits determined by income thresholds. Under current law, victims who receive eugenics compensation could be denied Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, unemployment, or disability benefits should the payments raise their incomes above program eligibility levels.

Most eugenics victims were poor and disadvantaged in the early 20th century, and many remain so today. As such, they rely on these important Federal benefits programs to make ends meet.

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S. 1698 would ensure that State eugenics payments are treated like other medical compensation payments and not included in eligibility determination for Federal benefits. This would guarantee that eugenics victims receive all benefits they rightfully deserve.

We cannot undo the mistakes of the past, but we can do everything in our power to ensure that eugenics victims are not subjected to unfair treatment yet again. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1698.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER).

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 1698, the Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act.

I commend the leadership of my colleagues and friends from the State of North Carolina, Senator TILLIS, Senator BURR, and Representative MCHENRY, on this important bipartisan issue.

Today, we address a dark chapter of the early 20th century in America. Dozens of State governments unjustly and unconscionably operated eugenics programs to sterilize—by force or coercion—individuals they deemed unfit to have children. It ruthlessly targeted the undereducated, the needy, the disabled, and even African Americans.

Thankfully, this shameful practice ended many years ago, but many of its victims are still with us today. While no apology or amount of money or benefit can ever return what was lost, Virginia and our State of North Carolina

recently began restitution payments to victims of this grievous injustice.

Unfortunately, this program resulted in unintended burdens for eugenics victims. The restitution payments currently count as Federal income against eligibility for Federal benefits, such as Medicaid, and may result in the denial of these benefits. Counting these payments as Federal income when they are compensation for this horrendous injustice is not right.

We are considering this important legislation today to close the unintended loophole and ensure the Federal Government does not undermine the efforts of States to provide some amount of restitution to those who were victims of this grave crime of eugenics.

This bill should remind us that every life is precious. I wholeheartedly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with this:

To my colleagues, I would like to thank my Democratic colleagues for being supportive of this bipartisan piece of legislation that originated in the Senate. I would like to commend Senators BURR and TILLIS for their work in getting this important legislation through the United States Senate.

The fact of the matter is we had State-based programs that victimized our population, and that State-based victimization should be righted for those who are living. That was important work of the State legislators in North Carolina that originated this victims' compensation fund in North Carolina. It is important that we do our part for the Federal Government to ensure that those victims are not further victimized by losing their important social safety net programs that are lifesaving for them.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and urge its adoption.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1698.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BOTTLES AND BREASTFEEDING EQUIPMENT SCREENING ACT

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5065) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to notify air carriers and security screening personnel

of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5065

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act".

SEC. 2. TSA SECURITY SCREENING GUIDELINES FOR BABY FORMULA, BREAST MILK, PURIFIED DEIONIZED WATER FOR INFANTS, AND JUICE ON AIRPLANES; TRAINING ON SPECIAL PROCEDURES.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall—

(1) notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United States Code, of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water for infants, and juice on airplanes under the Administration's guidelines known as the 3-1-1 Liquids Rule Exemption; and

(2) in training procedures for security screening personnel of the Administration and private security companies providing security screening pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United States Code, include training on special screening procedures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KATKO for his support and collaboration on this important piece of legislation.

Today, I am excited to support a bipartisan bill that I introduced, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act, or the BABES Act, to ensure that families aren't being penalized for simply trying to travel with supplies and equipment necessary to take care of their babies.

For parents, working moms, and caretakers, air travel can present its

own unique challenges. To accommodate these challenges, the Transportation Security Administration, or TSA, has important exemptions in place that allow passengers to bring breast milk, bottles, and feeding equipment through airport security and on board the aircraft. It exempts them from the 3-1-1 rule.

You can imagine how important this is during longer flights for moms who have to be away from their infants for extended periods of time. I have been in this situation. This is critical.

Unfortunately, although this exemption is in place, we have seen a problem with compliance. There have been too many instances reported by parents that TSA officials either didn't know or simply refused to follow these exemptions. Parents who are trying to follow these rules are consistently singled out for harassment-like scrutiny by TSA. This has led to breast milk being forcibly tossed out, equipment being broken, and flights missed.

Mr. Speaker, a family following TSA's posted regulations shouldn't have to have their breast milk thrown out, shouldn't have to endure the travel nightmare of missing flights while they are traveling with kids because of the lack of training on the agency's part.

The BABES Act is a commonsense measure. It will hold TSA accountable in upholding its own current regulations and standards. I urge adoption of this important legislation.

I include in the RECORD two letters in support of this bill, one from the American Academy of Pediatrics and one from the March of Dimes.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS,
May 17, 2016.

Hon. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HERRERA BEUTLER: On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a professional organization of 64,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, I write to express our appreciation for your efforts to ensure that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) provides adequate support and accommodation for breastfeeding mothers.

The AAP strongly recommends breastfeeding as the preferred feeding method for all infants, including preterm newborn infants. Breastfeeding has proven to have numerous health benefits for both mother and child. Studies show that children who are not breastfed have higher rates of mortality, meningitis, some types of cancers, asthma and other respiratory illnesses, bacterial and viral infections, ear infections, juvenile diabetes, some chronic liver diseases, allergies and obesity. Due to the resounding evidence of improved child health and well-being, AAP recommends that mothers breastfeed exclusively for about the first six months, followed by continued breastfeeding for at least the first year of a child's life as complementary foods are introduced.

Although TSA already permits parents traveling with infants to carry breast milk

and formula on board planes, many parents encounter barriers when traveling with these liquids. The important efforts you've undertaken would help ensure that the TSA is providing ongoing training to its agents to ensure that current guidelines are consistently enforced, thereby helping to guarantee that parents are able to carry the supplies they need to care for their children while traveling.

The Academy is grateful to you for your commitment to the safety and well-being of infants and children and we look forward to working with you and the TSA to ensure consistent and appropriate training and policies that accommodate pregnant and breastfeeding mothers.

Sincerely,

KAREN REMLEY, MD, MBA,
MPH, FAAP,
CEO/Executive Director.

MARCH OF DIMES FOUNDATION,
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,
September 19, 2016.

Hon. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HERRERA BEUTLER: The March of Dimes, a unique collaboration of scientists, clinicians, parents, members of the business community, and other volunteers representing every state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, applauds your efforts to support breastfeeding mothers and offers our endorsement for HR 5065, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening (BABES) Act.

Evidence demonstrates that breastfeeding has a range of significant health benefits for both mother and child. For the infant, the benefits of breastfeeding include protecting the newborn against infections, lowering the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and decreasing the risk for future health problems, including obesity. Unfortunately, many mothers experience obstacles to breastfeeding, including those associated with commercial air travel. The media has reported numerous cases in which women encounter difficulties bringing breastmilk, formula and infant feeding equipment through airport security checkpoints, despite Transit Security Administration (TSA) policies that allow these items in carry-on baggage.

The BABES Act would help eliminate this unnecessary hurdle by directing the TSA to ensure that all agents across the country are appropriately trained on TSA's policies and procedures related to mothers and families traveling with breastmilk, formula and infant feeding equipment. These trainings will help to ensure that agents follow established policies to ensure that women who choose to breastfeed face one less barrier to doing so while travelling.

The March of Dimes appreciates your leadership on this important issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to promote infant health and nutrition.

Sincerely,

DR. JENNIFER L. HOWSE,
President.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act is commonsense legislation introduced by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER). This bill codifies into law a current policy of the TSA to allow formula, breast milk, and juice through

airport screening checkpoints. Although the 3-1-1 liquids rule was put in place to respond to a very real and critical threat to aviation, we must ensure that these restrictions do not interfere with a woman's ability to feed her child.

As a father, a husband, and a brother of five sisters, I know the challenges of providing care to babies; and I know that this challenge is particularly great for traveling mothers who are breastfeeding their children.

This bill would greatly alleviate the restrictions relating to breast milk and allow families to go through checkpoints, with babies, quickly. This bill also gives parents one less thing to worry about on the way to the airport and ensures that the frontline officers at the airport checkpoints receive the proper training on implementing this important exception to a security regulation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5065.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5065, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that those caring for young children are allowed to bring formula, breast milk, juice, and other necessary items through security checkpoints. Transportation Security Administration checkpoint security protocols already allow for this, but there is evidence that confusion about how these liquids are to be handled still exists. H.R. 5065 calls for TSA to ensure that air carriers and screening personnel are made aware of the TSA guidelines for screening these necessities.

I would note that amendments adopted during the full committee markup of these bills made the bill stronger. The committee unanimously accepted amendments offered by Representative RICE, the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, to ensure that this legislation is carried out by TSA in a manner so that its policies are followed whether a mother is traveling through an airport with TSA or with private screening.

Importantly, the committee also adopted an amendment by Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE to clarify that purified deionized water for infants is also allowed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his leadership. Let me thank my good friend from New York for his

leadership, and the author of the legislation as well.

Again, let me compliment the Committee on Homeland Security along with the chairman, Mr. MCCAUL, and the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, because we find many opportunities to work together in a bipartisan manner as it relates to the security of this Nation.

I rise to support the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act, as amended, by Representative HERRERA BEUTLER, H.R. 5065, and again congratulate those who brought this particular legislation forward. I am very grateful that my amendment regarding deionized water passed as an additional aspect of what breastfeeding mothers can bring.

Let me say that although we continue to work on challenges, TSA has been on the front lines of this Nation's safety and security since 9/11 and its creation under a large umbrella, which is the Department of Homeland Security. Our committee has given oversight to this particular agency. We have worked to make sure that we close the loopholes, if you will, for the traveling public.

Aviation is still one of the largest and most attractive targets of terrorists. We understand the responsibility of the Transportation Security Administration and our TSO officers. Their job is not an easy one. We have placed a lot of rules. We had a moment when there were questions of what could be brought through the checkpoint. In this instance, this is both common sense, and these provisions will help innocent Americans traveling with their young, their babies, their wonderful children or grandchildren the opportunity to make sure that they have the items that these children need. We have seen them traveling on our many planes and traveling across the Nation.

I want to support this legislation on the basis of common sense, aviation security, national security, and working together to help our mothers as they travel throughout this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5065 the "Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act" which codifies the practices already in place that allow liquids intended for infants and babies on flights.

I thank my colleague on the Homeland Security Committee Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER for authoring this bill, which requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary to notify Transportation Security Officers and airlines about TSA guidelines permitting baby milk and juice on airplanes and ensure that such special procedures be integrated into TSO security training.

I recall during the weeks and months following the September 11, 2001 attacks as the nation came to terms with the new normal of terrorism there was confusion and difficulty for young parents attempting traveling with infants.

The issues were centered on the liquids that infants and babies needed, which are included in the bill and include breast milk and juice.

During my service as chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation Security, the issue of baby formula was addressed.

The ultimate solution was a change in agency policy as it related to the limitation rule regarding liquids that were required for infants and babies.

H.R. 5065 would codify the practices that the agency has in place.

I am pleased that during the markup, the committee unanimously agreed to add the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 5065 which adds "purified deionized water for infants" which is essential for newborns during the first 3 months of life to the list of allowed liquids for infants and babies who travel on commercial flights.

I thank the Committee's majority and minority staff for working with my staff on this improvement to the underlying bill.

I urge all members to support H.R. 5065.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. If the gentleman from Louisiana has no other speakers, I am prepared to close once the gentleman does.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that this legislation was unanimously supported during full committee consideration. This is one of those areas where Congress, both sides of the aisle, came together to decide to pass a common-sense law to ease mothers and fathers who are traveling with infants, which, let me just say, is a stressful task all within itself.

To the extent that this body can make sure that we protect the traveling public but also enact common-sense rules and laws so that we make it just a little bit easier for those traveling with infants, I think it is a good thing. I am glad we came together. I would urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, once again, I urge Members to support H.R. 5065.

Before I yield back the balance of my time, I want to note what Ms. JACKSON LEE said earlier in her statement, and that is the Committee on Homeland Security does work very well together. Generally, it is a very bipartisan committee working for the common good of keeping this country safe. This is a small example of the cooperation we have on a daily basis. I am proud to be a part of it, proud to work with my colleagues, Mr. RICHMOND and Ms. JACKSON LEE, from the other side of the aisle. I will continue to do that for the good of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5065, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1515

GAINS IN GLOBAL NUCLEAR DETECTION ARCHITECTURE ACT

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5391) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance certain duties of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5391

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act".

SEC. 2. DUTIES OF THE DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE.

Section 1902 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 592) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

"(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (6) of subsection (a), the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office shall—

"(1) develop and maintain documentation, such as a technology roadmap and strategy, that—

"(A) provides information on how the Office's research investments align with—

"(i) gaps in the enhanced global nuclear detection architecture, as developed pursuant to paragraph (4) of such subsection; and

"(ii) research challenges identified by the Director; and

"(B) defines in detail how the Office will address such research challenges;

"(2) document the rationale for prioritizing and selecting research topics; and

"(3) develop a systematic approach, which may include annual metrics and periodic qualitative evaluations, for evaluating how the outcomes of the Office's individual research projects collectively contribute to addressing the Office's research challenges."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be considering H.R. 5391, the Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act of 2016.

H.R. 5391 directs the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, or DNDO, to develop and maintain documentation that provides information on how the Office's research investments align with gaps in the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture as well as the research challenges identified by the DNDO Director.

This bill further directs DNDO to document the rationale for selecting research topics and to develop a systematic approach for evaluating how the outcomes of the Office's individual research projects collectively contribute to addressing these research challenges.

Mr. Speaker, as the attacks in Paris, Brussels, and Turkey have shown, ISIS is accelerating its attacks on innocent people throughout the world. Individuals in this country have been inspired by ISIS to commit heinous acts and crimes on our soil, murdering 49 innocent souls in Orlando, Florida, and 14 more in San Bernardino, California.

Just this summer, 6 men were convicted in Tbilisi, Georgia, of trying to sell uranium-238; and in January, three members of a criminal group were detained for trying to sell cesium-137—both of which could be used to make a dirty bomb.

Mr. Speaker, we must absolutely ensure that terrorists never get their hands on radioactive materials, and this bill will enhance DNDO's ability to provide radiation detection devices specifically aimed at preventing terrorists from being able to obtain enough radioactive material to construct a dirty bomb.

This bill will ensure that the research topics DNDO chooses to invest in to enhance our ability to detect smuggled nuclear materials are aligned with the gaps that have been identified in the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture, a multi-agency framework for detecting, analyzing, and reporting on nuclear and other radioactive materials that are out of regulatory control. Requiring DNDO to document the rationale for choosing research topics

will ensure that the most important gaps in the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture are addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to support this measure today. I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. RICHMOND, and his team for the terrific work they have done to bring this legislation to the floor today. I believe that this bill will better enable this country to detect the smuggling of nuclear materials and will support the very critical mission of preventing ISIS and other terrorists from carrying out a nuclear or radiological attack on American soil. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5391, the Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act. My bipartisan bill was approved unanimously by the Committee on Homeland Security on June 8. I appreciate the support of my ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, and my colleagues across the aisle, Mr. RATCLIFFE and Chairman MCCAUL, in my efforts to advance this legislation.

In nuclear smuggling detection, we rely on the critical triad of intelligence, law enforcement, and technology. The Department of Homeland Security deploys detection technologies in maritime and border operations based on intelligence indicators and places them in the hands of well-trained DHS personnel.

At DHS, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, or DNDO, is responsible for the coordination of Federal efforts to detect and protect against attempts to import, possess, store, develop, or transport radioactive materials that may be used as weapons against our Nation.

DNDO, with its interagency partners, coordinates the U.S. Global Nuclear Detection Architecture, or GNDA, which is a framework for detecting, analyzing, and reporting on the smuggling of nuclear and radioactive materials.

In April 2015, the Government Accountability Office issued a report that looked at how DNDO manages its roughly \$350 million research and development program. The GAO concluded that DNDO needed to do a better job of documenting the rationale for selecting the 189 research and development projects that it funds and how these projects align with the research challenges and identified gaps, especially gaps or vulnerabilities identified in the GNDA.

Subsequently, I introduced the Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act to, among other things, help certify that the planning, selection, and future funding of nuclear detection research and development projects are targeted towards identified gaps in the

GNDA. Such documentation is essential to confirm that DNDO is making the right research investments to keep the Nation secure.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana has 17½ minutes remaining.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman for his legislation. It is very, very astute and a very important initiative, the Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act. Again, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee as well for his leadership. He is a fellow Texan. We meet each other on several committees, but we have the opportunity to work together on these important issues.

Let me just briefly say how important this is. This is a fill-in-the-gap initiative. And the gap can be dangerous. It can be devastating. What it ensures is that we develop and maintain documentation that provides information on how the Office's research investment aligns with gaps in the enhanced Global Nuclear Detection Architecture and with research challenges identified by the Director, and that defines in detail how the Office will address such research challenges.

I have real life, if you will, examples, in the community that I come from. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, the maritime border has 95,000 miles of shoreline and 361 seaports. One of those happens to be the Port of Houston.

Ocean transportation accounts for 95 percent of cargo tonnage that moves in and out of the country with 8,588 commercial vessels making 82,044 port calls in 2015. In my community alone, Houston, Texas, has a 25-mile maritime line.

In the Port of Houston, as we were ranked one of the first in foreign tonnage with 46 percent of market share by tonnage, we know what challenges come about in the potential of cargo being, if you will, exploited by putting in dangerous elements dealing with nuclear equipment.

So the idea of Homeland Security focusing on, as this legislation says, gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture, is crucial to supporting the Nation's ports, securing the Nation's tonnage, and securing the Nation.

The Securing the Cities Act was legislation that related to the idea of nuclear detection and interdiction of radiological materials. Just last year, the city of Houston was awarded an initial Securing the Cities grant of \$3.5 million as the initial installment of a \$30 million grant payable over 5 years.

This is a very important aspect of nuclear detection. This legislation is a

great partner to filling in the gap. The grant that we received in Houston was funded through the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program, which I cosponsored and truly believe is a major element of protection for our cities around the Nation.

This is, again, a potentially devastating impact if some nuclear materials were able to come into a port, come into an airport, come into our communities. I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 5391, Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act, to be able to provide more security to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in strong support of H.R. 5391, the Gains in Global Nuclear Detection Architecture Act, which will address the threat of nuclear weapons or unapproved material materials from entering the country.

I thank my colleague on the Homeland Security Congressman CEDRIC RICHMOND for authoring this bill, which requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, when conducting research and development to generate and improve technologies to detect and prevent the illicit entry, transport, assembly, or potential use within the United States of a nuclear explosive device or fissile or radiological material, to: develop and maintain documentation that provides information on how the Office's research investments align with gaps in the enhanced global nuclear detection architecture and with research challenges identified by the Director, and that defines in detail how the Office will address such research challenges; document the rational for prioritizing and selecting research topics; and develop a systematic approach for evaluating how the outcomes of the Office's individual research projects collectively contribute to addressing its research challenges.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, and serving as a member of this body representing the Houston area, which is home to one of our nation's busiest ports this topic is of great concern to me.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation the U.S. maritime border covers 95,000 miles of shoreline with 361 seaports.

Ocean transportation accounts for 95 percent of cargo tonnage that moves in and out of the country, with 8,588 commercial vessels making 82,044 port calls in 2015.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2012 ship channel-related businesses contribute 1,026,820 jobs and generate more than \$178.5 billion in statewide economic impact.

In 2014, the Port of Houston was ranked among U.S. ports: 1st in foreign tonnage, Largest Texas port with 46% of market share by tonnage and 95% market share in containers by total TEUS in 2014, Largest Gulf Coast container port, handling 67% of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2014, 2nd ranked U.S. port in terms of total foreign cargo

value (based on U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census).

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), reports that this port, and its waterways, and vessels are part of an economic engine handling more than \$700 billion in merchandise annually.

The Port of Houston houses approximately 100 steamship lines offering services that link Houston with 1,053 ports in 203 countries.

The Port of Houston has \$15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest worldwide.

These statistics clearly communicate the potential for a terrorist attack using nuclear or radiological material may in some estimations be low, but should an attack occur the consequences would be catastrophic, and for this reason we cannot be lax in our efforts to deter, detect and defeat attempts by terrorists to perpetrate such a heinous act of terrorism.

DHS plays an essential role in domestic defense against the potential smuggling of a weapon of mass destruction in a shipping container or the use of a bomb-laden small vessel to carry out an attack at a port.

I was pleased to have been one of the lead sponsors of the "Securing the Cities Act," when it was introduced in 2006 and reauthorized in 2010 and 2015.

The "Securing the Cities Act," mandated that DHS's Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection to create a Securing the Cities program.

The purpose of the "Securing the Cities Program" mandated by the legislation is to:

1. Assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in creating and implementing, or perfecting existing structures for coordinated and integrated detection and interdiction of nuclear or other radiological materials that are out of regulatory control;
2. Support the creation of a region-wide operating capability to identify and report on nuclear and other radioactive materials out of operational control;
3. Provide resources to improve detection, analysis, communication, and organization to better integrate state, local, tribal, and territorial property into federal operations;
4. Facilitate the establishment of protocol and processes to effectively respond to threats posed by nuclear or radiological materials being acquired or used by terrorists; and
5. Designate participating jurisdictions from among high-risk urban areas and other cities and regions, as appropriate, and notify Congress at least three days before designating or changing such jurisdictions.

The 18th Congressional District of Texas, which I represent, is centered in the Houston area, the 4th largest city in the United States and home to over 2 million residents.

Last year the City of Houston was awarded an initial "Securing the Cities" grant of \$3.5 million by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as the initial installment of a \$30 million grant payable over 5 years.

This grant is funded through the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program, which I cosponsored and have strongly supported throughout my tenure on the Homeland Security Committee.

The grant funding enables the City of Houston and its partners to work with DHS's Do-

mestic Nuclear Office to build a robust, regional nuclear detection capability for law enforcement and first responder organizations.

This is an important joint local and federal effort to increase the ability of major urban cities to detect and protect against radiological and nuclear threats.

The DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office provides equipment and assistance to regional partners in conducting training and exercises to further their nuclear detection capabilities and coordinate with federal operations.

Unfortunately, the age of terrorism makes this a more dangerous and uncertain time than the decades following World War II when nation/state nuclear arsenals were being created.

Nuclear threats are more perilous than what our nation faced during the Cold War because these threats come from non-state actors who often do not have the same level of concern for the wellbeing of their people who may face the consequences of a nuclear attack against the United States.

This is why this legislation is needed to address the real threat of loose nuclear material and the possibility that it might find its way into the hands of terrorists or criminals.

It is important that we remain constantly vigilant on the issue of nuclear threats that are present in our world today.

H.R. 5391, is an essential tool to add to the work being done by DHS to deter, detect, mitigate and defend against domestic nuclear threats.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 5391.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 5391, would help verify that DHS carefully prioritizes research and development projects to actually close identified vulnerability gaps in the Global Nuclear Detection Architecture.

Across the Federal Government, our goal is to prevent nuclear terrorism by making it an excessively difficult undertaking for our adversaries. Getting research and development right at DND is critical to that effort.

I would urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5391.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I, once again, would like to commend and congratulate my friend, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), for this very important national security bill.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5391.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RATCLIFFE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5391, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CO-OP CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 893, I call up the bill (H.R. 954) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program, as amended, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 893, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 954

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "CO-OP Consumer Protection Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM INDIVIDUAL MANDATE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD COVERAGE UNDER A TERMINATED HEALTH PLAN FUNDED THROUGH THE CONSUMER OPERATED AND ORIENTED PLAN (CO-OP) PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 5000A(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN HEALTH PLANS FUNDED THROUGH THE CONSUMER OPERATED AND ORIENTED PLAN (CO-OP) PROGRAM.—Any applicable individual for any month if—

“(A) such individual was enrolled in minimum essential coverage offered by a qualified non-profit health insurance issuer (as defined in subsection (c) of section 1322 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18042)) receiving funds with respect to such coverage through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan program established under such section,

“(B) during the calendar year which includes such month, such issuer terminated such coverage in the area in which the individual resides, and

“(C) such month ends after the date on which such coverage was so terminated.”.

(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to months beginning after December 31, 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska.

□ 1530

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 954, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act.

H.R. 954 is a simple bill rooted in fairness. If you are a consumer who complied with the Federal mandate to obtain health insurance coverage and your coverage was terminated midyear because the Consumer Oriented and Operated Plan, or CO-OP, you bought your plan from collapsed, you shouldn't be liable for the individual mandate penalty for the remainder of that calendar year.

I don't need to spend a lot of time on the history of the CO-OP program, but just very briefly, more than \$2 billion, largely in the form of low-interest, startup, and solvency loans, was distributed to approved CO-OPs under the ACA.

Now, 17 of the 23 CO-OPs, which received more than \$1.7 billion of those dollars, have closed or are in the process of closing, with the remaining six also struggling to remain solvent.

The 17th CO-OP to announce its closure was Health Republic of New Jersey, which announced it would be winding down prior to the 2017 plan year 2 weeks ago, just days after we marked up this bill in the Ways and Means Committee.

The first CO-OP to close was Co-Opportunity Health, which sold plans covering 120 Nebraskans and Iowans in 2014 before being taken over by the Iowa Department of Insurance late that year.

While health providers in Nebraska and Iowa were made whole for services provided to CoOpportunity planholders through the States' guaranty funds, consumers, and the remaining insurers in the two States are now paying back the guaranty funds for those costs.

Similar situations have played out in other States covered by collapsed CO-OPs, including States like New York, Oregon, Ohio, and Illinois, where planholders lost coverage midyear.

When CoOpportunity collapsed, I heard from nearly 300 constituents with concerns about what this loss of coverage meant to them and their finances. The vast majority of these people wanted to have health insurance coverage and did buy new coverage, but were concerned a brief lapse would still lead to them paying a penalty.

The other side will tell you this bill is unnecessary because these people were provided a special enrollment period and could already apply for a hardship exemption. Most Nebraskans took advantage of that special enrollment. I still heard from many of them that the likelihood of accidentally incurring a tax penalty was at the front of their minds during this period of time.

There are already more than 20 exemptions to the individual mandate in the law. Those who lost insurance through no fault of their own after doing their best to follow the law and whose unique circumstances led them not to seek new coverage for the remainder of the year should not be forced to file additional paperwork and rely on the opinion of a bureaucrat to ensure they aren't subject to a tax penalty. And they certainly shouldn't have to worry about this additional tax, while also searching among very limited options for a new insurance plan.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge there is broad disagreement about the individual mandate. This bill isn't about that. It is about ensuring a small fraction of consumers in a small number of States who did their very best to comply with the law don't have to worry about the threat of a tax penalty. It is also about ensuring if any remaining CO-OPs are terminated midyear in the future that those consumers have one less concern than Nebraskans had last year.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill before us today is yet another attempt to undermine the Affordable Care Act, plain and simple. In fact, it is now the 65th such attempt by Republicans since the ACA was signed into law.

There is no denying that the ACA has provided quality, affordable health coverage to more than 20 million previously uninsured Americans. And importantly, individuals can no longer be denied coverage, as they could in the past, for preexisting conditions like high blood pressure or diabetes.

And thanks to the ACA, a new survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the number of uninsured Americans has fallen to just 8.6 percent, the lowest level ever recorded. Let's also not forget that over the last few years, healthcare costs have been growing at the slowest rate in more than 50 years, according to the Council of Economic Advisers. And the ACA improved Medicare's coverage for prescription medicines and preventive care for seniors.

This bill undermines the individual responsibility provision of the ACA, which is important in making many of its benefits possible, including no one being denied coverage, no preexisting conditions, and no gender discrimination.

There are provisions in the ACA to provide when coverage is interrupted in the middle of a policy. In cases of CO-OP closures during a policy year, there is the ACA provision of a special enrollment period, SEP, to allow individuals to continue to have coverage.

The Department of Health and Human Services indicates that each individual affected by a midyear CO-OP closure was contacted at least 20 times, providing individuals with additional plan choices they could enroll in during the special enrollment period. All individuals in States with midyear CO-OP closures had additional choices available to them.

And in instances where a purchasing plan needed to be undertaken and would be financially difficult, these individuals could also apply for a hardship exemption from the individual mandate penalty. HHS has a number of avenues for individuals to apply for an exemption for a variety of life circumstances where premiums are a financial burden.

The Joint Committee on Taxation scored this bill using a generic model, since there was no available data on the number of individuals potentially impacted.

Every step of the way, every step of the way, Republicans have worked to undermine CO-OPs and ensure their failure. Republicans were responsible for the severe reductions in the amount of money available to the CO-OPs from Federal loans and strict limits to risk corridor payments. CO-OPs that misestimated the risk pool should have been eligible for risk stabilization payments to help weather the early years of an unknown market, but the Republicans made sure those stabilizing funds would not be available as part of their effort to kill the ACA with a thousand cuts.

The American Academy of Actuaries noted that weakening the individual mandate, as this bill would do, will lead to both higher premium costs for patients and higher costs to the Federal Government.

BlueCross and BlueShield, one of the largest insurers in the Nation, agrees that exemptions from the mandate will drive prices higher.

We know that this bill will not be signed into law. This morning, the White House released its Statement of Administration Policy on this legislation, stating:

“The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 954. The Administration remains committed to providing Americans with accessible, quality, and affordable health coverage, including by addressing issues that arise when their health insurers stop offering coverage during the year. In such circumstances, the Administration has offered special enrollment periods, provided consumer outreach, and worked with state departments of in-

surance to ensure consumers have smooth transitions to other health plans. Individuals for whom coverage is unaffordable or who experience a hardship also may qualify for an exemption from the individual-responsibility provision of the law. These options are available to all consumers in these circumstances, not just those enrolled in coverage through CO-OPs.

“H.R. 954 would exempt anyone whose CO-OP ends coverage during the year from the individual-responsibility provision. This is unnecessary given consumer protections already available. Moreover, it would create a bad precedent for using exemptions from the individual-responsibility provision to address unrelated concerns about the Affordable Care Act. The individual-responsibility provision is a necessary part of a system that prohibits discrimination against individuals with pre-existing conditions and requires guaranteed issuance. The provision helps prevent people from waiting until they get sick to buy health insurance or dropping health insurance when they believe they do not need it. Weakening the individual responsibility provision would increase health insurance premiums and decrease the number of Americans with coverage.

“The Administration always is willing to work with the Congress on fiscally responsible ways to further improve health care affordability and the Affordable Care Act. The President’s budget offers a number of proposals to do so. However, H.R. 954 would be a step in the wrong direction, because it would create a precedent that undermines a key part of the law and would do nothing to help middle-class families obtain affordable health care.

“If the President were presented with H.R. 954, he would veto the bill.”

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 954—CO-OP CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2016—REP. SMITH, R-NE, AND SEVEN COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly opposes House passage of H.R. 954. The Administration remains committed to providing Americans with accessible, quality, and affordable health coverage, including by addressing issues that arise when their health insurers stop offering coverage during the year. In such circumstances, the Administration has offered special enrollment periods, provided consumer outreach, and worked with state departments of insurance to ensure consumers have smooth transitions to other health plans. Individuals for whom coverage is unaffordable or who experience a hardship also may qualify for an exemption from the individual-responsibility provision of the law. These options are available to all consumers in these circumstances, not just those enrolled in coverage through CO-OPs.

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dress unrelated concerns about the Affordable Care Act. The individual-responsibility provision is a necessary part of a system that prohibits discrimination against individuals with pre-existing conditions and requires guaranteed issuance. The provision helps prevent people from waiting until they get sick to buy health insurance or dropping health insurance when they believe they do not need it. Weakening the individual responsibility provision would increase health insurance premiums and decrease the number of Americans with coverage.

The Administration always is willing to work with the Congress on fiscally responsible ways to further improve health care affordability and the Affordable Care Act. The President’s Budget offers a number of proposals to do so. However, H.R. 954 would be a step in the wrong direction, because it would create a precedent that undermines a key part of the law and would do nothing to help middle-class families obtain affordable health care.

If the President were presented with H.R. 954, he would veto the bill.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I certainly will reflect briefly on the comments of my colleague across the aisle who says that all of the problems have been worked out, that all the provisions have been met, and that anyone who lost their coverage, through no fault of their own, would find an exemption or a consideration from the bureaucracy.

I just want to say that Americans who have lost their coverage certainly deserve certainty that they won’t be subject to the penalties when they lost their coverage, and not just promises that the Federal Government might take into consideration their situation.

There had been many characterizations of how easy enrollment would be some time ago. It hasn’t worked out that way.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker since ObamaCare passed, we have seen nothing but major problems: higher costs, higher premium costs, higher out-of-pocket costs, network disruptions, and coverage disruptions.

Just 2 years after the implementation of ObamaCare, the Louisiana Health Cooperative closed its doors. Actual 2014 enrollment in the CO-OP was less than half of estimated enrollment: 13,000 midyear in 2014, compared to the 28,100 projected. By December 2014, those numbers had dropped significantly, the highest percentage loss among all the Nation’s 23 CO-OPs during that period.

Over 7,000 Louisianans complied with ACA’s individual mandate by purchasing health insurance through one of the CO-OPs created under the law, but their plan was terminated midyear by the failure of that CO-OP.

Now, let’s just have some common sense here. This was no fault of the

good men and women who put their faith and put their hard-earned premium dollars into this CO-OP. They enrolled, as required by law. And it is just wrong, it is wrong to hold these working families financially responsible for the cost of a CO-OP's failure because it went under due to factors out of their control.

Mr. SMITH's bill is very narrowly crafted to provide this kind of relief. It is a commonsense bill. It helps people who are struggling with these costs, many of whom have lost employment and everything else.

That is why I support the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act. This is really important legislation that will help Americans across this country who have been harmed, harmed by ObamaCare's closing of these CO-OPs. It is not their fault. We should provide them with some relief under difficult economic conditions.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is common sense. It is narrowly crafted, and it is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do.

□ 1545

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), the ranking member on the Health Subcommittee of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a piece of advice to my Republican colleagues. Be careful what you wish for because you may get it, because, despite this newfound compassion for consumers, if you listen to these crocodile tears flowing out here, you would think they really cared. The truth is Republicans wanted the CO-OPs to fail from the very start. For years, they have systematically undermined the program and made it virtually impossible for CO-OPs across this country to succeed.

Now, let's look exactly at what they did, because that is a pretty hard thing I am saying. Back in 2013, under Republican leadership, Congress slashed the funding for loans and grants to CO-OPs by nearly two-thirds. The President set it at one level and the Republicans said: No, we will give you one-third of it. So they cut it from the very start. That devastated the program during the early days and denied consumers access to dozens of new plan choices in the marketplace.

But they didn't stop there. They were determined they were going to get those CO-OPs. In 2014, the Republicans inserted a rider in the CR/omnibus bill. This blocked the administration from shifting discretionary funding—discretionary funding—into the ACA's risk corridor program which they disingenuously—the Republicans—called an insurance company bailout. The truth is that this rider was a deliberate effort to destabilize CO-OPs which were tak-

ing on new populations under the ACA. It isn't only the CO-OPs, but it is also the small insurers.

It cut risk corridor payments to one-eighth. The President put in a dollar, the Republicans put in 12 cents, and that devastated CO-OPs. It created unpredictability, and small insurers have also got their problems and are now raising rates. With the deck stacked against them, it is no wonder that so many fledgling CO-OPs struggled. They were a victim of a partisan political attack that they simply couldn't withstand. They didn't have the money.

Now, my Republican colleagues didn't do this out of ignorance. They did it out of malice because they knew the importance of risk mitigation. They knew exactly what they were doing. In fact, when they wanted to make their own insurance program work—put in a few years before called part D of Medicare—the Republicans embraced risk management with open arms. In 2003, when President Bush's Medicare part D bill incorporated risk management measures, they were nearly identical—nearly identical—to the ones in the ACA.

But unlike the ACA, they funded those measures very generously. In fact, as the part D market—the drug market—fully stabilized, many experts have been saying that the risk management measures could now be scaled back or revised. Yet, once the Republicans give money to somebody, they continue to fund it generously, funneling millions—billions, actually—into part D plan sponsors even if they don't need it. They are giving it to the drug companies. But they wouldn't give it to the CO-OPs. The drug companies they love, but the CO-OPs they hated, so they took it away.

Now, talk about an insurance company bailout. Of course, the Affordable Care Act hasn't received the same treatment. Instead, we are prepared today to vote again to undermine the law weakening the individual mandate with yet another carve-out. Republicans somehow believe you can put together a healthcare system and only take in the sick, I guess. You can't have an individual mandate that everybody has to be a part of it.

So this bill raises many questions, but we never even had a hearing on it. They didn't want anybody to come in and testify about what this bill was going to do or what it might do or what it has done or what it will do. They simply rammed it through the Ways and Means Committee. One member wanted it, and one member had one story from one place in this country and said this is a bill we need.

We don't actually know how many people might have paid the individual mandate because they didn't enroll in coverage following the midyear CO-OP collapse, but we do know one thing: this bill will weaken the individual mandate.

It seems like a small change, and I admit it is a small change, but if you go down this road—the Chinese say death by 1,000 cuts. This is the first cut or the second cut or whichever one you want. They are threatening the sustainability of the entire health insurance industry. We know this because, in Washington State, we have seen it.

When you try to provide universal coverage but don't have a mandate, the system simply doesn't work. We tried it in Washington State in 1993. We had an individual mandate and everybody had to have insurance and so forth, and then the Republicans in Washington State decided let's take out the individual mandate. The result was a disaster. Healthy people couldn't get covered, and premiums spiked out of control, creating a death spiral that devastated the individual insurance market.

By 1999, not one single insurer in the United States of America was selling individual policies in the State of Washington because of taking away that individual mandate. This was a catastrophe for everyone: doctors, hospitals, insurers, and most importantly for consumers like the person that we heard the story about that we all feel it is too bad it happened. But they created it. They created the facts that made it happen.

So when my Republican colleagues put forward a bill to weaken the mandate under the guise of helping consumers, I have a hard time believing it because their record is clear. After more than 60 votes to deny Americans health coverage—they tried to repeal ObamaCare over and over and over and over and so on—years of systematic sabotage of the CO-OPs and today's crocodile tears about the plight of CO-OP consumers, it is downright impossible to take them seriously. The Members in this body should vote "no."

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the RECORD to reflect that hearings have taken place that have included the subject matter of the CO-OPs. In fact, I recall the chief of staff from HHS came before the Ways and Means Committee, and we had a rather extended discussion on the CO-OPs, CoOpportunity Health, and the numerous others that have failed; but, more importantly, it is crucial to establish the record on the risk corridor.

The gentleman from Washington stated that it is Republicans who designed this to fail. Number one, Republicans are not responsible for the design of any part of this. Interestingly enough, we were told by the administration, and, in fact, the administration is on record, that the risk corridor program was intended to be operated on a revenue-neutral basis, that is, risk corridor payments would be offset by

payments collected by other insurers. Congress simply acted, and I would add, on a bipartisan basis to codify that very statement.

In fact, I include in the RECORD an April 2014 memo from CMS, from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, explaining how risk corridor funding would be prorated if receipts were insufficient to meet requests.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES,
Washington, DC., April 11, 2014.

RISK CORRIDORS AND BUDGET NEUTRALITY

Q1: In the MIS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2015 final rule (79 FR 13744) and the Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and Beyond NPRM (79 FR 15808), HHS indicated that it intends to implement the risk corridors program in a budget neutral manner. What risk corridors payments will HHS make if risk corridors collections for a year are insufficient to fund risk corridors payments for the year, as calculated under the risk corridors formula?

A1: We anticipate that risk corridors collections will be sufficient to pay for all risk corridors payments. However, if risk corridors collections are insufficient to make risk corridors payments for a year, all risk corridors payments for that year will be reduced pro rata to the extent of any shortfall. Risk corridors collections received for the next year will first be used to pay off the payment reductions issuers experienced in the previous year in a proportional manner, up to the point where issuers are reimbursed in full for the previous year, and will then be used to fund current year payments. If, after obligations for the previous year have been met, the total amount of collections available in the current year is insufficient to make payments in that year, the current year payments will be reduced pro rata to the extent of any shortfall. If any risk corridors funds remain after prior and current year payment obligations have been met, they will be held to offset potential insufficiencies in risk corridors collections in the next year.

Example 1: For 2014, HHS collects \$800 million in risk corridors charges, and QHP issuers seek \$600 million risk corridors payments under the risk corridors formula. HHS would make the \$600 million in risk corridors payments for 2014 and would retain the remaining \$200 million for use in 2015 and potentially 2016 in case of a shortfall.

Example 2: For 2015, HHS collects \$700 million in risk corridors charges, but QHP issuers seek \$1 billion in risk corridors payments under the risk corridors formula. With the \$200 million in excess charges collected for 2014, HHS would have a total of \$900 million available to make risk corridors payments in 2015. Each QHP issuer would receive a risk corridors payment equal to 90 percent of the calculated amount of the risk corridors payment, leaving an aggregate risk corridors shortfall of \$100 million for benefit year 2015. This \$100 million shortfall would be paid for from risk corridors charges collected for 2016 before any risk corridors payments are made for the 2016 benefit year.

Q2: What happens if risk corridors collections do not match risk corridors payments in the final year of risk corridors?

A2: We anticipate that risk corridors collections will be sufficient to pay for all risk corridors payments over the life of the three-year program. However, we will establish in

future guidance or rulemaking how we will calculate risk corridors payments if risk corridors collections (plus any excess collections held over from previous years) do not match risk corridors payments as calculated under the risk corridors formula for the final year of the program.

Q3: If HHS reduces risk corridors payments for a particular year because risk corridors collections are insufficient to make those payments, how should an issuer's medical loss ratio (MLR) calculation account for that reduction?

A3: Under 45 CFR 153.710(g)(1)(iv), an issuer should reflect in its MLR report the risk corridors payment to be made by HHS as reflected in the notification provided under 153.510(d). Because issuers will submit their risk corridors and MLR data simultaneously, issuers will not know the extent of any reduction in risk corridors payments when submitting their MLR calculations. As detailed in 45 CFR 153.710(g)(2), that reduction should be reflected in the next following MLR report. Although it is possible that not accounting for the reduction could affect an issuer's rebate obligations, that effect will be mitigated in the initial year because the MLR ratio is calculated based on three years of data, and will be eliminated by the second year because the reduction will be reflected. We intend to provide more guidance on this reporting in the future.

Q4: In the 2015 Payment Notice, HHS stated that it might adjust risk corridors parameters up or down in order to ensure budget neutrality. Will there be further adjustments to risk corridors in addition to those indicated in this FAQ?

A4: HHS believes that the approach outlined in this FAQ is the most equitable and efficient approach to implement risk corridors in a budget neutral manner. However, we may also make adjustments to the program for benefit year 2016 as appropriate.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Nebraska for yielding some time.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that we talk about crocodile tears. There is nothing of the sort on this side of the aisle. Frankly, I find it fascinating because, when I talk to some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they recognize that there are issues and problems with the Affordable Care Act. Premiums have gone through the roof, deductibles are sky-high, and families are paying more and more each and every day in order to be able to provide health insurance for their families.

People say: I want to help fix, let's try to help fix. This is a very narrowly tailored bill, Mr. Speaker.

Let me tell you what this bill is not. This bill is not something that will abolish the individual mandate—far from it, far from abolishing the individual mandate.

Rising healthcare costs and uncertainty are plaguing communities and families across our country. In Illinois, the Land of Lincoln CO-OP collapsed in July, resulting in 49,000 people across the State losing their coverage. Now these families will need to switch plans

and risk losing access to their doctors or pay a tax penalty at the end of the year, which will put affordability of quality care even further out of reach.

Mr. Speaker, here is just one example that I have heard from one of my constituents. They were paying nearly \$2,500 a month in premiums through the Land of Lincoln plan. Their family paid \$2,700 in their deductible and even put \$5,000 toward their out-of-pocket maximum. Now they are being forced, because it has gone away, to start back at zero. The plan ends on October 1.

So what this narrowly tailored bill would do, Mr. Speaker, is it would basically say, if you can't find a plan, if for some reason you don't get the memo back from the bureaucrat that you are not going to get a tax bill, it still requires that same family, come January 1, to go get insurance. But what we want to do is we want to say to these families that, if indeed you have not gotten your insurance in those 2 months, that you will not be given a tax penalty by the IRS.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Illinois an additional 1 minute.

Mr. DOLD. Here is the bottom line, Mr. Speaker. Families like the one that I just mentioned all across Illinois are already losing their healthcare coverage. The absolute least we can do is help them get through this year by providing relief from a costly tax penalty.

The insurance that they lost, they lost through no fault of their own. They were doing the right things because they want coverage for their families. The least that we can do for these next couple of months—or should another CO-OP in the future fail mid-year—is not give them a tax penalty from the IRS.

Moving forward, I remain focused on working with everyone who is willing to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work needed to drive down costs, increase access to quality care, and make our healthcare system work for everyone.

Mr. LEVIN. I yield myself 1 minute, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to the gentleman from Illinois that the last thing the Republicans have wanted to do is to work with us to make ACA work better—the last thing. Instead, they have, time and time again, tried to destroy ACA.

In Illinois, there are nine carriers providing health insurance. If there is an interruption, whether it is a CO-OP or another plan, under ACA, there is a special period available for people to obtain a different insurance—nine different carriers.

Essentially, what this is is an effort to destroy a provision that is so important to making healthcare reform viable. That is my answer to the gentleman from Illinois.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Before I speak, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman. He has seen a problem, he has listened to his constituents, and he is doing something about it—exactly what we expect from our statesmen.

Mr. Speaker, ObamaCare is collapsing all around us. Insurers are backing out, people can't afford the premiums, and even heavily subsidized CO-OPs are crashing. More than \$2 billion were funneled into 23 CO-OPs across the country: 16 have gone under or are about to go under; the other 7 are just treading water.

Now, what does that mean? That means people who had insurance, who purchased it just as ObamaCare forced them to do, were left in the lurch when the CO-OP they got and the insurance failed. Now, that is bad enough. This is just another way the promise that all of us were told "if you like your plan, you can keep it" was broken. So these people are left without insurance through no fault of their own, insurance they were forced to buy.

What is the response? What does ObamaCare say? Tax them. Tax them for not having insurance.

Now, I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but isn't that a little crazy? How can you punish people for not having insurance when the CO-OP they bought their insurance from goes under? It is bad enough people are left without insurance because of the failures of ObamaCare; but why should we have the IRS punish them on top of that?

□ 1600

Frankly, you don't solve problems by kicking people when they are down. Representative ADRIAN SMITH's bill would stop this. Government shouldn't be in the business of taxing people when they lose their insurance, especially when the CO-OP they used failed.

Nothing less than replacing ObamaCare will stop all of the havoc it is causing. In the meantime, we have an obligation to offer relief to the people hurt by this law.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), my colleague from the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his work on this issue.

I think we have to go back in history a little bit on this. ObamaCare was passed into law, signed into law, in

2010. A part of that law, by the way, we had to wait until it passed so we could read it and find out what all was in it established this CO-OP program. The way the law was written, it allowed CMS to go in and put in place the terms of the loans for the CO-OP program.

Now, our colleague from Washington said it was the fault of Congress. I want to remind you that we did not do the loan terms that have been so onerous. That was done through the rule-making process by CMS. The way they set this up put the CO-OPs at a disadvantage from the start. As a result of this, we are seeing these plan failures. This is a mandate that is crumbling under its own weight, the weight of the mandate, coupled with the way CMS has handled the terms of these loans.

Now, the Energy and Commerce Committee, where I serve as vice chair, had released a report earlier this month looking at the failures of these CO-OPs and the investigation that we have had on this. The report reviewed CMS' mismanagement of this program.

Closures of these CO-OPs have left consumers scrambling for health insurance. It gives them fewer options. It provides them with less affordable choices. So the Affordable Care Act becomes unaffordable for millions of Americans. Eight million of that 20 million had insurance from their employer. They were perfectly happy. All of a sudden they are thrown into a program, and now the insured goes out of business. Fewer choices.

Even in my State of Tennessee, our insurance commissioner, Julie McPeak, testified before the Energy and Commerce Committee about the burdens of CO-OPs and the failures that it has brought about on our State regulators and our communities.

When Tennessee's CO-OP, the Community Health Alliance Mutual Insurance Company, failed approximately 27,000 Tennesseans, they were all forced to find new plans. Only 6 of the original 23 CO-OPs remain. I will tell my colleagues that this is what you call a false hope. It did not work. It made the situation worse.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. A recent HHS-OIG report found that the remaining CO-OPs are becoming financially insolvent. They are looking as if they, too, are going to go the way of the others that have failed. Not only does the failure of CO-OPs waste tax dollars, it also leaves individuals in the lurch.

I am pleased that this legislation is coming before us. It implements our committee's recommendation by ensuring that individuals who make a

good faith effort to comply with the individual mandate are not further punished as a result of a CO-OP's failure.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

As we have outlined—the administration has likewise—there are provisions when policies are interrupted, whether it is CO-OPs or otherwise, in the law for people to take advantage of, in the law that you want to destroy.

Let me just mention, in terms of Nebraska, there are 45,000 people in Nebraska who are not covered by Medicaid because of the failure of the government there to access. In Tennessee, there are 180,000 people—180,000. You talk about hopes. Those are people who had hopes, and the government essentially thumbed their nose at those hopes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a distinguished member of our committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LEVIN. I appreciate his courtesy and I appreciate his focus on the challenges inherent with the legislation we have before us.

If people want to understand why we are having problems under the Affordable Care Act, this is a great example. Every single major piece of legislation, to my knowledge, landmark legislation, has required fine tuning and modification. That has generally been the spirit where people in both parties move forward to try and deal with occasional oversights, areas to improve mistakes, and opportunities to make it better.

What we have seen for 6 years under the Affordable Care Act is that there has been an entirely different mind-set. It was to try and make it worse. It was to try and undercut it. I think my count is that this is the 65th time there has been an attempt to repeal all or part of the Affordable Care Act.

It is pretty stark what this has produced. We have—and it is unassailable—the lowest uninsured rate in America right now. In fact, some of the 19 States that have refused the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, even there has been a reduction because of the availability of subsidies to help make it affordable.

The insurance policies that people have are fundamentally better. You can no longer deny coverage for pre-existing conditions. I thought at the time that Members of Congress should have declared a conflict of interest because I think virtually all of us would have been subjected to problems getting insurance if they were denied on the basis of preexisting conditions.

What we have seen from the outset is that people refused during the legislative process itself to be able to have the give-and-take of a conference committee. Because Republicans refused to legislate, it had to be adopted under

the reconciliation process. And then for 6 consecutive years, no refinement, no adjustment, just steadily chipping away.

Now, I have a couple of CO-OPs in my district. Those were an interesting addition to try and add some additional competition in a model that would not be for-profit insurance. They were given, under the existing legislation, access to a risk corridor to try and even out premiums because we knew it would be impossible with all of the moving pieces for people to be able to very precisely determine exactly what the rates should be. So there was some give, there was some adjustment, for the risk corridors to be able to have additional resources for people who hadn't quite gotten it right.

That was envisioned under the initial act. It was something that insurance companies in Oregon thought that Congress would keep its word. They planned accordingly. Unfortunately, the junior Senator, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), in the 2014 omnibus stripped out that language. It really didn't get the attention that it deserved at the time, and that was a big piece of legislation that was rumbling through, pressed for time, and not given the real authoritative give-and-take and attention that it deserved. But that took away money that those people had been promised, that they needed, and were depending on.

So we precipitated a crisis, like we have seen with other areas with attacking the Affordable Care Act. We see the 19 States that have refused Medicaid expansion under a relatively tortured interpretation of the Supreme Court. Nobody that I know of, when we were voting on the Affordable Care Act, thought that States would be able to voluntarily deny health care to people who were too poor to qualify for the subsidies; but, amazingly, 19 States have done that. That is another area of instability that has posed problems with insurance markets. States that actually did expand have seen less of the upheaval.

It brings us to today where people are chipping away again in this effort with a piece of legislation that is absolutely unnecessary to repeal part of the individual mandate. The individual mandate, by the way, was put in the Affordable Care Act as part of an effort to forge a bipartisan solution. Bear in mind, the mandate that people purchase insurance was not a Democratic idea. It was something that was part of the Republican alternative to HillaryCare in the early 1990s. But it makes sense to have a mandate so that these burdens are shared broadly and everybody benefits.

Well, there is no reason to get rid of the individual mandate. These people who are in a failed CO-OP already have—because under current law, if you have a plan that closed midyear,

you are already allowed a special enrollment period to choose new coverage. And if there are any individuals for whom coverage is unaffordable or they experience a hardship, they may qualify for an existing exemption from the individual responsibility provision. So this is already taken care of under existing law.

What it is doing is continuing this effort to chip away, to undermine, to repeal. I hope that we get past this notion that we are going to continue to make the primary Republican alternative for health care just trying to attack something that is working; and if they would cooperate, if they would refine, if they would try and solve problems rather than creating new ones, we could make it work even better.

Mr. Speaker, I am voting against this piece of—I don't know what to call it. It is not going to be enacted into law. It shouldn't be enacted into law. It represents an empty exercise of stalling and attacking instead of refining and improving. The American people deserve better.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, the case has been so carefully and fully laid out. This is another effort to cut and destroy. This is now maybe not the thousandth cut, but the 65th. Fortunately, none has succeeded, nor will this.

Republicans come here and indicate some care about individuals in terms of their health care. And I just say this personally—and all of us who care about health care have the same feelings—this country had a disgraceful situation: 50 million people going to sleep every night without any healthcare coverage.

□ 1615

Democrats took the initiative, and we now have the lowest percentage of uninsured in terms of the records of this country. All we get are bills from the Republicans—one cut effort after another—and this is the latest. Maybe that is a good reason for us to leave here because, otherwise, we will see, I am sure, another one.

The ACA is very clear for people who lose their coverage during a coverage period. There is a special provision for them to obtain coverage elsewhere, and there is a hardship provision if that is not obtainable, if that is not available. We have been waiting to have specific examples. They never come.

As I said to the gentleman—and I say this respectfully—if he really cares about the citizens in his State and their health care, he will go back to his State and tell the leadership there that it is time to expand Medicaid for those people because, in the gentleman's State, there are tens of thousands of people who don't have that coverage

today because of the inaction or the opposition of Republican majorities in States and in this Congress.

That is what this is all about. I urgently suggest for our fellow Democrats—and, I would hope, for a few enlightened Republicans—to vote “no.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We need a healthcare plan that involves patients and their providers. We need a healthcare plan and healthcare coverage—insurance, if you will—that is a product that is purchased by millions of Americans on its own merit, not because of the heavy hand of the Federal Government's imposing fines and penalties even upon those Americans who are doing everything they were supposed to be doing so as to be responsible citizens in taking care of themselves.

What is clear from the debate today, Mr. Speaker, is that, in the face of the failures of the ACA or ObamaCare, whichever label you might wish to attach to it—and there are certainly many failures of the plan—the administration and my colleagues across the aisle continue to advocate for the individual mandate at all costs, no matter how negatively this might impact a law-abiding individual who seeks to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, during the markup of this bill in committee, a supporter on the committee referred to the law as a “work in progress.” I would say that that is a generous description of the law. If it is truly a work in progress, why would we penalize Americans—through no fault of their own for losing coverage—with fines that run hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars?

We are persistently told that our only desire is to take away health insurance coverage from Americans and that we have no constructive ideas for improving the healthcare system. This bill is one small way to improve the healthcare system.

It is interesting that this bill has been characterized as an effort to undermine the ACA. Is that how weak the ACA is in that a small, narrowly crafted bill like this would undermine the entire thing? I doubt it. This is a small effort to help innocent Americans who have lost coverage through no fault of their own. We should not penalize them and create a financial hardship additionally for them than they have already been experiencing.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in providing this small issue of fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the news about the Affordable Care Act gets worse every day. Premiums are going through the roof, choice and access are falling through

the floor, and insurers are fleeing exchanges throughout the country.

Just in the past few days, we learned that one of the nation's largest insurers is pulling out of Nebraska and three major cities in Tennessee.

On top of this, all but six of the 23 CO-OPs created under the law have failed despite billions of dollars in taxpayer-funded loans.

These CO-OPs were created by the Affordable Care Act as federally-backed, non-profit health insurance companies. But, like so many parts of the law, the CO-OP program was deeply flawed from the start.

Seventeen of these CO-OPs have collapsed. Hundreds of thousands of Americans have had their health coverage disrupted as a result.

Many more could suffer the same harm if additional CO-OPs fail—a real possibility considering that just two weeks ago New Jersey's CO-OP announced it will shut down at the end of the year.

The magnitude of these failures can be hard to grasp—especially for Washington bureaucrats who simply see these families as numbers on paper.

For American families who lost their insurance coverage due to a CO-OP collapse, the impacts could not be more real. And, for many, it could feel like the walls are closing in.

Their health plans have been terminated through no fault of their own.

The number of options for purchasing a new plan is shrinking as more insurers leave the ACA exchanges.

And, if these Americans fail to purchase new coverage, they could be forced to pay the individual mandate tax penalty.

That's just wrong.

We have a responsibility to protect Americans and their families from these harmful impacts of the Affordable Care Act.

Congressman ADRIAN SMITH's "CO-OP Consumer Protection Act," provides the opportunity to do so right now.

The bill takes action to exempt Americans from the individual mandate tax penalty if their plan was terminated mid-year due to the failure of an ACA CO-OP.

Americans were led to believe these CO-OP plans were reliable. They depended on them, and now only six remain standing.

House Republicans have put forward a consensus plan to repeal and replace Obamacare. Our plan will bring patient-focused care to the American people.

And, our plan will bring relief to all Americans from the individual mandate and its tax penalty.

As we work to turn this proposal into legislation, it's only right to bring relief from this tax penalty to Americans who lost their insurance mid-year—or could lose it in the future—due to the failures of the CO-OP program.

I want to thank Congressman SMITH for his leadership on this important legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 893, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 258, noes 165, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 563]

AYES—258

Abraham	Fortenberry	MacArthur
Aderholt	Fox	Maloney, Sean
Allen	Franks (AZ)	Marchant
Amash	Frelinghuysen	Marino
Amodei	Gabbard	Massie
Ashford	Garrett	McCarthy
Babin	Gibbs	McCaul
Barletta	Gibson	McClintock
Barr	Gohmert	McHenry
Barton	Goodlatte	McKinley
Benish	Gosar	McMorris
Bera	Gowdy	Rodgers
Bilirakis	Graham	McSally
Bishop (MI)	Granger	Meadows
Bishop (UT)	Graves (GA)	Meehan
Black	Graves (LA)	Messer
Blackburn	Graves (MO)	Mica
Blum	Griffith	Miller (FL)
Bost	Grothman	Miller (MI)
Boustany	Guinta	Moolenaar
Brady (TX)	Guthrie	Mooney (WV)
Brat	Hanna	Mullin
Bridenstine	Hardy	Mulvaney
Brooks (AL)	Harper	Murphy (PA)
Brooks (IN)	Harris	Neugebauer
Buchanan	Hartzler	Newhouse
Buck	Heck (NV)	Noem
Bucshon	Hensarling	Nugent
Bustos	Herrera Beutler	Nunes
Byrne	Hice, Jody B.	Olson
Calvert	Hill	Palazzo
Carter (GA)	Holding	Palmer
Carter (TX)	Hudson	Paulsen
Chabot	Huelskamp	Pearce
Chaffetz	Huizenga (MI)	Perry
Clawson (FL)	Hultgren	Peters
Coffman	Hunter	Peterson
Cole	Hurd (TX)	Pittenger
Collins (GA)	Hurt (VA)	Pitts
Collins (NY)	Issa	Polliquin
Comstock	Jenkins (KS)	Pompeo
Conaway	Jenkins (WV)	Posey
Cook	Johnson (OH)	Price, Tom
Cooper	Johnson, Sam	Ratcliffe
Costello (PA)	Jolly	Reed
Cramer	Jones	Reichert
Crawford	Jordan	Renacci
Crenshaw	Joyce	Ribble
Cuellar	Katko	Rice (SC)
Culberson	Kelly (MS)	Rigell
Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Roby
Davidson	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
Davis, Rodney	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Dent	Kline	Rohrabacher
DeSantis	Knight	Rokita
DesJarlais	Kuster	Rooney (FL)
Diaz-Balart	Labrador	Ros-Lehtinen
Dold	LaHood	Roskam
Donovan	LaMalfa	Ross
Duckworth	Lamborn	Rothfus
Duffy	Lance	Rouzer
Duncan (SC)	Larson (CT)	Royce
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Russell
Ellmers (NC)	Lipinski	Salmon
Emmer (MN)	LoBiondo	Sanford
Farenthold	Long	Scalise
Fincher	Loudermilk	Schweikert
Fitzpatrick	Love	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	Lucas	Sensenbrenner
Fleming	Luetkemeyer	Sessions
Flores	Lummis	Shimkus
Forbes	Lynch	Shuster

Simpson	Trott
Sinema	Turner
Smith (MO)	Upton
Smith (NE)	Valadao
Smith (NJ)	Wagner
Smith (TX)	Walberg
Stefanik	Walden
Stewart	Walker
Stivers	Walorski
Stutzman	Walters, Mimi
Thompson (PA)	Weber (TX)
Thornberry	Webster (FL)
Tiberi	Wenstrup
Tipton	Westerman

NOES—165

Adams	Gallego	Norcross
Aguilar	Garamendi	O'Rourke
Bass	Grayson	Pallone
Beatty	Green, Al	Pascarelli
Becerra	Green, Gene	Payne
Beyer	Grijalva	Pelosi
Bishop (GA)	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Blumenauer	Hahn	Pingree
Bonamici	Hastings	Pocan
Boyle, Brendan	Heck (WA)	Polis
F.	Higgins	Price (NC)
Brady (PA)	Himes	Quigley
Brown (FL)	Honda	Rangel
Brownley (CA)	Hoyer	Rice (NY)
Capps	Huffman	Richmond
Capuano	Israel	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Jackson Lee	Ruiz
Carney	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Carson (IN)	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Cartwright	Johnson, E. B.	Sánchez, Linda
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	T.
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sarbanes
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cicilline	Kennedy	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Scott (VA)
Clay	Kind	Scott, David
Cleaver	Langevin	Serrano
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cohen	Lawrence	Sherman
Connolly	Lee	Sires
Conyers	Levin	Slaughter
Costa	Lewis	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Lieu, Ted	Speier
Crowley	Loebach	Swalwell (CA)
Cummings	Lofgren	Takano
Davis (CA)	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lowe	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeGette	(NM)	Tonko
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
DeLauro	(NM)	Tsongas
DelBene	Maloney,	Van Hollen
DeSaulnier	Carolyn	Vargas
Deutch	Matsui	Veasey
Dingell	McCollum	Vela
Doggett	McDermott	Velázquez
Doyle, Michael	McGovern	Visclosky
F.	McNerney	Walz
Edwards	Meeks	Wasserman
Ellison	Meng	Schultz
Engel	Moore	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	Moulton	Watson Coleman
Esty	Murphy (FL)	Welch
Farr	Nadler	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Napolitano	Yarmuth
Frankel (FL)	Neal	
Fudge	Nolan	

NOT VOTING—8

Burgess	Kirkpatrick	Sanchez, Loretta
Butterfield	Poe (TX)	Westmoreland
Hinojosa	Rush	

□ 1645

Messrs. CUELLAR, PETERS, and LYNCH changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5303.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STUTZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 892 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5303.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1648

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. SIMPSON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. Subcommittee Chairman GIBBS and I worked closely with Ranking Members DEFAZIO and NAPOLITANO on this vital water infrastructure bill. Thanks to their hard work, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure unanimously approved H.R. 5303 in May.

We tailored WRDA 2016 to address specific Federal responsibilities, strengthening our infrastructure through the activities of the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain competitiveness, create jobs, and grow the economy. This legislation follows important reforms Congress put in place in 2014 with the Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Without those reforms, we wouldn't be here today to consider another WRDA bill.

The 2014 bill and today's legislation restore regular order and the 2-year cycle of Congress considering these essential bills. This has been one of my highest priorities as chairman, and I am pleased today that in this Congress, as in last Congress, we have a WRDA

bill on the floor. WRDA 2016 maintains Congress' constitutional authority and oversight in ensuring that we have a safe, effective infrastructure system.

Following our authorization process reforms, every Corps activity in this bill is locally driven; reviewed by the Corps according to strict, congressionally established criteria; and presented to Congress for consideration in the form of chief's reports and the Corps' new annual report. Only proposals that followed this process were eligible for inclusion in this bill.

If the manager's amendment is adopted, WRDA will authorize 31 chief's reports and 29 feasibility studies. Each chief's report was reviewed by the committee in a public hearing. These are critical regional priorities that provide significant national economic and environmental benefits.

For example, WRDA authorizes the long-delayed upgrades to the Upper Ohio River's Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery, the EDM, locks and dams. The EDM facilities provide critical access to the Port of Pittsburgh, one of the Nation's busiest inland ports. This will provide enormous benefits to the region and make our entire Nation more competitive.

The same can be said for authorizations for the Port of Charleston, Port Everglades, which has been under review by the Corps for 18 years—and it is finally going to be approved—and the Everglades ecosystem, flood control along the Missouri River and around Sacramento, and more.

The bill also increases flexibility and removes barriers for State, local, and non-Federal interests to invest in their infrastructure. Factoring in the manager's amendment, WRDA will authorize over \$9 billion to cover the Federal share of these improvements to our ports, channels, locks, dams, and other infrastructure. These investments are fully offset—I repeat they are fully offset—with deauthorizations, and the bill sunsets new authorizations to help prevent future project backlogs.

WRDA has no earmarks and abides by all House rules. However, in order to comply with House rules and call up this bill today, one section of the bill, as reported by the committee, was removed. I want to say that I agree with Ranking Member DEFAZIO that the user fees paid into the harbor maintenance trust fund should be used to improve our transportation system. It should be fundamental: When you pay a user fee into a system, it should go to its intended purposes.

However, we found ourselves in a position where section 108 conflicted with House rules. We worked to find another resolution to this one issue but were unable to do so within the rules of the House. I appreciate the ranking member's passion for this provision and thank him for his tireless efforts in support of infrastructure investment.

I want to continue working with him and others to find a solution as we work with the Senate. However, we cannot lose sight of the larger, more important issue. Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. This bill is not perfect, but it is a good bill.

Only three WRDA bills were enacted between 2000 and 2014, and that record is really unacceptable. Each delay placed America another step behind our competitors. We simply cannot afford more delays. We must pass this jobs and infrastructure bill and return to the regular 2-year WRDA cycle to keep the Army Corps focused on these much-needed investments. We cannot sacrifice these critical infrastructure improvements because of one issue.

We have a wide range of stakeholder interests in this bill, and 75 letters of support for WRDA 2016, including: National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Retail Federation, National Conference of State Legislatures, and many other local and regional groups.

WRDA 2016 is good public policy. This bill advances critical water resources infrastructure improvements, restores regular order, and gets Congress back on that 2-year WRDA cycle. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2016.

Hon. BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. This bill contains provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources.

I recognize and appreciate your desire to bring this bill before the House of Representatives in an expeditious manner, and accordingly, I will agree that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill. I do so with the understanding that this action does not affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Natural Resources, and that the Committee expressly reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provision within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this, or any similar legislation. I ask that you support any such request.

I also ask that a copy of this letter and your response be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 5303 bill on the House floor.

Thank you for your work on this important issue, and I look forward to its enactment soon.

Sincerely,

ROB BISHOP,
Chairman,
Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 22, 2016.

Hon. ROB BISHOP,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BISHOP: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. I appreciate your willingness to support expediting the consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

I acknowledge that by waiving consideration of this bill, the Committee on Natural Resources does not waive any future jurisdictional claim to provisions in this or similar legislation. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving any provision within this legislation on which the Committee on Natural Resources has a valid jurisdictional claim.

I will include our letters on H.R. 5303 in the bill report filed by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, as well as in the Congressional Record during House floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation, and I look forward to working with the Committee on Natural Resources as the bill moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,
Chairman.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The committee does have a great tradition of bipartisanship. It is hard to get partisan about our crumbling infrastructure and the needs for enhanced investment, but one of the keys toward enhancing the investment and dealing with the \$68 billion—B, billion—backlog of authorized Corps projects—\$68 billion—is to use a tax which is collected from shippers and passed on to the American people. Every day you buy a good from a foreign country, you are paying a little bit more for that under an agreement that the money collected will be used to maintain our harbors, our ports, keep them from silting in, and construct critical infrastructure.

Unfortunately, for years Congress has been diverting part of that money every year. Today there is a theoretical balance of over \$9 billion in the nonexistent harbor maintenance trust fund. Look through the entire budget of the United States. You won't find that money anywhere on deposit. But they are saying: oh, don't worry, don't worry, we will get around to spending it some day.

I have been working on this issue for 20 years, starting with Bud Shuster in 1996. It was in the bill, and it passed out of committee unanimously with a number of Republicans and Democrats supporting it, obviously a majority of Republicans on the bill. The chairman and I had an agreement that would bring this bill forward under a suspension of the rules. His leadership objected to that. And then instead, they

dictated there should be a rule so that they could strip out the harbor maintenance trust fund.

Now, what kind of rule is it that says we passed a law, we are collecting money from the American people, every day they are paying a little bit more for stuff, but the rules say we can't spend that money for its lawful purpose, we are going to spend it on some other part of government or disappear it into a lose-or-eat deficit reduction. We need that money. We need those investments.

If this continues—right now it is about \$400 million a year that is being collected that isn't being spent, yet we have harbors shoaled in, we have jetties that are failing all across America—it will grow up to \$20 billion in 10 years. Now tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow we are going to fix this problem. No, this was the time to fix it. It was in the bill. It was bipartisan. It was unanimous, and it was stripped out. That is very, very unfortunate.

There are many good things in this bill. There are many projects that are essential. But, again, the Corps of Engineers has a \$68 billion backlog. So all we are doing is putting people in an endless line—\$68 billion backlog. We are collecting about \$1.6 billion a year to make those projects a reality except that \$400-, \$500 million of it is being diverted over into other parts of the government. That is not a good way to run the government like a business.

I have a letter from the Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America concerned that this money is revenue from American business that is not being used for its intended purpose in a timely manner, and they will continue to advocate for this provision, among others. I am very, very saddened that this was removed from the bill. It is not in the Senate bill, so it becomes nonconferenceable, which means it will be at least 2 years. That is another \$800 million or \$1 billion that won't be spent, but taxes will still be collected from the American people.

Secondly, we have made a big deal around here about not having any earmarks. Big deal. Well, there are some ancient earmarks out there still lingering in the darkness. One was for a \$220 million project which was earmarked in 2004 by the Committee on Appropriations, and that would have required the Federal Government to spend \$110 million. This bill authorizes that project at a price of \$526.5 million to the U.S. taxpayers. It has gone from \$220 million earmarked, \$110 million to the Feds, to a total project cost of \$800 million.

Now, associated with that—and I am being told: don't worry, this isn't Federal money. Well, whenever you enter into a project, you have to have a local cost share. And they are saying: well, it will only be local money. Except it is

included in the project, meaning the local entity isn't meeting its cost share for the authorized project which is in this bill. In fact, they are diverting money locally from their cost share into recreation projects.

Now, we have harbors silting in and jetties that are falling apart all across the country. We are diverting money from the trust fund, and yet somehow we are going to find \$500 million for this project up from a price tag of \$110 million when it was first earmarked. It isn't earmarked by any other name except that it is covered by the rule, and it is in this bill.

I regret that this bill does not meet the high standards of the committee and the historical standards of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1700

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS).

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chair, I thank the distinguished chairman from Pennsylvania for yielding me the time and for his continued leadership on restoring the normal biennial cycle for the Water Resource Development Act.

Today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. By considering WRDA 2016 today, we are returning to regular order and restoring the 2-year cycle for improving water infrastructure projects critical to our economy.

Transportation and infrastructure is one of Congress' most important responsibilities. This bill authorizes the construction of key water infrastructure projects throughout the United States, creating jobs here at home and directly contributing to our economic and national security.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, our jurisdiction includes these water infrastructure projects carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. H.R. 5303 contains vitally important Corps project authorizations for navigation, flood control, shoreline protection, hydroelectric power, recreation, water supply, environmental protection, restoration and enhancement, and fish and wildlife management.

Each project authorization was proposed by local non-Federal sponsors and underwent a rigorous planning process before congressional review. Each Chief's Report was recommended to Congress by the Corps' Chief of Engineers. In short, this was a bottom-up, grassroots-driven process.

In WRRDA 2014, we accelerated the delivery schedule for Corps of Engineers projects. H.R. 5303 strengthens the numerous reforms made in WRRDA 2014 by streamlining permitting for infrastructure projects.

The committee-passed version of H.R. 5303 contains 27 specific project

authorizations. My subcommittee held hearings to discuss the Chief's Reports in depth and provide strong congressional oversight of the proposed projects.

This bill further expedites nine feasibility studies to help locally developed needs and contains study authorizations for future potential Corps projects. More often than not, projects are delayed by study after study, and sometimes literally studied to death. Because of the reforms in WRRDA 2014, the 29 feasibility studies this bill is authorizing are not intended to exceed 3 years in duration or exceed \$3 million in Federal costs. We have reformed the process to save taxpayers time and money.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Chair, this bill is fiscally responsible. The new project authorizations are fully offset by de-authorizations of projects that are outdated or no longer viable. H.R. 5303 contains no earmarks, strengthens our water transportation networks, and increases transparency for non-Federal sponsors and the public. This is a good, commonsense bill, and I urge support of this bill.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), the ranking member of the subcommittee of jurisdiction.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I am very concerned that, after many months of bipartisan work on this bill, we are bringing it to the floor today under a partisan procedure where it stripped out in rules a very important section. Also, it does not address the ongoing crisis in Flint.

We have 100,000 people in Flint living without clean drinking water. One million people in California live without clean drinking water. We should be doing much more to address the drinking water crisis in this country—we should not have problems with it—and investing in our outdated infrastructure. I am glad that the Senate does include provisions to address this crisis. I had hoped that the House would do so as well.

I do appreciate the work that has been done to add many important provisions to the bill. First, this bill includes 31 Army Corps of Engineers' feasibility studies for projects to study water resource projects across the country for a diverse array of purposes, including flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and navigation. This is really important, especially in drought-prone areas like California.

Second, H.R. 5303 authorizes 29 Chief's Reports currently pending be-

fore Congress. These reports include several of great importance to my home State of California, including the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation project, the West Sacramento flood risk management project, the American River Common Features flood risk management project, and the San Diego County hurricane and storm damage risk reduction project. This is critical because storms are eroding our beaches.

I am also pleased to see the inclusion of several provisions that will assist communities experiencing drought and water supply shortages. They include:

Promoting non-Federal efforts to remove sediment behind Army Corps' dams and increase water supply. This has been one project that we have been pushing for a long time in order to get the Corps to reduce that sediment.

Also, authorizing the Secretary of the Army to evaluate and implement water supply conservation measures of projects owned or managed by the Corps in states with drought emergencies. In 17 Western States, this is critical.

Further, encouraging the Corps to share the data the Corps collects on operations and maintenance of its facilities and to improve coordination with local stakeholders. My understanding is that they are going to get the Library of Congress to do that.

Also, allowing environmental infrastructure and water supply projects to be eligible for the 7001 process that authorizes Corps projects.

Lastly, creating a pilot program to encourage the beneficial use of dredged material for shoreline restoration and environmental use.

I am very confident these provisions, if enacted, will provide drought-ridden regions like mine with the tools necessary to increase water supply and water conservation matters and be better prepared for future storm events.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I want to thank my constituent water agencies for their input through the process, including the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, the Three Valleys Municipal Water District, the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, the San Gabriel Valley Watermaster, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and my local Corps people, Colonel Gibbs and David Van Dorpe.

I ask for a "no" vote since the Flint provision was not included in this bill.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN), the vice chairman of the full committee.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding.

I, first of all, want to commend Chairman SHUSTER and Chairman GIBBS for their outstanding leadership on this legislation.

I rise in support of this jobs and infrastructure legislation. It will help create thousands of jobs and help improve our infrastructure.

I have the privilege of serving as the Republican chair of the Clean Water Caucus in this Congress and I had the privilege of serving for 6 years as chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, starting in 2001. So I know full well how important this bill is.

This bill provides the authorizations needed to improve water transportation all across this Nation. Every day, many tons of goods are transported across our waterways. Without basic water infrastructure in good shape, most of these goods would be transported on our already congested highways. According to the Inland Waterways Foundation, a 15-barge tow can transport the same amount of goods as 1,050 tractor-trailers. Moving goods on the water is also the most fuel-efficient and environmentally sound method of transportation.

This bill is, as others have said, a fiscally responsible one. It de-authorizes \$10 billion worth of inactive projects that are no longer needed or feasible, which offsets the new authorizations made in this legislation.

This bill also authorizes important flood control projects that we need to help prevent natural disasters. We saw what can happen when Katrina hit Louisiana and Mississippi a few years ago. That disaster caused an estimated \$150 billion in damage. Now we have new flooding in Louisiana and Texas. We need to make smart investments today so that we are not foolishly spending billions of dollars after a disaster strikes.

I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for including language on floating homes that was requested by Representative MEADOWS and myself. I want to especially commend Representative MEADOWS, who led the way on this issue. The TVA board had voted to remove privately owned homes, or floating houses, from its reservoirs. This would have been essentially a taking without any compensation being offered to the homeowners.

The language in this bill mirrors that included in the Senate-passed bill that would allow these homeowners to keep their houses as long as certain safety and health standards are met.

I urge passage of this very, very important legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I have worked closely with the gentleman from Tennessee, and he does great work. In fact, he did great work in chairing a special committee of the House Committee on Transportation

and Infrastructure on improving the Nation's freight transportation system.

One of the key recommendations in that report was: draw down the \$7 billion balance of the harbor maintenance trust fund without adversely affecting appropriations for other programs, projects, and activities carried out by the Corps of Engineers for other authorized purposes.

Well, it is a little dated because this is 2 years ago. So now there is \$9.8 billion in the so-called harbor maintenance trust fund, which doesn't exist. There is no line item, no account at the Treasury. The money is poof, gone, unless we authorize the establishment of a trust fund and begin to better invest in our harbors.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5303, the Water Resource Development Act.

WRDA is usually a vehicle for bipartisan cooperation, but, unfortunately, that is not the case this year. This is the only time in my 23 years in Congress that I am unable to support WRDA.

In my area in Houston, we need WRDA. We need flood assistance. But my particular issue with this is that I represent a large part of the Port of Houston. As one of many Members that represents a major port, I know firsthand that ports are enormous economic engines for growth. The jobs and economic growth, including refining and manufacturing on the banks of the Houston Ship Channel, supported by the Port of Houston, has allowed Houston and Harris County to become the energy capital of the world.

But this is about more than just the Port of Houston. This is about all of America's ports, from LA-Long Beach to Miami and New Orleans. This is \$3 trillion in shipments in these ports.

The harbor maintenance tax is meant to fund critical projects to keep our ports running at full capacity. Yet, only a fraction of that money is appropriated each year, leaving billions of dollars sitting unused while maintenance costs climb in the Port of Houston and around the country.

Every day, ships are forced to idly wait for high tides or deeper channels because we do not put enough of this money to work for them. We need to ensure that we are investing for the future by investing in vital infrastructure projects.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this legislation until the bipartisan harbor maintenance trust fund provision is included.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the former chairman of the full committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to thank Mr.

SHUSTER, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. DEFAZIO for their work on this bill. This bill is a good bill.

I just say to all of you: We are getting close to the end of this session—and a lameduck, too. This isn't perfect for everyone. It is not perfect for me in some cases, but let's get a piece of legislation done without nitpicking it and saying: Well, I didn't get what I wanted.

I don't disagree with Mr. DEFAZIO about the funding. That is something we have to work on with the appropriators. They don't like the idea there is a set-aside fund for repairing the harbors, but let's address that battle at a later date.

This is a good piece of legislation. It will create a better system of infrastructure for water, harbors, ports, and drinking water, too. It is a legislative package that has been put together with a lot of hard work with staff.

As we get in this battle, Well, I don't want it, it is a Democrat bill, it is a Republican bill, we ought to think this is a House bill, a bill that can do the job. It will come out of this House, it will go over to the Senate, and we will have a conference. We have another chance to finish this project for the people of America.

So I am asking us not to get into this little bit of nitpicking and get good piece of legislation such as this done.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO).

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Water Resources Development Act containing the Central Everglades Planning Project that is of critical importance to the ecological health of the State of Florida.

This project will increase freshwater flows from Lake Okeechobee through the Everglades and down into Florida Bay, providing critical relief to our water reservoirs and to a stressed ecosystem in Florida Bay.

□ 1715

The health of Florida Bay, Mr. Chairman, is a moral issue, and it is also vital to south Florida's multibillion-dollar tourism industry, making Everglades restoration an important local issue as well as a major national priority. Long-term restoration will be achieved primarily by constructing projects for conveyance, treatment, and storage of water and, ultimately, restoration of freshwater flow from north to south. CEPP contributes to all of these goals.

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for working with me to include \$1.9 billion for the Everglades Restoration program in the Water Resources Development Act being considered today. This comprehensive bill provides the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with authority to carry out water projects through cost-sharing partnerships with non-Federal sponsors. I am proud that, through bipartisan efforts, we were able to include this much-needed funding for Everglades restoration, and I look forward to getting this bill signed into law.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, could I ask how much time remains on both sides.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 18½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 19¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I am waiting for more speakers, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS), a member of the committee.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill. I am very proud to be here today because this bill represents a commitment our committee has made under the leadership of Chairman SHUSTER to pass critical water resources legislation every 2 years.

One of my top priorities as a member of this committee and the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee is maintaining and improving our navigation infrastructure on the upper Mississippi and Illinois waterways. Most of the locks and dams on this system were built in the 1920s and 1930s and have far outlived their life expectancy.

Sixty percent of the grain exported from the United States goes through these locks and dams before hitting the global marketplace. But today, delays at navigation locks are frequent and are only getting worse, lasting as long as 12 hours at a time.

In WRDA 2007, Congress authorized construction of seven new 1,200-foot locks along the upper Mississippi and Illinois waterway system; yet here we are, 9 years later, and the Corps still hasn't completed preconstruction engineering and design for these projects because this administration refuses to invest any money in the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program, or NESP. That means that construction for these projects may not be ready to begin when they are next on the schedule.

When these projects are delayed, it costs farmers in my district money; it costs the shippers who move commodities up and down the rivers money; and it ultimately means increased grocery prices for everyone. It also costs good-paying construction jobs.

During our committee's markup of this legislation in May, I offered an amendment that requires a study analyzing alternative models of managing the inland waterway trust fund. I appreciate Chairman SHUSTER working with me to ensure its adoption.

This study, to be completed by the Comptroller General, will provide some important options to address these longstanding issues with the Corps. Maybe this will finally show the Corps that waiting 10 or even 20 years for movement on a project that is authorized by Congress is completely unacceptable.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to support this underlying bill, and I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and the committee for their leadership on this.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The last few speakers have made a great point—how critical this bill is—and they have listed projects that are important to their districts and the Nation. The gentleman from Alaska said we shouldn't quibble over details.

Well, the bottom line is we have assessed a tax on all imported goods. That tax is collected every day. It is essentially a sales tax. It is added into the price of the goods that Americans buy. That tax comes in at about \$1.6 billion a year; and yet Congress sees fit to spend somewhere around \$1.1 billion a year, even though the Corps of Engineers has a \$64 billion backlog. So I guess, at some point, 100 years from now—well, no, because things will keep deteriorating. I guess we will never catch up.

So taking out the creation of the harbor maintenance trust fund, something I have been working on for 20 years—started with the previous chairman, Bud Shuster, and now BILL SHUSTER supports the concept—we keep hearing tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. Tomorrow came. It came out of committee. But because some appropriators and the chair of the Budget Committee object to using the taxes collected from the American people for the only lawfully intended purpose and, instead, disappearing it into the maw of the Federal Government, it got stripped out of the bill—very, very unfortunate. That means these critical projects you are talking about are going to the back of a very, very, very long line. \$64 billion today, pass the bill, another \$10 billion, \$74 billion tomorrow; and we will chip away at it, and very, very slowly if we continue to divert the trust funds.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, we have an opportunity to do a great service for the country by passing H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, otherwise known as WRDA. By building off reforms made in the 2014 bill, WRDA 2016 reasserts congressional authority and oversight on critical infrastructure issues.

I commend Chairman SHUSTER for his commitment to passing a WRDA bill

each Congress. It helps to ensure that America's water infrastructure needs are continually addressed and reaffirms the will of the people on these very important infrastructure matters.

Substantively, this legislation addresses the needs of America's harbors, locks, dams, coastlines, and other water resource infrastructure projects by authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers activities. Passage of WRDA is vital to our Nation's economy and will help ensure continued flow of commerce through our Nation's ports and channels. Moreover, this bill also includes preventative measures that will help serve and protect our infrastructure.

Along with these obvious benefits, WRDA 2016 is also fiscally responsible and fully offset. In fact, failing to pass this critical piece of legislation will cost the Treasury that much more.

Mr. Chairman, the time to pass this bill is now, and I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the fine ranking member, Mr. DEFAZIO, for yielding time, and I rise to discuss the important role of the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Seaway as our Nation's freshwater superhighway, a vital economic and security passageway for our Nation.

When the WRDA bill was considered by the Senate, an important reference was included in that bill recognizing the role of the Seaway in U.S.-Canadian maritime trade, as well as global commerce from the heartland. That language authorizes a GAO study of the Seaway's potential to expand economic activity envisioning increased exports, expanded tourism, and a modernized transportation network in a secure operational system.

As the bill moves forward, I would urge the House to incorporate, in any final measure, the directive provisions relating to the Saint Lawrence Seaway's unmet economic potential.

I thank my colleagues on the Great Lakes Task Force, particularly Co-chair MIKE KELLY, who was down here earlier, and DAVID JOYCE for their continued hard work and commitment to our region of the country. I thank Ranking Member DEFAZIO for his support of this effort. And I thank Chairman SHUSTER for his leadership.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman and the other advocates for this provision, in addition to, of course, the Senate. The gentlewoman has worked tirelessly on this issue, approached me many, many times about the fact that we have sort of neglected the potential of the Seaway.

I think that this provision would be extraordinarily meritorious, and I cer-

tainly intend to support it in conference and hope to garner support from the chairman and others so that it can stay in the bill as it finally goes to the President's desk.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), one of the hardest working members on the committee.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and so many of the other Members who worked on this bill. I think it is important that we get the Water Resources Development Act back on a 2-year cycle. We got off to where there were 7 years that passed on, in many cases, critical projects that needed authorization that needed to move forward to construction.

I also want to echo a couple of things that the ranking member said.

Number one, on the harbor maintenance trust fund, I couldn't agree more. We need to come up with a solution here. I think it is disingenuous that we are charging users the tax under the auspices of using it for dredging, yet diverting those resources. I will say it again. I think it is disingenuous, and I look forward to working together with Congressman DEFAZIO in addressing this.

Number two, my friend from Oregon also noted the backlog in Corps of Engineers projects. The reason we have a backlog in projects is because this project delivery mechanism, development and delivery mechanism used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you can look at it, project after project; it takes 40 years to get a project delivered. These are projects for flood protection, for ecological restoration, for hurricane protection. We don't have time to wait 40 years for this project, and this bill moves in a direction of streamlining that process.

We have a project, the West Shore project, that has been in the study phase for over 40 years and is finally moving to authorization.

My friend from Louisiana, Congressman BOUSTANY, was able to work to get the Southwest project included in here to finally begin to bring some protection to the Southwest communities that were so devastated by Hurricane Rita and Hurricane Ike in previous years.

Importantly, Mr. Chairman, we are bringing forward an amendment to further expedite the Comite project, Amite project, and other projects that are critical to the areas that were just flooded in south Louisiana.

I don't know how long we are going to continue this backwards policy in the Federal Government of spending billions after a disaster rather than spending millions before, making our communities and making our ecosystems more resilient.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Back to the harbor maintenance trust fund issues and the allocations to the Corps, the bill sets targets, which I fully agree with, that a higher percentage of the harbor maintenance tax should be allocated every year to O&M programs.

As I mentioned earlier, there is already a \$2.5 billion backlog for operations and maintenance, so we are dealing with that by mandating that a higher percentage be spent every year. Unfortunately, if we don't free up the harbor maintenance trust fund, there is only one place that money can come from: new construction.

So I am all for the O&M, and I am all for these increases. But by stripping the harbor maintenance trust fund provision out of the bill and continuing to divert \$400 to \$500 million a year of the tax to the maw of the Federal Government, they are creating an untenable position for the Corps.

They are already saddled with a \$64 billion backlog on construction. They are saddled with a \$2.5 billion backlog on operations and maintenance. We are telling them you have to spend more on operations and maintenance. Well, with the discretionary budget caps, that can come out of only one place, and that is the construction projects. Whether it is going to come out of Port Everglades or Charleston Harbor or Brazos Island Harbor, I don't know; but the Corps is going to have to make those decisions because they aren't going to be getting these additional funds that they would have gotten had we freed up this money and created a real trust fund.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time both sides have left in debate.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 14 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Oregon has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS).

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the water infrastructure bill, and I thank Chairman SHUSTER for his hard work and dedication in getting us to this point.

As part of our Better Way agenda, House Republicans are putting transparency and accountability front and center, especially when it comes to how we spend the taxpayers' dollars.

Chairman SHUSTER approached this legislation the same way, increasing congressional oversight and transparency to ensure that our tax dollars are invested in the most pressing projects.

I also applaud Chairman SHUSTER's dedication for ensuring that the long-

delayed Upper Ohio Navigation project gets underway.

In the 21st century, we should have a state-of-the-art infrastructure to build a thriving 21st century economy; yet the Emsworth, Dashields, and Montgomery locks and dams along the upper Ohio River are aging and in serious disrepair.

I often like to say that western Pennsylvania built this country. This would not have been possible without the infrastructure that turned our rivers into highways of commerce.

□ 1730

This allowed Pennsylvania steel, machinery, petroleum projects, and agricultural goods to travel to market efficiently and affordably along the Ohio River and beyond. Completing much-needed renovations to the upper Ohio locks and dams will allow us to continue to generate billions of dollars in economic activity benefiting generations of western Pennsylvania families, workers, and businesses in our region and across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation. I again commend Chairman SHUSTER and thank him for his great work on this legislation.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman, the ranking member from the great State of Oregon, and the chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

I would hope that as we look at these issues we really look at the name of this bill, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, and know that we have, over the years, had common ground on infrastructure issues that are so important to our respective communities.

Mr. Chairman, in April of 2016, we had the tax day flood. Shortly thereafter, we had a flood on Memorial Day in Houston, Harris County. It seems to me to be a constant refrain in our community and in my congressional district. We are a community of bayous and, frankly, need strong structures for the Army Corps of Engineers and a strong Federal partnership on dealing with massive flooding and the loss of life.

Water takes on many other aspects. Just a few miles up the road, Austin, Texas, and the surrounding areas are living in a constant drought. They face a constant interaction and conflict with those who are in the agriculture business.

It is concerning to me that programs in this bill have been deauthorized. It is concerning to me that a very important issue of pure water has been ignored, and that is funding for Flint. I should think this would be a bipartisan issue. Many of us went to Flint. We

spoke to citizens in Flint. We listened to the Representatives from Flint, in particular, DAN KILDEE and others, Congresswoman LAWRENCE, and we listened to stories about sores and the ability to have children who have cognitive impact, and yet we come here today and that has not been done.

So I want to raise a concern to find a way in which this can be a bipartisan bill and not have projects that are deauthorized to make sure the harbor maintenance trust fund is where it needs to be.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, we need to make sure that the harbor maintenance trust fund ensures that revenues are collected from shippers that are used to maintain U.S. coastal and Great Lakes harbors.

Right now, the State of Texas is dealing with their coastal area. This very bill could have a great impact, but it cannot do so if the moneys are undermined and the fees are used for something else. So I would suggest to my colleagues if there is one place that we can be bipartisan, it is on clean water, and it is on saving lives. I hope that we can do that going down the road in this legislation. I thank the gentleman, Mr. DEFAZIO.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for bringing this bill to the floor.

The bill will authorize critically important projects for my home State of Louisiana, including the Southwest Coastal Study.

Over this past weekend, we remembered the 11th anniversary of Hurricane Rita making landfall. This storm, and subsequently Hurricane Ike, demonstrated the dire need to implement greater measures to protect our coastal communities, many of which were destroyed back then.

Congressional authorization of the Southwest Coastal Study will open the door for necessary hurricane and storm damage risk reduction and coastal restoration projects for southwest Louisiana for the first time.

Authorization language for this project was included in the manager's amendment, and I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for doing so.

Additionally, the bill includes vital funding for the Calcasieu Lock project, which is the 10th busiest lock in the Nation, a vital feature of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway system. The lock facilitates navigation, controls flooding, and prevents saltwater intrusion

from the Calcasieu River into the Mermentau River basin, a major agricultural area.

The bill also includes construction authorization for the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project, which will provide critical storm surge protection for Louisiana's river parishes, something that has been in the works for over 40 years; and additionally, the Comit  diversion project, which would have prevented a lot of the flooding we just saw in Louisiana.

These and other reasons are really why we should support this very important legislation, and I urge final passage.

To my friend from Oregon, I would say this: I have worked extremely hard since I got here to fix the problem with the harbor maintenance trust fund. We have made significant strides with last year's water bill and the cooperation of our friends on the appropriations committee to up the level of funding. But I agree that we should have included this language, and I am committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that we take those fees that are collected specifically for operations and maintenance dredging and use them for that, period.

We will have more work to do there, but I urge adoption of this bill, and I thank the chairman for his bringing it forward.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it was mentioned earlier, and it will be mentioned again later, that there is no funding for Flint in this bill. Now, the simple answer would be, well, that is not jurisdictional, it is Energy and Commerce Committee. The Senate, by a near unanimous vote, put funding to help Flint and other cities which have serious health problems with their water systems with a partnership with the Federal Government like we used to do.

Historically, in these bills, the committee has included water infrastructure projects. But during the committee consideration, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON from Texas attempted to put in language that would help with Flint, and it was ruled to not be germane to the bill, although historically this is under section 219, Corps has authorization for projects such as this. DONNA EDWARDS from Maryland brought forward an amendment again on clean water.

The crisis in Flint is beyond belief. But there are many, many other systems around the country that are far from meeting Federal water quality standards, and many of these are communities that lack the resources themselves to deal with it. The Federal Government used to partner significantly on water and wastewater projects. The Federal Government has pretty much walked away from that responsibility.

There is an amendment right now, right up there, over there in the powerful Rules Committee. The Rules Committee is meeting. It is a committee that enforces the rules or waives the rules, whatever they are in the mood to do. They could allow an amendment to this bill. They could be debating it right now that would provide some assistance to Flint and other communities.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) has offered an amendment that is fully offset so it doesn't increase the budget deficit, and we will see how that comes out. But many on this side are reluctant to move forward.

Last week, I was pleased to hear Speaker RYAN say that Flint should be taken care of in the Water Resources Development bill. The majority leader has said the same thing. The question is: Will they do that in the bill coming out of the House so that we don't have to be wondering whether or not it is going to come out of a conference committee?

So that is yet to be seen. But I think a lot of votes on this side, in addition to the concerns I have raised earlier, are pending upon the resolution of whether or not funding for Flint is included in this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act. I commend Chairman SHUSTER for his work as Transportation and Infrastructure chairman.

As a former mayor, I can personally attest to how vital investing in and maintaining our water infrastructure and flood control is. Over the past year, we have seen devastating floods throughout our country. It is more important than ever that we authorize critical flood control projects to protect our communities. Chairman SHUSTER's bill builds on the reforms established in the Water Resources bill 2 years ago.

I represent Fort Worth, Texas, a city that has had devastating floods in its past. Fort Worth needs help to bring our river area up to standards to prevent flooding and prepare for development. We are asking for funding authorization from the Corps of Engineers. The Corps has been working on this project along with the city and the water district for over 5 years.

In this project, the city will have the opportunity to add amenities for recreation paid for by the city, the water district, and private developers. By law, the Corps of Engineers cannot pay for amenities like basketball or soccer fields or water parks. Therefore, of course, they have never been asked to. It is against the law for them to pay

for it. I repeat: it is against the law. The cooperation from the city, private developers, and the water district will pay for those.

I thank the chairman for his time, and I appreciate his work.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the advocacy of the gentlewoman. She has been incredibly persistent since she earmarked this project back in 2004 before the Republicans banned earmarks. Of course, then it was a \$220 million project. Now it is an \$810 million project. The Federal share has gone from \$110 million to over \$500 million, and included in the total cost are the basketball courts, the splash pool, and all that, but it is coming out of the local share. No, that is not the way this is supposed to work.

If this is a Corps project, the only things which the Corps is authorized to do would be in the calculated total cost, and then a percentage of that goes to the local jurisdiction. In this case, they are counting the contributions of the local developers as part of the local cost share. So, essentially, it is coming out of the taxpayers' pockets.

I include in the RECORD a letter from the Taxpayers for Common Sense and the National Taxpayers Union.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: While less expensive and problematic than the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act (S. 2848), we urge you to oppose H.R. 5303, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016." Instead of much needed reform, this legislation piles billions of dollars in additional water projects on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plate. The legislation also makes policy changes that will be costly to taxpayers.

The largest challenge facing the Corps of Engineers water resources program is the lack of a prioritization system for allocating the limited available tax dollars. The legislation directs the executive branch to better explain its budgeting decisions, but this should not serve as an abdication of congressional authority. Congress should develop the criteria and metrics to prioritize Corps projects in the three primary mission areas (navigation, flood/storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration). The executive branch should be required to allocate funds in the budget request in a transparent manner through merit, competitive, or formula systems developed by Congress. Lawmakers could then conduct oversight, hold the administration accountable, and adjust the systems, criteria, and metrics as needed.

H.R. 5303 fails to include such a prioritization system. It does many other things, however. Between committee consideration and the floor, the bill grew by over \$6 billion. A provision from the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 dedicating maintenance dredging funds to emerging ports is made permanent. It doesn't make sense to invest in a port that is continually "emerging." It also extends set-asides for "donor" and "energy" ports without reforming the massive cross-subsidies in the existing maintenance dredging program. The legislation authorizes funding for a

project in Fort Worth, Texas, costing more than \$800 million. The Upper Trinity River project is portrayed as a flood damage reduction effort, but is really a massive economic development initiative that would divert precious Corps resources to construct soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a splash park. Money spent on a splash park in Fort Worth is money that cannot be spent to further the Corps' core mission areas. At the least we urge you to remove or limit the funds for this project.

Again, we urge you to oppose H.R. 5303 the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016."

Sincerely,

RYAN ALEXANDER,
Taxpayers for Common Sense.

PETE SEPP,
National Taxpayers Union.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I will just read briefly: "The legislation authorizes funding for a project in Fort Worth, Texas, costing more than \$800 million. The Upper Trinity River project is portrayed as a flood damage reduction effort, but is really a massive economic development initiative that would divert precious Corps resources to construct soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a splash park. Money spent on a splash park in Fort Worth is money that cannot be spent to further the Corps' core mission areas. At the least, we urge you to remove or limit the funds for this project."

That is from Taxpayers for Common Sense and the National Taxpayers Union.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

I thank Chairman SHUSTER for his championing this legislation and for including authorization language for the Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study in the bill.

The Rahway River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study will create a lasting solution to protect the New Jersey municipalities that include Cranford, Kenilworth, Maplewood, Millburn, Rahway, Springfield, Union, and the surrounding areas from severe flooding.

For years, these municipalities have pursued this project based on its great merits, and I have tried to be their champion at the Federal level. This is a critical role for Federal representatives: effectively helping municipal, county, and State officials to work with the Federal Government to ensure efficient services to the areas we represent.

Throughout this entire process, local leaders have kept the focus on consensus and collaboration, and they have united around a solution that has

strong public support. They deserve the completion of the study and the implementation of a plan that will protect life and property. I thank the Mayors' Council and local leaders for continuing to advocate on behalf of their communities. I certainly reiterate my thanks to Chairman SHUSTER.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, first, I want to applaud Chairman SHUSTER and the members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for bringing the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 to the floor.

WRDA is a crucial piece of legislation which authorizes our Nation's locks, dams, harbors, and many other water resources vital to our Nation's economic competitiveness.

However, today, I rise to speak of an issue that is very close to home. The Army Corps of Engineers' New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam is only 13 miles south of my hometown of Augusta, Georgia, and is essential to the towns of Augusta and North Augusta, South Carolina.

Authorization for the lock and dam has been changed numerous times over the past few decades, and the Senate version of WRDA includes broad language for additional needed changes. I understand the complexities of changing authorizations or even deauthorizing projects on a river as vital as the Savannah River.

□ 1745

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the opportunity to work with Chairman SHUSTER and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on language to correct this process, working with the Senate to better serve our community and our country.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First off, the provision to create a harbor maintenance trust fund to begin to actually spend the tax, which we collect from the American people for harbor maintenance, on harbor maintenance—it is shocking, shocking, in Washington that we would do something like that.

There are those on the Appropriations Committee guarding their fiefdoms, or the Budget Committee, who are opposed to this; but I heard a number of my colleagues on the Republican side say tonight they supported that concept. It came out of committee unanimously with Republican support;

yet the Republican leadership reached into this bill and pulled out that provision because, I believe, they were afraid if that provision came to the floor for a vote that it would pass, that we would actually begin to spend the tax that we are collecting from the American people for harbor maintenance on harbor maintenance and begin to catch up with the backlog by spending another \$400 million or \$500 million a year, which today is being spent on God knows what. It is being just thrown into the air.

Someone said earlier, oh, that money hasn't been spent. Okay. Show me what account that \$9.8 billion is in. There is no account. There is no account. The money has been collected and it has disappeared.

Now, we can keep that up, and we are going to keep it up now for another 2 years. That will be another billion dollars that won't be spent on harbor maintenance. So everybody waiting in line to get dredged—and there are a lot of ports waiting in line to get dredged. Everybody waiting in that really long line of now \$74 billion of backlogged authorized projects is just going to have to wait a little longer. In fact, most of them will be dead before they get around to their project.

So it is really a very sad day for the House of Representatives when the House is not being allowed to work its will. We are not being allowed to vote on something because a couple of chairmen of a couple of committees that don't know much about this subject—they aren't the authorizers; they don't understand the details; apparently, they don't understand the massive need in backlog—don't want to spend the tax that is collected for the purpose for which it is collected, which is harbor maintenance and/or construction. It is a very sad day for the House of Representatives.

I urge my colleagues to vote in opposition to the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today on the floor with the WRDA bill. We are back in regular order. This bill reasserts congressional authority, making sure that Congress has its say on these matters. This bill addresses specific Federal responsibilities that strengthen our infrastructure and it is fiscally responsible.

If we pass the manager's amendment, there are 31 Chief's Reports and 29 feasibility studies which touch all corners of the United States. I know Members on both sides of the aisle have projects in there that are extremely important to their district, to their State, and, of course, to the Nation.

It certainly was my goal for this to come to the floor in a bipartisan manner just the way it came out of committee. Unfortunately, it did violate a

House rule, and we had to strip a part of that bill out.

But I just want to say again, as I opened, I agree with Mr. DEFAZIO—and you heard, as he just pointed out, there are many Members on our side of the aisle that agree—we have got to figure out a way to move this forward so that Congress continues to have a say, and that those dollars that people pay to use the ports, they pay that fee, and when it goes into that trust fund, it is spent on its intended purpose. It is just wrong—it is absolutely wrong—that we don't do that.

We are going to pass this bill on the floor here tomorrow. I will continue to work with the ranking member to find a solution, because it is my goal to be here next Congress and to have another WRDA bill on the floor and address this problem and continue to pass good legislation that strengthens our infrastructure and strengthens America's competitiveness in the world.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I am proud today to vote for the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, which reauthorizes water infrastructure projects nationwide. I am heartened that after several months of inaction, Republican leaders included aid in this bill to the citizens of Flint, Michigan, who have been afflicted by devastating environmental health risks.

As an Angeleno, I am also pleased that this WRDA authorizes an equal cost-share between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Los Angeles for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project. I fought alongside my colleagues Congressman XAVIER BECERRA and Congressman ADAM SCHIFF to include this cost-share agreement in the final bill. With this cost-share, the city and the Corps become true partners in the LA River revitalization project to restore park space and wetlands, build new public spaces, create recreational opportunities, improve public health, strengthen the regional economy, and bolster civic pride. This WRDA is an important step in our efforts to make Los Angeles a greener and more vibrant place to live.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, printed in the bill, it shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-65. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 5303

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “Water Resources Development Act of 2016”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Secretary defined.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Sense of Congress regarding Water Resources Development Acts.

Sec. 102. Training and employment for veterans and members of Armed Forces in curatorial and historic preservation.

Sec. 103. Youth service and conservation corps organizations.

Sec. 104. Navigation safety.

Sec. 105. Emerging harbors.

Sec. 106. Federal breakwaters and jetties.

Sec. 107. Donor ports and energy transfer ports.

Sec. 108. Remote and subsistence harbors.

Sec. 109. Beneficial use of dredged material.

Sec. 110. Reservoir sediment.

Sec. 111. Contributed funds for reservoir operations.

Sec. 112. Water supply conservation.

Sec. 113. Interstate compacts.

Sec. 114. Nonstructural alternatives.

Sec. 115. Operation and maintenance of environmental protection and restoration and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

Sec. 116. Estuary restoration.

Sec. 117. Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem restoration.

Sec. 118. Agreements.

Sec. 119. Corps of Engineers operation of unmanned aircraft systems.

Sec. 120. Federal dredge fleet.

Sec. 121. Corps of Engineers assets.

Sec. 122. Funding to process permits.

Sec. 123. Credit in lieu of reimbursement.

Sec. 124. Clarification of contributions during emergency events.

Sec. 125. Study of water resources development projects by non-Federal interests.

Sec. 126. Non-Federal construction of authorized flood damage reduction projects.

Sec. 127. Multistate activities.

Sec. 128. Regional participation assurance for levee safety activities.

Sec. 129. Participation of non-Federal interests.

Sec. 130. Indian tribes.

Sec. 131. Dissemination of information on the annual report process.

Sec. 132. Scope of projects.

Sec. 133. Preliminary feasibility study activities.

Sec. 134. Post-authorization change reports.

Sec. 135. Maintenance dredging data.

Sec. 136. Electronic submission and tracking of permit applications.

Sec. 137. Data transparency.

Sec. 138. Backlog prevention.

Sec. 139. Quality control.

Sec. 140. Budget development and prioritization.

Sec. 141. Use of natural and nature-based features.

Sec. 142. Annual report on purchase of foreign manufactured articles.

Sec. 143. Integrated water resources planning.

Sec. 144. Evaluation of project partnership agreements.

Sec. 145. Additional measures at donor ports and energy transfer ports.

Sec. 146. Arctic deep draft port development partnerships.

Sec. 147. International outreach program.

Sec. 148. Comprehensive study.

Sec. 149. Alternative models for managing Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

Sec. 150. Alternative projects to maintenance dredging.

Sec. 151. Fish hatcheries.

Sec. 152. Environmental banks.

TITLE II—STUDIES

Sec. 201. Authorization of proposed feasibility studies.

Sec. 202. Expedited completion of reports for certain projects.

TITLE III—DEAUTHORIZATIONS AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Deauthorization of inactive projects.

Sec. 302. Valdez, Alaska.

Sec. 303. Los Angeles County Drainage Area, Los Angeles County, California.

Sec. 304. Sutter Basin, California.

Sec. 305. Essex River, Massachusetts.

Sec. 306. Port of Cascade Locks, Oregon.

Sec. 307. Central Delaware River, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sec. 308. Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Sec. 309. Rivercenter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Sec. 310. Joe Pool Lake, Texas.

Sec. 311. Salt Creek, Graham, Texas.

Sec. 312. Texas City Ship Channel, Texas City, Texas.

TITLE IV—WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE

Sec. 401. Project authorizations.

SEC. 2. SECRETARY DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army.

TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACTS.

(a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Corps of Engineers constructs projects for the purposes of navigation, flood control, beach erosion control and shoreline protection, hydroelectric power, recreation, water supply, environmental protection, restoration, and enhancement, and fish and wildlife mitigation.

(2) The Corps of Engineers is the primary Federal provider of outdoor recreation in the United States.

(3) The Corps of Engineers owns and operates more than 600 dams.

(4) The Corps of Engineers operates and maintains 12,000 miles of commercial inland navigation channels.

(5) The Corps of Engineers manages the dredging of more than 200,000,000 cubic yards of construction and maintenance dredge material annually.

(6) The Corps of Engineers maintains 926 coastal, Great Lakes, and inland harbors.

(7) The Corps of Engineers restores, creates, enhances, or preserves tens of thousands of acres of wetlands annually under the Corps' Regulatory Program.

(8) The Corps of Engineers provides a total water supply storage capacity of 329,200,000 acre-feet in major Corps lakes.

(9) The Corps of Engineers owns and operates 24 percent of United States hydropower capacity or 3 percent of the total electric capacity of the United States.

(10) The Corps of Engineers supports Army and Air Force installations.

(11) The Corps of Engineers provides technical and construction support to more than 100 countries.

(12) The Corps of Engineers manages an Army military construction program that carried out approximately \$44,600,000,000 in construction projects (the largest construction effort since World War II) between 2006 and 2013.

(13) The Corps of Engineers researches and develops technologies to protect the environment and enhance quality of life in the United States.

(14) The legislation for authorizing Corps of Engineers projects is the Water Resources Development Act and, between 1986 and 2000, Congress typically enacted an authorization bill every 2 years.

(15) Since 2000, only 3 Water Resources Development Acts have been enacted.

(16) In 2014, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 was enacted, which accelerated the infrastructure project delivery process, fostered fiscal responsibility, and strengthened water transportation networks to promote the competitiveness, prosperity, and economic growth of the United States.

(17) Section 1001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282c) requires typical Corps of Engineers project feasibility studies to be completed in 3 years.

(18) Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) requires the Corps of Engineers to submit annually a Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development, which ensures projects and activities proposed at the local, regional, and State levels are considered for authorization.

(19) Passing Water Resources Development Acts on a routine basis enables Congress to exercise oversight, ensures the Corps of Engineers maintains an appropriately sized portfolio, prevents project backlog, and keeps United States infrastructure competitive.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the missions and authorities of the Corps of Engineers are a unique function that benefits all Americans;

(2) water resources development projects are critical to maintaining economic prosperity, national security, and environmental protection;

(3) Congress has required timely delivery of project and study authorization proposals from non-Federal project sponsors and the Corps of Engineers; and

(4) Congress should consider a Water Resources Development Act at least once every Congress.

SEC. 102. TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES IN CURATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION.

Using available funds, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall carry out a Veterans' Curation Program to train and hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Secretary in carrying out curation and historic preservation activities.

SEC. 103. YOUTH SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 213 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2339) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) **YOUTH SERVICE AND CONSERVATION CORPS ORGANIZATIONS.**—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, enter into cooperative agreements with qualified youth service and conservation corps organizations for services relating to projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary and shall do so in a manner that ensures the maximum participation and opportunities for such organizations.”.

SEC. 104. NAVIGATION SAFETY.

The Secretary shall use section 5 of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1053, chapter 142; 33 U.S.C. 562), to carry out navigation safety activities at those projects eligible for operation and maintenance under section 204(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(f)).

SEC. 105. EMERGING HARBORS.

Section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(3) by striking “for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2022” and inserting “for each fiscal year”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(1)(A)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking “For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024” and inserting “For each fiscal year”;

(B) in clause (i) by striking “90” and inserting “Not more than 90”; and

(C) in clause (ii) by striking “10” and inserting “At least 10”.

SEC. 106. FEDERAL BREAKWATERS AND JETTIES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall, at Federal expense, establish an inventory and conduct an assessment of the general structural condition of all Federal breakwaters and jetties protecting harbors and inland harbors within the United States.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The inventory and assessment carried out under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) compiling location information for all Federal breakwaters and jetties protecting harbors and inland harbors within the United States;

(2) determining the general structural condition of each breakwater and jetty;

(3) analyzing the potential risks to navigational safety, and the impact on the periodic maintenance dredging needs of protected harbors and inland harbors, resulting from the general structural condition of each breakwater and jetty; and

(4) estimating the costs, for each breakwater and jetty, to restore or maintain the breakwater or jetty to authorized levels and the total of all such costs.

(c) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the inventory and assessment carried out under subsection (a).

SEC. 107. DONOR PORTS AND ENERGY TRANSFER PORTS.

Section 2106(a)(2)(B) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “\$15,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

SEC. 108. REMOTE AND SUBSISTENCE HARBORS.

Section 2006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2242) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3) by inserting “in which the project is located, or the long-term viability of a community that is located in the region that is served by the project and that will rely on the project,” after “community”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting “and communities that are located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project” after “community”;

(B) in paragraph (4) by striking “local population” and inserting “regional population to be served by the project”; and

(C) in paragraph (5) by striking “community” and inserting “local community and communities that are located in the region to be served by the project and that will rely on the project”.

SEC. 109. BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a pilot program to carry out projects for the beneficial use of dredged material, including projects for the purposes of—

(1) reducing storm damage to property and infrastructure;

(2) promoting public safety;

(3) protecting, restoring, and creating aquatic ecosystem habitats;

(4) stabilizing stream systems and enhancing shorelines;

(5) promoting recreation; and

(6) supporting risk management adaptation strategies.

(b) **PROJECT SELECTION.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(1) identify for inclusion in the pilot program and carry out 10 projects for the beneficial use of dredged material;

(2) consult with relevant State agencies in selecting projects; and

(3) select projects solely on the basis of—

(A) the environmental, economic, and social benefits of the projects, including monetary and nonmonetary benefits; and

(B) the need for a diversity of project types and geographical project locations.

(c) **REGIONAL BENEFICIAL USE TEAMS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall establish regional beneficial use teams to identify and assist in the implementation of projects under the pilot program.

(2) **COMPOSITION.**—

(A) **LEADERSHIP.**—For each regional beneficial use team established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall appoint the Commander of the relevant division of the Corps of Engineers to serve as the head of the team.

(B) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The membership of each regional beneficial use team shall include—

(i) representatives of relevant Corps of Engineers districts and divisions;

(ii) representatives of relevant State and local agencies; and

(iii) representatives of Federal agencies and such other entities as the Secretary determines appropriate, consistent with the purposes of this section.

(d) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program in a manner that—

(1) maximizes the beneficial placement of dredged material from Federal and non-Federal navigation channels;

(2) incorporates, to the maximum extent practicable, 2 or more Federal navigation, flood control, storm damage reduction, or environmental restoration projects;

(3) coordinates the mobilization of dredges and related equipment, including through the use of such efficiencies in contracting and environmental permitting as can be implemented under existing laws and regulations;

(4) fosters Federal, State, and local collaboration;

(5) implements best practices to maximize the beneficial use of dredged sand and other sediments; and

(6) ensures that the use of dredged material is consistent with all applicable environmental laws.

(e) **COST SHARING.**—Projects carried out under this section shall be subject to the cost-sharing requirements applicable to projects carried out under section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326).

(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a description of the projects selected to be carried out under the pilot program;

(2) documentation supporting each of the projects selected;

(3) the findings of regional beneficial use teams regarding project selection; and

(4) any recommendations of the Secretary or regional beneficial use teams with respect to the pilot program.

(g) **TERMINATION.**—The pilot program shall terminate after completion of the 10 projects carried out pursuant to subsection (b)(1).

(h) **EXEMPTION FROM OTHER STANDARDS.**—The projects carried out under this section shall be carried out notwithstanding the definition of the term “Federal standard” in section 335.7 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations.

(i) **CLARIFICATION.**—Section 156(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5(e)) is amended by striking “3” and inserting “6”.

SEC. 110. RESERVOIR SEDIMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 215 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2326c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 215. RESERVOIR SEDIMENT.

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 and after providing public notice, the Secretary shall establish, using available funds, a pilot program to accept services provided by a non-Federal interest or commercial entity for removal of sediment captured behind a dam owned or operated by the United States and under the jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purpose of restoring the authorized storage capacity of the project concerned.

“(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) review the services of the non-Federal interest or commercial entity to ensure that the services are consistent with the authorized purposes of the project concerned;

“(2) ensure that the non-Federal interest or commercial entity will indemnify the United States for, or has entered into an agreement approved by the Secretary to address, any adverse impact to the dam as a result of such services;

“(3) require the non-Federal interest or commercial entity, prior to initiating the services and upon completion of the services, to conduct sediment surveys to determine the pre- and post-services sediment profile and sediment quality; and

“(4) limit the number of dams for which services are accepted to 10.

“(c) *LIMITATION.*—

“(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary may not accept services under subsection (a) if the Secretary, after consultation with the Chief of Engineers, determines that accepting the services is not advantageous to the United States.

“(2) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—If the Secretary makes a determination under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate written notice describing the reasoning for the determination.

“(d) *DISPOSITION OF REMOVED SEDIMENT.*—In exchange for providing services under subsection (a), a non-Federal interest or commercial entity is authorized to retain, use, recycle, sell, or otherwise dispose of any sediment removed in connection with the services and the Corps of Engineers may not seek any compensation for the value of the sediment.

“(e) *CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.*—Prior to accepting services provided by a non-Federal interest or commercial entity under this section, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate written notice of the acceptance of the services.

“(f) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Upon completion of services at the 10 dams allowed under subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall make publicly available and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report documenting the results of the services.”.

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 is amended by striking the item relating to section 215 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 215. Reservoir sediment.”.

SEC. 111. CONTRIBUTED FUNDS FOR RESERVOIR OPERATIONS.

Section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (49 Stat. 1572, chapter 688; 33 U.S.C. 701h), is amended by

inserting after “authorized purposes of the project.” the following: “Provided further, That the Secretary is authorized to receive and expend funds from a State or a political subdivision thereof, and other non-Federal interests, to formulate, review, or revise operational documents for any reservoir for which the Secretary is authorized to prescribe regulations for the use of storage allocated for flood risk management or navigation pursuant to section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 709).”.

SEC. 112. WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—In a State in which a drought emergency has been declared or was in effect during the 1-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary is authorized—

(1) to conduct an evaluation for purposes of approving water supply conservation measures that are consistent with the authorized purposes of water resources development projects under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) to enter into written agreements pursuant to section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b) with non-Federal interests to carry out the conservation measures approved by such evaluations.

(b) *ELIGIBILITY.*—Water supply conservation measures evaluated under subsection (a) may include the following:

(1) Storm water capture.

(2) Releases for ground water replenishment or aquifer storage and recovery.

(3) Releases to augment water supply at another Federal or non-Federal storage facility.

(4) Other conservation measures that enhance usage of a Corps of Engineers project for water supply.

(c) *COSTS.*—A non-Federal interest shall pay only the separable costs associated with the evaluation, implementation, operation, and maintenance of an approved water supply conservation measure, which payments may be accepted and expended by the Corps of Engineers to cover such costs.

(d) *STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.*—Nothing in this section may be construed to modify or alter the obligations of a non-Federal interest under existing or future agreements for—

(1) water supply storage pursuant to section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b); or

(2) surplus water use pursuant to section 6 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 708).

(e) *LIMITATIONS.*—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects, modifies, or changes the authorized purposes of a Corps of Engineers project;

(2) affects existing Corps of Engineers authorities, including its authorities with respect to navigation, flood damage reduction, and environmental protection and restoration;

(3) affects the Corps of Engineers ability to provide for temporary deviations;

(4) affects the application of a cost-share requirement under section 101, 102, or 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211, 2212, and 2213);

(5) supersedes or modifies any written agreement between the Federal Government and a non-Federal interest that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(6) supersedes or modifies any amendment to an existing multistate water control plan, including those water control plans along the Missouri River and those water control plans in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa basins;

(7) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(8) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water.

SEC. 113. INTERSTATE COMPACTS.

Section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b) is amended by striking subsection (f).

SEC. 114. NONSTRUCTURAL ALTERNATIVES.

Section 5(a)(1) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)(1)), is amended by striking “if requested” each place it appears and inserting “after consultation with the non-Federal sponsor and if requested and agreed to”.

SEC. 115. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS.

(a) *NON-FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS.*—Notwithstanding section 103(j) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(j)), a non-Federal interest is released from any obligation to operate and maintain the nonstructural and nonmechanical components of a water resources development project carried out for the purposes of environmental protection and restoration or aquatic ecosystem restoration, including a project carried out under section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330) or section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2309a), if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the 50-year period that began on the date on which project construction was completed has concluded; or

(2) the criteria identified in the guidance issued under subsection (c) have been met with respect to the project.

(b) *FEDERAL OBLIGATIONS.*—The Secretary is not responsible for the operation or maintenance of any components of a project with respect to which a non-Federal interest is released from obligations under subsection (a).

(c) *GUIDANCE.*—In consultation with non-Federal interests, and not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance that identifies criteria for determining, using the best available science, when the purpose of a project for environmental protection and restoration or aquatic ecosystem restoration has been achieved, including criteria for determining when a project has resulted in the return of the project location to a condition where natural hydrologic and ecological functions are the predominant factors in the condition, functionality, and durability of the location.

SEC. 116. ESTUARY RESTORATION.

(a) *PARTICIPATION OF NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.*—Section 104(f) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2903(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) *PROJECT AGREEMENTS.*—For a project carried out under this title, the requirements of section 103(j)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(j)(1)) may be fulfilled by a nongovernmental organization serving as the non-Federal interest for the project pursuant to paragraph (2).”.

(b) *EXTENSION.*—Section 109(a) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2908(a)) is amended by striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting “2021”.

SEC. 117. GREAT LAKES FISHERY AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.

Section 506(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-22(g)) is repealed.

SEC. 118. AGREEMENTS.

Section 2036(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2317b) is repealed.

SEC. 119. CORPS OF ENGINEERS OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall designate an individual, within the headquarters office of the Corps of Engineers, who shall serve

as the coordinator and principal approving official for developing the process and procedures by which the Corps of Engineers—

(1) operates and maintains small unmanned aircraft (as defined in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note)) systems in support of civil works and emergency response missions of the Corps of Engineers; and

(2) acquires, applies for, and receives any necessary Federal Aviation Administration authorizations for such operations and systems.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—A small unmanned aircraft system acquired, operated, or maintained for carrying out the missions specified in subsection (a) shall be operated in accordance with regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration as a civil aircraft or public aircraft, at the discretion of the Secretary, and shall be exempt from regulations of the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army, governing such system.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—A small unmanned aircraft system acquired, operated, or maintained by the Corps of Engineers is excluded from use by the Department of Defense, including the Department of the Army, for any mission of the Department of Defense other than a mission specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 120. FEDERAL DREDGE FLEET.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the costs and benefits of expanding, reducing, or maintaining the current configuration with respect to the size and makeup of the federally owned hopper dredge fleet.

(b) **FACTORS.**—In carrying out the study, the Comptroller General shall evaluate—

(1) the current and anticipated configuration and capacity of the Federal and private hopper dredge fleet;

(2) the current and anticipated trends for the volume and type of dredge work required over the next 10 years, and the alignment of the size of the existing Federal and private hopper dredge fleet with future dredging needs;

(3) available historic data on the costs, efficiency, and time required to initiate and complete dredging work carried out by Federal and private hopper dredge fleets, respectively;

(4) whether the requirements of section 3 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 423, chapter 860; 33 U.S.C. 622), have any demonstrable impacts on the factors identified in paragraphs (1) through (3), and whether such requirements are most economical and advantageous to the United States; and

(5) other factors that the Comptroller General determines are necessary to evaluate whether it is economical and advantageous to the United States to expand, reduce, or maintain the current configuration of the federally owned hopper dredge fleet.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 121. CORPS OF ENGINEERS ASSETS.

Section 6002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1349) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(2) in subsection (b) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) The extent to which the property has economic, cultural, historic, or recreational significance, or impacts at the national, State, or local level.”.

SEC. 122. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

Section 214(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2352(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) **RAILROAD CARRIER.**—The term ‘railroad carrier’ has the meaning given the term in section 20102 of title 49, United States Code.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “or natural gas company” and inserting “, natural gas company, or railroad carrier”; and

(B) by striking “or company” and inserting “, company, or carrier”;

(3) by striking paragraph (3);

(4) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(5) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) by striking “and natural gas companies” and inserting “, natural gas companies, and railroad carriers”.

SEC. 123. CREDIT IN LIEU OF REIMBURSEMENT.

Section 1022 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “that has been constructed by a non-Federal interest under section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 701b-13) before the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “for which a written agreement with the Corps of Engineers for construction was finalized on or before December 31, 2014, under section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 701b-13)”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “share of the cost of the non-Federal interest of carrying out other flood damage reduction projects or studies” and inserting “non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out other water resources development projects or studies of the non-Federal interest”.

SEC. 124. CLARIFICATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS DURING EMERGENCY EVENTS.

Section 1024(a) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2325a(a)) is amended by inserting after “emergency” the following: “, or that has had or may have an equipment failure (including a failure caused by a lack of or deferred maintenance).”.

SEC. 125. STUDY OF WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.

Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—At the request of a non-Federal interest, the Secretary may provide to the non-Federal interest technical assistance relating to any aspect of a feasibility study if the non-Federal interest contracts with the Secretary to pay all costs of providing such technical assistance.”.

SEC. 126. NON-FEDERAL CONSTRUCTION OF AUTHORIZED FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECTS.

Section 204(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **DISCRETE SEGMENTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may authorize credit or reimbursement under this subsection for a discrete segment of a flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, before final completion of the project or separable element if—

“(i) except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary determines that the discrete segment satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (4) in the same manner as the project or separable element; and

“(ii) notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the Secretary determines, before the approval of the plans under paragraph (1)(A)(i), that the discrete segment is technically feasible and environmentally acceptable.

“(B) **DETERMINATION.**—Credit or reimbursement may not be made available to a non-Fed-

eral interest pursuant to this paragraph until the Secretary determines that—

“(i) the construction of the discrete segment for which credit or reimbursement is requested is complete; and

“(ii) the construction is consistent with the authorization of the applicable flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, and the plans approved under paragraph (1)(A)(i).

“(C) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—As part of the written agreement required under paragraph (1)(A)(iii), a non-Federal interest to be eligible for credit or reimbursement under this paragraph shall—

“(I) identify any discrete segment that the non-Federal interest may carry out; and

“(II) agree to the completion of the flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, with respect to which the discrete segment is a part and establish a timeframe for such completion.

“(ii) **REMITTANCE.**—If a non-Federal interest fails to complete a flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof, that it agreed to complete under clause (i)(II), the non-Federal interest shall remit any reimbursements received under this paragraph for a discrete segment of such project or separable element.

“(D) **DISCRETE SEGMENT DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘discrete segment’ means a physical portion of a flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof—

“(i) described by a non-Federal interest in a written agreement required under paragraph (1)(A)(iii); and

“(ii) that the non-Federal interest can operate and maintain, independently and without creating a hazard, in advance of final completion of the flood damage reduction project, or separable element thereof.”.

SEC. 127. MULTISTATE ACTIVITIES.

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “or other non-Federal interest” and inserting “, group of States, or non-Federal interest”;

(B) by inserting “or group of States” after “working with a State”; and

(C) by inserting “or group of States” after “boundaries of such State”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1) by adding at the end the following: “The Secretary may allow 2 or more States to combine all or a portion of the funds that the Secretary makes available to the States in carrying out subsection (a)(1).”.

SEC. 128. REGIONAL PARTICIPATION ASSURANCE FOR LEVEE SAFETY ACTIVITIES.

(a) **NATIONAL LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM.**—Section 9002 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3301) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through (16) as paragraphs (13) through (17), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following:

“(12) **REGIONAL DISTRICT.**—The term ‘regional district’ means a subdivision of a State government, or a subdivision of multiple State governments, that is authorized to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain projects for the purpose of flood damage reduction.”.

(b) **INVENTORY AND INSPECTION OF LEVEES.**—Section 9004 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “one year after the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(A) by striking “States, Indian tribes, Federal agencies, and other entities” and inserting “States, regional districts, Indian tribes, Federal agencies, and other entities”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading for subparagraph (A) by striking “FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL” and inserting “FEDERAL, STATE, REGIONAL, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking “Federal, State, and local” and inserting “Federal, State, regional, tribal, and local”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the paragraph heading by striking “STATE AND TRIBAL” and inserting “STATE, REGIONAL, AND TRIBAL”; and

(ii) by striking “State or Indian tribe” each place it appears and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”; and

(ii) by striking “chief executive of the tribal government” and inserting “chief executive of the regional district or tribal government”.

(c) **LEEVE SAFETY INITIATIVE.**—Section 9005 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection” and inserting “1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(II) by striking “State, local, and tribal governments and organizations” and inserting “State, regional, local, and tribal governments and organizations”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking “Federal, State, tribal, and local agencies” and inserting “Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal agencies”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking “State, local, and tribal governments” and inserting “State, regional, local, and tribal governments”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B) by inserting “, regional, or tribal” after “State” each place it appears; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(A) by striking “States, non-Federal interests, and other appropriate stakeholders” and inserting “States, regional districts, Indian tribes, non-Federal interests, and other appropriate stakeholders”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “States, communities, and levee owners” and inserting “States, regional districts, Indian tribes, communities, and levee owners”;

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “STATE AND TRIBAL” and inserting “STATE, REGIONAL, AND TRIBAL”; and

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection” and inserting “1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(II) by striking “State or tribal” and inserting “State, regional, or tribal”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “State and Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, and Indian tribe”; and

(II) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”; and

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the paragraph heading by striking “STATES” and inserting “STATES, REGIONAL DISTRICTS, AND INDIAN TRIBES”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A) by striking “States and Indian tribes” and inserting “States, regional districts, and Indian tribes”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”;

(II) in clause (ii) by striking “levees within the State” and inserting “levees within the State or regional district”; and

(III) in clause (iii) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)(ii) in the matter preceding subclause (I) by striking “State or tribal” and inserting “State, regional, or tribal”; and

(v) in subparagraph (E)—

(I) by striking “States and Indian tribes” each place it appears and inserting “States, regional districts, and Indian tribes”;

(II) in clause (ii)(II)—

(aa) in the matter preceding item (aa) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”;

(bb) in item (aa) by striking “miles of levees in the State” and inserting “miles of levees in the State or regional district”; and

(cc) in item (bb) by striking “miles of levees in all States” and inserting “miles of levees in all States and regional districts”; and

(III) in clause (iii)—

(aa) by striking “State or Indian tribe” and inserting “State, regional district, or Indian tribe”; and

(bb) by striking “State or tribal” and inserting “State, regional, or tribal”; and

(4) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “States, Indian tribes, and local governments” and inserting “States, regional districts, Indian tribes, and local governments”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “State, Indian tribe, or local government” and inserting “State, regional district, Indian tribe, or local government”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (E) in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking “State or tribal” and inserting “State, regional, or tribal”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A) by striking “State, Indian tribe, or local government” and inserting “State, regional district, Indian tribe, or local government”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D) by striking “180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection” and inserting “180 days after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(D) in paragraph (4)(A)(i) by striking “State or tribal” and inserting “State, regional, or tribal”.

(d) **REPORTS.**—Section 9006 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection” and inserting “1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking “State and tribal” and inserting “State, regional, and tribal”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection” and inserting “2 years after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(ii) by striking “State, tribal, and local” and inserting “State, regional, tribal, and local”;

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “State and tribal” and inserting “State, regional, and tribal”; and

(C) in paragraph (4) by striking “State and local” and inserting “State, regional, tribal, and local”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection” and inserting “1 year after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”; and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking “State or tribal” and inserting “State, regional, or tribal”.

SEC. 129. PARTICIPATION OF NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.

Section 221(b)(1) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5b(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “and, as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602), a Native village, Regional Corporation, and Village Corporation” after “Indian tribe”.

SEC. 130. INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 1156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2310) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by inserting “**AND INDIAN TRIBES**” after “**TERRITORIES**”; and

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “projects in American” and inserting “projects—

“(1) in American”;

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) for a federally recognized Indian tribe.”.

SEC. 131. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE ANNUAL REPORT PROCESS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress plays a central role in identifying, prioritizing, and authorizing vital water resources infrastructure activities throughout the United States.

(2) The Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121) established a new and transparent process to review and prioritize the water resources development activities of the Corps of Engineers with strong congressional oversight.

(3) Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) requires the Secretary to develop and submit to Congress each year a Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development and, as part of the annual report process, to—

(A) publish a notice in the Federal Register that requests from non-Federal interests proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications to authorized water resources development projects and feasibility studies for inclusion in the report; and

(B) review the proposals submitted and include in the report those proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications that meet the criteria for inclusion established under section 7001.

(4) Congress will use the information provided in the annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development to determine authorization needs and priorities for purposes of water resources development legislation.

(5) To ensure that Congress can gain a thorough understanding of the water resources development needs and priorities of the United States, it is important that the Secretary take sufficient steps to ensure that non-Federal interests are made aware of the new annual report process, including the need for non-Federal interests to submit proposals during the Secretary’s annual request for proposals in order for such proposals to be eligible for consideration by Congress.

(b) **DISSEMINATION OF PROCESS INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall develop, support,

and implement education and awareness efforts for non-Federal interests with respect to the annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development required under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d), including efforts to—

(1) develop and disseminate technical assistance materials, seminars, and guidance on the annual process as it relates to non-Federal interests;

(2) provide written notice to previous and potential non-Federal interests and local elected officials on the annual process and on opportunities to address local water resources challenges through the missions and authorities of the Corps of Engineers;

(3) issue guidance for non-Federal interests to assist such interests in developing proposals for water resources development projects that satisfy the requirements of section 7001; and

(4) provide, at the request of a non-Federal interest, assistance with researching and identifying existing project authorizations and Corps of Engineers decision documents.

SEC. 132. SCOPE OF PROJECTS.

Section 7001(f) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**—The term ‘water resources development project’ includes a project under an environmental infrastructure assistance program.”.

SEC. 133. PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY ACTIVITIES.

At the request of a non-Federal interest with respect to a proposed water resources development project, the Secretary shall meet with the non-Federal interest, prior to initiating a feasibility study relating to the proposed project, to review a preliminary analysis of the Federal interest in the proposed project and the costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of the proposed project, including an estimate of the costs of preparing a feasibility report.

SEC. 134. POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The completion of a post-authorization change report prepared by the Corps of Engineers for a water resources development project—

(1) may not be delayed as a result of consideration being given to changes in policy or priority with respect to project consideration; and

(2) shall be submitted, upon completion, to—

(A) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(b) **COMPLETION REVIEW.**—With respect to a post-authorization change report subject to review by the Secretary, the Secretary shall, not later than 120 days after the date of completion of such report—

(1) review the report; and

(2) provide to Congress any recommendations of the Secretary regarding modification of the applicable water resources development project.

(c) **PRIOR REPORTS.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to any post-authorization change report that was completed prior to the date of enactment of this Act and is subject to a review by the Secretary that has yet to be completed, the Secretary shall complete review of, and provide recommendations to Congress with respect to, the report.

(d) **POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORT INCLUSIONS.**—In this section, the term “post-authorization change report” includes—

(1) a general reevaluation report;

(2) a limited reevaluation report; and

(3) any other report that recommends the modification of an authorized water resources development project.

SEC. 135. MAINTENANCE DREDGING DATA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish, maintain, and make publicly available a database on maintenance dredging carried out by the Secretary, which shall include information on maintenance dredging carried out by Federal and non-Federal vessels.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The Secretary shall include in the database maintained under subsection (a), for each maintenance dredging project and contract, data on—

(1) the volume of dredged material removed;

(2) the initial cost estimate of the Corps of Engineers;

(3) the total cost;

(4) the party and vessel carrying out the work; and

(5) the number of private contractor bids received and the bid amounts, including bids that did not win the final contract award.

SEC. 136. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND TRACKING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 2040 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2345) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2040. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND TRACKING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

“(a) **DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall research, develop, and implement an electronic system to allow the electronic preparation and submission of applications for permits and requests for jurisdictional determinations under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

“(2) **INCLUSION.**—The electronic system required under paragraph (1) shall address—

“(A) applications for standard individual permits;

“(B) applications for letters of permission;

“(C) joint applications with States for State and Federal permits;

“(D) applications for emergency permits;

“(E) applications or requests for jurisdictional determinations; and

“(F) preconstruction notification submissions, when required for a nationwide or other general permit.

“(3) **IMPROVING EXISTING DATA SYSTEMS.**—The Secretary shall seek to incorporate the electronic system required under paragraph (1) into existing systems and databases of the Corps of Engineers to the maximum extent practicable.

“(4) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—The electronic system required under paragraph (1) shall provide for the protection of personal, private, privileged, confidential, and proprietary information, and information the disclosure of which is otherwise prohibited by law.

“(b) **SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.**—The electronic system required under subsection (a) shall—

“(1) enable an applicant or requester to prepare electronically an application for a permit or request;

“(2) enable an applicant or requester to submit to the Secretary, by email or other means through the Internet, the completed application form or request;

“(3) enable an applicant or requester to submit to the Secretary, by email or other means through the Internet, data and other information in support of the permit application or request;

“(4) provide an online interactive guide to provide assistance to an applicant or requester at any time while filling out the permit application or request; and

“(5) enable an applicant or requester (or a designated agent) to track the status of a permit application or request in a manner that will—

“(A) allow the applicant or requester to determine whether the application is pending or final and the disposition of the request;

“(B) allow the applicant or requester to research previously submitted permit applications

and requests within a given geographic area and the results of such applications or requests; and

“(C) allow identification and display of the location of the activities subject to a permit or request through a map-based interface.

“(c) **DOCUMENTATION.**—All permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations made by the Secretary shall be in writing and include documentation supporting the basis for the decision or determination. The Secretary shall prescribe means for documenting all decisions or determinations to be made by the Secretary.

“(d) **RECORD OF DETERMINATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall maintain, for a minimum of 5 years, a record of all permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations made by the Secretary, including documentation supporting the basis of the decisions and determinations.

“(2) **ARCHIVING OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall explore and implement an appropriate mechanism for archiving records of permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations, including documentation supporting the basis of the decisions and determinations, after the 5-year maintenance period described in paragraph (1).

“(e) **AVAILABILITY OF DETERMINATIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall make the records of all permit decisions and jurisdictional determinations made by the Secretary available to the public for review and reproduction.

“(2) **PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall provide for the protection of personal, private, privileged, confidential, and proprietary information, and information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law, which may be excluded from disclosure.

“(f) **DEADLINE FOR ELECTRONIC SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall develop and implement, to the maximum extent practicable, the electronic system required under subsection (a) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

“(2) **REPORT ON ELECTRONIC SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the expiration of the deadline under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report describing the measures implemented and barriers faced in carrying out this section.

“(g) **APPLICABILITY.**—The requirements described in subsections (c), (d), and (e) shall apply to permit applications and requests for jurisdictional determinations submitted to the Secretary after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

“(h) **LIMITATION.**—This section shall not preclude the submission to the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, of a physical copy of a permit application or a request for a jurisdictional determination.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 is amended by striking the item relating to section 2040 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 2040. Electronic submission and tracking of permit applications.”.

SEC. 137. DATA TRANSPARENCY.

Section 2017 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2342) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2017. ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCE DATA.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Using available funds, the Secretary shall make publicly available, including on the Internet, all data in the custody of the Corps of Engineers on—

“(1) the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of water resources development projects; and

“(2) water quality and water management of projects owned, operated, or managed by the Corps of Engineers.

“(b) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to compel or authorize the disclosure of data or other information determined by the Secretary to be confidential information, privileged information, law enforcement information, national security information, infrastructure security information, personal information, or information the disclosure of which is otherwise prohibited by law.

“(c) **TIMING.**—The Secretary shall ensure that data is made publicly available under subsection (a) as quickly as practicable after the data is generated by the Corps of Engineers.

“(d) **PARTNERSHIPS.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may develop partnerships, including through cooperative agreements, with State, tribal, and local governments and other Federal agencies.”.

SEC. 138. BACKLOG PREVENTION.

(a) **PROJECT DEAUTHORIZATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A water resources development project, or separable element of such a project, authorized for construction by this Act shall not be authorized after the last day of the 7-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act unless funds have been obligated for construction of such project during that period.

(2) **IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS.**—Not later than 60 days after the expiration of the 7-year period referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that identifies the projects deauthorized under paragraph (1).

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 60 days after the expiration of the 12-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives, and make available to the public, a report that contains—

(1) a list of any water resources development projects authorized by this Act for which construction has not been completed during that period;

(2) a description of the reasons the projects were not completed;

(3) a schedule for the completion of the projects based on expected levels of appropriations; and

(4) a 5-year and 10-year projection of construction backlog and any recommendations to Congress regarding how to mitigate current problems and the backlog.

SEC. 139. QUALITY CONTROL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (a) of the first section of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 888, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 701–1(a)), is amended by inserting “and shall be made publicly available” before the period at the end.

(b) **PROJECT ADMINISTRATION.**—Section 2041(b)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2346(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “final post-authorization change report,” after “final reevaluation report,”.

SEC. 140. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT AND PRIORITIZATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In conjunction with the President's budget submission to Congress with respect to fiscal year 2018 under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, and biennially thereafter in conjunction with the President's budget submission, the Secretary shall submit to

the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the metrics used in developing the civil works budget for the applicable fiscal year;

(2) the metrics used in developing each business line in the civil works budget; and

(3) how projects are prioritized in the applicable budget submission, including how the Secretary determines those projects for which construction initiation is recommended.

(b) **NOTIFICATION.**—

(1) **REQUIREMENT.**—If the Secretary proposes a covered revised budget estimate, the Secretary shall notify, in writing, each Member of Congress representing a congressional district affected by the study, project, or activity subject to the revised estimate.

(2) **COVERED REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATE DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “covered revised budget estimate” means a budget estimate for a water resources development study, project, or activity that differs from the estimate most recently specified for that study, project, or activity in a budget of the President submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 141. USE OF NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURES.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than February 1, 2017, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the use of natural and nature-based features in water resources development projects, including flood risk reduction, coastal resiliency, and ecosystem restoration projects.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) An assessment of the observed and potential impacts of the use of natural and nature-based features on the cost and effectiveness of water resources development projects and any co-benefits resulting from the use of such features.

(2) A description of any statutory, fiscal, or regulatory barrier to the appropriate consideration and use of natural and nature-based features in carrying out water resources development projects.

SEC. 142. ANNUAL REPORT ON PURCHASE OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Section 213(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–580; 106 Stat. 4831) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) **ANNUAL REPORT ON PURCHASE OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the amount of acquisitions in such fiscal year made by the Corps of Engineers for civil works projects from entities that manufactured the articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall indicate, for each acquisition—

“(i) the dollar value of any articles, materials, or supplies purchased that were manufactured outside of the United States; and

“(ii) a summary of the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured in the United States and the total procurement funds spent on goods manufactured outside of the United States.

“(C) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 30 days after the submission of a report under sub-

paragraph (A), the Secretary shall make such report publicly available on the agency's Web site.”.

SEC. 143. INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PLANNING.

In carrying out a feasibility study for a water resources development project, the Secretary shall coordinate with communities in the watershed covered by such study to determine if a local or regional water management plan exists or is under development for the purposes of stormwater management, water quality improvement, aquifer recharge, or water reuse. If such a local or regional water management plan exists for the watershed, the Secretary shall, in cooperation with the non-Federal sponsor for the plan and affected local public entities, avoid adversely affecting the purposes of the plan and, where feasible, incorporate the purposes of the plan into the Secretary's feasibility study.

SEC. 144. EVALUATION OF PROJECT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall prioritize and complete the activities required of the Secretary under section 1013 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1218).

SEC. 145. ADDITIONAL MEASURES AT DONOR PORTS AND ENERGY TRANSFER PORTS.

Section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4)(A) by striking “Code of Federal Regulation” and inserting “Code of Federal Regulations”; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by striking “2018” and inserting “2020”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking “2015 through 2018” and inserting “2016 through 2020”; and

(ii) by striking “2019 through 2022” and inserting “2021 through 2025”.

SEC. 146. ARCTIC DEEP DRAFT PORT DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS.

Section 2105 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2243) is amended—

(1) by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b))” each place it appears and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 450b)) and Native villages, Regional Corporations, and Village Corporations (as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602))”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) **CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS.**—In carrying out a study of the feasibility of an Arctic deep draft port, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Defense to identify national security benefits associated with the Arctic deep draft port.”.

SEC. 147. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM.

Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2329(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may engage in activities to inform the United States of technological innovations abroad that could significantly improve water resources development in the United States.

“(2) **INCLUSIONS.**—Activities under paragraph (1) may include—

“(A) development, monitoring, assessment, and dissemination of information about foreign water resources projects that could significantly improve water resources development in the United States;

“(B) research, development, training, and other forms of technology transfer and exchange; and

“(C) offering technical services that cannot be readily obtained in the private sector to be incorporated into water resources projects if the costs for assistance will be recovered under the terms of each project.”.

SEC. 148. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study on the flood risks for vulnerable coastal populations in areas within the boundaries of the South Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) *INCLUSIONS.*—In carrying out the study, the Secretary shall identify—

(1) activities that warrant additional analysis by the Corps of Engineers; and

(2) institutional and other barriers to providing protection to the vulnerable coastal populations.

(c) *COORDINATION.*—The Secretary shall conduct the study in coordination with appropriate Federal agencies and State, local, and tribal entities to ensure consistency with related plans.

(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 149. ALTERNATIVE MODELS FOR MANAGING INLAND WATERWAYS TRUST FUND.

(a) *STUDY.*—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to analyze alternative models for managing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, including the management of—

(1) project schedules for projects receiving assistance from the fund; and

(2) expenditures from the fund.

(b) *CONTENTS.*—In conducting the study, the Comptroller General shall examine, at a minimum, the costs and benefits of transferring management of the fund to a not-for-profit corporation or government-owned corporation.

(c) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—In assessing costs and benefits under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall consider, among other factors—

(1) the benefits to the taxpayer;

(2) the impact on project delivery; and

(3) the impact on jobs.

(d) *REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. 150. ALTERNATIVE PROJECTS TO MAINTENANCE DREDGING.

The Secretary may enter into agreements to assume the operation and maintenance costs of an alternative project to maintenance dredging for a channel if the alternative project would lower the overall costs of maintaining the channel.

SEC. 151. FISH HATCHERIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may operate a fish hatchery for the purpose of restoring a population of fish species located in the region surrounding the fish hatchery that is listed as a threatened species or an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or a similar State law.

(b) *COSTS.*—A non-Federal entity, a Federal agency other than the Department of Defense, or a group of non-Federal entities or such Federal agencies shall be responsible for 100 percent of the costs associated with managing a fish hatchery for the purpose described in subsection (a) that are not authorized as of the date of enactment of this Act for the fish hatchery.

SEC. 152. ENVIRONMENTAL BANKS.

(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chairperson of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Council, shall issue such regulations as are necessary for the establishment of procedures and processes for the use, maintenance, and oversight of environmental banks for purposes of mitigating adverse environmental impacts sustained by construction or other activities as required by law or regulation.

(b) *REQUIREMENTS.*—The regulations issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) set forth procedures for certification of environmental banks, including criteria for adoption of an environmental banking instrument;

(2) provide a mechanism for the transfer of environmental credits;

(3) provide for priority certification to environmental banks that enhance the resilience of coastal resources to inundation and coastal erosion, including the restoration of resources within the scope of a project authorized for construction;

(4) ensure certification is given only to banks with secured adequate financial assurance and appropriate legally enforceable protection for restored lands or resources;

(5) stipulate conditions under which cross-crediting of environmental services may occur and provide standards for the conversion of such crediting;

(6) establish performance criteria for environmental banks;

(7) establish criteria for the operation and monitoring of environmental banks; and

(8) establish a framework whereby the purchase of credit from an environmental bank may be used to offset or satisfy past, current, or future adverse environmental impacts or liability under law to wetlands, water, wildlife, or other natural resources.

(c) *CONSIDERATION.*—In developing the regulations required under subsection (a), the Chairperson shall take into consideration habitat equivalency analysis.

(d) *MODIFICATIONS.*—The Chairperson may modify or update the regulations issued pursuant to this section, subject to appropriate consultation and public participation, provided that two-thirds of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council approves the modification or update.

(e) *DEFINITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL BANK.*—In this section, the term “environmental bank” means a project, project increment, or projects for purposes of restoring, creating, enhancing, or preserving natural resources in a designated site to provide for credits to offset adverse environmental impacts.

(f) *SAVINGS CLAUSE.*—Nothing in this section—

(1) affects the requirements of section 906 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2283); or

(2) affects the obligations or requirements of any Federal environmental law.

TITLE II—STUDIES

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF PROPOSED FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress:

(1) *OUACHITA-BLACK RIVERS, ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA.*—Project for navigation, Ouachita-Black Rivers, Arkansas and Louisiana.

(2) *CACHE CREEK SETTLING BASIN, CALIFORNIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Cache Creek Settling Basin, California.

(3) *COYOTE VALLEY DAM, CALIFORNIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction, environmental restoration, and water supply, Coyote Valley Dam, California.

(4) *DEL ROSA CHANNEL, CITY OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Del Rosa Channel, city of San Bernardino, California.

(5) *MERCED COUNTY STREAMS, CALIFORNIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction, Merced County Streams, California.

(6) *MISSION-ZANJA CHANNEL, CITIES OF SAN BERNARDINO AND REDLANDS, CALIFORNIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Mission-Zanja Channel, cities of San Bernardino and Redlands, California.

(7) *SOBOBA INDIAN RESERVATION, CALIFORNIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction, Soboba Indian Reservation, California.

(8) *INDIAN RIVER INLET, DELAWARE.*—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Indian River Inlet, Delaware.

(9) *LEWES BEACH, DELAWARE.*—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Lewes Beach, Delaware.

(10) *MISPILLION COMPLEX, KENT AND SUSSEX COUNTIES, DELAWARE.*—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, Mispillion Complex, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware.

(11) *DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA.*—Project for flood damage reduction, Daytona Beach, Florida.

(12) *BRUNSWICK HARBOR, GEORGIA.*—Project for navigation, Brunswick Harbor, Georgia.

(13) *DUBUQUE, IOWA.*—Project for flood damage reduction, Dubuque, Iowa.

(14) *ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LOUISIANA.*—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

(15) *CATTARAUGUS CREEK, NEW YORK.*—Project for flood damage reduction, Cattaraugus Creek, New York.

(16) *CAYUGA INLET, ITHACA, NEW YORK.*—Project for navigation and flood damage reduction, Cayuga Inlet, Ithaca, New York.

(17) *DELAWARE RIVER BASIN, NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA, AND DELAWARE.*—Projects for flood control, Delaware River Basin, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, authorized by section 408 of the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 644, chapter 596), and section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1182), to review operations of the projects to enhance opportunities for ecosystem restoration and water supply.

(18) *SILVER CREEK, HANOVER, NEW YORK.*—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Silver Creek, Hanover, New York.

(19) *TULSA AND WEST TULSA LEVEES, TULSA, OKLAHOMA.*—Project for flood damage reduction, Tulsa and West Tulsa Levees, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(20) *STONYCREEK AND LITTLE CONEMAUGH RIVERS, PENNSYLVANIA.*—Project for flood damage reduction and recreation, Stonycreek and Little Conemaugh Rivers, Pennsylvania.

(21) *TIOGA-HAMMOND LAKE, PENNSYLVANIA.*—Project for ecosystem restoration, Tioga-Hammond Lake, Pennsylvania.

(22) *BRAZOS RIVER, FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS.*—Project for flood damage reduction in the vicinity of the Brazos River, Fort Bend County, Texas.

(23) *CHACON CREEK, CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS.*—Project for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, Chacon Creek, city of Laredo, Texas.

(24) *CORPUS CHRISTI SHIP CHANNEL, TEXAS.*—Project for navigation, Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas.

(25) *CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS.*—Project for flood damage reduction, city of El Paso, Texas.

(26) *GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY, BRAZORIA AND MATAGORDA COUNTIES, TEXAS.*—Project for navigation and hurricane and storm damage reduction, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazoria and Matagorda Counties, Texas.

(27) PORT OF BAY CITY, TEXAS.—Project for navigation, Port of Bay City, Texas.

(28) CHINCOTEAGUE ISLAND, VIRGINIA.—Project for hurricane and storm damage reduction, navigation, and ecosystem restoration, Chincoteague Island, Virginia.

(29) BURLEY CREEK WATERSHED, KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON.—Project for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Burley Creek Watershed, Kitsap County, Washington.

SEC. 202. EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF REPORTS FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.

(a) FEASIBILITY REPORTS.—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a feasibility study for each of the following projects, and if the Secretary determines that the project is justified in a completed report, may proceed directly to preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the project:

(1) Project for flood risk management, Little Colorado River at Winslow, Navajo County, Arizona.

(2) Project for flood risk management, Lower San Joaquin River, California. In carrying out the feasibility study for the project, the Secretary shall include Reclamation District 17 as part of the study.

(3) Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Sacramento River Flood Control System, California.

(4) Project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Ft. Pierce, Florida.

(5) Project for flood risk management, Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, Iowa.

(6) Project for navigation, Mississippi River Ship Channel, Louisiana.

(7) Project for flood risk management, North Branch Ecorse Creek, Wayne County, Michigan.

(8) Project for flood risk management, Rahway River Basin (Upper Basin), New Jersey.

(9) Project for navigation, Upper Ohio River, Pennsylvania.

(b) POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORTS.—The Secretary shall expedite completion of a post-authorization change report for each of the following projects:

(1) Project for flood risk management, Swope Park Industrial Area, Kansas City, Missouri.

(2) Project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, New Hanover County, North Carolina.

TITLE III—DEAUTHORIZATIONS AND RELATED PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. DEAUTHORIZATION OF INACTIVE PROJECTS.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to identify \$5,000,000,000 in water resources development projects authorized by Congress that are no longer viable for construction due to—

(A) a lack of local support;

(B) a lack of available Federal or non-Federal resources; or

(C) an authorizing purpose that is no longer relevant or feasible;

(2) to create an expedited and definitive process for Congress to deauthorize water resources development projects that are no longer viable for construction; and

(3) to allow the continued authorization of water resources development projects that are viable for construction.

(b) INTERIM DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop an interim deauthorization list that identifies—

(A) each water resources development project, or separable element of a project, authorized for construction before November 8, 2007, for which—

(i) planning, design, or construction was not initiated before the date of enactment of this Act; or

(ii) planning, design, or construction was initiated before the date of enactment of this Act, but for which no funds, Federal or non-Federal, were obligated for planning, design, or construction of the project or separable element of the project during the current fiscal year or any of the 6 preceding fiscal years; and

(B) each project or separable element identified and included on a list to Congress for deauthorization pursuant to section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 579a(b)(2)).

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit comments from the public and the Governors of each applicable State on the interim deauthorization list developed under paragraph (1).

(B) COMMENT PERIOD.—The public comment period shall be 90 days.

(3) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the close of the comment period under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) submit a revised interim deauthorization list to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) publish the revised interim deauthorization list in the Federal Register.

(c) FINAL DEAUTHORIZATION LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a final deauthorization list of water resources development projects, or separable elements of projects, from the revised interim deauthorization list described in subsection (b)(3).

(2) DEAUTHORIZATION AMOUNT.—

(A) PROPOSED FINAL LIST.—The Secretary shall prepare a proposed final deauthorization list of projects and separable elements of projects that have, in the aggregate, an estimated Federal cost to complete that is at least \$5,000,000,000.

(B) DETERMINATION OF FEDERAL COST TO COMPLETE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Federal cost to complete shall take into account any allowances authorized by section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280), as applied to the most recent project schedule and cost estimate.

(3) IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS.—

(A) SEQUENCING OF PROJECTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall identify projects and separable elements of projects for inclusion on the proposed final deauthorization list according to the order in which the projects and separable elements of the projects were authorized, beginning with the earliest authorized projects and separable elements of projects and ending with the latest project or separable element of a project necessary to meet the aggregate amount under paragraph (2).

(ii) FACTORS TO CONSIDER.—The Secretary may identify projects and separable elements of projects in an order other than that established by clause (i) if the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that a project or separable element of a project is critical for interests of the United States, based on the possible impact of the project or separable element of the project on public health and safety, the national economy, or the environment.

(iii) CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.—In making determinations under clause (ii), the Secretary shall consider any comments received under subsection (b)(3).

(B) APPENDIX.—The Secretary shall include as part of the proposed final deauthorization list an appendix that—

(i) identifies each project or separable element of a project on the interim deauthorization list developed under subsection (b) that is not included on the proposed final deauthorization list; and

(ii) describes the reasons why the project or separable element is not included on the proposed final list.

(4) PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONSULTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall solicit comments from the public and the Governor of each applicable State on the proposed final deauthorization list and appendix developed under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(B) COMMENT PERIOD.—The public comment period shall be 90 days.

(5) SUBMISSION OF FINAL LIST TO CONGRESS; PUBLICATION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the close of the comment period under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall—

(A) submit a final deauthorization list and an appendix to the final deauthorization list in a report to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) publish the final deauthorization list and the appendix to the final deauthorization list in the Federal Register.

(d) DEAUTHORIZATION; CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the expiration of the 180-day period beginning on the date of submission of the final deauthorization list and appendix under subsection (c), a project or separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list is hereby deauthorized, unless Congress passes a joint resolution disapproving the final deauthorization list prior to the end of such period.

(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A project or separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list under subsection (c) shall not be deauthorized under this subsection if, before the expiration of the 180-day period referred to in paragraph (1), the non-Federal interest for the project or separable element of the project provides sufficient funds to complete the project or separable element of the project.

(B) TREATMENT OF PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), each project and separable element of a project identified in the final deauthorization list shall be treated as deauthorized for purposes of the aggregate deauthorization amount specified in subsection (c)(2).

(3) PROJECTS IDENTIFIED IN APPENDIX.—A project or separable element of a project identified in the appendix to the final deauthorization list shall remain subject to future deauthorization by Congress.

(e) SPECIAL RULE FOR PROJECTS RECEIVING FUNDS FOR POST-AUTHORIZATION STUDY.—A project or separable element of a project may not be identified on the interim deauthorization list developed under subsection (b), or the final deauthorization list developed under subsection (c), if the project or separable element received funding for a post-authorization study during the current fiscal year or any of the 6 preceding fiscal years.

(f) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(A) POST-AUTHORIZATION STUDY.—The term “post-authorization study” means—

(i) a feasibility report developed under section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282);

(ii) a feasibility study, as defined in section 105(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(d)); or

(iii) a review conducted under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a), including an initial appraisal that—

(I) demonstrates a Federal interest; and

(II) requires additional analysis for the project or separable element.

(B) **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**—The term “water resources development project” includes an environmental infrastructure assistance project or program of the Corps of Engineers.

(2) **TREATMENT OF PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.**—For purposes of this section, if an authorized water resources development project or separable element of the project has been modified by an Act of Congress, the date of the authorization of the project or separable element shall be deemed to be the date of the most recent such modification.

SEC. 302. VALDEZ, ALASKA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (b), the portion of the project for navigation, Valdez, Alaska, identified as Tract G, Harbor Subdivision, shall not be subject to navigational servitude beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **ENTRY BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—The Federal Government may enter upon the property referred to in subsection (a) to carry out any required operation and maintenance of the general navigation features of the project referred to in subsection (a).

SEC. 303. LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—
(1) prioritize the updating of the Water Control Manuals for control structures in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area, Los Angeles County, California, authorized by section 101(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–640; 104 Stat. 4611); and

(2) integrate and incorporate into the project seasonal operations for water conservation and water supply.

(b) **PARTICIPATION.**—The update referred to in subsection (a) shall be done in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

SEC. 304. SUTTER BASIN, CALIFORNIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The separable element constituting the locally preferred plan increment reflected in the report of the Chief of Engineers dated March 12, 2014, and authorized for construction in item 8 of the table contained in section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1366) is no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **SAVINGS PROVISIONS.**—The deauthorization under subsection (a) does not affect—

(1) the national economic development plan separable element reflected in the report of the Chief of Engineers dated March 12, 2014, and authorized for construction in item 8 of the table contained in section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–121; 128 Stat. 1366); or

(2) previous authorizations providing for the Sacramento River and major and minor tributaries project, including—

(A) section 2 of the Act of March 1, 1917 (39 Stat. 949, chapter 144);

(B) section 12 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 900, chapter 665);

(C) section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 177, chapter 188); and

(D) any other Acts relating to the authorization for the Sacramento River and major and minor tributaries project along the Feather River right bank between levee stationing 1483+33 and levee stationing 2368+00.

SEC. 305. ESSEX RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS.

(a) **DEAUTHORIZATION.**—The portions of the project for navigation, Essex River, Massachusetts, authorized by the Act of July 13, 1892 (27 Stat. 88, chapter 158), and modified by the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1121, chapter 425), and the Act of March 2, 1907 (34 Stat. 1073, chapter 2509), that do not lie within the areas described in subsection (b) are no longer authorized beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREAS.**—The areas described in this subsection are as follows: Beginning at a point N3056139.82 E851780.21, thence southwesterly about 156.88 feet to a point N3055997.75 E851713.67; thence southwesterly about 64.59 feet to a point N3055959.37 E851661.72; thence southwesterly about 145.14 feet to a point N3055887.10 E851535.85; thence southwesterly about 204.91 feet to a point N3055855.12 E851333.45; thence northwesterly about 423.50 feet to a point N3055976.70 E850927.78; thence northwesterly about 58.77 feet to a point N3056002.99 E850875.21; thence northwesterly about 240.57 feet to a point N3056232.82 E850804.14; thence northwesterly about 203.60 feet to a point N3056435.41 E850783.93; thence northwesterly about 78.63 feet to a point N3056499.63 E850738.56; thence northwesterly about 60.00 feet to a point N3056526.30 E850684.81; thence southwesterly about 85.56 feet to a point N3056523.33 E850599.31; thence southwesterly about 36.20 feet to a point N3056512.37 E850564.81; thence southwesterly about 80.10 feet to a point N3056467.08 E850498.74; thence southwesterly about 169.05 feet to a point N3056334.36 E850394.03; thence northwesterly about 48.52 feet to a point N3056354.38 E850349.83; thence northeasterly about 83.71 feet to a point N3056436.35 E850366.84; thence northeasterly about 212.38 feet to a point N3056548.70 E850547.07; thence northeasterly about 47.60 feet to a point N3056563.12 E850592.43; thence northeasterly about 101.16 feet to a point N3056566.62 E850693.53; thence southeasterly about 80.22 feet to a point N3056530.97 E850765.40; thence southeasterly about 99.29 feet to a point N3056449.88 E850822.69; thence southeasterly about 210.12 feet to a point N3056240.79 E850843.54; thence southeasterly about 219.46 feet to a point N3056031.13 E850908.38; thence southeasterly about 38.23 feet to a point N3056014.02 E850942.57; thence southeasterly about 410.93 feet to a point N3055896.06 E851336.21; thence northeasterly about 188.43 feet to a point N3055925.46 E851522.33; thence northeasterly about 135.47 feet to a point N3055992.91 E851639.80; thence northeasterly about 52.15 feet to a point N3056023.90 E851681.75; thence northeasterly about 91.57 feet to a point N3056106.82 E851720.59.

SEC. 306. PORT OF CASCADE LOCKS, OREGON.

(a) **EXTINGUISHMENT OF PORTIONS OF EXISTING FLOWAGE EASEMENT.**—With respect to the properties described in subsection (b), beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the flowage easements described in subsection (c) are extinguished above elevation 82.2 feet (NGVD29), the ordinary high water line.

(b) **AFFECTED PROPERTIES.**—The properties described in this subsection, as recorded in Hood River County, Oregon, are as follows:

(1) Lots 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the “Port of Cascade Locks Business Park” subdivision, Instrument Number 2014–00436.

(2) Parcels 1, 2, and 3 of Hood River County Partition, Plat Number 2008–25P.

(c) **FLOWAGE EASEMENTS.**—The flowage easements described in this subsection are identified as Tracts 302E–1 and 304E–1 on the easement deeds recorded as instruments in Hood River County, Oregon, and described as follows:

(1) A flowage easement dated October 3, 1936, recorded December 1, 1936, book 25, page 531 (Records of Hood River County, Oregon), in favor of the United States (302E–1–Perpetual Flowage Easement from 10/5/37, 10/5/36, and 10/3/36; previously acquired as Tracts OH–36 and OH–41 and a portion of Tract OH–47).

(2) A flowage easement dated October 5, 1936, recorded October 17, 1936, book 25, page 476 (Records of Hood River County, Oregon), in favor of the United States, affecting that portion below the 94-foot contour line above main

sea level (304 E1–Perpetual Flowage Easement from 8/10/37 and 10/3/36; previously acquired as Tract OH–042 and a portion of Tract OH–47).

(d) **FEDERAL LIABILITIES; CULTURAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OTHER REGULATORY REVIEWS.**—

(1) **FEDERAL LIABILITY.**—The United States shall not be liable for any injury caused by the extinguishment of an easement under this section.

(2) **CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY ACTIONS.**—Nothing in this section establishes any cultural or environmental regulation relating to the properties described in subsection (b).

(e) **EFFECT ON OTHER RIGHTS.**—Nothing in this section affects any remaining right or interest of the Corps of Engineers in the properties described in subsection (b).

SEC. 307. CENTRAL DELAWARE RIVER, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) **AREA TO BE DECLARED NONNAVIGABLE.**—Subject to subsection (c), unless the Secretary finds, after consultation with local and regional public officials (including local and regional public planning organizations), that there are substantive objections, those portions of the Delaware River, bounded by the former bulkhead and pierhead lines that were established by the Secretary of War and successors and described as follows, are declared to be nonnavigable waters of the United States:

(1) Piers 70 South through 38 South, encompassing an area bounded by the southern line of Moore Street extended to the northern line of Catherine Street extended, including the following piers: Piers 70, 68, 67, 64, 61–63, 60, 57, 55, 53, 48, 46, 40, and 38.

(2) Piers 24 North through 72 North, encompassing an area bounded by the southern line of Callowhill Street extended to the northern line of East Fletcher Street extended, including the following piers: Piers 24, 25, 27–35, 35.5, 36, 37, 38, 39, 49, 51–52, 53–57, 58–65, 66, 67, 69, 70–72, and Rivercenter.

(b) **PUBLIC INTEREST DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary shall make the public interest determination under subsection (a) separately for each proposed project to be undertaken within the boundaries described in subsection (a), using reasonable discretion, not later than 150 days after the date of submission of appropriate plans for the proposed project.

(c) **LIMITS ON APPLICABILITY; REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.**—The declaration under subsection (a) shall apply only to those parts of the areas described in subsection (a) that are or will be bulkheaded and filled or otherwise occupied by permanent structures, including marina and recreation facilities. All such work is subject to all applicable Federal statutes and regulations, including sections 9 and 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 401 and 403), section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

SEC. 308. HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the updating of the Master Plan for the Juniata River and tributaries project, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87–874; 76 Stat. 1182); and

(2) ensure that alternatives for additional recreation access and development at the project are fully assessed, evaluated, and incorporated as a part of the update.

(b) **PARTICIPATION.**—The update referred to in subsection (a) shall be done in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

SEC. 309. RIVERCENTER, PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

Section 38(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (33 U.S.C. 59f-1(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(except 30 years from such date of enactment, in the case of the area or any part thereof described in subsection (a)(5))”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the declaration of nonnavigability for the area described in subsection (a)(5), or any part thereof, shall not expire.”.

SEC. 310. JOE POOL LAKE, TEXAS.

The Secretary shall accept from the Trinity River Authority of Texas, if received by September 30, 2016, \$31,233,401 as payment in full of amounts owed to the United States, including any accrued interest, for the approximately 61,747.1 acre-feet of water supply storage space in Joe Pool Lake, Texas (previously known as Lakeview Lake), for which payment has not commenced under Article 5.a. (relating to project investment costs) of contract number DACW63-76-C-0106, as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 311. SALT CREEK, GRAHAM, TEXAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The project for flood control, environmental restoration, and recreation, Salt Creek, Graham, Texas, authorized by section 101(a)(30) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 278), is no longer authorized as a Federal project beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **CERTAIN PROJECT-RELATED CLAIMS.**—The non-Federal interest for the project shall hold and save the United States harmless from any claim that has arisen, or that may arise, in connection with the project.

(c) **TRANSFER.**—The Secretary is authorized to transfer any land acquired by the Federal Government for the project on behalf of the non-Federal interest that remains in Federal ownership on or after the date of enactment of this Act to the non-Federal interest.

(d) **REVERSION.**—If the Secretary determines that land transferred under subsection (c) ceases to be owned by the public, all right, title, and interest in and to the land and improvements thereon shall revert, at the discretion of the Secretary, to the United States.

SEC. 312. TEXAS CITY SHIP CHANNEL, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The portion of the Texas City Ship Channel, Texas City, Texas, described in subsection (b) shall not be subject to navigational servitude beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) **DESCRIPTION.**—The portion of the Texas City Ship Channel described in this subsection is a tract or parcel containing 393.53 acres (17,142,111 square feet) of land situated in the City of Texas City Survey, Abstract Number 681, and State of Texas Submerged Lands Tracts 98A and 99A, Galveston County, Texas, said 393.53 acre tract being more particularly described as follows:

(1) Beginning at the intersection of an edge of fill along Galveston Bay with the most northerly east survey line of said City of Texas City Survey, Abstract No. 681, the same being a called 375.75 acre tract patented by the State of Texas to the City of Texas City and recorded in Volume 1941, Page 750 of the Galveston County Deed Records (G.C.D.R.), from which a found U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brass Cap stamped “R 4-3” set in the top of the Texas City Dike along the east side of Bay Street bears North 56° 14′ 32″ West, a distance of 6,045.31 feet and from which a found U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brass Cap stamped “R 4-2” set in the top of the Texas City Dike along the east side of

Bay Street bears North 49° 13′ 20″ West, a distance of 6,693.64 feet.

(2) Thence, over and across said State Tracts 98A and 99A and along the edge of fill along said Galveston Bay, the following eight (8) courses and distances:

(A) South 75° 49′ 13″ East, a distance of 298.08 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) South 81° 16′ 26″ East, a distance of 170.58 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(C) South 79° 20′ 31″ East, a distance of 802.34 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(D) South 75° 57′ 32″ East, a distance of 869.68 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(E) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 736.80 feet, a central angle of 24° 55′ 59″, a chord of South 68° 47′ 35″ East – 318.10 feet, and an arc length of 320.63 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(F) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 373.30 feet, a central angle of 31° 57′ 42″, a chord of South 66° 10′ 42″ East – 205.55 feet, and an arc length of 208.24 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(G) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 15,450.89 feet, a central angle of 02° 04′ 10″, a chord of South 81° 56′ 20″ East – 558.04 feet, and an arc length of 558.07 feet to a point for the beginning of a compound curve to the right and the northeasterly corner of the tract herein described.

(H) Southerly along said compound curve to the right and the easterly line of the tract herein described, having a radius of 1,425.00 feet, a central angle of 133° 08′ 00″, a chord of South 14° 20′ 15″ East – 2,614.94 feet, and an arc length of 3,311.15 feet to a point on a line lying 125.00 feet northerly of and parallel with the centerline of an existing levee for the southeasterly corner of the tract herein described.

(3) Thence, continuing over and across said State Tracts 98A and 99A and along lines lying 125.00 feet northerly of, parallel, and concentric with the centerline of said existing levee, the following twelve (12) courses and distances:

(A) North 78° 01′ 58″ West, a distance of 840.90 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) North 76° 58′ 35″ West, a distance of 976.66 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(C) North 76° 44′ 33″ West, a distance of 1,757.03 feet to a point for the beginning of a tangent curve to the left.

(D) Southwesterly, along said tangent curve to the left having a radius of 185.00 feet, a central angle of 82° 27′ 32″, a chord of South 62° 01′ 41″ West – 243.86 feet, and an arc length of 266.25 feet to a point for the beginning of a compound curve to the left.

(E) Southerly, along said compound curve to the left having a radius of 4,535.58 feet, a central angle of 11° 06′ 58″, a chord of South 15° 14′ 26″ West – 878.59 feet, and an arc length of 879.97 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(F) South 64° 37′ 11″ West, a distance of 146.03 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(G) South 67° 08′ 21″ West, a distance of 194.42 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(H) North 34° 48′ 22″ West, a distance of 789.69 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(I) South 42° 47′ 10″ West, a distance of 161.01 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(J) South 42° 47′ 10″ West, a distance of 144.66 feet to a point for the beginning of a tangent curve to the right.

(K) Westerly, along said tangent curve to the right having a radius of 310.00 feet, a central angle of 59° 50′ 28″, a chord of South 72° 42′ 24″ West – 309.26 feet, and an arc length of 323.77 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(L) North 77° 22′ 21″ West, a distance of 591.41 feet to the intersection of said parallel line with the edge of fill adjacent to the easterly edge of the Texas City Turning Basin for the southwest corner of the tract herein described, from which a found U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Brass Cap stamped “SWAN 2” set in the top of a concrete column set flush in the ground along the north bank of Swan Lake bears South 20° 51′ 58″ West, a distance of 4,862.67 feet.

(4) Thence, over and across said City of Texas City Survey and along the edge of fill adjacent to the easterly edge of said Texas City Turning Basin, the following eighteen (18) courses and distances:

(A) North 01° 34′ 19″ East, a distance of 57.40 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) North 05° 02′ 13″ West, a distance of 161.85 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(C) North 06° 01′ 56″ East, a distance of 297.75 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(D) North 06° 18′ 07″ West, a distance of 71.33 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(E) North 07° 21′ 09″ West, a distance of 122.45 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(F) North 26° 41′ 15″ West, a distance of 46.02 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(G) North 01° 31′ 59″ West, a distance of 219.78 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(H) North 15° 54′ 07″ West, a distance of 104.89 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(I) North 04° 00′ 34″ East, a distance of 72.94 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(J) North 06° 46′ 38″ West, a distance of 78.89 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(K) North 12° 07′ 59″ West, a distance of 182.79 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(L) North 20° 50′ 47″ West, a distance of 105.74 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(M) North 02° 02′ 04″ West, a distance of 184.50 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(N) North 08° 07′ 11″ East, a distance of 102.23 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(O) North 08° 16′ 00″ West, a distance of 213.45 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(P) North 03° 15′ 16″ West, a distance of 336.45 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(Q) Northerly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 896.08 feet, a central angle of 14° 00′ 05″, a chord of North 09° 36′ 03″ West – 218.43 feet, and an arc length of 218.97 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(R) Northerly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 483.33 feet, a central angle of 19° 13′ 34″, a chord of North 13° 52′ 03″ East – 161.43 feet, and an arc length of 162.18 feet to a point for the northwesterly corner of the tract herein described.

(5) Thence, continuing over and across said City of Texas City Survey, and along the edge of fill along said Galveston Bay, the following fifteen (15) courses and distances:

(A) North 30° 45' 02" East, a distance of 189.03 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(B) North 34° 20' 49" East, a distance of 174.16 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(C) Northeasterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 202.01 feet, a central angle of 25° 53' 37", a chord of North 33° 14' 58" East – 90.52 feet, and an arc length of 91.29 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(D) Northeasterly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 463.30 feet, a central angle of 23° 23' 57", a chord of North 48° 02' 53" East – 187.90 feet, and an arc length of 189.21 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(E) Northeasterly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 768.99 feet, a central angle of 16° 24' 19", a chord of North 43° 01' 40" East – 219.43 feet, and an arc length of 220.18 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(F) North 38° 56' 50" East, a distance of 126.41 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(G) North 42° 59' 50" East, a distance of 128.28 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the right.

(H) Northerly along said non-tangent curve to the right having a radius of 151.96 feet, a central angle of 68° 36' 31", a chord of North 57° 59' 42" East – 171.29 feet, and an arc length of 181.96 feet to a point for the most northerly corner of the tract herein described.

(I) South 77° 14' 49" East, a distance of 131.60 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(J) South 84° 44' 18" East, a distance of 86.58 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(K) South 58° 14' 45" East, a distance of 69.62 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(L) South 49° 44' 51" East, a distance of 149.00 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(M) South 44° 47' 21" East, a distance of 353.77 feet to a point for the beginning of a non-tangent curve to the left.

(N) Easterly along said non-tangent curve to the left having a radius of 253.99 feet, a central angle of 98° 53' 23", a chord of South 83° 28' 51" East – 385.96 feet, and an arc length of 438.38 feet to an angle point of the tract herein described.

(O) South 75° 49' 13" East, a distance of 321.52 feet to the point of beginning and containing 393.53 acres (17,142,111 square feet) of land.

TITLE IV—WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE

SEC. 401. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.

The following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled "Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development" submitted to Congress on January 29, 2015, and January 29, 2016, respectively, pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress, are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, described in the respective reports designated in this section:

(1) NAVIGATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Brazos Island Harbor	Nov. 3, 2014	Federal: \$116,116,000 Non-Federal: \$88,471,000 Total: \$204,587,000
2. LA	Calcasieu Lock	Dec. 2, 2014	Total: \$16,700,000 (to be derived ½ from the general fund of the Treasury and ½ from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund)
3. NH, ME	Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River	Feb. 8, 2015	Federal: \$15,580,000 Non-Federal: \$5,190,000 Total: \$20,770,000
4. FL	Port Everglades	Jun. 25, 2015	Federal: \$220,200,000 Non-Federal: \$102,500,000 Total: \$322,700,000
5. AK	Little Diomed Harbor	Aug. 10, 2015	Federal: \$26,015,000 Non-Federal: \$2,945,000 Total: \$28,960,000
6. SC	Charleston Harbor	Sep. 8, 2015	Federal: \$224,300,000 Non-Federal: \$269,000,000 Total: \$493,300,000
7. AK	Craig Harbor	March 16, 2016	Federal: \$29,062,000 Non-Federal: \$3,255,000 Total: \$32,317,000.

(2) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Leon Creek Watershed	Jun. 30, 2014	Federal: \$18,314,000 Non-Federal: \$9,861,000 Total: \$28,175,000
2. MO, KS	Armourdale and Central Industrial District Levee Units, Missouri River and Tributaries at Kansas City	Jan. 27, 2015	Federal: \$207,036,000 Non-Federal: \$111,481,000 Total: \$318,517,000
3. KS	City of Manhattan	Apr. 30, 2015	Federal: \$15,440,100 Non-Federal: \$8,313,900 Total: \$23,754,000
4. TN	Mill Creek	Oct. 16, 2015	Federal: \$17,759,000 Non-Federal: \$10,745,000 Total: \$28,504,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
5. KS	Upper Turkey Creek Basin	Dec. 22, 2015	Federal: \$24,584,000 Non-Federal: \$13,238,000 Total: \$37,822,000
6. NC	Princeville	Feb. 23, 2016	Federal: \$14,001,000 Non-Federal: \$7,539,000 Total: \$21,540,000
7. CA	American River Common Features	Apr. 26, 2016	Federal: \$876,478,000 Non-Federal: \$689,272,000 Total: \$1,565,750,000
8. CA	West Sacramento	Apr. 26, 2016	Federal: \$776,517,000 Non-Federal: \$414,011,000 Total: \$1,190,528,000.

(3) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Initial Costs and Estimated Renourishment Costs
1. SC	Colleton County	Sep. 5, 2014	Initial Federal: \$13,733,850 Initial Non-Federal: \$7,395,150 Initial Total: \$21,129,000 Renourishment Federal: \$16,371,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$16,371,000 Renourishment Total: \$32,742,000
2. FL	Flagler County	Dec. 23, 2014	Initial Federal: \$9,218,300 Initial Non-Federal: \$4,963,700 Initial Total: \$14,182,000 Renourishment Federal: \$15,390,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$15,390,000 Renourishment Total: \$30,780,000
3. NC	Carteret County	Dec. 23, 2014	Initial Federal: \$24,263,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$13,064,000 Initial Total: \$37,327,000 Renourishment Federal: \$114,728,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$114,728,000 Renourishment Total: \$229,456,000
4. NJ	Hereford Inlet to Cape May Inlet, Cape May County	Jan. 23, 2015	Initial Federal: \$14,040,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$7,560,000 Initial Total: \$21,600,000 Renourishment Federal: \$41,215,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$41,215,000 Renourishment Total: \$82,430,000
5. LA	West Shore Lake Pontchartrain	Jun. 12, 2015	Federal: \$466,760,000 Non-Federal: \$251,330,000 Total: \$718,090,000
6. CA	San Diego County	Apr. 26, 2016	Initial Federal: \$20,166,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$10,858,000 Initial Total: \$31,024,000 Renourishment Federal: \$68,215,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$68,215,000 Renourishment Total: \$136,430,000.

(4) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. FL	Central Everglades	Dec. 23, 2014	Federal: \$976,375,000 Non-Federal: \$974,625,000 Total: \$1,951,000,000
2. WA	Skokomish River	Dec. 14, 2015	Federal: \$12,782,000 Non-Federal: \$6,882,000 Total: \$19,664,000.

(5) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. IL, WI	Upper Des Plaines River and Tributaries	Jun. 8, 2015	Federal: \$199,393,000 Non-Federal: \$107,694,000 Total: \$307,087,000.

(6) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, AND RECREATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. CA	South San Francisco Bay Shoreline	Dec. 18, 2015	Federal: \$69,521,000 Non-Federal: \$104,379,000 Total: \$173,900,000.

(7) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION AND RECREATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. OR	Willamette River	Dec. 14, 2015	Federal: \$19,143,000 Non-Federal: \$10,631,000 Total: \$29,774,000
2. CA	Los Angeles River	Dec. 18, 2015	Federal: \$375,773,000 Non-Federal: \$980,835,000 Total: \$1,356,608,000.

(8) DEAUTHORIZATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND OTHER PROJECTS.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Upper Trinity River	May 21, 2008	Federal: \$526,500,000 Non-Federal: \$283,500,000 Total: \$810,000,000
2. KY	Green River Locks and Dams 3, 4, 5, 6 and Barren River Lock and Dam 1 Disposition	Apr. 30, 2015	Federal: \$0 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$0
3. KS	Turkey Creek Basin	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$97,067,750 Non-Federal: \$55,465,250 Total: \$152,533,000
4. KY	Ohio River Shoreline	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$20,309,900 Non-Federal: \$10,936,100 Total: \$31,246,000.
5. MO	Blue River Basin	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$34,860,000 Non-Federal: \$11,620,000 Total: \$46,480,000

The CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-790. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not

be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, strike lines 1 through 8.

Page 11, line 14, strike “and” at the end.

Page 11, line 16, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 11, after line 16, insert the following:

(7) reducing the costs of dredging and dredged material placement or disposal, such as projects that use dredged material for—

(A) construction or fill material;

(B) civic improvement objectives; and

(C) other innovative uses and placement alternatives that produce public economic or environmental benefits.

Page 69, after line 17, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . COST SHARE REQUIREMENT.

The Secretary shall carry out the project for ecosystem restoration and recreation, Los Angeles River, California, as authorized by this Act, substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions described in the Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated December 18, 2015, including, notwithstanding section 2008(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1074), the recommended cost sharing.

SEC. ____ . PUBLIC ACCESS.

(a) **RECREATIONAL ACCESS PERMITTED.**—The Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority may approve and allow the construction and use of a floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Valley Authority if—

(1) the floating cabin is maintained by the owner to reasonable health, safety, and environmental standards, as required by the Board of Directors; and

(2) the Tennessee Valley Authority has authorized the use of recreational vessels on such waters.

(b) **FEES.**—The Board of Directors may levy fees on the owner of a floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Valley Authority for purposes of ensuring compliance with subsection (a), so long as such fees are necessary and reasonable for such purposes.

(c) **CONTINUED RECREATIONAL USE.**—With respect to a floating cabin located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Valley Authority on the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Directors—

(1) may not require the removal of such floating cabin—

(A) in the case of a floating cabin that was granted a permit by the Tennessee Valley Authority before the date of enactment of this Act, for a period of 15 years beginning on such date; and

(B) in the case of a floating cabin not granted a permit by the Tennessee Valley Authority before the date of enactment of this Act, for a period of 5 years beginning on such date; and

(2) shall approve and allow the use of the floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Valley Authority at such time, and for such duration, as the floating cabin meets the requirements of subsection (a) and the owner of such cabin

has paid any fee levied pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) **NEW CONSTRUCTION.**—The Tennessee Valley Authority may establish regulations to prevent the construction of new floating cabins.

(e) **FLOATING CABIN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “floating cabin” means every description of watercraft or other floating structure primarily designed and used for human habitation or occupation and not primarily designed or used for navigation or transportation on water.

(f) **SAVINGS PROVISION.**—Nothing in this section restricts the ability of the Tennessee Valley Authority to enforce reasonable health, safety, or environmental standards.

SEC. ____ . TRIBAL DISPLACEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study related to any remaining Federal obligations to Indian people displaced by the construction of the Bonneville Dam, the Dalles Dam, or the John Day Dam on the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

(b) **FACTORS.**—The study shall include—

(1) a determination as to the number and location of Indian people displaced by the construction of the Bonneville Dam, the Dalles Dam, or the John Day Dam;

(2) a determination of the amounts and types of assistance provided by the Federal Government to Indian people displaced by the construction of such dams to the present; and

(3) a determination of whether and how much assistance is necessary to meet any remaining Federal obligations to compensate Indian people displaced by the construction of such dams.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the study.

SEC. ____ . DROUGHT EMERGENCIES.

(a) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—With respect to a State in which a drought emergency is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, or was in effect at any time during the 1-year period ending on such date of enactment, and upon the request of the Governor of the State, the Secretary is authorized to—

(1) prioritize the updating of the water control manuals for control structures under the jurisdiction of the Secretary that are located in the State; and

(2) incorporate into the update seasonal operations for water conservation and water supply for such control structures.

(b) **COORDINATION.**—The Secretary shall carry out the update under subsection (a) in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

SEC. ____ . GAO STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an analysis of the President's budget requests for the Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2017.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—The analysis to be submitted under subsection (a) shall evaluate—

(1) the extent to which there is geographic diversity among the projects included in such budget requests; and

(2) whether the methodologies used by the Corps of Engineers to calculate benefit-cost ratios for projects impact the geographic diversity of projects included in such budget requests.

Page 75, strike lines 9 and 10.

Page 75, strike lines 14 and 15 and insert the following:

(1) Project for flood damage reduction and environmental restoration, Hamilton City, California.

Page 75, line 23, strike “\$5,000,000,000” and insert “\$10,000,000,000”.

Page 78, line 17, strike “\$5,000,000,000” and insert “\$10,000,000,000”.

Page 92, after line 25, insert the following:

(c) **INVENTORY.**—In carrying out the update under subsection (a), the Secretary shall include an inventory of those lands that are not necessary to carry out the authorized purposes of the project.

Page 93, lines 14 and 15, strike “September 30, 2016, \$31,233,401” and insert “December 31, 2016, \$31,344,841.65”.

Page 106, strike line 6 and all that follows before line 7 and insert the following:

(1) **NAVIGATION.**—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Brazos Island Harbor	Nov. 3, 2014	Federal: \$116,116,000 Non-Federal: \$88,471,000 Total: \$204,587,000
2. LA	Calcasieu Lock	Dec. 2, 2014	Total: \$16,700,000 (to be derived ½ from the general fund of the Treasury and ½ from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund)
3. NH, ME	Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River	Feb. 8, 2015	Federal: \$15,580,000 Non-Federal: \$5,190,000 Total: \$20,770,000
4. FL	Port Everglades	Jun. 25, 2015	Federal: \$220,200,000 Non-Federal: \$102,500,000 Total: \$322,700,000
5. AK	Little Diomed Harbor	Aug. 10, 2015	Federal: \$26,015,000 Non-Federal: \$2,945,000 Total: \$28,960,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
6. SC	Charleston Harbor	Sep. 8, 2015	Federal: \$224,300,000 Non-Federal: \$269,000,000 Total: \$493,300,000
7. AK	Craig Harbor	Mar. 16, 2016	Federal: \$29,062,000 Non-Federal: \$3,255,000 Total: \$32,317,000
8. PA	Upper Ohio	Sep. 12, 2016	Federal: \$1,324,235,500 Non-Federal: \$1,324,235,500 Total: \$2,648,471,000

Page 109, strike line 1 and all that follows before line 2 and insert the following: (4) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. FL	Central Everglades	Dec. 23, 2014	Federal: \$976,375,000 Non-Federal: \$974,625,000 Total: \$1,951,000,000
2. WA	Skokomish River	Dec. 14, 2015	Federal: \$12,782,000 Non-Federal: \$6,882,000 Total: \$19,664,000
3. WA	Puget Sound	Sep. 16, 2016	Federal: \$293,558,000 Non-Federal: \$158,069,000 Total: \$451,627,000

Page 110, before line 3, insert the following: (8) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report of Chief of Engineers	D. Estimated Costs
1. LA	Southwest Coastal Louisiana	Jul. 29, 2016	Federal: \$2,011,280,000 Non-Federal: \$1,082,997,000 Total: \$3,094,277,000

Page 110, strike line 3 and all that follows through the end of the table following line 4 and insert the following: (9) DEAUTHORIZATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND OTHER PROJECTS.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Upper Trinity River	May 21, 2008	Federal: \$526,500,000 Non-Federal: \$283,500,000 Total: \$810,000,000
2. KY	Green River Locks and Dams 3, 4, 5, 6 and Barren River Lock and Dam 1 Disposition	Apr. 30, 2015	Federal: \$0 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$0
3. KS, MO	Turkey Creek Basin	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$97,067,750 Non-Federal: \$55,465,250 Total: \$152,533,000
4. KY	Ohio River Shoreline	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$20,309,900 Non-Federal: \$10,936,100 Total: \$31,246,000
5. MO	Blue River Basin	May 13, 2016	Federal: \$34,860,000 Non-Federal: \$11,620,000 Total: \$46,480,000
6. FL	Picayune Strand	Jul. 15, 2016	Federal: \$308,983,500 Non-Federal: \$308,983,500 Total: \$617,967,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
7. MO	Swope Park Industrial Area, Blue River	Jul. 15, 2016	Federal: \$20,205,250 Non-Federal: \$10,879,750 Total: \$31,085,000

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The manager's amendment that I am offering makes technical and conforming changes to the Rules Committee print. Specifically, this amendment includes a provision to ensure homeowners can assess their property on TVA lakes.

This amendment includes a provision that ensures the appropriate cost share is carried out for the Los Angeles River chief's report we are authorizing in this bill specifically at the request of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

It also has a provision to have the Government Accountability Office carry out a study to determine what Federal obligations are required for tribal property affected by the construction of several dams on the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon.

It requires and expedites revisions to water control manuals in States in which drought has occurred in the last year.

Lastly, this amendment contains three chief's reports and two post-authorization change reports that have been delivered to Congress since the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure marked up the bill in May 2016.

I urge all Members to support my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 29, line 7, strike “, or that” and insert “or gross negligence, or that”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment would insert gross negligence as a reason for the Secretary of the Army to accept and implement non-Federal funding to repair, restore, or replace faulty equipment.

According to the Cornell Law Dictionary, “gross negligence” is defined as a lack of care that demonstrates reckless disregard for the safety or lives of others.

I believe what happened in Flint, Michigan, is a good example of another reason that projects could require additional funding—gross negligence, gross negligence by individuals entrusted by the public to maintain and uphold the proper functioning of water programs.

Mr. Chairman, the tragedy that happened in my home State of Michigan, in Flint, where thousands of innocent citizens were poisoned by the negligence of the people they trusted to supply them with clean water shows the importance of this amendment.

Our primary responsibility as Members of Congress is to advocate for the best interest of our constituents. How can we say we are doing that when an entire city is suffering from the negligence of public figures who made bad decisions?

Residents and individuals affected by an emergency should not be penalized for negligent actions taken by those expected to do what is best for them. Moving forward, the careless actions of a few individuals should never result in the public being endangered as a result of the Federal Government being unable to assist.

This amendment would ensure that the Secretary of the Army could quickly and efficiently use resources provided by non-Federal entities to assist in the maintenance of a defective project. This amendment would ensure just that. Gross negligence should never prevent citizens from receiving the funding necessary during their time of need.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. BABIN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ WORK DEFINED.

Section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1152, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 408), is amended—

(1) by striking “It shall not be lawful” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be lawful”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) WORK DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘work’ means engineered structures that serve a particular function.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—In this section, the term ‘work’ includes only structures of like kind with those identified in subsection (a).

“(3) EXCLUSIONS.—In this section, the term ‘work’ does not include—

“(A) the river channel as such, whether or not dredging is necessary to maintain navigational depths;

“(B) unimproved real estate; or

“(C) a particular feature or structure merely because the feature or structure is present within a Federal project.”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer this amendment to direct the Corps of Engineers to focus on the tasks that it can do, and should do, when it comes to section 408 reviews.

The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, enacted in the final days of the 55th Congress, first established the process we know today as a section 408 review, which I have here in my hand. The provision was intended to protect engineered structures built by the Corps that serve particular functions, such as seawalls, dikes, levees, and piers, by requiring the Corps of Engineers to authorize any requests for substantial work on these and similar assets.

Over time, however, the Corps has expanded its regulatory authority far beyond the scope of that statute. Specifically, the Corps now requires a review of any proposal for a physical modification or structure that touches a Corps project, even if it has no bearing at all on navigation or flood control. This has resulted in an overlay of additional administrative procedures, delays, and unnecessary costs.

In my district, at the Port of Houston, the Corps of Engineers is currently requiring users to go through the section 408 process, in addition to regulatory and real estate protocols, for access to dredge material placement

sites. In plain English, this means that, for a small business to fill up a dump truck full of muck excavated from the bottom of a ship channel and carry it off somewhere else, they have to fully comply with the same section 408 review that would affect the 10-mile-long Galveston Seawall.

These projects, which have no direct impact on the Corps' structures, are undertaken by private users, including many small businesses from the area who are investing in their facilities, expanding commerce and exports, and providing jobs and economic benefits to our State and the Nation.

The additional time and cost as a result of an unnecessary 408 process, which is borne entirely by private entities or non-Federal partners, delays and increases the cost of these critical projects.

My amendment reinforces the original intent of the Rivers and Harbors Act by focusing the Corps on actual navigation and flood control assets, allowing them to devote their full attention and resources to important safety evaluations and the expedited review and execution of project modification requests.

Mr. Chairman, since 1775, the Army Corps of Engineers has performed critical work, ensuring the safety and reliability of America's ports and harbors. My amendment supports their mission and the good work they do by focusing their resources and attention where it belongs.

I urge a "yes" vote.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to grant permission for the alteration of the Corps project if the Secretary determines that the proposed alteration would not harm the public interest or impair the usefulness of the project.

I think it is good that we know that proposed modifications do not impair the usefulness of the project or harm the public interest.

□ 1800

Now, I share some of the concerns the gentleman has raised. The Corps is woefully slow in going through these approvals. I have one pending in my own district; and, basically, they say there is not enough money in our budget, which was discussed rather exhaustively at the beginning here.

We could help the Corps out if we had a real harbor maintenance trust fund and if we were using the taxpayers' dollars for the purposes for which they were intended, which would take the pressure off of all parts of the Corps' budget. The Corps does have authority to accept—and I would hope the Corps

would be listening to this—local contributions to speed up, with contractors or others or over time with their own employees, 408 projects. They have been loath to use that authority. They should use it.

I am not certain of the implications of this amendment as to whether it truly does protect the integrity of some of these critical projects, so that causes me concern. I think that this is worthy of attention, but in its current form, I am not quite certain of the impact.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I believe this is a good amendment. I support it. This amendment sets guidelines for the scope of work under the section 408 process, which has been misinterpreted by the Corps of Engineers. It takes years for this to be approved.

Mr. DEFAZIO just stood up and said he hopes the Corps is listening. I hope it is listening, too, but too many times they just don't listen to us. They don't take the direction that the Congress puts in front of them. They stonewall and drag their feet. Mr. BABIN's amendment clarifies this, and I believe it is a good government reform amendment.

I thank the gentleman for offering it, and I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. BABIN. How much time do I have remaining, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The gentleman from Texas has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I want to say, for a private business entity to get muck off the bottom of a slip or a channel's having to go through this, this is what this is all about.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I urge the passage of my amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BABIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ AUTHORIZATION OF FEDERALLY MAINTAINED TRIBUTARY CHANNELS AS PART OF CHANNEL SYSTEM.

A project that has been assumed for maintenance by the Secretary under any authority granted by Congress shall—

(1) be treated as a project authorized by Congress; and

(2) be planned, operated, managed, or modified in a manner consistent with authorized projects.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, one of the great honors I have here in Congress is to represent four great ports—Orange, Beaumont, Cedar Bayou, and the biggest port in Texas and one of the largest in the world: the Port of Houston.

When America's astronauts who serve in space look out of their windows down at Houston, it is probably hard for them to make out their home away from home at Johnson Space Center; but what they can't miss is the scale and the strategic importance of the Port of Houston, which is right down the road from Johnson Space Center.

The Greater Houston area is the energy production and chemical manufacturing capital of the world, and the Port of Houston's ability to ship those goods is directly responsible for billions of dollars in economic activity and for hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs in our State and across the country; but like the city of Houston itself, not all of the port's important channels, tributaries, and other navigation assets that fall under the purview of the Corps of Engineers are within the footprint of what was originally authorized by Congress.

Instead, many of these channels have been assumed for maintenance by the Corps of Engineers over the years. Each one has met the requirements of being environmentally acceptable, economically justified, and constructed in accordance with Federal permits and appropriate engineering and design standards.

This, in itself, is not a bad thing. In many cases, the construction or modification of the channels by non-Federal users has reduced the overall Federal cost and has provided for national economic benefits well before a Federal project could be accomplished. The downside is that channels which have been assumed for maintenance are not considered authorized projects. Therefore, while those channels are just as important as a federally constructed project, a channel which has been assumed for maintenance is treated quite differently from an authorized project right next to it, which can disrupt the upkeep and the operations of both.

At this point, I will read from a letter that was sent to my office by the Port of Houston that describes how this issue came to its attention and why the passage of this amendment is so essential not only for our region, but for every port in this country.

"The Corps had long identified a navigation safety problem at the intersection of the Houston Ship Channel (HSC) and Bayport channel (the 'Bayport Flare') caused by its design and construction of the HSC, and promised to properly correct the safety deficiency. However, the Corps discovered that while it could construct the part of the corrective work which lay within the boundaries of the Houston Ship Channel, it could not construct the second part of the solution within the Bayport ship channel because the Bayport channel was not considered 'authorized' by Congress, but only assumed for maintenance after construction. . . . The Corps agreed that the Bayport assumption of maintenance was conducted in accordance with laws providing authority to the Secretary of the Army to accept qualifying work, and that PHA met all design, environmental, and economic requirements of a channel as if it were designed and constructed by the Corps. The Bayport Flare deficiency exposed a serious shortcoming, whereby the federal government was unable to make a necessary navigation safety correction resulting from a deficient federal design because it could only fix what it has physically constructed—and not within channels it had managed and operated for decades."

I include in the RECORD the full content of this letter.

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY,
Houston, Texas, September 23, 2016.

ATTN: Ben Couhig,
Subject: Recommended Provision in WRDA
2016

Congressman BRIAN BABIN,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. COUHIG: As Congress prepares to address the nation's water resources requirements this year, the Port of Houston Authority informed Congressman Babin of the inability of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consistently and adequately work to construct and manage federal navigation channels, in part because authorities to do so and supporting policies are limited. As a result, the Port Authority offered the following recommendation:

Authorization of Federally Maintained Tributary Channels as Part of a Channel System

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

"Projects which have been assumed for maintenance by the Secretary of the Army under any authority granted by Congress shall be considered projects authorized by Congress, and shall be planned, operated, managed, or modified in a manner consistent with authorized projects."

The need for this language became very clear to the Port Authority as we constructed modification of the Bayport Ship Channel. The Corps had long identified a navigation safety problem at the intersection of the Houston Ship channel (HSC) and Bayport channel (the "Bayport Flare") caused by its design and construction of the HSC, and promised to properly correct the safety deficiency. However, the Corps discovered that while it could construct the part of the corrective work which lay within the

boundaries of the Houston Ship Channel, it could not construct the second part of the solution within the Bayport ship channel because the Bayport channel was not considered "authorized" by Congress, but only assumed for maintenance after construction by PHA. The Corps agreed that the Bayport assumption of maintenance was conducted in accordance with laws providing authority to the Secretary of the Army to accept qualifying work, and that PHA met all design, environmental, and economic requirements of a channel as if it were designed and constructed by the Corps. The Bayport Flare deficiency exposed a serious shortcoming, whereby the federal government was unable to make a necessary navigation safety correction resulting from a deficient federal design because it could only fix what it has physically constructed—and not within channels it had managed and operated for decades.

The Houston Ship Channel system includes four tributary channels: Bayport, Barbour Cut, Jacintoport, and Greens Bayou, all of which were constructed by or operated by the Port Authority prior to federal assumption of maintenance. Should a navigation safety problem occur on any of these channels for any reason, the federal government would be unable to restore safe navigation without Congressional action—which might not be possible under current rules.

In summary, the Corps of Engineers needs the authority to provide for safe navigation for all of its channels; this recommended provision provides for that authority.

Sincerely,

MARK VINCENT.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment provides a solution by putting channels which have been assumed for maintenance on equal footing with those that have been authorized, thus eliminating the distinction without a difference that currently exists to streamline the process and prevent these unnecessary, bureaucratic hang-ups from delaying critical safety and navigation work where it is needed the most.

I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, there are 1,100 harbors that this would apply to across the United States. We have already discussed at great length the fact that the Corps has a \$2.4 billion backlog of O&M under existing authority and, after today, a \$74 billion backlog of authorized but unconstructed projects.

I understand the gentleman's concerns, and he is being a great advocate for his home port; but I would direct a question to the gentleman if, perhaps, he can answer it: With 1,100 ports in America, how many other ports are in a similar situation? And what would the cost be to the Corps, which already has a \$2.5 billion backlog in O&M?

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I can't answer that specifically, but I do know that, even when there is funding available, they are still unable to solve a problem that could be a serious safety deficiency.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I understand the gentleman's concern. If I could, I would direct another question to the gentleman.

Earlier the gentleman might have heard discussion about our collecting an ad valorem tax on the value of imported goods, which is about \$1.6 billion a year; yet we are only spending somewhere between \$1 billion and \$1.1 billion a year. There is a theoretical balance in the nonexistent harbor maintenance trust fund of \$9.8 billion, which would go a long way to resolving lots of these problems across the country.

Does the gentleman support the idea of creating a real trust fund and actually spending the taxes that are collected for harbor maintenance on harbor maintenance and not having them be frittered away somewhere else in the government?

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, absolutely. In the right way, I certainly would support that.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment that allows channels assumed for maintenance to be considered equally as authorized projects. Of course, we are dealing specifically with the Port of Houston on this; so I would encourage all Members from the Houston area on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment, which will improve the bill. Supporting this amendment is important.

Also, to those Members from the Houston area on both sides of the aisle, this is something that is going to be good for their port, and the underlying bill is going to be good for their port in the long run.

I think it is a fairness amendment, and I thank the gentleman for offering it. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. BABIN. Reclaiming my time, I thank the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ DAM SAFETY REPAIR PROJECTS.

The Secretary shall issue guidance—

(1) on the types of circumstances under which the requirement in section 1203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 467n(a)) relating to state-of-the-art design or construction criteria deemed necessary for safety purposes applies to a dam safety repair project;

(2) to assist district offices of the Corps of Engineers in communicating with non-Federal interests when entering into and implementing cost-sharing agreements for dam safety repair projects; and

(3) to assist the Corps of Engineers in communicating with non-Federal interests concerning the estimated and final cost-share responsibilities of the non-Federal interests under agreements for dam safety repair projects.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment that will improve cost sharing for dam safety repairs and will promote transparency at the Army Corps of Engineers. To start, let me tell you about how this issue has impacted my district.

Recently, the Corps of Engineers executed a dam repair project in Tennessee's Center Hill Lake. That is all well and good, as we like to keep our dams and our waterways up to code; but the problems came when the Corps failed to communicate to localities in my district as to how the dam repair project would be classified and, therefore, what their financial responsibilities would be.

Federal statute says that the Army Corps of Engineers can designate dam projects as being in one of two categories: "safety assurance" or "major rehabilitation." If the project is classified as a safety assurance, the costs to the utility providers, townships, and other stakeholders may be minimal; but if the project is classified as a major rehabilitation, you could have a scenario like what occurred in my district, in which the town of Cookeville, Tennessee, is now on the hook for a \$1.5 million repair bill that they had not budgeted for because they had never been told to do so.

You know how this story ends, Mr. Chairman. The city has to pass along those costs to someone. So my constituents in Cookeville could be paying higher water bills for the foreseeable

future all because the Corps of Engineers wouldn't be up front with them about what they would owe.

This story is not unique. A December 2015 GAO report studied nine different dam projects nationwide and found that, across the board, the Corps did very little to communicate to local communities what their cost-sharing responsibilities would be. The report further found that, in some instances, the Corps had failed to apply a provision known as the state-of-the-art provision that reduces the sponsors' share of the costs in these projects. That means, Mr. Chairman, that communities like Cookeville, in my district, may have been on the hook for bills they never would have needed to have paid if only the Corps had been transparent and had followed the rules.

Mr. Chairman, I may not be able to get Cookeville or the other communities that are cited in the GAO report their money back, but I can make sure that this never happens again. That is really what my amendment seeks to do. In short, this amendment directs the Army Corps of Engineers' district offices to effectively communicate with the sponsors and to implement cost-sharing agreements during dam safety repair projects, not afterwards. It will ensure that these arrangements are shared with all stakeholders so that in others' towns and in my town they aren't left holding the bag.

I urge a "yes" vote on my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1815

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Maryland is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor today because it does seem that this amendment and the others that are being offered underscore a problem that I didn't think we were going to have with the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act. We have spent quite a bit of time in our Transportation and Infrastructure Committee under the leadership of the chairman trying to come to some common understanding and bipartisan agreement about this. Unfortunately, that is not where we are today.

In my view, water transportation and infrastructure has always been a bipartisan priority in the country. I agree with the comments of some of my colleagues that moving forward with a bipartisan bill is vital to the public health, the safety, and the economic welfare of our communities and this Nation.

I have the distinct honor of being able to represent Maryland in Con-

gress. I know how important this bill is to our State since we have such a long coastline, the Chesapeake Bay; and several of its tributaries, including the Anacostia, the Severn River, and the Potomac, all flow through the Fourth Congressional District, all requiring support under the Water Resources Development Act. These resources provide billions of dollars of economic activity for our State. Maintaining and modernizing Maryland's waterways and its ports, including the Port of Baltimore, is essential.

Unfortunately, we reported a bill out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in May that focused on such authorization and on Corps compliance with the new project selection process that was created in the 2014 law. Under that law, as well, we would have been able to allow the Corps, beginning in 2027, to use the funds collected in the harbor maintenance trust fund for eligible harbor dredging and other activities, removing those expenditures from the annual appropriations process.

Very sadly—and as we heard today here on the floor—by dropping the trust fund language, Republicans have effectively undermined the measure by removing a key provision that originally created bipartisan support for the bill. This is really a sad moment, indeed, because now, yet again, money that should be used for our harbors and our ports is being used in a trust fund as a piggy bank for completely unrelated spending. These kinds of spending restrictions have created a large surplus in the trust fund, even as critical harbor dredging needs go unmet.

I rise today in opposition to the bill, unfortunately. It is a bill I thought I would actually be able to come to the floor and support with the chairman's leadership.

Unfortunately, we are also not able to include in our House bill aid for the Flint water crisis: \$100 million to repair and replace the city's drinking water infrastructure, \$20 million in loan forgiveness for prior Flint city loans taken out to build its water infrastructure, and \$50 million for various public health activities. That is what the Senate did. It is what we could have done, and it is unfortunate that we could not do this here today.

I hope that before we leave out of this Congress in the lameduck session, which we anticipate later after the election, that we are going to be able to find a resolution to these problems that indeed cross the aisle.

Again, as I said, I am not in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment, but I think that it is really important for us to understand and underscore that where we should be here is with the bipartisan bill that we agreed to in May in our committee. It is really unfortunate that we find ourselves once again lining up in partisan lines and

not able to support a harbor maintenance trust fund for the use of the money for which it was intended, and that is to maintain and upgrade our Nation's ports and harbors.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for bringing this important amendment to the floor. It does several things. The first thing it does is it directs the Corps of Engineers, as the gentlewoman pointed out, to just communicate, to give direction to the folks that are involved in these projects.

We keep spinning our wheels in these projects. We are spending more money than we have to, and this highlights a problem that we face with the Corps.

Again, this amendment establishes and implements cost-sharing agreements during the dam safety repair projects. Of course, it makes all parties involved communicate so we can get these projects moving forward, so I think it is a good governance amendment.

I urge all Members to support this amendment.

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Chairman, I think it is pretty clear what this amendment does. I do want to say that we have worked with the Corps of Engineers, which helped us to draft this amendment. I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. BLUM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF AUTHORIZED PROJECT FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT.

The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the project for flood risk management, Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, authorized by item 3 of the table in section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1366).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Chairman, that I am speaking on the floor of the U.S. House is remarkable timing. The city of Cedar Rapids, the largest city in my district, is currently experiencing major flooding of the Cedar River, cresting 11 feet above flood stage today.

In 2008, just 8 short years ago, the same river crested at over 19 feet above flood stage. Yes, you heard that correctly, 19 feet above flood stage.

I was in Cedar Rapids this weekend sandbagging alongside volunteers to prepare for this disaster and saw firsthand the amazing response from the community as thousands of eastern Iowans came together to protect their city. I want to thank Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett and his team for their tireless work to prepare the city for the flooding, as well as the administration of Governor Branstad for their assistance.

Today's flooding further underscores the need for the administration to include the Cedar Rapids flood project in their budget. This project was approved by Congress in the 2014 WRRDA bill, and my amendment today calls on the administration to expedite this project. Cedar Rapids has spent untold millions of dollars on this disaster—money spent on a short-term solution—while the city waits for the administration to release the approved funding for the long-term fix.

Since taking office in 2014, I have worked hard to get the authorized funding released, joining my colleague from Iowa, Representative LOEBSACK, in reaching out to the Army Corps of Engineers, the House Appropriations Committee, President Obama, and his Office of Management and Budget, stressing the importance of this project.

The bottom line is: How many more Cedar Rapids floods will it take before the administration includes this project in their budget? How many times will families have to evacuate their homes? How many times will businesses have to cease their operations? How many times will employees be negatively impacted by the flooding? How many times must this happen before the administration includes this project in their budget?

Mr. Chairman, I thank the entire Iowa delegation for their support on this issue. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment and make it clear, once again, that Congress believes the Cedar Rapids flood project should receive the funding that was approved in 2014.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Iowa for bringing this good, bipartisan amendment to the floor. I have seen the pictures on TV of what is happening out there in Cedar Rapids, and our thoughts and prayers are with that community out there tonight as they fight that challenge.

Again, this amendment, as the gentleman explained, expedites the Cedar River project. I think this infrastructure project getting done quicker is important. I have always supported getting these things done faster because I believe time is money. The longer these things go, the more expensive they get. This amendment goes a long way into making sure that this project is pushed out there faster and it gets done. So I appreciate my colleague from Iowa for bringing this. I urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BLUM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 ____ . REVIEW OF BENEFITS.

When reviewing requests for repair or restoration of a flood risk management project under the authority of section 5(a)(1) of the Act of August 18, 1941, (33 U.S.C. 701n(a)(1)), the Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to consider all benefits to the public that may accrue from the proposed rehabilitation work, including, flood risk management, navigation, recreation, and ecosystem restoration.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chairman SHUSTER for helping with the effort on this amendment.

The purpose of my amendment is simple. I believe that the Army Corps of Engineers should consider all potential economic benefits of repairing levees following a flood disaster. Right now, the Corps may only consider flood prevention when allocating rehabilitation assistance of levees. This makes no sense.

The Corps manages inland waterways for a multitude of purposes. In many cases, Federal and non-Federal levees work together in an integrated system. How can we ignore the benefits of repairing a levee when doing so would

improve navigation and other Corps responsibilities along with it?

The repair of the Len Small Levee in Alexander County, Illinois, is just one example of our failing to see the forest for the trees. The levee was breached in last winter's floods. Millions have been spent on riprap to maintain navigation on the river. Even more money will be needed to maintain navigation if further flood damage occurs. Despite that fact, the Corps has ignored the navigation benefits and costs of making interim repairs.

My amendment helps address this issue, but further reforms to the Corps levee repair program must be made. I hope to work with the chairman and ranking member to address these issues with the programs in future legislation.

I encourage a "yes" vote on this piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOSE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 8 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. DOLD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. FEDERAL COST LIMITATION OF ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COSTS FOR CERTAIN PROJECTS.

Section 506(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) A project carried out pursuant to this subsection may include compatible recreation features as determined by the Secretary, except that the Federal cost of such features may not exceed 10 percent of the ecosystem restoration costs of the project."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 5303.

Imagine for a moment, Mr. Chairman, spending millions of dollars on wetlands restoration without allowing people to visit these areas. Unfortunately, that is exactly what we are asking the Army Corps of Engineers to do with projects that are funded by the Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration program, or GLFER.

GLFER is a program for improving aquatic habitats and the Great Lakes watershed. Through a partnership between the Army Corps of Engineers,

the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and State and local government, funds are made available for restoring wetlands and preservation of coastal habitat along the Great Lakes shorelines.

Individual projects require a non-Federal partner—like a State, local government, or nonprofit—to contribute at least 35 percent of the project costs to operate and maintain the completed project.

In my district, GLFER funds have been used to restore wetlands along the Lake Michigan shoreline at Fort Sheridan, and nearby they have been used to restore wetlands on Northerly Island right in the heart of downtown Chicago.

Mr. Chairman, this is about ensuring parity. Every other wetland restoration program within the Army Corps of Engineers is allowed to use up to 10 percent of the funds for any project for compatible recreation features. GLFER-funded projects are unique in that the Army Corps is not allowed to use funds for that purpose. My amendment would simply change that policy.

□ 1830

Very simply, my amendment will allow the Army Corps of Engineers to use GLFER funds, not to exceed 10 percent of the total project amount, to build complimentary recreation features like walking trails, bike paths, fishing stations, picnic shelters, and benches.

Mr. Chairman, I represent a district along Lake Michigan, one of the greatest natural resources our Nation possesses. My amendment would expand outdoor recreation opportunities and give families access to enjoy these restored wetland areas. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. . NON-FEDERAL INTEREST SELECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in carrying out an authorized and funded water resources development project, the Secretary shall solicit and accept bids from non-Federal interests. If a non-Federal interest can demonstrate greater cost effectiveness and project delivery efficiency than the Corps of Engineers for such project, the Secretary shall transfer the funds to the non-Federal interest for project completion.

(b) SAVINGS.—Funds saved in project delivery by a non-Federal interest under subsection (a) shall be used as follows:

(1) 20 percent for deficit reduction.

(2) 80 percent for other projects of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, the ranking member was talking earlier about this extraordinary backlog of projects that we have within the United States Army Corps of Engineers to carry out important projects like flood protection, hurricane protection, and ecological restoration.

We do, in fact, have a backlog that goes on for years and years. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, it takes us, in many cases, over 40 years to take a project from development through the construction phase. These are critical projects that, in many cases, save people's lives.

Just recently in the State of Louisiana, we had an extraordinary flood event. Thirteen people lost their lives as a result of that event, yet there was a project, the Comite project, that could have tempered flooding in many of these areas. What our amendment does is it simply allows for non-Federal sponsors to bid to carry out the construction or other aspects of projects. It is a way to save money to expedite delivery.

In my previous job, Mr. Chairman, I actually was the non-Federal sponsor for billions of dollars in projects with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. There were a number of examples where we were able to build the entire project for the one-third, or approximately one-third, cost-share estimate that the United States Army Corps of Engineers estimated the project was to cost, and we were able to do it in a fraction of the time.

What this does, it allows for the non-Federal sponsor to carry out the project. It returns 20 percent of the cost savings back to the United States Treasury for deficit reduction, and it takes 80 percent of the cost savings and reinvests it back into priority Corps of Engineers' projects.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the author, it seems to me that if we are going to transfer responsibility for carrying out projects from the Corps of Engineers—these would be, again, taxpayer dollars—would these projects be covered by the provisions of Davis-Bacon?

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. I thank the gentleman. Right now, as the provision is written, as you know, it is silent on that issue, and so it doesn't address the Davis-Bacon issue, as I am aware the Corps of Engineers would be complying with.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Reclaiming my time, well then, you know, given that, I mean, we have had myriad debates on the floor of the House and in the committee over the years from those who come in and say: gee, we can do it a lot cheaper if we pay minimum wage; we can do it a lot cheaper if we bring in illegal immigrants; you know, on and on and on.

Sure, you can do things more cheaply, but the idea and the bedrock of Davis-Bacon is we pay skilled workers a living wage that is the prevailing wage in the local area. The committee has never passed an amendment gutting Davis-Bacon, despite many attempts on the committee. I feel that this would, unfortunately—the way the gentleman has just phrased it, says it is silent on the issue—undermine Davis-Bacon, and, therefore, I would oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I am going to go back and say what I said before. In previous projects that I have worked with in the United States Army Corps of Engineers, we have been able to save Federal taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, cumulatively hundreds of millions of dollars by carrying out the projects through the non-Federal sponsor, allowing for county governments, parish governments, State governments, levee districts, water boards, and others to carry out projects.

If we are able to demonstrate greater efficiency and taxpayer cost savings, why would we not allow for that mechanism to carry out these projects? It expedites delivery of projects. These are critical projects.

Mr. Chairman, I want to reiterate, in the State of Louisiana, in the flood we just had last month, we had 13 people die because of a project that has been in the Corps of Engineers process for 30 years; 30 years, Mr. Chairman.

I really wonder what someone who would oppose this amendment would tell the families of those people who died as a result of the Corps' inaction. This is absolutely inappropriate. We have a way to save taxpayer dollars, to reduce the deficit, and to free up more resources for high-priority Corps of Engineers projects and make our communities and our ecosystem more resilient.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . LOCAL FLOOD PROTECTION WORKS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Permission for alterations by a non-Federal interest to a Federal levee, floodwall, or flood risk management channel project and associated features may be granted by a District Engineer of the Department of the Army or an authorized representative.

(2) TIMELY APPROVAL OF PERMITS.—On the date that is 120 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application for a permit pursuant to section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (commonly known as the "Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899") (33 U.S.C. 408), the application shall be approved if—

(A) the Secretary has not made a determination on the approval or disapproval of the application; and

(B) the plans detailed in the application were prepared and certified by a professional engineer licensed by the State in which the project is located.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, what this amendment does is it simply puts a cap on the amount of time that the United States Army Corps of Engineers can consider permission under section 408. This process has to do with alteration, any changes, or impacts that could occur to a Corps of Engineers project.

I want to be clear, this doesn't expand the Corps of Engineers' authority in any way. All this does is it simply puts a cap, a time certain. Here is the reason why, Mr. Chairman. In the State of Louisiana, we have lost 1,900 square miles of our coast, 1,900 square miles of wetlands, some of the most ecologically productive areas on the North American continent. We have lost that.

Part of the remedial efforts that Congress has authorized and we have been waiting decades for the United States Corps of Engineers to act upon are projects to reconnect the river system with the adjacent estuary. That is how south Louisiana was built. It is a product of the Mississippi River. It is a deltaic plain.

These projects are strongly supported by the environmental community and others, yet the Corps of Engineers has said that it is going to take them years to consider this impact or not on the levee system. So we are going to sit here and wait years for more wetlands to erode, and for more of our environment and more of our ecological productivity to degrade. This puts a time certain. It gives 120 days for the Corps of Engineers to make a decision on whether or not there are impacts to the project. It allows us to move forward in a time certain.

Mr. Chairman, a quick story. When I was working on these projects for the State, the Corps of Engineers came to us on the first one we submitted, and they said: It is going to take us approximately 3 years to come back and give you an answer on that. Three years, Mr. Chairman, that we are waiting to, again, carry out projects to restore the environment. But they said: However, if you give us—and I think the number was \$1.5 million, we will reduce that time to closer to 2 years.

Mr. Chairman, in the private sector, that is called a bribe. In the United States Army Corps of Engineers, I guess it is the status quo. It is absolutely inappropriate. We have got to have time certain. They shouldn't be able to extort dollars out of project sponsors just to carry out projects to restore the environment and mitigate impacts caused by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment. This is consistent with things we have done in the past in terms of giving a time certain for consideration.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . FLOOD MITIGATION AND RIVERINE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall expedite carrying out the projects listed under paragraphs (29)

through (33) of section 212(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (33 U.S.C. 2332(e)) and is authorized to proceed to construction on such any such project if the Chief of Engineers determines the project is feasible.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, beginning around August 11, we had a 1,000-year flood event. This flood event was approximately 7 trillion gallons of water. It dropped 31 inches of rain in some of the peak areas that is the national average annual rainfall. We received it in about 36 hours in some of the peak areas. Again, to translate this for my Yankee friends, if this were snow, this would have been about 25 feet of snow. So, really, just an extraordinary event.

Mr. Chairman, what has happened is that there were projects that date back to the 1970s and the 1980s that provided for flood protection for this region. We had 13 people who died. We have over 100,000 homes that were flooded. Areas like the Comite Basin and the Amite Basin are priority areas. I want to say it again. These are areas that have projects that have been authorized by Congress previously in the 1970s, the 1980s, and I believe even the 1990s, yet projects that have been moving at a snail's pace. So what this amendment does is it simply expedites the delivery of these projects.

Mr. Chairman, this is critical. Let me explain why. Right now, you have communities like Denham Springs where FEMA just came out and determined that 45 percent of the homes in that town are significantly flooded with significant damage. What that means is that they are going to have to now comply with the updated base flood elevations and, in some cases, lift the slabs of their homes, which may be \$100,000 or more per home, per business, just to now come into compliance with the new base flood elevations to be able to rebuild their homes.

This is on top of the perhaps \$80,000 they are going to have to spend rebuilding their home, \$40,000 they are going to have to spend replacing their vehicles, and perhaps \$50,000 replacing their clothes and other contents of their homes. It makes it absolutely unaffordable.

We have got to provide certainty. By expediting projects that were previously authorized, Mr. Chairman, we can eliminate the need for many of these homeowners to have to elevate their homes, and provide financial certainty and a path forward for these folks to actually be able to get back in their homes and recover our communities from what is believed to be the fourth most expensive flood disaster in United States history.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to raise a question.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the gentleman—he has stated they are authorized. On this side, there is some confusion. Have these gone through a study and then the chief has submitted a report to us? Is that what we are doing is ratifying a Chief's Report, which is the process to be followed in this bill so as not to have earmarks? Or are these at an earlier stage, where they haven't had a Chief's Report, and, therefore, we are now about to authorize projects that are specific without following the procedures that everyone else has had to go through?

I understand what has happened is a tragedy there, but there are other places where there have been floods and other people might want to say: Well, gee, we don't have a report yet either, but we want to authorize something right now.

Can the gentleman tell me, do we have the Chief's Report, or is what has been authorized just a study which isn't yet completed?

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. I will answer that. We believe the projects are already authorized. Back in 2007, in 33 United States Code section 2332(i)(2), it states there that "all studies and projects carried out under this section from Army Civil Works appropriations shall be fully funded within the program funding levels provided in this subsection."

We believe that these are one of the projects cited in that. We believe these have been authorized.

□ 1845

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the chairman is saying that this is consistent with all of the other projects in this bill, except perhaps the earmark project for Texas, which was earmarked in an appropriations bill.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chair, yes, we believe it is. Prior to 2007, these projects were authorized. So, under that law, these things are authorized. They are not earmarked.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to follow up on the chairman of the committee's comments.

The 2007 cite that Chairman SHUSTER referenced goes back to actually a

WRDA 1999 provision. I believe it is section 212 of WRDA 1999 that actually provides the study and project implementation authorization. The 2007 language that was cited amends the 1999 language. So these projects were previously addressed by Congress.

I want to say it again, Mr. Chairman. We have a backwards policy in regard to Federal disasters where we come in and spend billions of dollars after a disaster instead of spending millions of dollars before, making our communities more resilient.

I am going to say it again. Thirteen people died here. We have incredible financial uncertainty and folks' inability to get back in their homes because they may be faced with a \$100,000 or more cost to elevate these slabs to come into compliance with the new base flood elevation. By expediting these projects, we can eliminate that financial uncertainty and we can get people back in their homes and restore our community as quickly as possible.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. LONG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:
SEC. ____ TABLE ROCK LAKE, ARKANSAS AND MISSOURI.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary—

(1) shall include a 60-day public comment period for a Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan revision; and

(2) shall not finalize a revision for the Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) SHORELINE USE PERMITS.—During the period described in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall lift or suspend the moratorium on the issuance of new, and modifications to existing, shoreline use permits based on the existing Table Rock Lake Master Plan and Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan.

(c) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) carry out a study on the need to revise permit fees relating to Table Rock Lake to better reflect the cost of issuing those fees and achieve cost savings; and

(B) submit to Congress a report on the results of the study described in subparagraph (A).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall complete the study under paragraph (1)(A) before adopting any revision to the Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. LONG. Mr. Chairman, Table Rock Lake, near Branson, Missouri, is one of the premier destinations in the Ozarks, especially for my constituents in the Seventh Congressional District.

The Army Corps of Engineers is currently undertaking a revision of the lake's Shoreline Management Plan and has in place a moratorium on dock permits to halt development around the lake.

What this means is, if you purchased a home or land in this area with the hopes of putting in a dock, you can no longer do so. If you already have a dock and it needs to be updated, you can't even update it.

I have met with the Corps and the lake community throughout this process, and the overwhelming consensus from my constituents is that their voices are not being heard on this issue that will have far-reaching effects for those living on the lake and for its economy.

My amendment would extend the public comment period to ensure that those directly impacted by the shoreline plan will have a say in it. My amendment also lifts the moratorium on dock permits and extends the timeframe of the final plan to ensure that the Corps has enough time to incorporate the community's concerns into its updated plan.

I am proud to work with Senator BLUNT and Chairman SHUSTER on this commonsense issue. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LONG).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 114-790.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. MICA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. ADJUSTMENT TO COST BENEFIT RATIO.

For any navigation project carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers with non-Federal funds, the Secretary may, after completion of any portion of the authorized project, adjust the authorized benefit cost ratio.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman

from Florida (Mr. MICA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a simple amendment. It does make an adjustment to the benefit-cost ratio for any navigation project carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers with non-Federal funds.

This gives the Secretary, after the completion of any portion of the authorized projects, the ability to adjust the authorized project's benefit-cost ratio.

Unfortunately, we have some projects with elongated channel configurations, where the terminals are located at the end of the line, and they are significantly disadvantaged when competing for Federal funding because the cost of these projects has escalated, lowering the benefit-cost ratio to below the threshold required by OMB for budgetary purposes.

This amendment would provide discretionary authority to the Secretary to revise the benefit-cost ratio after completion of portions of the projects with non-Federal funds. Remaining portions of the project could be eligible to compete for Federal funding based on a revised benefit-cost ratio.

This amendment does not guarantee any Federal funding to any project, but is simply a path forward to enable projects to be in a position to fairly compete for Federal funding.

The authority could be applicable to any authorized navigation project which is placed at a competitive disadvantage due to the configurations, again, of the shipping channel.

The amendment builds upon the reforms that we were able to put in the WRRDA bill of 2014, which streamlines some of the Corps' processes. It also provides flexibility to adapt to local initiatives and maximizes the ability of non-Federal interests to more fully participate in project development and ultimately reduce Federal costs.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. I understand the gentleman's frustrations, and on its surface, it is a great idea. The problem is, unless things are reformed at the Office of Management and Budget, the trolls under the bridge with the green eye shades who have way too much clout here in Washington, D.C., and are invisible, this will empower them further, potentially. They rank projects according to cost effectiveness.

So you can essentially move your project up if you can afford to put more money in it and it will jump ahead of

other projects which were higher-ranked, cost-effective projects, but OMB is going to choose the one at the top, which will empower communities that can afford to contribute more and perhaps perpetually push communities that can't afford to contribute more than their regular share to the bottom of the heap, never to be funded.

Of course, I already talked about the backlog of now \$74 billion of authorized unfunded projects while we still misspend the trust fund moneys on other parts of the government. That, of course, was subject to earlier debate where the Republicans stripped that out of the bill, which would have helped deal with some of these problems.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I think it will save money and actually benefit projects that start with non-Federal dollars and can be a great advantage to some of those ports and other waterways that are at a disadvantage because of the distance of the project.

So I ask support for this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. MICA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk that I offer as the designee of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ LAND TRANSFER AND TRUST LAND FOR THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION.

(a) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and for the consideration described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior the land described in subsection (b) to be held in trust for the benefit of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The land transfer under this subsection shall be subject to the following conditions:

(A) The transfer—

(i) shall not interfere with the Corps of Engineers operation of the Eufaula Lake Project or any other authorized civil works projects; and

(ii) shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to ensure the continued operation of the Eufaula Lake Project or any other authorized civil works project.

(B) The Secretary shall retain the right to inundate with water the land transferred to the Secretary of the Interior under this subsection, as necessary to carry out an authorized purpose of the Eufaula Lake Project or any other civil works project.

(C) No gaming activities may be conducted on the land transferred under this subsection.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The land to be transferred pursuant to subsection (a) is the approximately 18.38 acres of land located in the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of sec. 3, T. 10 N., R. 16 E., McIntosh County, Oklahoma, generally depicted as “USACE” on the map entitled “Muscogee (Creek) Nation Proposed Land Acquisition” and dated October 16, 2014.

(2) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the land to be transferred under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—The Muskogee (Creek) Nation shall pay—

(1) to the Secretary an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the land transferred under subsection (a), as determined by the Secretary, which funds may be accepted and expended by the Secretary; and

(2) all costs and administrative expenses associated with the transfer of land under subsection (a), including the costs of—

(A) the survey under subsection (b)(2);

(B) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(C) any coordination necessary with respect to requirements related to endangered species, cultural resources, clean water, and clean air.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Chairman, today I am asking my colleagues for support of this noncontroversial amendment.

This amendment would facilitate simply a land transfer from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Department of the Interior to hold in trust for the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. The language is supported by the Corps, the State of Oklahoma, and by the Muskogee (Creek) Nation. It was included in the Senate-passed WRDA bill, which passed overwhelmingly in bipartisan fashion.

It received a zero budget impact from CBO. The Muskogee (Creek) Nation will be paying fair market value to the Corps for land.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 17 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY
MR. THORNBERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1 ____ LAKE KEMP, TEXAS.

Section 3149(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 is amended—

(1) by striking “2020” and inserting “2025”; and

(2) by striking “this Act” and inserting “the Water Resources Development Act of 2016”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment deals with a local, unique issue involving privately owned cabins on privately owned land near Lake Kemp in Texas.

When reconstructing the dam in the late 1960s, the city of Wichita Falls entered into an agreement with the Corps of Engineers that the city would require all of these privately owned cabins owners below a certain elevation to be removed by January 1, 2000, because there was concern it could potentially flood. But 50 years later, there has never been a flood, and there never will be a flood, because the lake has been full several times.

The 2007 WRDA bill prevented the Corps from requiring the city to evict the landowners until at least 2020, and, at the same time, the U.S. and the Corps were released from any liability. This amendment would simply extend that time period for an additional 5 years.

The amendment also preserves the full property rights for the landowners. You have got some of these cabin owners who have been there for years, and the city does not have the desire or the funds to force them off the land.

So the bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is this is a local situation. This amendment gives local folks an added opportunity to solve their issues. I hope Members will support it as well as the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1900

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. WEBER OF
TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ____ COASTAL TEXAS ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION AND RESTORATION, TEXAS.

In carrying out the comprehensive planning authorized by section 4091 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1187), the Secretary shall consider studies, data, and information developed by the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District to expedite completion of the plan.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer a very important amendment to the State of Texas. This amendment is noncontroversial and mirrors language by Senator CORNYN in the Senate's version of WRDA.

Thanks to Chairman SHUSTER for making our ports and waterways a critical national priority and for bringing this important legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment would simply require the Army Corps of Engineers to take into account the existing data, studies, and information developed by the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District when conducting the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Restoration District, or GCCPRD, was formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike by six Texas counties encompassing Houston and Southeast Texas. The counties were Harris, Galveston, Brazoria, Chambers, Jefferson, and Orange.

Hurricane Ike struck this region in 2008, caused \$37.5 billion in damage nationwide, making it the third costliest hurricane in United States history. The storm caused over 100 fatalities, washed away homes, flooded communities, and shut down much of the Nation's and region's energy production.

The effects of another major hurricane on the Houston region and our Nation would be devastating. Over 6 million people call this area home, and many work in critical economic sectors like health care and energy refining. The impact would be felt in every congressional district across the country.

For example, according to reports published immediately after Hurricane Ike made landfall, gas prices spiked between 30 and 60 cents per gallon across many States due to the disruption in energy production in the Houston region.

In 2013, the Texas General Land Office entered into an agreement with GCCPRD to conduct a three-phase Storm Surge Suppression Study. The phase three report was released this past June.

In addition to this study, the GLO and the Army Corps of Engineers are

moving forward in partnership on the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study. Once completed, this study will make the case for coastal infrastructure projects that would qualify for Federal dollars and would protect our vulnerable coastal communities in a major part of this Nation's energy production. The study received funding in the President's fiscal year 2017 budget, but the current timeline for completion of this study is over 5 years. Mr. Chairman, it has been 8 years since Hurricane Ike, and this time line is unacceptable.

So, Mr. Chairman, protecting the Texas coast from dangerous storms is a critical Federal interest and a national priority. This amendment would simply require the Army Corps to tap into an existing pool of data and information developed by Texans in an effort to shorten the completion timeline of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Study.

I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. YOUNG OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . CORPS LEVEES THAT AFFECT COMMUNITY-OWNED LEVEES.

Where Federally owned and operated levees increase flood risk and compromise the accreditation of community-owned local flood protection systems, it shall be the policy of the Corps of Engineers to act expeditiously with actions required to authorize, fund, identify, and implement improvements to reduce and negate negative impacts to community-owned flood protection system accreditation.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, first, I would like to thank the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Chairman SHUSTER, and members of the staff for working so hard on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment seeks to address situations where community-owned levees and federally owned U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levees are hydraulically connected. These hydraulically connected levees are close enough to one another in the same water system and can have a huge im-

pact on each other. So when a local flood protection system is in need of repairs, we cannot allow Federal inaction to stand in the way. Without action from the Corps, improvements to local levees have limited effect and are insufficient, making it difficult to achieve accreditation.

Why is this important? Not only does it put people and property in flood zones at risk, but it also increases costs for individuals and businesses in our communities, mandating flood insurance and classifying any development as "high risk."

I am seeing this in my district, where the City of Des Moines has been working with the Corps since 2011. I know my district is not alone. I see it in other districts as well.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to have local governments be hindered by Federal inaction, inaction on property the Federal Government took responsibility for years ago.

In the end, this amendment will establish a policy that will reduce and, ultimately, negate the negative impacts to community-owned flood protection system accreditation caused by the Army Corps of Engineers' failure to act.

I urge adoption of my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment, I have got to say, we are not quite certain what it does. It seems to require the Corps of Engineers to take action for anything that relates to a Federal project which is a locally owned flood control.

I have no idea what the implications of this are. So my staff called the Corps and said: How many projects do you think this would affect, and what do you think the impacts would be? The Corps of Engineers said they had no idea.

I would like to address a question to the chairman.

Mr. Chairman, since the Corps has no idea what this amendment does, what the financial implications are, since it would seem to give the Federal Government liability for all these local projects that are anywhere downstream or related to a Federal project, could the chairman explain to me what this amendment will do, since the Corps can't?

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. My understanding is that it is a sense of Congress to ask the Corps to act—

Mr. DEFAZIO. Reclaiming my time, it is not a sense of Congress, as offered. It is actually—it is quite definitive language. "Where Federally owned and op-

erated levees increase flood risk and compromise the accreditation of community-owned. . . . It shall be the policy of the Corps of Engineers to act expeditiously with actions required to authorize, fund, identify, and implement improvements to reduce and negate negative impacts to community-owned flood protection system accreditation." It seems to me that it is pretty definitive with the "shall" part there.

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Well, it does say "shall" and it does ask the Corps to act expeditiously, which I think all of us want to encourage the Corps to do that.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Okay. Good luck with that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 114-790.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CORROSION PREVENTION.

Section 1033 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2350) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the corrosion prevention activities encouraged under this section that includes—

"(1) a description of the actions the Secretary has taken to implement this section; and

"(2) a description of the projects utilizing corrosion prevention activities, including which activities were undertaken."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to the Water Resources Development Act, which would require the Secretary of the Army Corps to implement a corrosion prevention strategy for our Nation's water infrastructure.

Preventing corrosion is a bipartisan issue and affects every State, district, and local community. In Connecticut and across the country, corrosion shortens the lifespan of our critical

water systems, harms the environment, and endangers public health and safety.

Many of our Nation's water systems are over 100 years old. What's more, according to a study conducted by the Federal Highway Administration in 2002, the corrosion of water and sewer systems across the United States costs the American taxpayers nearly \$36 billion a year, a number that has only increased in the ensuing 14 years.

By implementing strategies to prevent corrosion, we can extend the lifespan of these water projects, save money, and ensure that we have continued access to safe drinking water for years to come.

Surely, we can all agree that by preventing corrosion we are being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, as well as protecting citizens' health and safety.

So let's be clear. This is not a substitute for the serious conversation that this country needs to be having on updating and bringing into the 21st century our roads, bridges, highways, sewer systems, and water systems; but we do need to work toward extending the lifespan of current Federal infrastructure, and we need to work hard on that today.

Today, we have the opportunity to engage in a bipartisan effort on corrosion prevention, something that will be an important first step to extend the lifespan and the safety of these systems. It is the and it is the sensible thing to do.

When corrosion control technologies are properly installed and maintained, corrosion is largely preventable. It is inexpensive and it saves lives.

So again, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON).

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, I say a special thank you to my cosponsor, co-chair of the House Corrosion Prevention Caucus, Congresswoman ESTY, for introducing this amendment that will help the taxpayers protect America's aging infrastructure.

Corrosion in our Nation's infrastructure reduces the lifespan of our investments, costs our taxpayers billions of dollars, threatens our environment, and endangers our public safety. If left unchecked, corrosion affects many sectors of our economy, including defense projects, energy development, ports, water infrastructure, utilities, roads, rails, bridges, and other critical American assets.

The good news is that corrosion is an issue that can be tackled to extend the life and value of our Federal investments. When properly maintained, corrosion is largely preventable.

I have dealt with corrosion my whole adult life. Serving in our Navy for 9 years, I have seen young sailors fighting corrosion on our ships with a paint scraper, a paint brush, and a bucket of gray paint—the glory of the so-called paint and chip detail.

Working for the Houston region, I know how corrosion can impact our investment in our ports and waterways. Investing in corrosion prevention now will save the taxpayers billions down the road.

If my colleagues want to know more about corrosion prevention, come to Houston, Texas, headquarters of NACE, National Association of Corrosion Engineers, International.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. OLSON. This amendment would simply require the Army Corps to submit a report on corrosion prevention activities for our Nation's infrastructure, including water and sewer systems. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, commonsense amendment.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, if Connecticut and Texas can agree on this, then Congress ought to be able to agree on this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my friend and colleague and the co-chair of the Corrosion Prevention Caucus.

I am a Navy daughter and the daughter and granddaughter of civil engineers, so believe me, I have learned a lot about corrosion and corrosion prevention in my life.

Again, this is the sort of bipartisan fix we need to be engaged in in this body. I want to thank my good friend, Mr. OLSON, my good friend, the chairman, Mr. SHUSTER. I urge all our colleagues to support this commonsense amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1915

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in House Report 114-790.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:
SEC. . . . NORTH ATLANTIC COASTAL REGION.

Section 4009 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1316) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “a study to determine the feasibility of carrying out projects” and inserting “a comprehensive assessment and management plan”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “STUDY” and inserting “ASSESSMENT AND PLAN”; and

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “study” and inserting “assessment and plan”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1) by striking “study” and inserting “assessment and plan”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which makes an important change to the North Atlantic Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Study. My amendment expands the scope of the study from a mere feasibility study to a comprehensive assessment and management plan.

First established in the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act, the North Atlantic Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Study is a state-of-the-art approach for bringing together the latest science on restoring coastal ecosystems at scale.

The proposal in my amendment is an important change because it will allow the United States Army Corps of Engineers to undertake critical habitat restoration projects of tidal marshes, beaches, dunes, and fish spawning areas across a region spanning from Maine to Virginia.

Due to the varying habitats and ecosystems along the entire North Atlantic Coast, individual States currently are struggling to adequately address environmental and ecological issues that span the entire region.

Challenges arising from, for example, algal bloom, fish depletion, and water quality issues know no boundaries and, frankly, defy the efforts of States to coordinate activities. Beyond that, we simply lack the expertise in each and every State to address these shared problems. What has resulted is a fragmented, State-by-State approach to solving interconnected environmental problems that need holistic solutions.

My amendment addresses this problem by creating a comprehensive, cooperative, and regional approach to environmental restoration and management. By fostering collaboration on coastal restoration projects between the Army Corps, State, and local partners, we can more effectively tackle environmental issues and restoration of coastal ecosystems.

My change will help States along the entire North Atlantic United States

solve major water quality issues like eutrophication, algal bloom, fish depletion, and threats to shellfish like the ones we are currently facing in Long Island Sound.

Again, I urge my colleagues to adopt this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, this is a good amendment, and I appreciate the gentlewoman for bringing it forward. I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. FRANKEL
OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in House Report 114-790.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ____ ACQUISITION OF BEACH FILL.

Section 935 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2299) is amended by striking "if such materials are not available from domestic sources for environmental or economic reasons".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I bring this amendment on behalf of myself and Mr. CURBELO of Miami, Florida. It is a very excellent commonsense amendment. It is an authorization that requires no money, and it strikes an archaic, 30-year-old provision from law.

I would like to explain how it affects our home State of Florida. Quite simply, the law is an obstacle to Florida's tourism and shoreline protection. We are one of the top travel destinations in the world. We have over 100 million visitors with a \$70 billion impact to Florida's economy, and beaches play a very big role not only for visitors, but for our shore protection and for protection of our property, people, and the environment.

Just like Northern States have to fix their potholes after a bad winter, in Florida, we have to restore our beaches. What has happened is that Dade and Broward Counties have run out of useable sand to dredge off our coast to put back on the beaches. After the Sandy Hurricane, our sand supply is completely depleted. We now have to rely on sand from northern counties. Taking sand from inland is very, very expensive. To try to take sand from the coastal communities literally causes a public uproar and threats of litigation. It is our version of water wars. We call them sand wars in Florida.

There is a very easy solution, and that is to allow the counties in south Florida to buy sand from the Bahamas.

What is preventing that?

There is language in a 1986 law—a 1986 WRDA bill written at a time when sand in south Florida was very plentiful. The language prevents State and local governments anywhere in the country from buying foreign sand to replenish their shorelines without the Army Corps first finding—and this requires a study and another study—that there is no domestic sources of sand for environmental or economic reasons. It is one more task that an overburdened agency does not need to perform.

So what this amendment does is it simply strikes that outdated requirement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to help end the sand wars and support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. AL GREEN
OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in House Report 114-790.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, insert the following:

SEC. ____ PRIORITIZATION OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.

The Secretary shall give priority to a project for flood risk management if—

(1) there is an executed project partnership agreement for the project; and

(2) the project is located in an area—
(A) in which there has been a loss of life due to flood events; and

(B) with respect to which the President has declared that a major disaster or emergency exists under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is one that has received bipartisan support. It is supported by Congressman GENE GREEN of Texas as well as Congressman JOHN CULBERSON of Texas.

This amendment is quite simple. What it does is accord the Army Corps the requirement to prioritize projects wherein we have had a loss of life, a disaster declaration has been issued, there is a partnership agreement in place, and the funds have been authorized for the partnership.

In Texas we have had—and across the country, I might add—floods that are no longer classified as 100-year floods. Indeed, they are being classified as billion-dollar floods. We have had the Memorial Day flood, which was more than \$1 billion, and the Tax Day flood, which was more than \$1 billion. Between the two, we had more than 15 lives lost—approximately 17 to be more accurate.

This amendment would give us the opportunity to have some of the projects on the Corps' docket completed such that we can eliminate some flooding and minimize additional flooding.

I am honored to say that the Corps is aware of this amendment, and I am grateful to the Rules Committee for making it in order. I thank the chairperson and the ranking member for assistance given as well.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for bringing this forward. It is very similar to an amendment that Mr. YOUNG from Iowa brought forward, and I think that was a good amendment. I think this is. So I support it and urge all my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN).

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment.

Many areas have faced severe frequent floods in recent years. Too many of these disasters have deadly consequences for our communities.

Since the beginning of the 114th Congress, more than 200 Americans have died as a result of flooding. In Texas alone, 77 people have perished as a result of flooding in under 2 years. Heavy rains and flooding killed eight people in 1 week this last April.

This amendment would go far to address these tragedies by allowing the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize flood control projects for areas that have lethal flooding to provide security and peace of mind to residents in these communities.

Both Congressman AL GREEN and I represent different parts of Houston, Harris County. His area was pretty devastated, along with the northwest part where Congressman MCCAUL represents, and a number of other folks. But there is a reason why we are called the coastal plain in the Houston area, because when it floods, we fill up the bayous, we fill up the rivers, and the only place it goes is in our businesses and in our homes. That is why this amendment is so important.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and protect our most vulnerable communities.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank, again, the chairperson, the ranking member, and the Rules Committee as well.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. HERRERA BEUTLER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in House Report 114-790.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS.

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may establish, operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection stations to protect the Columbia River Basin to be located in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington at locations, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with such States with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species at reservoirs operated and maintained by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also assist the States referred to in this paragraph with rapid response of any Quagga or Zebra mussel infestation.”

(B) in paragraph (3) by inserting “Governors of the” before “States”; and

(2) in subsection (e) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) assist the States in early detection of Quagga and Zebra mussels;”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 892, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a simple technical correction to clarify congressional intent to assist Northwestern States in prevention and monitoring of aquatic invasive species.

Western States are seeing a troubling spread of quagga and zebra mussels, which are an invasive species that quickly destroy infrastructure for hydropower, water supply, filtration systems, and fisheries.

Once this species becomes established and spreads, it is difficult and very costly to eradicate. In some States, invasive mussels are already costing industries and businesses hundreds of millions of dollars in damage and repair.

For communities in the Columbia River basin, an infestation would be devastating to production of clean, renewable hydropower, which means steep rate hikes for families and businesses that are located in our region and are currently thriving due to the low cost of energy.

Communities would also suffer severe damages to fisheries and boats, putting all users and recreators of the Columbia and Snake River systems at risk.

Prevention is the first line of defense and the cheapest tool to use against invasive species. Watercraft inspection stations are particularly crucial in successful monitoring and detection. These stations intercept thousands of boats from all over the country to inspect and decontaminate.

This is why Congress authorized funds under the 2014 WRRDA to support watercraft inspection stations that protect the Columbia River basin from mussel invasion. Unfortunately, these funds have yet to actually reach the stations due to an ambiguity in the law.

This amendment simply clarifies that funds authorized under WRDA are intended to assist in establishing new watercraft inspection stations and support coverage for existing stations in Northwestern States.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good-government amendment to ensure that Federal funds are being used for the purpose for which Congress intended.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for bringing this forward.

We are one of the last refuges in the United States free of the zebra mussel, which is incredibly destructive and ex-

pensive. This will help us protect the integrity of our vital riverine resources.

I thank the gentlewoman for bringing this forward, and I fully support it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for the support. Let's get this amendment moving.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1930

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) having assumed the chair, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board for a term of 6 years, effective October 9, 2016:

Ms. Kim Hildred, Alexandria, Virginia

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1103), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, of the following individual on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of 6 years:

Mr. GREGG HARPER, Pearl, Mississippi

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2340

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STIVERS) at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Mr. WOODALL, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-794) on the resolution (H. Res. 897) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 29, 2016, through November 11, 2016, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for the first series of votes on account of medical appointments.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1886. An act to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology; in addition, to the Committee on Natural Resources for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each

case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 26, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 5252. To designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tornillo, Texas, as the "Marcelino Serna Port of Entry".

H.R. 2615. To establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

H.R. 5937. To amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6981. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — System Safeguards Testing Requirements (RIN: 3038-AE30) September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6982. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — TRICARE; Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment [DOD-2015-HA-0109] (RIN: 0720-AB65) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6983. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualification Standards for Enlistment, Appointment, and Induction [Docket ID: DOD-2011-OS-0099] (RIN: 0790-A178) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6984. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program (RIN: 0970-AC67) received September 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

6985. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders Reporting Requirements (RIN: 0930-AA22) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6986. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Florida; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2014-0423; FRL-9953-18-Region 4] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6987. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Revisions to Major New Source Review Permitting [EPA-R06-OAR-2014-0221; FRL-9951-54-Region 6] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6988. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources [EPA-R10-OAR-2016-0493; FRL-9953-04-Region 10] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6989. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Missouri State Implementation Plan for the 2008 Lead Standard [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0835; FRL-9952-79-Region 7] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6990. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chemical Data Reporting; 2016 Submission Period Extension [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2009-0187; FRL-9952-64] (RIN: 2070-AJ43) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6991. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Deadline for Action on the August 2016 Section 126 Petition From Delaware [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0509; FRL-9952-97-OAR] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6992. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluopicolide; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0791; FRL-9951-60] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6993. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Flupyradifurone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0226; FRL-9951-68] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6994. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — General Permits and Permits by Rule for the Federal Minor New Source Review Program in Indian Country for Six Source Categories [EPA-HQ-OAR-2011-0151; FRL-9952-86-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AR98) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6995. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead [EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0108; FRL-9952-87-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AQ44) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6996. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Technical Correction to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0408; FRL-9953-20-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS89) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6997. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; TN: Revisions to Logs and Reports for Startups, Shutdowns and Malfunctions [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0403; FRL-9953-05-Region 4] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6998. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events [EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0572; EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0229; FRL-9952-89-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS02) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

6999. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Enable Railroad Police Officers to Access Public Safety Interoperability and Mutual Aid Channels [PS Docket No.: 15-199] (RM-11721) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7000. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Proposed Amendments to the Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operations in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands [PS Docket No.: 13-87]; National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Petition for Rule-

making on Aircraft Voice Operations at 700MHz (RM-11433); National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Petition for Rulemaking to Revise 700 MHz Narrowband Channel Plan (RM-11433); Region 24 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee Petition for Rulemaking [WT Docket No.: 96-86] [PS Docket No.: 06-229]; State of Louisiana Petition for Rulemaking (RM-11577) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7001. A letter from the Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Space Station Licensing Rules and Policies [IB Docket No.: 02-34] received September 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7002. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Eagle Butte, South Dakota) [MB Docket No.: 16-182] (RM-11770) received September 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7003. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees (RIN: 3084-AA98) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7004. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Technical Amendments and Recodification of Alaska Humpback Whale Approach Regulations [Docket No.: 150727648-6720-01] (RIN: 0648-BF31) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7005. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim final rule — Approach Regulations for Humpback Whales in the Waters Surrounding the Islands of Hawaii Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act [Docket No.: 160413333-6721-01] (RIN: 0648-BF98) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7006. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Rules of Practice [Docket No.: PTO-T-2009-0030] (RIN: 0651-AC35) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7007. A letter from the Chief Impact Analyst, ORPM, Office of the General Counsel (02REG), VHA, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Telephone enrollment in the VA healthcare system (RIN: 2900-AP68) received September 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7008. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim regulations — Notice of Arrival for Importations of Pesticides and Pesticidal Devices [Docket No.: USCBP-2016-0061] (CBP Dec. 16-15) (RIN: 1515-AE12) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7009. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Modifications to Minimum Present Value Requirements for Partial Annuity Distribution Options under Defined Benefit Pension Plans [TD 9783] (RIN: 1545-BJ55) received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7010. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Treatment of Amounts Paid to Section 170(c) Organizations under Employer Leave-Based Donation Programs to Aid Victims of Severe Storms and Flooding in Louisiana that Began on August 11, 2016 [Notice 2016-55] received September 22, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Recommending that the House of Representatives find Bryan Pagliano in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. (Rept. 114-792). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 3608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt amounts paid for aircraft management services from the excise taxes imposed on transportation by air; with an amendment (Rept. 114-793). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 897. Resolution providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 29, 2016, through November 11, 2016 (Rept. 114-794). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. GRIFFITH):

H.R. 6174. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to limit the orphan drug exclusion under the drug discount program under section 340B of such title; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 6175. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to facilitate the removal of aliens identified in the terrorist screening database, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MARINO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JOYCE, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HARPER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. KLINE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. LATTA, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. DESANTIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. GOWDY):

H.R. 6176. A bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 6177. A bill to require the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and the head of each Federal agency to increase transparency in the regulatory review process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 6178. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, with respect to apportionments to States for certain highway programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 6179. A bill to prohibit the conduct of a first-use nuclear strike absent a declaration of war by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LOVE (for herself, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mrs. LUMMIS):

H.R. 6180. A bill to authorize the State of Utah to select lands that are available for disposal under the Pony Express Resource Management Plan to be used for the support and benefit of State institutions, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H.R. 6181. A bill to authorize programs and activities to support transportation options in areas with limited access to public transportation due to extensive repair or reconstruction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 6182. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for an integrated planning and permitting process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 6183. A bill to neutralize the discriminatory effect of any country that employs indirect taxes and grants rebates of the same upon export if United States trade negotiating objectives regarding border tax treatment are not met; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOLD (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H.R. 6184. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a special enrollment period under Medicare for individuals enrolled in COBRA continuation coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 6185. A bill to provide for further comprehensive research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke on unruptured intracranial aneurysms; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COLE, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. GOMMERT, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6186. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend certain protections against prohibited personnel practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. JONES, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 6187. A bill to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 6188. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program for early childhood STEM activities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 6189. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCSALLY:

H.R. 6190. A bill to establish Chiricahua National Park in Arizona as a unit of the Na-

tional Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROSS:

H.R. 6191. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include student loan repayments as members of targeted groups for purposes of the work opportunity credit and to provide for a credit against tax for student loan program startup costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SANFORD:

H.R. 6192. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess personal property of the Department of Defense to law enforcement agencies only by means of auction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 6193. A bill to establish the National Freight Mobility Infrastructure Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 6194. A bill to prohibit the enforcement of any requirement that an individual produce a photo identification as a condition of registering to vote or voting in an election for Federal office unless the requirement was in effect as of June 25, 2013; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. FLORES:

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 opening of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the 2016 opening of the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex in College Station, Texas; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Con. Res. 164. Concurrent resolution expressing the support for the passage of the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H. Res. 896. A resolution recognizing the significance of the United States relationship with the Republic of Moldova and encouraging United States support for anti-corruption efforts and strengthening democratic institutions; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers

granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 6174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina:

H.R. 6175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 grants Congress the right to set forth rules for Naturalization.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 6176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign countries and among the states. The Export Reform Control Act addresses the rules of commerce for certain items currently on the United States Munitions List, directing them to be moved to the Department of Commerce's Commerce Control List.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 6177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 and Clause 3.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 6179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to declare war.

By Mrs. LOVE:

H.R. 6180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV Section 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GIBBS:

H.R. 6182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3 (related to regulation of Commerce among the several States).

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 6183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOLD:

H.R. 6184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 6185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 6186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 6187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 6188.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico:

H.R. 6189.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 213: Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 379: Ms. KAPTUR and Mr. JOLLY.

H.R. 546: Mr. SCHRADER and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 662: Mr. HARDY and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.

H.R. 704: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 746: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 842: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 1061: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. HONDA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1095: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 1102: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 1151: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1192: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 1197: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 1282: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1312: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1347: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.

H.R. 1706: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2102: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 2116: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 2170: Mr. ASHFORD.

H.R. 2224: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2280: Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 2302: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2434: Mr. BARLETTA.

H.R. 2493: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 2656: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2660: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2715: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 2717: Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILMER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2799: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2844: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 2875: Mr. CUMMINGS and Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 2889: Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 2894: Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 2991: Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 3061: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 3099: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3355: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 3411: Mr. GRAYSON and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 3522: Mr. MURPHY of Florida and Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 3562: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 3632: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 3696: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 3846: Mr. HARPER and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 4151: Mr. LOBIONDO.

H.R. 4272: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 4277: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 4298: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4365: Ms. MCSALLY.

H.R. 4399: Mr. GRAYSON.

H.R. 4423: Mr. POLIS.

H.R. 4514: Ms. FUDGE.

H.R. 4526: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 4559: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 4616: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

H.R. 4657: Mr. DeFAZIO.

H.R. 4764: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 4818: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 4907: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 4980: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 5018: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 5082: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 5083: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5143: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 5182: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 5224: Mr. ALLEN and Mr. BOUSTANY.

H.R. 5237: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 5265: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 5301: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 5418: Mr. PALAZZO.

H.R. 5600: Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 5624: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 5650: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 5727: Mr. McCAUL.

H.R. 5732: Mr. STEWART, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5745: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 5764: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 5812: Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 5828: Ms. LEE, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 5829: Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.R. 5904: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 5940: Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 5951: Mr. THORNBERRY and Mr. CULBERSON.
 H.R. 5954: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 5961: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mrs. HARTZLER.
 H.R. 5972: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 5980: Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. SCHRADER.
 H.R. 5989: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LATTA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
 H.R. 5994: Mr. BOUSTANY.
 H.R. 5996: Ms. NORTON and Mr. McCAUL.
 H.R. 5999: Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 6020: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 6021: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 6030: Mr. HONDA and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 6045: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 6067: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
 H.R. 6072: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 6088: Mr. PETERSON and Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 6094: Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.R. 6100: Mr. TURNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. NOEM, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
 H.R. 6109: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 6116: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 6131: Mr. PALMER and Mr. ROTHFUS.
 H.R. 6133: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 6142: Mr. DENT.
 H.R. 6161: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 6164: Mr. ELLISON.
 H.R. 6168: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. FARR.
 H.R. 6173: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H.J. Res. 94: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
 H. Con. Res. 29: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Con. Res. 40: Mrs. BUSTOS.
 H. Con. Res. 87: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. YODER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. CRAMER.
 H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. LEWIS and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.
 H. Con. Res. 161: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H. Res. 289: Ms. ESHOO.
 H. Res. 590: Mr. MICA.
 H. Res. 703: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.
 H. Res. 750: Mr. GIBSON.
 H. Res. 782: Mr. MASSIE.
 H. Res. 829: Mrs. HARTZLER.
 H. Res. 836: Mr. YOHO.
 H. Res. 840: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H. Res. 850: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H. Res. 853: Mr. COLE.
 H. Res. 867: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Ms. LEE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MOORE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLAY, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms.

LOFGREN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. ENGEL.

H. Res. 882: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. KEATING.
 H. Res. 884: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H. Res. 887: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. COHEN.
 H. Res. 891: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. SHUSTER

The Manager's amendment to H.R. 5303 (the Water Resources Development Act of 2016) that I filed with the Committee on Rules does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. KLINE

Mr. Speaker, the provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce in H.R. 6094 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 5303

OFFERED BY: MR. KILDEE

AMENDMENT NO. 1: Add at the end the following:

TITLE V—DRINKING WATER

SEC. 501. DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term “eligible State” means a State for which the President has declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) relating to the public health threats associated with the presence of lead or other contaminants in a public drinking water supply system.

(2) ELIGIBLE SYSTEM.—The term “eligible system” means a public drinking water supply system that has been the subject of an emergency declaration referred to in paragraph (1).

(b) STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible system shall be—

(A) considered to be a disadvantaged community under section 1452(d) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)); and

(B) eligible to receive loans with additional subsidization under that Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.), including forgiveness of principal under section 1452(d)(1) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(1)).

(2) AUTHORIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds provided under subsection (e)(1)(A), an eligible State may provide assistance to an eligible system within the eligible State, for the purpose of addressing lead or other contaminants in drinking water, including repair and replacement of public and private drinking water infrastructure.

(B) INCLUSION.—Assistance provided under subparagraph (A) may include additional subsidization under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.), as described in paragraph (1)(B).

(C) EXCLUSION.—Assistance provided under subparagraph (A) shall not include assistance for a project that is financed (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, with proceeds of any obligation issued after the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the interest of which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(ii) with respect to which credit is allowable under subpart I or J of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

(3) LIMITATION.—Section 1452(d)(2) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12(d)(2)) shall not apply to—

(A) any funds provided under subsection (e)(1)(A); or

(B) any other loan provided to an eligible system.

(c) WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING.—

(1) SECURED LOANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Using funds provided under subsection (e)(2)(A), the Administrator may make a secured loan under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) to—

(i) an eligible State to carry out a project eligible under paragraphs (2) through (9) of section 5026 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3905) to address lead or other contaminants in drinking water in an eligible system, including repair and replacement of public and private drinking water infrastructure; and

(ii) any eligible entity under section 5025 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3904) for a project eligible under paragraphs (2) through (9) of section 5026 of that Act (33 U.S.C. 3905).

(B) AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding section 5029(b)(2) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(2)), the amount of a secured loan provided under subparagraph (A)(i) may be equal to not more than 80 percent of the reasonably anticipated costs of the projects.

(2) FEDERAL INVOLVEMENT.—Notwithstanding section 5029(b)(9) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)(9)), any costs for a project to address lead or other contaminants in drinking water in an eligible system that are not covered by a secured loan under paragraph (1) may be covered using amounts in the State revolving loan fund under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12).

(d) NONDUPLICATION OF WORK.—An activity carried out pursuant to this section shall not duplicate the work or activity of any other Federal or State department or agency.

(e) FUNDING.—

(1) ADDITIONAL DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND CAPITALIZATION GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Administrator a total of \$100,000,000 to provide additional grants to eligible States pursuant to section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12), to be available for a period of 18 months beginning on the date on which the funds are made available, for the purposes described in subsection (b)(2), and after the end of the 18-month period, until expended for the purposes described in subparagraph (C).

(B) SUPPLEMENTED INTENDED USE PLANS.—From funds made available under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall obligate to an eligible State such amounts as are necessary to meet the needs identified in a supplemented intended use plan by not later

than 30 days after the date on which the eligible State submits to the Administrator a supplemented intended use plan under section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)) that includes preapplication information regarding projects to be funded using the additional assistance, including, with respect to each such project—

- (i) a description of the project;
- (ii) an explanation of the means by which the project will address a situation causing a declared emergency in the eligible State;
- (iii) the estimated cost of the project; and
- (iv) the projected start date for construction of the project.

(C) UNOBLIGATED AMOUNTS.—Of any amounts made available to the Administrator under subparagraph (A) that are unobligated on the date that is 18 months after the date on which the amounts are made available shall be available to provide additional grants to States to capitalize State loan funds as provided under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12).

(D) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1452(b)(1) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)(1)) shall not apply to a supplement to an intended use plan under subparagraph (B).

(2) WIFIA FUNDING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available to the Administrator \$70,000,000 to provide credit subsidies, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, for secured loans under subsection (c)(1)(A) with a goal of providing secured loans totaling at least \$700,000,000.

(B) USE.—Secured loans provided pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be available to carry out activities described in subsection (c)(1)(A).

(C) EXCLUSION.—Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (A), \$20,000,000 shall not be used to provide assistance for a project that is financed (directly or indirectly), in whole or in part, with proceeds of any obligation issued after the date of enactment of this Act—

(i) the interest of which is exempt from the tax imposed under chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(ii) with respect to which credit is allowable under subpart I or J of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

(3) APPLICABILITY.—Unless explicitly waived, all requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.) and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) shall apply to funding provided under this subsection.

(f) HEALTH EFFECTS EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to section 104(i)(1)(E) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(1)(E)), and on receipt of a request of an appropriate State or local health official of an eligible State, the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the National Center for Environmental Health shall in coordination with other agencies, as appropriate, conduct voluntary surveillance activities to evaluate any adverse health effects on individuals exposed to lead from drinking water in the affected communities.

(2) CONSULTATIONS.—Pursuant to section 104(i)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(4)), and on receipt of a request of an appropriate State or

local health official of an eligible State, the Director of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the National Center for Environmental Health shall provide consultations regarding health issues described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 502. LOAN FORGIVENESS.

The matter under the heading “State and Tribal Assistance Grants” under the heading “ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY” in title II of division G of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113), is amended in paragraph (1), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “or, if a Federal or State emergency declaration has been issued due to a threat to public health from heightened exposure to lead in a municipal drinking water supply, before the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That in a State in which such an emergency declaration has been issued, the State may use more than 20 percent of the funds made available under this title to the State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients;”.

SEC. 503. REGISTRY FOR LEAD EXPOSURE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CITY.—The term “City” means a city exposed to lead contamination in the local drinking water system.

(2) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under subsection (c).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) LEAD EXPOSURE REGISTRY.—The Secretary shall establish within the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry or another relevant agency at the discretion of the Secretary, or establish through a grant award or contract, a lead exposure registry to collect data on the lead exposure of residents of a City on a voluntary basis.

(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant agencies as determined by the Secretary consisting of Federal members and non-Federal members, and which shall include—

- (i) an epidemiologist;
- (ii) a toxicologist;
- (iii) a mental health professional;
- (iv) a pediatrician;
- (v) an early childhood education expert;
- (vi) a special education expert;
- (vii) a dietician; and
- (viii) an environmental health expert.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Membership in the Committee shall not exceed 15 members and not less than 1/2 of the members shall be Federal members.

(2) CHAIR.—The Secretary shall designate a chair from among the Federal members appointed to the Committee.

(3) TERMS.—Members of the Committee shall serve for a term of not more than 3 years and the Secretary may reappoint members for consecutive terms.

(4) APPLICATION OF FACA.—The Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall, at a minimum—

(A) review the Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;

(B) review current research on lead poisoning to identify additional research needs;

(C) review and identify best practices, or the need for best practices, regarding lead screening and the prevention of lead poisoning;

(D) identify effective services, including services relating to healthcare, education, and nutrition for individuals and communities affected by lead exposure and lead poisoning, including in consultation with, as appropriate, the lead exposure registry as established in subsection (b); and

(E) undertake any other review or activities that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(6) REPORT.—Annually for 5 years and thereafter as determined necessary by the Secretary or as required by Congress, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary, the Committees on Finance, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;

(B) an evaluation of additional lead poisoning research needs;

(C) an assessment of any effective screening methods or best practices used or developed to prevent or screen for lead poisoning;

(D) input and recommendations for improved access to effective services relating to healthcare, education, or nutrition for individuals and communities impacted by lead exposure; and

(E) any other recommendations for communities affected by lead exposure, as appropriate.

(d) MANDATORY FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2016 through 2020—

(A) \$17,500,000 to carry out subsection (b); and

(B) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (c).

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out subsections (b) and (c) the funds transferred under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1), respectively, without further appropriation.

SEC. 504. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CERTAIN CHILDHOOD HEALTH PROGRAMS.

(a) CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, \$10,000,000 for the childhood lead poisoning prevention program authorized under section 317A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1).

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out the childhood lead poisoning prevention program authorized under section 317A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1) the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(b) HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, \$10,000,000 to carry out the Healthy Homes Initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out the Healthy Homes Initiative of the Department of Housing and Urban Development the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

(c) HEALTHY START PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of enactment of this Act, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer to the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to be available during the period of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, \$10,000,000 to carry out the Healthy Start Initiative under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8).

(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration shall be entitled to receive, shall accept, and shall use to carry out the Healthy Start Initiative under section 330H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-8) the funds transferred under paragraph (1), without further appropriation.

SEC. 505. REVIEW AND REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General and the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations, Environment and Public Works, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committees on Appropriations, Energy and Commerce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives a report on the status of any ongoing investigations into the Federal and State response to the contamination of the drinking water supply of the City of Flint, Michigan.

(b) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the investigations described in subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall commence a review of issues that are not addressed by the investigations and relating to—

(1) the adequacy of the response by the State of Michigan and the City of Flint to

the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, including the timeliness and transparency of the response, as well as the capacity of the State and City to manage the drinking water system; and

(2) the adequacy of the response by Region 5 of the Environmental Protection Agency to the drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan, including the timeliness and transparency of the response.

(c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after commencing each review under subsection (b), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a statement of the principal findings of the review; and

(2) recommendations for Congress and the President to take any actions to prevent a similar situation in the future and to protect public health.

SEC. 506. NOTICE TO PERSONS SERVED.

(a) EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD ACTION LEVEL.—Section 1414(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-3(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

“(D) Notice of any exceedance of a lead action level or any other prescribed level of lead in a regulation issued under section 1412, including the concentrations of lead found in a monitoring activity.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)(iii)—

(i) by striking “Administrator or” and inserting “Administrator, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and, if applicable,”; and

(ii) by inserting “and the appropriate State and county health agencies” after “1413”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD ACTION LEVEL.—Regulations issued under subparagraph (A) shall specify notification procedures for an exceedance of a lead action level or any other prescribed level of lead in a regulation issued under section 1412.”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) NOTIFICATION OF THE PUBLIC RELATING TO LEAD.—

“(A) EXCEEDANCE OF LEAD ACTION LEVEL.—Not later than 15 days after the date of an exceedance of a lead action level or any other prescribed level of lead in a regulation

issued under section 1412, the Administrator shall notify the public of the concentrations of lead found in the monitoring activity conducted by the public water system if the public water system or the State does not notify the public of the concentrations of lead found in a monitoring activity.

“(B) RESULTS OF LEAD MONITORING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide notice of any result of lead monitoring conducted by a public water system to—

“(I) any person that is served by the public water system; or

“(II) the local or State health department of a locality or State in which the public water system is located.

“(ii) FORM OF NOTICE.—The Administrator may provide the notice described in clause (i) by—

“(I) press release; or

“(II) other form of communication, including local media.

“(C) PRIVACY.—Notice to the public shall protect the privacy of individual customer information.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in collaboration with States and owners and operators of public water systems, shall establish a strategic plan for how the Administrator, a State with primary enforcement responsibility, and the owners and operators of public water systems shall conduct targeted outreach, education, technical assistance, and risk communication to populations affected by lead in a public water system.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1414(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-3(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “paragraph (2)(E)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(F)”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), by striking “subparagraph (D)” and inserting “subparagraph (E)”;

(3) in paragraph (4)(B) (as redesignated by subsection (a)(3)), in the first sentence, by striking “(D)” and inserting “(E)”.

SEC. 507. OFFSET.

None of the funds available to the Secretary of Energy to provide any credit subsidy under subsection (d) of section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) as of the date of enactment of this Act shall be obligated for new loan commitments under that subsection on or after October 1, 2020.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROBIN HAMPTON WILLS

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birth of Robin "Hampton" Wills, born Monday, September 5th, 2016.

Our precious granddaughter entered the world eight weeks early, but we know she is a fighter. While her first breath on this Earth came much quicker than planned, she is doing very well.

Hampton was born at University Hospital, where she was cared for in the neonatal intensive care unit for three weeks. She has just been transferred to the Medical College of Georgia Hospital where she is recovering and gaining strength.

Little Miss Hampton weighed in at four pounds nine ounces. Just shy of five pounds, this beautiful little girl was welcomed with love into a family of four. She looks so much like her two older sisters, Riley Kate and Ellis.

Baby Hampton is the perfect addition to our family. She brings the grand total of grandchildren to 12, an even dozen for Robin and me.

Hampton is a blessing from above, and we thank the Lord for watching over her and her mother in the coming months as they continue to heal and grow. Our family is so grateful for the many wonderful medical personnel in Augusta who cared for Hampton and her mother.

God bless this child, Robin "Hampton" Wills.

COMMEMORATING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, the people of Taiwan celebrate the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan). As we approach this important day, we should take the time to commemorate Taiwan, an important economic partner and vital ally in Asia.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. Taiwan has been a reliable partner in East Asia. According to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. trade in goods with Taiwan reached US\$ 66 billion last year. For a population of only 23 million, Taiwan became the

United States' 9th largest trading partner in 2015. Also, Taiwan is the state of New York's 6th largest export market in Asia.

It happens that the 39th Triennial Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will also be taking place in Montreal, Canada, beginning on September 27, 2016. The U.S. Congress passed a bill in 2013, which was later signed into law, for supporting Taiwan's participation in the triennial assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the capacity of an observer. Taipei Flight Information Region (FIR), administered by Taiwan government, provided over 1.53 million instances of air traffic control services and handled 58 million incoming and outgoing passengers in 2015, serving as an indispensable part of the global air transport network. Taiwan sent a delegation to the ICAO assembly in 2013. We will be happy to see that Taiwan to be invited again this September.

On Taiwan's National Day, we reaffirm the strength of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and the United States commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. It is an honor and privilege to support our friend and partner Taiwan and highlight the bonds that connect us.

THANKING JACKSON MAYOR
RICHARD LONG FOR HIS SERVICE

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mayor Richard Long of Jackson, Alabama.

Since 2000, Mayor Long has led the City of Jackson. Under his leadership, the city has seen the quality of life increase, as well as economic growth.

Mayor Long's service to his country and community started early in his life. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, he served in the United States Navy Reserves for nine years, including two years of active duty. In 1962, he was awarded the Cuban Blockade Medal for his contribution to the Cuban Naval Blockade. He has also been a lifelong member of VFW Post 5335.

His service to Jackson started as early as 1979, when he joined the Jackson Volunteer Fire Department. He would go on to serve on the Jackson City Council representing District 2 (1984 to 1988) and District 3 (1992 to 2000).

After being elected mayor in 2000, Mayor Long went to work to improve the quality of life for Jackson's residents. During his tenure, the city has made major investments and improvements to city infrastructure. Notable projects include the Jackson Police Complex, Municipal Court Building, public library expansion, senior citizens complex, water treatment plant, softball stadium, tennis complex, and high school athletic complex.

Mayor Long has been an especially strong advocate for education in his community. As Mayor, he oversaw construction of the new Joe M. Gillmore Elementary School, as well as updates and improvements to other programs. The schools in Jackson are recognized as some of the best in the region, and Mayor Long has a lot to do with that.

In 2008, Mayor Long was named "Mayor of the Year" by the Alabama Communities of Excellence Programs. This is just one of many honors and recognitions he has received throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Richard Long will be retiring from public service in November. I know his leadership and dedicated service will be missed, but his contributions to the City of Jackson will live on for decades to come. On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to thank Mayor Long for his service and wish him all the best in the future.

HONORING DICK GODDARD

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Dick Goddard on a lifetime of success in Northeast Ohio and to offer my best wishes on his retirement. As an Akron, Ohio native, Dick has left a legacy in Northeast Ohio with his passionate involvement as a meteorologist, animal activist, and sports enthusiast.

Dick's weather career started early during his service with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict. Initially assigned to the Severe Storm Forecast Center at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, his military career soon brought him to the Pacific Islands to an assignment with the Atomic Energy Commission for the first full-yield hydrogen bomb test. After his discharge from the military, Dick began working for the National Weather Service, while simultaneously attending Kent State University and later graduating with a bachelor's of fine arts.

Dick's news career began in 1961 working as an on-air meteorologist at Cleveland's KYW-TV. While at KYW, Dick made meteorological history when flying with the United States Navy Hurricane Hunter on the first low-level, nighttime penetration of a hurricane. In 1966, Dick became chief meteorologist at WJW-TV, Fox 8 Cleveland, where he spent the remainder of his career. During his tenure at Fox 8, Dick captivated his viewership, being named "Ohio's Best Meteorologist" and being voted as "Best Weatherperson".

Directly aligned with his career was his passion for animals, which would be clearly highlighted during his segments on air. Demonstrating his compassion for animals even for

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the smallest of creatures, Dick is well known for his annual "Woollybear Festival"; drawing more than 100,000 people each year, it is Ohio's largest single day festival. Among the years of animal advocacy, Dick persistently promoted programs for dog & cat care and adoption. As a huge milestone for animal rights and as a culmination of his tireless work, in June of 2016, House Bill 60 of the Ohio Assembly was passed. Otherwise known as "Goddard's Law", House Bill 60 sets to protect animal abuse in increasing the severity of penalties as a 5th degree felony.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me, along with the thousands in Northeast Ohio in paying homage to the man more commonly known as the weather man whose passion for meteorology could be paralleled only to his love for animals.

**HONORING THE HAVERFORD
TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Haverford Township Police Department on its 100th anniversary of serving and protecting families in Delaware County.

Since 1916, the Haverford Township Police Department has provided critical protection for the residents it serves. The force has grown from a chief and nine officers to the now sixty-nine officers and eighty civilian personnel Chief John Francis Viola leads today.

While the force has grown immensely in the last hundred years, its commitment to public safety has remained constant.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to the fine officers of the Haverford Township Police Department, and I wish them another 100 years of success in serving the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on September 20, 2016 because I was attending a memorial service and I missed votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 670, the Special Needs Trust Fairness and Medicaid Improvement Act, H.R. 5785, a bill to amendment title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers, and H.R. 5690, the GAO Access and Oversight Act.

H.R. 670 makes an important update to Medicaid to allow individuals with disabilities to set up their own special-needs trusts that are not counted as part of their assets when determining Medicaid eligibility. This will allow individuals to access Medicaid services without having to go through a lengthy process and get a court order to set up a special-needs

trust. I support this update to make it easier for individuals to access critical medical services.

H.R. 5785 makes it easier for retired federal air traffic controllers to train the next generation of this important workforce. Under current law, retired air traffic controllers cannot earn more than \$15,720 annually as instructors and still receive their Federal Employees' Retirement System retirement benefits. This bill waives the salary cap for former air traffic controllers so they can be instructors without compromising their retirement benefits. I am pleased that the House passed this important update so that the next generation of controllers can be trained by qualified and experienced instructors.

H.R. 5690 makes it easier for the Government Accountability Office to access certain federal records regarding individuals' employment status for the purposes of determining eligibility for assistance programs such as the National Directory of New Hires, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. This bill clarifies current law so that GAO can access this information from Health and Human Services, which oversees the database. If I had been present, I would have supported the bill.

**HONORING COLUMBIA HEIGHTS'
ALL-AMERICA CITY DESIGNATION**

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the City of Columbia Heights for its designation as a 2016 All-America City by the National Civic League. Since its incorporation in 1921, Columbia Heights has demonstrated sincere dedication to creating a safe, livable, and inclusive community.

Columbia Heights' community vitality is a direct result of investing in youth and putting children first. The City has shown great leadership through collaborative efforts such as: Big Brothers and Big Sisters; recreation and education outreach programs; and a strong City, Police Department, and School District partnership. This year, to ensure no child goes hungry in the summer months, Columbia Heights entered into a partnership with Loaves and Fishes to serve a healthy, complete lunch free of charge to local children five days a week.

In 2008 under the leadership of Police Chief Scott Nadeau, the Columbia Heights Police Department implemented a policing philosophy focused on community partnership. Through work with the Columbia Heights school district, the police force drastically reduced criminal activity over a seven-year period and has taken youth arrests from 230 per year to 90 per year. This work earned the city the International Association of Chiefs of Police Award for Community Policing in 2012, and the L. Anthony Sutlin Civic Imagination Award in 2015 from the Department of Justice for collaboration between law enforcement and community members.

The City of Columbia Heights also recently completed construction on a beautiful 22,000

square foot library. In 2014, city residents passed a referendum to raise funds to build a library the city could call its own. Now, Columbia Heights has a tremendous community asset and gathering place that it can be proud of for years to come.

Columbia Heights has actively engaged its new immigrant communities, from working to build a community park in the Circle Terrace neighborhood, to hosting Iftar dinners in the police building to bring the community together.

Columbia Heights stands as a Minnesotan beacon of inclusion and progress. I wish the city of Columbia Heights all the best in its future endeavors of successful community engagement, and congratulate the city on this well-deserved honor.

**CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY
OF TAIWAN**

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the National Day of Taiwan, which will take place on October 10, 2016. I extend my warmest congratulations to the people of Taiwan on this special occasion.

Taiwan has transformed into a beacon of democracy and economic opportunity in East Asia. In January of this year, the country elected its first female president, Tsai Ing-wen, in a landmark election. This important moment reflects the incredible progress Taiwan has made to become a free and open democracy. In addition to Taiwan's democratic progress, the country has grown into a major economic power. They are one of the United States' largest trading partners and a major export market for Wisconsin products. Many American companies have benefitted from close economic cooperation with their Taiwanese counterparts.

I also commend Taiwan's work to tackle many global issues with the United States through the U.S.-Taiwan Global Cooperation Training Framework. Together, we have worked on issues such as women's rights, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, democratization, global health and energy security. Taiwan shares many American values, such as freedom, human rights, and civil society. I look forward to our continued partnership as a staunch ally of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Taiwan on this special day. I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber for votes on Monday, September 26, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote 557 and "yea" on roll call vote 558.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016 I was absent due to personal reasons and missed votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call Number 557 passage of H.R. 3537—Aye.

Roll Call Number 558 passage of H.R. 5392—Aye.

IN RECOGNITION OF RAYMOND CAPOZUCCA, ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUZERNE COUNTY'S 2016 PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Raymond Capozucca, who will be honored by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County as Person of the Year during the organization's 39th Annual Columbus Day Banquet on October 9, 2016.

Raymond was born May 25, 1939 in Pittston Township to Raymond and Emma Capozucca. After the death of his father, he was enrolled in the Hershey Industrial School for Orphan Boys, now known as Milton Hershey School. Raymond returned home, after graduating in 1957, and worked for two local plumbers. In 1962, founded his own plumbing, heating, and electric business. The business's name was changed to Capozucca Bros. when his brother, Albert, joined six months later. Both Raymond and his brother ran their business until they both retired in the early 2000s.

Throughout the years, Raymond has been involved in numerous clubs and associations. He is a member of the Italian American Citizens Enjoyment Club and a charter member of the Pittston Township Lions Club. He helped found Pittston Township Little League and went on to serve on its board. He served on the board of United Services Agency. He held offices with the Pittston Township Fire Department and was on the board of directors of the Northeast Fair. He was a member of the Holy Name Society of Mt. Carmel, now known as St. Joseph Marengo Parish, and the Flag Association of Pittston Township.

It is an honor to recognize Raymond for being named the Italian American Association of Luzerne County's Person of the Year. I thank Raymond for all of the service he has given to his community, and I wish Raymond and the Italian American Association all the best this Columbus Day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 557 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537, the dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

I was not present for Roll Call vote Number 558 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF BARBARA MAIZIE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime friend and local champion, Ms. Barbara Maizie.

Barbara dedicated her whole life to helping others. After arriving at Contra Costa Arc in 1974, her dogged work was instrumental to the creation, preservation, and evolution of life-enhancing supports for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Through her hard work and dedication, she helped Contra Costa Arc grow to be the largest provider of services in Contra Costa, serving over 900 of all ages. Her steadfast support for the Lanterman Act, both enforcing it and ensuring that people understood the rights they had been granted under it, were unmatched.

Barbara and I met through her tireless work for those with developmental disabilities and their families. Her leadership in saving the George Miller Center, advocacy at state budget hearings, and work to close Developmental Centers has permanently changed our community and the State of California for the better.

Barbara was not only a colleague, but a close friend. Because of Barbara's hard work, love, and support, the lives of Californians are much improved. She will be sincerely missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her, myself included.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call vote No. 557 on H.R. 3537 "To amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substances analogues are to be regulated and for other purposes," I mistakenly recorded my vote as Yea, when I should have voted Nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 26, 2016, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call vote number 557 and 558. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no" on roll call vote number 557 and "yes" on roll call vote number 558.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,524,762,977,719.62. We've added \$8,897,885,928,806.54 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$8.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JUSTIN SCHROEPFER, RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Justin Schroepfer of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. His life was tragically cut short, but he will always be remembered as a courageous Good Samaritan who put the wellbeing of a perfect stranger ahead of himself.

On July 11, 2016, Justin spotted two women struggling against Lake Superior's strong current. He abandoned his own bachelor party and swam through the frigid water in an attempt to save the lives of two people he did not know. One woman was saved by another bystander, but tragically, both Justin and the other woman succumbed to the frigid, unpredictable waters.

A graduate of Antigo High School, Mr. Schroepfer was recruited to play baseball at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. He transferred to Northern Michigan University in Marquette after two years and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. With his degree, Mr. Schroepfer pursued a career at Wipfli CPA's and Consultants in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

Along with his talents on the baseball field, Mr. Schroepfer was also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fly-fishing, downhill skiing, and hunting. Mr. Schroepfer was dedicated to his Christian faith and family, and was planning his wedding with the love of his life, Suzy Solin, at his untimely passing.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to recognize Mr. Schroeffer for his courageous action and ultimate sacrifice; we pray that in knowing of his heroic effort, his family and beloved fiancé may find comfort and peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, my flight, US 1782, was delayed by 90 minutes because of thunderstorms, so I arrived after votes were over. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 557, and YEA on Roll Call No. 558.

RECOGNIZING HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND BARBER BEN SCHEINKOPF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Scheinkopf, an outstanding community member in Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood. At 96 years old, Mr. Scheinkopf closed his barbershop just last month after more than six decades in business.

A long journey brought Mr. Scheinkopf to the North Side of Chicago. He was born in Poland on October 16, 1919 and was one of nine children. In 1939, the Nazi army invaded his hometown of Plonsk and forced the Jews into a ghetto. The Nazis arrested the roughly 6,000 Jews remaining and sent them to Auschwitz in 1942.

After three years in Auschwitz, Mr. Scheinkopf and his brother, Josef were among the Jews forced to walk in the dead of winter from Auschwitz to Mauthausen. At one point, Josef kept his sick, frail brother alive by hiding him on a cart of dead bodies. Only 30 Jews from Plonsk survived the concentration camps to be liberated by American troops. Ben and Josef Scheinkopf were two of the survivors.

Ben Scheinkopf moved to Munich, Germany after the war and worked as a barber for the troops. In 1954, he relocated to Chicago and continued cutting hair. At the time, he was one of seven Jewish barbers working on the North Side. He continued running that barbershop at Touhy and California until this past August.

"Benny the Barber" wrote a letter to his customers and neighbors upon the barbershop's closure, and I would like to share an excerpt: "I have been fortunate to have had a marvelous, long career giving hair cuts to generations of customers who have become my friends. . . . It has been my distinct pleasure to serve and be part of the community for so many years. I will miss you all and I will not forget you."

We will not forget him either. Ben Scheinkopf is a remarkable man—a Holocaust survivor and a neighborhood institution. I wish

him all the best as he devotes his retirement to spending more time with family and cheering the Chicago Cubs to the World Series.

HONORING DAISAKU IKEDA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daisaku Ikeda, President of the Soka Gakkai International who is celebrating the anniversary of his first visit to New York. Mr. Ikeda is a leader who has served New York's community—indeed our entire City—with distinction.

Daisaku Ikeda's first visit to New York was October 2nd, 1960, to introduce America to the compassionate and enlightening teachings of Buddhism as a practical way for individuals to create harmonious families and communities in order to create a peaceful and sustainable world for all humanity. Dr. Ikeda's lifetime has been focused on striving for peace in New York City and around the world.

Since his arrival, the New York SGI organization has grown significantly—today New York City is home to some 13,500 active members of SGI-USA, with 33 Chapters hosting over 200 monthly neighborhood discussion meetings. New York City enjoys two SGI Buddhist Culture Centers, in Queens and Manhattan, with a third center currently under construction in the heart of the 7th Congressional District in Brooklyn—which will be completed in 2017.

Dr. Ikeda continues, with tremendous youthful energy and passion, to be a constant inspiration to thousands of New Yorkers as well as millions around the world. His thoughts are best expressed through a passage in his book, *The Human Revolution* "a great revolution of character in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation, and further, will cause a change in the destiny of mankind."

Dr. Ikeda has demonstrated a steadfast desire for peace and is a testament that a single person can make a difference not only in a community, but in the world. In recognition of his efforts in support of the United Nations, as well as public information and education activities on such issues as disarmament, the environment and human rights, Ikeda was conferred the UN Peace Award in 1983.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Ikeda and paying tribute to his many achievements.

HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS OF THE SEASIDE PARK TERRORIST ATTACK

HON. THOMAS MACARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the quick and efficient response of the first responders during the terrorist attack

in Seaside Park, New Jersey on Sept. 17th, 2016. A bomb was detonated at the starting point of a charitable race for our veterans. Starting at the local level, the Seaside Park Police Department took control, and kept civilians out of harm's way as they assessed the situation. The Seaside Park Police Department was joined by the Ocean County Sheriff's Department along with representatives of other Federal, State, County, and Local agencies who responded to the call of duty. I am proud of the work our first responders do and am grateful for the efforts carried out by those who apprehended the suspect in the bombing in Seaside Park, as well as in New York.

National security is a constant concern in an age when terror attacks are increasing in frequency. Now more than ever, we should all thank the men and women that defend us, provide guidance in times of severe uncertainty, and apprehend the terrorists that seek to spread hate and destruction.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have the men and women who responded on this day as selfless and dedicated members of their community. It is with the highest level of gratitude and appreciation that I commend them for their service following the bombing in Seaside Park, New Jersey, and recognize their outstanding service and protection of their community, before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING FISK UNIVERSITY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to Fisk University on its 150th anniversary.

Fisk is a national treasure with a deep history and sense of purpose. Established months after the end of the Civil War, Fisk was founded to educate all students, regardless of color.

Over the last 150 years, Fisk has become one of the top Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation and is synonymous with academic excellence. Fisk's alumni, leaders, and scholars have played prominent roles in the civil rights movement, changed how we think about science, landed in Hollywood and on Broadway, and sat on the Supreme Court. Notable alumni include NAACP founder W.E.B. Du Bois, celebrated dancer and choreographer Judith Jamison, and Nikki Giovanni, an award-winning poet. And, of course, our good friend and civil rights hero, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, is also a Fisk alumnus.

From the world-renowned Fisk Jubilee singers, to the countless contributions made by scholars and leaders, to the many students with bright futures ahead, Fisk has always been committed to excellence and remained at the forefront of making the world a better place. I join my fellow Tennesseans in honoring Fisk University for the indelible mark it has left over the past 150 years, and for what it has in store in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL PLASMA
AWARENESS WEEK**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, International Plasma Awareness Week will occur October 9 to 15, 2016. Around the world, there will be observances to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are more than 450 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives, join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR.
BRUCE HARTER**HON. MARK DESAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Dr. Bruce Harter as West Contra Costa Unified School District's (WCCUSD) Superintendent.

As the second longest serving superintendent in the history of WCCUSD, Dr. Harter has played a large role in the district both in and out of the classroom. During his tenure, WCCUSD experienced significant increases in the success of English Language Learners, increases in graduation rates, decreases in drop-out rates, and a significant increase in the proportion of graduates attending postsecondary education.

As a testament to his emphasis on addressing the whole child, WCCUSD has made great

strides during his service to incorporate additional student services to help students learn and grow. To that point, WCCUSD is now the only school district in the Bay Area to have health centers in every high school, providing greater physical and emotional safety, and implementing social emotion programs that substantially reduced disciplinary actions.

Dr. Harter's commitment to promoting the success and well-being of West Contra Costa's students is deeply appreciated by the community that he serves, and he should be proud of the clear and steady improvement in overall student achievement during his service.

I thank Dr. Harter for his service and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALBERT
CAPOZUCCA, ITALIAN AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF LUZERNE
COUNTY'S 2016 PERSON OF THE
YEAR**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Capozucca, who will be honored by the Italian American Association of Luzerne County as Person of the Year during the organization's 39th Annual Columbus Day Banquet on October 9, 2016.

Albert was born October 9, 1936 in Pittston Township, Pennsylvania to Raymond and Emma Capozucca. After the death of his father, Albert enrolled in the Hershey Industrial School for Orphan Boys, now known as Milton Hershey School. He graduated in 1954 with a degree in vocational plumbing and heating. Albert was drafted into the army and served from November 1959 to February 1962. When that service concluded, he returned to the plumbing business. He and his brother, Ray Capozucca, formed Capozucca Bros. Plumbing and Heating. They later expanded their business to add Capozucca Brothers Oil Company. Albert worked with his brother until they both retired in the early 2000s.

Albert remains active in his community and is involved in many organizations. He is a member of the St. Joseph Marelo Parish in Pittston. He's served with Pittston Township Volunteer Fire Department for a whopping 59 years. He is the current president of Pittston Township Lions club and serves as the club's representative for the Upper Valley Eye Bank Association. He helped establish the Pittston Township Little League, where he served on the board of directors for many years. He also served on the Pittston Township Sewer Authority Committee. Finally, Albert is a former member of the Pittston Knights of Columbus and is a member of both the Italian American Association of Luzerne County and the Italian Citizens Enjoyment Club.

It is an honor to recognize Albert for being named Italian American Association of Luzerne County's Person of the Year. I am deeply grateful for his military service and his many contributions to his community. I wish Albert and the Italian American Association all the best.

RECOGNIZING DEBBIE COTTON
FOR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE
TO THE SEMINOLE COUNTY RE-
GIONAL CHAMBER OF COM-
MERCE AND THE SEMINOLE
COUNTY COMMUNITY**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay recognition to a great community leader who has helped the Seminole County business community through her volunteer service and her role at the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce: Mrs. Debbie Cotton.

Debbie is leaving the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer after more than two decades as an employee and volunteer at the chamber. Her work over the years has helped Seminole County become one of Florida's best places for business with multiple major companies relocating to the county and thousands of businesses prospering in Seminole County.

Debbie Cotton started as a volunteer with the Chamber in 1995 and then joined the Chamber in 1998 as the receptionist. Over the years, she served in a wide variety of roles, serving as the communications and events director, business development director, interim president, chief operating officer and vice president.

In addition, she served as a board member on the Foundation for Seminole County Public Schools, participated in Leadership Seminole Class 2002 and was named Ambassador of the Year by the Chamber in 1996. She was named the COO of the Year by the Orlando Business Journal in 2014.

Over the years, Debbie Cotton has worked with thousands of businesses. She has helped them grow and prosper and thrive in Seminole County. Our business community is better because of Debbie Cotton.

Debbie Cotton will be leaving Seminole County on October 7 to become the President of the Ormond Beach Chamber of Commerce. I know that I am joined by my colleagues from Central Florida in thanking her for her service and wishing her well in the future.

Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate Debbie Cotton on her many accomplishments in Seminole County and all of Central Florida.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I joined U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and other U.S. leaders in Cartagena, Colombia, for the formal signing of the peace agreement between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

As a result, I was absent for roll call votes 557 and 558. Had I been present, I would

have voted no on roll call 557, final passage of the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, H.R. 3537, because it adds new synthetic drugs to Schedule I, expanding mandatory minimum sentences and hindering research on these substances.

I would have voted yes on roll call 558, final passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. I strongly support H.R. 5392, which will help support veterans experiencing emotional or mental health crises by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a plan to ensure that every call paced to the Veteran Crisis Line is answered by a live person.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAWRENCE
DICKHAUS

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my long-time constituent, Mr. Lawrence Dickhaus of St. Petersburg, Florida, who sadly passed on September 24, 2016, surrounded by his loved ones.

Having moved to St. Petersburg from the suburbs of Cincinnati, Ohio, Lawrence embodied many of the sacrosanct values that embody the American spirit such as a love of God, strong work ethic, unbridled optimism, the belief in helping others, and a wonderful sense of humor that was enjoyed by everyone he met. A hard-working, blue-collar plumber by trade, Lawrence was also a professional musician as demonstrated by the thousands of lives he touched through his music by entertaining the residents of St. Petersburg with his band, The Downtowners, at the St. Petersburg Pier. His love of music was also demonstrated by the many hours he gave volunteering for the Northeast High School Viking Band. Lawrence was also a lover of recreational fishing, a love that his children and grandchildren have enjoyed, following his example; and a baseball fan who cheered tirelessly for the Tampa Bay Rays.

These admirable qualities in Lawrence made him a loving husband to his wife of 65 years, Phyllis. They also made him an incredible father to his children Debbie, Phil, Marty, Brian, Rob, Patrick and Mary; as well as his nineteen grandchildren, and nineteen great grandchildren. As evidenced by such a large family, it is no wonder that so many residents of my district call the Dickhaus family their friends and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask my colleagues to join me and the Dickhaus family in celebrating and honoring the incredible life of Lawrence Dickhaus. His long life as a family man and musician demonstrated his commitment to improving the lives of everybody he touched and worked for. His good nature will be greatly missed by the residents of St. Petersburg.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDGE
SARAH EVANS BARKER FOR HER
32 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES DISTRICT COURT,
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDI-
ANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Sarah Evans Barker and to her exceptional public service. The District Judges of The U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana signed a resolution naming Courtroom 216 in Judge Barker's honor, commemorating her 32 years of service. It is where Judge Barker has worked for much of her judicial career. The courtroom resides in the Birch Bayh Federal Building, which has been home to Indiana's Federal Court for over 100 years. The building and the "Sarah Evans Barker Courtroom" is sculpted from Indiana limestone and houses ornate decorative features, and it remains a place where history is made. This courtroom is the first Indiana courtroom to be named for a female judge, and it is fitting that Judge Barker should be the first woman to be honored as she also holds the distinctions of being the first female Assistant U.S. Attorney, first female federal judge, and first female chief judge for the United States District Court in Indiana. She has been a tireless advocate for women's leadership and a great connector of women throughout her career. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Judge Barker's contributions to the Hoosier community and our country, and it is my privilege to honor her today.

A lifelong Hoosier, Judge Barker was born in Mishawaka, Indiana. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1965 from Indiana University and later earned her Juris Doctorate from the American University Washington College of Law in 1969. She started her career as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Gilbert Gude of Maryland and Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois, eventually working as special counsel to the Senate Government Operations Subcommittee. After her time in Washington, D.C., Judge Barker continued her public service in Indianapolis as an Assistant United States Attorney from 1972 to 1976 under United States Attorneys Stanley B. Miller and James B. Young. She then joined the Indianapolis law firm of Bose, McKinney & Evans where she became a partner. After her time in private practice, in 1981 President Ronald Reagan appointed Judge Barker as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana and later, in 1984, he appointed her as the first female federal judge for the United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana.

Ever since her appointment in 1984, Judge Barker has been an influential member of the bench. She has shaped judicial practice and policy through her appointments to numerous committees and commissions. In 2004, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed her to the Special Study Committee on Judicial Con-

duct and Disability, otherwise known as the "Breyer Committee." Chief Justice John G. Roberts asked the Committee to continue its work and reappointed Judge Barker. In addition, she works on the Judicial Conference of the United States, with the Executive Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Standing Rules Committee, Budget Committee, and Judicial Branch Committee as well as a number of 7th Circuit committees. She served as president of the 900-member Federal Judges Association from 2007 to 2009 and currently sits on their Board of Directors.

She has been, and continues to be, a dynamic member of the community through her work with various organizations. Judge Barker is an active member of the Morgantown United Methodist Church. She is a member of the Indiana Academy which seeks to encourage and promote charitable, scientific, literary, and educational goals in conjunction with institutions dedicated to these same objectives in the state of Indiana. She also sits on the boards of the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana University Health Partners, and Conner Prairie. Higher education has a special place in her heart as she is a trustee on the advisory board for Indiana University, as well as its law schools. She has also been a part of search committees for IU law school deans, an IU chancellor, and two IU presidents. She was also appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels to participate in the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. Judge Barker is a member of the Gathering, the Lawyers Club and the Downton Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis where she shares her wit, good humor, and sharp mind with all in attendance.

Judge Barker has been recognized for her work and contributions through many honors and awards. These awards include the Trailblazer Award given by the Indiana Commission for Women. She has been designated as a Distinguished Alumna of Indiana University. She was given the Living Legend award by the Indiana Historical Society. She was presented the Silver Gavel by the Indianapolis Bar Association. Several Midwestern colleges and universities have conferred ten honorary degrees upon her.

Not only has Judge Barker received many awards and honors, but she continually seeks to nominate deserving women in the community to be recognized. I had the honor to first hear Judge Barker speak at my own law school commencement from the Robert H. McKinney School of Law at Indiana University in May of 1985. Her dedication to provide guidance to young lawyers is inspiring. She is personally committed to championing the women of our community and has been an essential mentor to me as well as many others. Judge Barker is an amazing connector, by providing opportunities for Hoosier women to meet, socialize, and develop professionally. She is an exemplary role model for public servants, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the wonderful contributions she has made to the Hoosier community. Judge Barker has been a teacher, counselor, and friend to many aspiring public servants.

Despite her long tenure on the bench, Judge Barker cares deeply about each case that comes through her courtroom; she demonstrates genuine care with her decisions,

particularly sentencing decisions, which greatly impact lives. Judge Barker has undoubtedly left an immensely profound influence on the court, and it is quite fitting that this beautiful and historic courtroom be named in her honor. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I'd like to congratulate Judge Barker on her success and wish her, her husband Kenneth, three children, and five grandchildren much joy as they celebrate Sarah's place in history.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JAMES PEARCE BRICE

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Congressman BOB GOODLATTE, I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of The Honorable James Pearce Brice, a devoted jurist and public servant to the Commonwealth of Virginia, who was born in Roanoke, Virginia, on August 7, 1926, and passed away on September 15, 2016, at the age of 90.

In our years of practicing law, both Congressman GOODLATTE and I had the pleasure of arguing in front of Judge Brice. We benefited from the expertise and wisdom he shared, as a street lawyer and a personal mentor, accumulated from an accomplished life.

At the age of 16, Judge Brice entered the Virginia Military Institute. He joined the Merchant Marines, as soon as he turned 18, during World War II. He bravely served as a helmsman on an oil tanker in the North Atlantic and suffered the loss of his brother, Robert, on Omaha Beach in 1944.

Before war ended, Judge Brice joined the United States Army and became a Japanese translator and interrogator. With his intelligence and flare for foreign languages, he continued serving with distinction in the Army Counterintelligence Corps in northern Hokkaido after Japan surrendered.

Upon returning from abroad, Judge Brice went back to school and obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia, then earned his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1954.

He launched his legal career in private practice back in his hometown of Roanoke. He spent time working for the Veterans Administration, and then the United States District Attorney's Office, as an assistant prosecutor. Judge Brice was dedicated to his vocation. At the age of 42, he was appointed to the bench of the Roanoke General District Court, where he served as judge from 1967 through 1987. He retired as the chief general district judge of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, but continued to travel across the commonwealth as a substitute jurist until the early 2000s.

Judge Brice had a tremendous impact on many of our communities, as well upon countless individuals all across the region. Judge Brice will be remembered as a family man and a friend to many. We always appreciated his outgoing nature and shared his love of history. Judge Brice left the repeated impression of

being a compassionate and fair arbiter, and he will be forever remembered by how much he believed in redemption. May his spirit of fairness and compassion remain with us. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy and influence will be long remembered across the entire western region of Virginia.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Judge Brice's wife of 62 years, Phyllis; his three sons, James, Steven, and Michael; his three grandchildren, Taryn, Trey, and Melissa; his family, friends, and many loved ones. May God give them comfort during this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on September 26th, 2016, while recovering from a surgical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on Roll no. 557 and YES on Roll no. 558. I applaud my colleagues on passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act. Recent reports show that as many as one-third of calls to VA's veterans' crisis line go unanswered. Mr. Speaker, this is as unacceptable as it is appalling and I intend to push Secretary McDonald for answers and see that this atrocity is quickly rectified.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL LEGAL SERVICES

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS).

This organization, formed in 1966 at the University of Mississippi, makes it possible for low-income and elderly residents to have access to legal services they could not otherwise afford.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys provide a wide range of counsel in 39 counties across North Mississippi. Their cases are as diverse as the people they serve. Attorneys have built cases to preserve civil rights, protect vulnerable children, and defend the elderly.

North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has committed leadership in Executive Director Ben Thomas Cole II and Director of Litigation Ruby White. While serving as District Attorney of Mississippi's First Circuit Judicial District, I saw firsthand the dedication to NMRLS of my former colleagues Nebra Porter of Tupelo and Brian Neely of Tupelo who served on the NMRLS board for ten years. North Mississippi Rural Legal Services' attorneys work tirelessly to ensure that the ability of citizens to exercise their rights under the law is not contingent on their

ability to navigate the legal system on their own. I look forward to hearing of the good work they will continue to do in the communities of North Mississippi.

I commend North Mississippi Rural Legal Services as they continue their pursuit of justice for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 26, 2016, I was absent from the House and missed roll call Nos. 557 and 558.

Had I been present for roll call No. 557, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 3537, the Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2016, I would have voted "yea."

Had I been present for roll call No. 558, motion to suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016 I was absent for recorded votes Number 557 and Number 558.

On Roll Call Number 557 I would have voted no, and on Roll Call Number 558 I would have voted yes.

CELEBRATING THE COUNTRY OF GEORGIA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF REGAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SOVIET UNION

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the country of Georgia's 25th anniversary of regaining its independence from the Soviet Union. In these two short decades, Georgia has embraced freedom and made remarkable progress.

Georgia has worked to become a leading example of democracy in a region where dictatorship is all too common and is reaping the fruits of free market reforms that bolster growth by reducing government regulation, fighting corruption, and simplifying the tax code. Through these efforts, Georgia strengthens its commercial, political, and security ties with the West—particularly with the United States through a strategic partnership built on shared democratic principles.

Georgia has been a steadfast ally of the United States, strongly supporting U.S. security initiatives in the fight against terrorism and

is the third largest contributor of troops to the Global War on Terror's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.

These accomplishments shine all the more when taken in context of the challenges Georgia continues to face from Russia's voracious appetite for aggression in the region.

Today marks the 23rd anniversary of the fall of Sokhumi, Georgia, to Russian troops and local separatist forces in 1993. The brutal massacre, torture, and expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Georgians from their homes that followed marked the beginning of Russia's efforts to occupy Georgia's territory. The U.S. State Department reported that:

"The [Abkhaz] separatist forces committed widespread atrocities against the Georgian civilian population, killing many women, children, and elderly, capturing some as hostages and torturing others . . . they also killed large numbers of Georgian civilians who remained behind in Abkhaz-seized territory . . ."

"The separatists launched a reign of terror against the majority Georgian population, although other nationalities also suffered. Chechens and other north Caucasians from the Russian Federation reportedly joined local Abkhaz troops in the commission of atrocities . . . Those fleeing Abkhazia made highly credible claims of atrocities, including the killing of civilians without regard for age or sex. Corpses recovered from Abkhaz-held territory showed signs of extensive torture."

It is in the interest of the American people to support Georgia's long-term stability by promoting its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Georgia's primary foreign policy goal is to attain membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, thereby integrating itself into the Euro-Atlantic community and containing Russia's expansionist efforts in the region.

I urge my colleagues to join me in reaffirming our commitment to the U.S.-Georgia strategic partnership. We must stand with the Georgian people as they continue to pursue free and democratic reforms in the face of Russian hostility.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Georgian people on their 25 years of progress as an independent state, wish them well in the upcoming parliamentary election on October 8, 2016, and offer my support of our continued friendship.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, on Roll Call Number 557 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537, Dangerous Synthetic Drug Control Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 3537.

On September 26, 2016, on Roll Call Number 558 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392, No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have

voted Yea on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5392.

TRIBUTE TO BRET PERRY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Staff Sergeant Bret Perry, of Adel, Iowa, for being awarded the Soldier's Medal, the highest honor a soldier can receive during peace time, for rescuing three people from a burning house.

Staff Sergeant Perry was traveling to work at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Urbandale, IA, in August 2015 when he noticed the smoke from a house fire on a nearby hill. Once he arrived at the house, he found the neighbor tapping on a window trying to wake those inside. After no one answered the doorbell, he burst through the front door with his shoulder and rolled down the stairs to the bottom floor of the split-level house. Forced to crawl up the stairs because of the smoke, he checked each room. In one, he found a woman who was only awakened by his kicking open the door. He got her outside to safety. He then entered the house two additional times to rescue two young adults in the house. After his last daring rescue, the local fire department arrived. Bret left the scene and went to work. His co-workers did not believe his incredible story behind arriving to work late until they smelled the smoke on his uniform.

This was not the only time Staff Sergeant Perry has rushed to the aid of others. A few months after the fire rescue, according to the Army Times, Perry ran to a car which had lost control, rolled over several times, and ended on its side in a ditch. Perry rushed to the vehicle, rescuing the woman and her baby in the back seat as the car began to smoke. He was awarded the U.S. Army Achievement Medal for his actions. Years earlier when he was stationed in Italy, he ran to the aid of two off-duty U.S. soldiers caught up in a vicious fight, successfully driving off the assailants.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Staff Sergeant Perry for the selfless heroism that has earned him the Soldier's Medal. Throughout his life he has chosen to protect and serve others, and it is because of Iowans like him that I'm proud to represent our great state. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Perry and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO SHERI AND FRED BERGGREN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sheri and Fred Berggren on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Sheri and Fred were married on September 18, 1956 and made their home in Nodaway, Iowa. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As the years pass, may their love continue to grow even stronger and may they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CLAIRE JEFFRESS EXCELS ON AND OFF THE FIELD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Claire Jeffress of Pearland, TX for her outstanding extracurricular activities on and off the field.

As a strong soccer player, it was a natural fit for Claire to start playing football in seventh grade. Now a varsity football player at Dawson High School, Claire is the kicker for the Eagles and has proven she can hold her own with her teammates. When she's not kicking her way to victory on the football field, Claire puts her leadership skills to work as a member of my Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC). In her second year as part of CYAC, Claire joins 19 other high school students who provide me with critical input on issues they face, while also hearing from community leaders throughout the year.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I thank Claire Jeffress for all of her contributions to our community. We are proud of her for breaking barriers and setting a great example for other young girls. We expect great things from her in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET AND MICK FREEMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Margaret and Mick Freeman of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 7, 1966 at Goldfield United Methodist Church in Goldfield, Iowa.

Margaret and Mick's lifelong commitment to each other and their six children, Susan, Sandy, Tom, David, Brad, and Marcia, and their 18 grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TUESDAYS IN TEXAS: BESSIE COLEMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in January 26, 1892, a young woman was born in Atlanta, Texas. Her name was Bessie Coleman and she continues to inspire generations of African American women around the United States and in the great state of Texas. As the tenth of thirteen children whose father had left to Oklahoma seeking refuge from racial barriers, she was forced to work at the cotton harvest every year to help support her family. However, in 1915, she moved to Chicago seeking to become something greater. She had no idea how this step would change American history forever.

She began working as a manicurist in Chicago, but the stories of pilots from the First World War intrigued her. This, along with friendly taunts from her brother, would motivate her to learn how to fly. However, schools in America denied her entrance, so she set out to attend aviation school in France. She attended the Caudon Brother's School of Aviation, where she completed a 10 month program in only 7 months. She also received her international aviation pilot's license from the renowned Federation Aeronautique Internationale, making her the first African American and Native American woman to earn a pilot's license.

But this is not the end of her amazing story. Coleman returned to the United States and specialized in stunt flying and parachuting. She earned her living by barnstorming and performing aerial tricks. She became the first African American woman to perform a public flight in America. Although she changed her mind about starting a flying school for African Americans, she still encouraged other African Americans to learn how to fly. Most importantly, she stood up for an entire community of people when she refused to perform in places that would not admit members of her race.

Unfortunately, her life would end shortly at only 34 years old after a test flight gone wrong caused her to fall hundreds of feet to her death in April of 1926.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Coleman's strength, endurance, and ability to break down barriers are truly inspiring. I am incredibly proud that such an amazing legacy started in Texas. It is an honor to come from a state full of people known for breaking down barriers and overcoming obstacles against all odds.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN AND P. RICHARD KELLEY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathleen and P. Richard Kelley of Elliott, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 6, 2016.

Kathleen and P. Richard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN HONOR OF SUPERVISOR JIM CHAPMAN FOR 43 YEARS OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and Mr. LAMALFA, to honor the service of Supervisor Jim Chapman for his 43 years of outstanding leadership in Lassen County.

In 1974, at the age of 19, Jim was first elected to the Susanville City Council. Two years later, Jim was elected to serve as Mayor. In 1976, he began serving the first of nine terms as Lassen County Supervisor representing District 2.

Jim has proudly represented all aspects of the community. He has served on numerous boards and committees, including: Lassen College Board of Trustees, Lassen Hospital Board, Lassen High School Alumni Association (President, 2013 through 2014), Lassen County Chamber of Commerce (President, 2000), Susanville Kiwanis Club (President, 1985 through 1986), Rotary Club of Susanville (President, 2014 through 2015), Lassen County Special Olympics, Rural County Representative of California (President, 1982), and Lassen County Transportation Commission, among many others.

Supervisor Chapman's distinguished career of service has not only benefited but truly inspired residents of Lassen County and beyond, as evidenced by numerous awards with which Jim has been honored, including:

25 Year Service Award from Special Olympics of Northern California;

CALAFCO Lifetime Achievement Award; Elks Distinguished Citizen in 2010; and 2016 Lassen High School Alumnus of the Year.

In addition to his exemplary public service, Jim has led a personal life filled with commu-

nity involvement. He is a co-founder of the Lassen Sportsmen's Club Junior Fishing Derby, a Past Master of Lassen Masonic Lodge, a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, a Ben Ali Shriner; a 40-year host for "Old Timers Day" at the Lassen County Fair, and a Knight of the York Cross of Honour.

Mr. Speaker, Supervisor Jim Chapman has an incomparable record of service to his community. We commend him for setting an example of outstanding leadership.

TRIBUTE TO THE DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL FOOD PANTRY NETWORK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network for their 40 years of service to the hungry citizens of central Iowa.

DMARC was founded in 1952 to assist the spiritual needs of the community and promote spiritual, moral, social, and civic welfare of the community. In May 1976, DMARC officials established the Food Pantry Network, an emergency food program to help provide services to the hungry in the area. In the 40 years since its creation, it has become the largest food pantry network in Iowa, with 11 sites in the Des Moines metropolitan area, including sites in the Des Moines Independent School District, helping to feed 34,000 people annually. The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network is comprised of 128 member congregations representing a number of different faiths. These willing volunteers provide food and service hours. The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network also receives generous assistance from individuals, businesses, and non-member congregations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend The Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network on their 40 years and thank them for providing such an important service. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION WINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Fort Bend County Historical Commissioners for winning the Texas Historical Commission Distinguished Service Award.

The Commission is comprised of volunteer historians and preservationists appointed by the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court to

protect Texas history, culture and education throughout the state. Volunteers have dedicated over 480,000 hours to recognizing, protecting and transcribing various parts of Texas history so future Texans can continue to learn the heritage of our great state.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Fort Bend County Historical Commissioners for winning the THC Distinguished Service Award. We appreciate your continued efforts to preserve the history that has made Texas so great.

TRIBUTE TO AGGIE AND RON
DAVIS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Aggie and Ron Davis of Des Moines, Iowa, on their 70th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

VETERANS-SPECIFIC EDUCATION
FOR TOMORROW'S MEDICAL DOCTORS (VET MD) ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that addresses two problems: the disparity in access to clinical observation experiences for pre-medical school students and the severe shortage of physicians at VA hospitals. By creating a pre-med observation (shadowing) program within the VA, we both expand access to medical observation opportunities, particularly for underrepresented populations such as minority or rural-based students, and expose America's future doctors to the Veteran health system, increasing awareness of job opportunities within the VA.

When applying to medical school, students who have spent time observing, or shadowing, physicians in a clinical setting have an advantage both with admissions and in deciding on a future specialty. It is recommended applicants have more than 40 hours of observational experience to be competitive. Opportunities to observe however are limited and vary widely between universities and hospitals.

Students who are from, or attend schools in rural areas, who are from low economic status, or whose families lack connections within

the medical community often find it harder to attain observation hours and are disadvantaged in medical school admissions, contributing to the lack of diversity in our medical professions. Universities and hospitals with organized pre-med experience or clinician observation programs report having a significantly more diversified participation pool than those who rely purely on personal connections to attain observation opportunities.

On the medical side, the VA is chronically short physicians. In fact, more than 5,100 additional physicians are needed across the VA system as of August 2015, and annually they recruit for over 41,000 positions throughout their medical facilities. This leads to increased wait times and decreased patient care. To fill these positions, the VA must compete with private hospitals that often are able to make more lucrative offers to prospective hires.

By incorporating an organized clinician observation program into the VA, future physicians will be exposed to the unique problems of U.S. veteran healthcare and the VA will create a pool of potential medical professional recruits. Early exposure will encourage future participation either as veteran physicians themselves or advocates within the community. The VA will simultaneously be helping the next generation of physicians gain valuable experience and addressing their physician shortage problem.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA LEE AND DON
BUCH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donna Lee and Don Buch of Grimes, Iowa, as they celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary.

Donna Lee and Don were married in Clarinda on August 12, 1951. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this lovely couple on their 65 years of life together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF
LONNIE BUNCH, THE FOUNDING
DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lonnie

G. Bunch III; a great educator and American historian who's relentless and dedicated work led to the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on the national mall this past weekend.

From a young age, Lonnie has cared about the stories of those who are anonymous. The experience of a four-year-old Lonnie with his grandfather looking at a photo of unidentified African-American schoolchildren in a book left him wanting to learn their stories. The curiosity inspired by hearing his neighbors speak Sicilian urged him to understand the history that led groups of immigrants to populate his neighborhood in New Jersey.

These experiences as a child helped shape the distinguished career Mr. Bunch would have as an author, educator and curator at various institutions. While serving as president at the Chicago Historical Society, Mr. Bunch was approached by the Smithsonian Institute to be the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mr. Bunch spent the next decade traveling around the world raising the \$270 million needed to open the museum while also leading the charge in opening seven different exhibits related to African American history and culture in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Mr. Bunch is also responsible for establishing a daylong workshop program designed to identify and preserve items of historical significance.

Through his career endeavors culminating in the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Mr. Bunch has presented an opportunity to every American visiting Washington, DC to experience the history of the United States through a unique prospective.

TRIBUTE TO VAN WALL
EQUIPMENT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Van Wall Equipment in Perry, Iowa, on being named the 2016 Dealership of the Year by Farm Equipment magazine.

Van Wall, founded in 1977, is recognized for their continued growth, having added 11 agricultural stores, one Powersports store, and one Doosan Material Handling dealership since 2014. Van Wall Equipment was recognized for keeping diversification at the forefront by selling crop insurance, artistic concrete, and soil moisture monitors. Don Van Houweling, the owner and general manager of Van Wall Equipment, credits the great employees he has had over the years, telling the Dallas County News that the dealership motto is "the clear first choice."

Mr. Speaker, I commend Van Wall Equipment for earning the 2016 Dealership of the Year award, and for their nearly 35 years of service to Iowa farmers. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Van Wall Equipment and wishing them nothing but continued success.

REMEMBERING VIRGIL GANT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Virgil Gant of Pearland, TX, who was killed in a tragic truck accident this summer.

Virgil was the longest-serving member on the Pearland ISD Board of Trustees, having served 16 years. Throughout his time on the Board, Virgil displayed true leadership, serving as board president and being a member of the Long-Range Planning Steering Committee. In 2014, the Texas Association of School Boards awarded him the Master Trustee designation. Prior to serving on the Board of Trustees, Virgil served our nation with 28 years of active and reserve duty in the United States Navy. Virgil Gant epitomized the best qualities of a Texan and American patriot. His dedication to his country and community will be greatly missed.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, we mourn the loss of

Virgil Gant. He truly was a beloved member of the Pearland community. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

TRIBUTE TO BARB AND BILL
FAILOR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Barb and Bill Failor of Ankeny, Iowa, on their 60th wedding anniversary.

Barb and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this lovely couple on their 60 years of life together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO MAXINE AND KENNY
DASS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Maxine and Kenny Dass of Ankeny, Iowa, as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

SENATE—Wednesday, September 28, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Master, strengthen us so that we will live blameless lives, doing what is right and speaking the truth with sincere hearts. Forgive us when we listen to the cynical angels of our carnal nature, and renew in us a spirit of faith and optimism.

Empower our Senators to be true to their duties, making the commitment to labor with integrity. Lord, instruct them with Your wisdom, protect them with Your might, and guide them with Your love.

Chase away thoughts that bring discouragement and fear, as we remember that nothing is impossible for You.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SHIMON PERES

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, we were saddened to learn last night that Shimon Peres, the ninth President of Israel, has passed away at the age of 93. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of service on behalf of the people of Israel and a lengthy résumé to match. The Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal—Peres earned them all. In fact, I was honored to be a part of the ceremony to award him that Gold Medal just a few short years ago.

His political career is one that spans nearly seven decades and encompasses just about every high office imag-

inable: President, Prime Minister, peacemaker, revered statesman, and one of the last remaining connections to the founding of the modern State of Israel. This is how the world will remember Shimon Peres, but above all, we will remember him as the embodiment of a nation that the United States is privileged to call an ally and dear friend.

Our thoughts are with his family; with our friends, the people of Israel; and with the many others around the globe who mourn his passing today.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, moving on to the business before the Senate today, last week the President vetoed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. At noon today, the Senate will vote on whether to override his veto of that legislation. After this vote, Members should be prepared for votes on the continuing resolution.

Our colleagues in the House made good progress last night on a way forward to help the people of Flint in the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, which, as we have said, is the proper vehicle. The Senate already voted overwhelmingly—95 to 3—to pass assistance to Flint families as part of the WRDA bill, and both Chairman INHOFE and I have pledged to continue to pursue resources for Flint once WRDA goes to conference.

As a result, we are hopeful that we will soon reach an agreement with our Democratic colleagues to move forward on the clean CR-Zika package today. It includes important resources to support our veterans, to combat the Zika virus and heroin and prescription opioid crisis, and to serve as a significant downpayment for flood relief. It also funds all current government operations through December 9 at last year's enacted levels. Let's keep working together to pass it.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SHIMON PERES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on a codel that I led, we were going to stop in Israel, and I told all of the Senators with me that I wanted to take time while we were there to meet my favorite statesman who I had ever met, and that is Shimon Peres.

As my friend the Republican leader outlined, he has a distinctive résumé. I

will always remember Eric Cantor, the Republican leader in the House at the time—I called him and said: Shimon Peres is going to be 90 years old, and it would be wonderful if we could get that Gold Medal done during the time he is 90. Eric delivered. It wasn't easy, but he delivered, and I will always remember that. It meant a great deal to this man who had received so many different awards, but to get the highest distinction we as Members of Congress can give someone is something he deserved. As I have indicated, he is the most inspirational public servant I have ever encountered. And when we met him in Israel, he didn't let me down. He was stunningly visionary, like I had always known him to be. What I have said is not hyperbole in any way. I repeat, he was the most visionary and inspirational leader I have ever known.

Let me repeat some of the accomplishments my friend the Republican leader just outlined. He was the Prime Minister of Israel twice, Acting Prime Minister twice, President of Israel, Minister of Defense twice, Minister of Finance, Minister of Transportation, and he served in eight other Cabinet posts. That is a pretty good record.

Shimon Peres was a brilliant man who spoke 6 languages and authored 11 books. He was the definition of a statesman. He was a guiding light for peace—always for peace. He made Israel and the Middle East and the world a better place.

Above all, we should all learn something from this good man. Here is what he said, and this is how he lived his life:

Optimists and pessimists die the same way. They just live differently. I prefer to live as an optimist.

That really says it all. He lived his entire life as an optimist. From the challenges he and his family faced because of the Holocaust to his work for a lasting peace to secure Israel, he never wavered in his hope for the world. He was always looking forward. He had some political battles. The leaders of Israel had all been in the military fighting. He never served in the military, but his abilities were so pronounced that he was able to succeed, as I have outlined in his résumé.

The last time I talked to him, I called him and I said: One of my prize staff members, Jessica Lewis, is coming to Israel with her dad, and her father has never been to Israel. I have told them how I feel about you. Is there any way you could meet them?

And he met them. Of course he did. He spent time with them. That is who

he was, a person whom I so admired, and he had time for Jessica and her dad.

I join the people of the world in mourning the passing of this good, kind, and inspirational man. I send my deepest condolences to his family and the people of Israel. I am so happy that the delegation of people who are going to attend his funeral will be led by the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

I will miss Shimon Peres. The world will forever miss this good person.

FUNDING FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am happy to see the progress that has been made in the House of Representatives with respect to Flint, MI. This is a step in the right direction toward advancing funding for the people of Flint in the lameduck. However, I do have some concern. The statement of my Republican colleague, the leader of the Senate, was that he and Senator INHOFE would work toward funding. This should be easy. Why can't they just say they will do it? This is not deficit spending; this is money that the people of Michigan have allowed—STABENOW and PETERS—to be given up. It is Michigan money that is going to be used in a different way. The money is already there. We overwhelmingly supported it.

So, as I have said before, we will continue to exercise caution moving forward, but I am glad to see that progress has been made. If it were up to me, I believe these three nationally declared emergencies—Louisiana, \$2.8 billion—what happened in Baton Rouge and other parts of Louisiana was devastating. There were rainstorms that even the coast of Louisiana had never seen before—never seen before. Thousands of structures were damaged, and hundreds of them were destroyed. I think they are entitled to work on fixing all of that. We should do as we do with emergencies.

The Presiding Officer is from Texas, and we have stepped forward every time there has been an emergency in Texas and taken care of it, whether it was an explosion that blew up a facility there, whether it was floods. The many problems Texas has had over the last decade, we have taken care of them, as we should.

I think West Virginia, which has an emergency declaration of \$310 million—that should be taken care of.

A much smaller one but a very important one to the people of Maryland—small in proportion to the two I just mentioned—that is nationally declared. We should take care of it.

So I hope we will not continue to mourn the fact that these emergencies occur, these national disasters occur; we have to take care of them. I hope we can do that. It would be the right thing to do.

I look forward to continuing to try to work something out on the CR. We are not there yet, but I hope we can get that done expeditiously.

Mr. President, I ask that the Chair announce the business of the day.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 5082, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 5083 (to amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5084 (to amendment No. 5083), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5085 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5086 (to amendment No. 5085), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5087, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5088 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 5087), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5089 (to amendment No. 5088), of a perfecting nature.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Chamber is vacant, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT—VETO

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the veto message to accompany S. 2040, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to accompany S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to open the debate today on the effort by this body and by the U.S. Congress to give the loved ones of

the victims of terrorism on 9/11 their day in court—simple justice.

Fifteen years ago we stood in horror as our country suffered the worst terrorist attack on the United States in the history of our Nation. Nearly 3,000 innocent lives were lost, including heroic first responders, firemen, police, and beloved honorable men and women—148 of them from my home State of Connecticut. Over these years, I have watched and listened to them in their strength and courage as they have tirelessly sought to make this system of justice work in the memory of their loved ones.

The terrorists who struck on 9/11 tried and failed to destroy that system of justice and the ideals of this Nation. Our hearts were broken, but our country and our ideals were not.

Over the past 15 years, I have been honored to work with those families. Today gives us the opportunity to move forward with legislation, despite the President's veto.

I deeply respect the President and the reasons that he has given for vetoing the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, but I urge my colleagues to move swiftly and soundly to reverse this veto so these families can have their day in court. That is what the legal system of this country is designed to do. It is the system where I spent my career before the Senate working to ensure accountability for wrongdoers and the restoration of victims' rights—promises to citizens that are made by our Constitution that there will be a neutral and fair forum to determine their claims.

These families will never get their loved ones back, but they deserve justice and a day in court. That is why today we will, I hope, override the President's veto.

Fifteen years after that tragedy we are still learning facts, but there is mounting evidence that the Saudi Government—or at least organizations and operatives within the Saudi Government—aided and abetted one of the most massive crimes in the United States. In our system, the truth behind those facts deserves to be presented in a court—a court of law where fairness and justice will be assured. This measure does not prejudice a verdict or issue a judgment. It gives both sides a fair day in court.

If the Saudi Government had no involvement in 9/11, it has nothing to fear. But if it was culpable, it should be held accountable. That is the basic principle of this measure.

When all is said and done, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act simply closes a loophole that was created by the courts, contrary to the intent of this body. That loophole, in effect, permits foreign governments to aid and abet crimes against the citizens of this country as long as its aiding and abetting occurred outside of

our borders. Think of it as a missile launched from another country by terrorists with the support and assistance of that foreign government. That foreign government can evade any and all responsibility simply because the missile was launched outside our borders. Similarly, the missile of terrorism can be launched outside our borders and the foreign government, including Saudi Arabia, is able to evade all responsibility under the decision made by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York, which created that loophole. So that foreign government can give terrorists bags of money and tons of explosives to carry out murder within our borders, as long as it does so outside our borders. That is wrong.

The principle here is broader and bigger than Saudi Arabia or even the 9/11 victims. It is about simple justice. Our law should recognize the reality that global crimes can be sponsored and supported outside our borders and inflict grave harm, including murder, on the citizens of our country within our borders.

This loophole will be closed by this measure for the benefit of not only the 9/11 victims but also potential victims in the future. It will send a message and deter violent crime in this country aided and abetted by foreign governments in the future. It will deter that kind of violence through an ideal and a tradition that is uniquely American. It is a system of justice that imposes accountability and makes sure that everybody has a fair day in court.

I know questions have been raised about potential retaliation or reprisal against members of our military or citizens in other countries. This Nation should stand firm and strong against terrorist violence. We have nothing to fear as long as we do not engage in supporting or sponsoring the kind of violence that occurred on 9/11 here. We must trust that our government would never be responsible for that kind of aiding and abetting of deliberate killing of innocent civilians, the purposeful massacre of people who are innocent.

I am honored to begin this debate. I hope it will be closed in a way that vindicates the rights as well as the interests of our country. I am proud to join colleagues on both sides of the aisle. This measure has been bipartisan from the start.

I particularly thank my colleagues Senator SCHUMER and Senator CORNYN for their leadership. I believe a bill unanimously passed by both houses of Congress, strongly supported by both sides of the aisle, deserves to become law. I trust and believe it will today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Yes.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is not in a quorum call.

The Senator is recognized.

OSHA AND ANHYDROUS AMMONIA STORAGE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to address a recent ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. Last week, the court issued a ruling that was a victory for America's ag producers and a rebuke to Washington regulators. Specifically, the court ruled the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, violated the law when it imposed new limits on anhydrous ammonia storage.

I realize many of my colleagues may not be familiar with anhydrous ammonia. But for those of us who make our living from the land, it is the most cost-effective and commonly used fertilizer in production agriculture. Anhydrous ammonia is an essential input for ag producers in Nebraska and all across this country. It allows them to produce more food while using less land, less water, and, yes, less fertilizer.

Producers receive anhydrous ammonia from retail facilities. In Nebraska, these facilities are primarily farmer-owned cooperatives, found in more than 400 locations across the State. These facilities store anhydrous ammonia in tanks on their property, and since 1992, these tanks have been exempt from certain OSHA regulations. But in 2015, OSHA issued a new standard affecting these retail fertilizer facilities, and they did so illegally, without public notice or industry input.

OSHA's new standard would have required retailers to provide documentation that these tanks fit certain specifications. If a retailer couldn't produce that paperwork, then he or she would be required to purchase an entirely new tank. These tanks are expensive. The starting price is in the neighborhood of \$70,000. Furthermore, anhydrous ammonia tanks vary in size from State to State, and several tank manufacturers are no longer in business. OSHA's unrealistic expectations made it impossible for these retailers and producers to obtain the needed paperwork, which meant that these retailers would have been forced to purchase those pricey new tanks, even though their old ones worked just fine. Understandably, this became a major headache for retailers and producers.

For example, in my home State of Nebraska, Central Valley Ag Cooperative, which is located in York, anticipated compliance costs of \$5.6 million. This includes an additional \$100,000 of ongoing compliance costs every year. In Elmwood, NE, Midwest Farmers Cooperative estimated producers would spend \$20 to \$28 more per acre when applying fertilizer to their fields. Given the current state of the farm economy, these increased costs would have been devastating. They would have forced many farmers to leave the industry altogether.

That would be heartbreaking enough, but there was another, even more troubling aspect to OSHA's standard. They never put it through the required public notice and comment process. OSHA is required by law to conduct this process, as are most Federal agencies, whenever they issue a new regulation or standard. The public notice-and-comment period is a built-in safeguard. It allows those who would be affected by a proposed regulation to have their voices heard, and, ideally, the government would listen to their voices. But OSHA didn't follow the rules. They did not listen. They didn't even try to listen. They said their new policy was effective immediately. That was unacceptable to me.

In response, this summer I introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator HEIDI HEITKAMP known as the FARM Act. We offered this legislation to provide relief to farmers and force OSHA to follow the law.

Last week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit reinforced this legislation by forcing OSHA to vacate their illegal and harmful standard. With this ruling, an important precedent has been set. The court made it clear: OSHA improperly expanded the scope, complexity, and costs of regulation on ag facilities that handle anhydrous ammonia. By disrupting the supply of a vital fertilizer, OSHA would have disrupted farming operations. Worse, they would have harmed farmers' ability to do their jobs and also to provide for their families.

I am relieved that the courts came in and upheld the rule of law. America's ag producers will now face one less hardship. They can focus on feeding the world and providing for their own families.

At the same time, I remain appalled that OSHA would so brazenly disregard the law in the first place. This is another example of why the American people don't trust the Federal Government. Honestly, I don't blame them. When the Federal Government doesn't follow its own law, it destroys public trust. Out-of-control agencies, like OSHA, which do not follow the law need to be stopped when their overly burdensome regulations hurt Americans.

Let the American people do their jobs. Let them raise their families, earn their living, and pursue their life's purpose. When the bureaucracy fails to do this, it is the responsibility of Members of Congress to step in. I am glad that I have done so.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time spent in a quorum call before the vote on the veto message to accompany S. 2040 be charged equally against each side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the Senate knows, today we are considering the President's misguided decision to veto a piece of legislation that passed this body unanimously by unanimous consent and likewise passed the House of Representatives with no dissenting votes.

In our polarized politics of today, this is pretty much a close-to-miraculous occurrence because Democrats and Republicans, Senators and House Members, have all agreed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, which gives the victims of a terrorist attack on our own soil an opportunity to seek the justice they deserve—all of us have come together and agreed this is appropriate and the right thing to do.

At a time when international terrorism is spreading, FBI Director Comey yesterday warned of a terrorist diaspora. The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act will send a strong message that those who sponsor terrorist attacks on American soil, including foreign governments, will answer to those victims and pay for the death and destruction they cause.

Current law already allows for American victims to sue foreign governments for many different offenses committed by their employees—commercial wrongs, assault, drunk driving, rape, human trafficking, among others. That is already part of existing law.

JASTA would clarify that sponsoring an act of terrorism in America is added to that list. If we allowed lawsuits against foreign governments for bar fights, contract breaches, drunk driving, then we should allow the victims of a terrorist attack on our soil the opportunity for their day in court as well. This is an important piece of legislation, and it is straightforward. That is why I believe we got the unanimous support in both bodies that we have.

I want to make clear, though, that this has not been a quick process. This legislation has been pending since 2009, and we have worked through a number of Members' concerns they have expressed along the way in order to modify the legislation and build the consensus we now have achieved. There have been many different drafts and feedback from Members, a lot of consultations with family members who have been affected, and a lot has gone into this legislation. That means this bill has been negotiated and hammered out over a long period of time, and that is the reason we were able to garner

such strong support from both bodies to get the bill passed.

Last Friday, the President chose to ignore the voices of American terrorism victims by vetoing this legislation. Fortunately, today this Chamber will have a choice and have a chance to exercise our constitutional prerogative under article I, section 7 of the Constitution. We will have a chance to act as a check on President Obama to override his veto.

I have read President Obama's veto message, and it is not persuasive. That is because it described a bill that doesn't exist and misrepresents the state of the law. He cites concerns that the bill would "create complications" with some of our close partners. The truth is, JASTA only targets foreign governments that sponsor terrorist attacks on American soil, plain and simple. I don't know how that would create complications with some of our close partners.

The financing of terrorism in the United States is not behavior we should tolerate from any nation, allies included. How can anyone look the families in the eye and tell them they shouldn't have the opportunity to seek justice against a foreign government responsible for the death of their loved one?

The President has claimed this legislation would result in a flood of lawsuits against Americans by foreign governments. What the President ignores is that we are already being sued by foreign nations under the current state of the law, but a law like JASTA applied reciprocally will open no such floodgates.

The President even had the audacity to claim this legislation might lead to lawsuits against members of the military, but had he read the plain text of the bill, he would know this bill only allows for lawsuits against foreign governments, not individuals. He would also know it contains a specific exemption for our Armed Forces.

Finally, JASTA is not a sweeping legislative overhaul that dramatically alters international law. It is an extension of law that has been on the books since 1976. Once again, there are numerous exceptions that prevent foreign governments from shielding themselves from litigation when they cause harm.

The President has also complained this applies to conduct committed abroad, but today and for 40 years our law has been replete with immunity exceptions that apply to conduct committed abroad. This bill just adds another exception.

At the end of the day, this vote is about doing what is right for the American people. Some of our colleagues have expressed concerns about how it might be interpreted by some of our allies, but the fact is, this legislation does not mention any particular coun-

try. All it does is it carves out an exception to this notion of sovereign immunity for conduct committed in a terrorist attack on American soil.

The whole idea of sovereign immunity comes from England and our Anglo-American inheritance in our law. The notion is that the King in England could do no wrong so you couldn't sue the government, but we have recognized the injustice that would cause, even in our own country, when Congress has passed numerous exceptions under which the U.S. Government can be sued in our own court, recognizing that equal justice under the law does not create a situation where it should not tolerate a situation where the government was simply immune from litigation and paying its fair compensation in individual lawsuits.

This legislation is about pursuing justice and the legal process it continues to serve as a foundation to our Republic. At its core, this bill is about respecting the voices and the rights of American victims. I believe we have many important allies around the world with whom our interests are aligned, but when our interests diverge, and it is a question of protecting American rights and American values, I think we should always do that rather than somehow subjugate those rights and values to the interests of some foreign government.

This is not about severing our relationship with any ally. This is simply a matter of justice. This is about respecting the voices and the rights of the American victims. At about noon today, this Chamber should vote overwhelmingly to override President Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act because the families have already suffered too much. They have already suffered untold tragedy, and they deserve to find a path to closure that only justice can provide.

I, like many of my colleagues, have had a chance to meet with a number of the families of the victims of 9/11. Their stories are heartbreaking, and I know none of us will forget where we were on that fateful day. Our country has changed undeniably, but for these families, that day and each day serve as a tragic reminder of deep, personal loss.

One of these family members whom I have had the chance to get to know is Marge Mathers, who now calls Texas home. Marge's husband Charles worked on the 99th floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. She says she turned on the television that fateful day and watched in horror as the tower in which Charles was working collapsed.

Marge moved to Texas soon after September 11, but her grieving—and our Nation's grieving—continues and of course will never completely end. Long

ago, I pledged to Marge and to other families I have met that I would do my very level best to help them right this wrong and to provide them an opportunity to make their case in a court of law. So we will fix this law by extending this 1976 provision, the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, to allow the families and the victims of the 9/11 tragedy to seek justice in a court of law in an American court.

These families should have the right to make their case. These families should have the freedom to have their day in court, to have a judge hear their case, and to hold accountable those who played a role in their suffering. That is what this legislation is all about, providing them the freedom to do so.

The families of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that occurred in the United States have waited a long time, and I am hopeful they will not have to wait any longer for the opportunity to pursue justice. I hope every Member of this body will join me in supporting this bill one more time and we will vote to override the President's veto and further the cause of justice for these victims.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FUNDING FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to give the people of Flint, MI, the assurance that they are going to get some help after more than a year. I have had an opportunity to meet with Senator STABENOW. I talked with her a number of times this morning. I have had occasion to visit with the majority leader, and I have spoken with Leader PELOSI. I am convinced that there is going to be help for Flint in the lameduck. They have been waiting for help, they deserve help, and I am very happy that it is going to come. The people there deserve relief. What is going on there has been wrong, but now I feel very comfortable in being able to say that the people of Flint, MI, will get help. I have had conversations with people who have been given the assurance by the Republican leadership that something will happen in the lameduck. We have been waiting a long time to get this done, and it is going to happen.

As I indicated a minute ago, I have had a number of conversations with Leader PELOSI this morning, and she—I never want to say what someone said, but I can say that I felt comfortable, after speaking with her, that the House

feels comfortable with where they are on Flint, and we feel comfortable here in the Senate.

I really appreciate the hard work of Senator STABENOW and Senator PETERS because they have been tireless, relentless to make sure the people of Flint, MI, get some help.

I think it should be a good day for the Senate. It should lead to our being able to move forward on the continuing resolution. There are a couple of outstanding issues, but I think they should be able to be resolved.

I yield the floor.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to speak about the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, better known as JASTA.

I am going to support the veto override, but it is not without concern for the potential unintended consequences. I have come to the conclusion that the risk of shielding the perpetrators of terrorism from justice outweighs the risks on how other countries might respond to and perhaps compromise U.S. interests.

Fifteen years have passed since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but in my home State of Maryland and across the country, the pain caused by the events of that terrible day is still very real. The 9/11 attacks were a national tragedy for the United States, but we were personally devastated for fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, and children in Maryland and throughout the country. The 9/11 victims and their families deserve meaningful relief, and I cannot support putting obstacles in the way of victims of terrorism seeking justice.

I understand that this legislation may have an effect on long-held sovereign immunity principles, and I share some of those concerns that the President has articulated in his veto message. I share the President's view about the importance of upholding sovereign immunity to the extent that we can and to the extent that it makes sense, but the principles of sovereign immunity were put in place at a time when acts of international terrorism were not as common. Exceptions to sovereign immunity have grown over time as times have changed. In today's world, it is my view that we must make sure that the international community understands that there is a clear distinction between those who oppose terrorism and those who sponsor terrorism. Those who commit or sup-

port terrorist acts in the United States should face the full weight of our justice system.

JASTA's intended purpose is to create a tort exception that allows victims and their families to seek justice for acts of international terrorism in the United States that are caused by terrorist torts of a foreign state or its officials. Terrorism victims and their families in the United States should be able to have their day in court. We cannot, in good conscience, close the courthouse door to those families who suffered unimaginable losses.

I have confidence in the American jurisprudence system and that we will get this right in order to respect the lawful acts of governments but also to hold those who sponsor terrorism accountable under our system of justice.

The legislation restricts the application of this exception. It only applies to acts of terrorism on U.S. soil. It establishes a standard that is greater than negligence in order to be able to have an actionable claim. There is an ability for the government to stay the proceedings to negotiate a settlement. So the U.S. Government can intercede. I think these exceptions were put in and negotiated in order to try to deal with some of the legitimate concerns that were initially raised.

As ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I recognize that there are risk factors in terms of how other countries may respond to the enactment of JASTA. As a nation with hundreds of thousands of troops that serve abroad, not to mention multiple foreign bases and facilities, the United States of America is a country that benefits from sovereign immunity principles that protect our country and our country's interests, its Armed Forces, government officials, and litigation in foreign courts. Therefore, there is a concern of unintended consequences, including irresponsible applications to U.S. international activities by other countries.

While I have faith and confidence in the American legal system, the same faith does not necessarily extend to the fairness of legal systems of other countries that may claim they are taking similar actions against America when they are not. So we need to follow closely how other countries respond and try to mitigate the risks of the United States abroad.

In my role as the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, I intend to do just that. I will seek to work with my colleagues to try to mitigate these risks, and I similarly support the efforts of the State Department and Department of Defense to mitigate any risks to our diplomacy, assets, and troops abroad that may be caused by the enactment of JASTA.

I intend to explore with my colleagues the possibility of whether we need or will need additional legislative

action. Such additional legislation would allow justice for family members of the victims of the 9/11 attack while ameliorating some of the potential adverse consequences of JASTA.

Near my Baltimore office in the Inner Harbor of Maryland, there has been created a memorial to the victims of the 9/11 attacks. Inspired by an artifact of the New York World Trade Center, the memorial consists of three 22-foot-long twisted and torn amalgamated steel columns from the Twin Towers. The memorial provides a place for contemplation and a site to remember and reflect upon the events of September 11, 2001, while paying tribute to the 69 Marylanders who lost their lives that day. Each year on September 11, Baltimore's World Trade Center will act as a sundial to mark the chronological inscriptions of the events of that tragic day. Today we hold close in our hearts and prayers those Marylanders who died on that day, as well as the families and friends whose lives have been altered forever.

There are no actions we can take to sufficiently heal the pain and suffering so many thousands of Americans carry with them 15 years after that fateful September day, but our constituents and fellow citizens are asking for a path to justice. This legislation creates that path, and having weighed both sides carefully, I am compelled to uphold it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last Friday, President Obama vetoed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, JASTA. Given the overwhelming, bipartisan support this legislation enjoys in both the Senate and the House, I was surprised and hence very disappointed the President disregarded the will of the People and chose this course of action. He chose to use his veto pen, but today it is my hope and expectation that the Senate will exercise its constitutional authority to override that veto.

This legislation has been a truly bipartisan effort since the day it was introduced. I joined Senators CORNYN and SCHUMER as an original cosponsor last year.

Our bill is sponsored by 16 members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. And if you know anything about the Judiciary Committee, you know that getting 16 members of our committee to agree on any legislation is no small task. We have some very conservative members, as well as some very liberal members. Getting all of those members on board with this important legislation is a testament to just how broad its support really is.

I moved this legislation out of our committee unanimously in February, and then the full Senate passed it unanimously in May. The House fol-

lowed suit and passed it in September. Like the Senate, the House passed the legislation unanimously.

That is how this legislation arrived on the President's desk. It was sent to him with unanimous support in both the Senate and House, from Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals.

But it has run into some opposition. Of course, it is not opposed by the victims of 9/11 and their families. They aren't asking for legislation that tips the scales in their favor. All they want is the opportunity to present their case in a court of law. And that is what this legislation would give them.

The legislation has run into opposition because it is opposed by Saudi Arabia, who has been making threats against the United States about what it might do if Congress stands with the American people and 9/11 victims and their families, instead of the Saudis. Now, according to press reports, the Saudis have gone out and hired an army of lobbyists to work furiously in a last-minute attempt to derail it.

So on what exactly has the White House and Saudi Arabia based its opposition?

They have made a lot of claims, but the one you hear most often is that if the United States stands with the 9/11 victims on this legislation and provides them the opportunity to make their case in court, then other countries could try to haul U.S. soldiers and other personnel into their courts.

But what this claim ignores, of course, is that JASTA does not allow lawsuits against individuals, only foreign governments. JASTA expressly prohibits lawsuits arising from "acts of war." So any claim by the President that this is all about protecting U.S. personnel from being hauled into foreign courts just doesn't hold water.

The second most common argument some are making is that if Congress stands up to the President, the Saudis and their lobbyists, and this legislation becomes law, then the Saudis will respond by pulling their money out of U.S. securities. Well, let's set aside the fact that this appears to be an empty threat. It is highly unlikely that they would follow through on it. But even if they did, there would be plenty of buyers for those securities. But more importantly, is this really how we should be deciding policy? What kind of message would that send to other foreign governments?

The message would be clear: if you want to influence U.S. legislation, make sure to buy up U.S. debt, and then threaten to sell that debt any time the United States Congress does something you don't like.

We absolutely cannot be intimidated or bend to that type of threat. That would send a terrible message to the rest of the world.

So, it is unfortunate President Obama vetoed this important legisla-

tion and that we now need to have this vote.

But, it is my hope and expectation that the Senate—and the House—will stand with the 9/11 victims and their families, and stand up to the President, the Saudis, and their army of lobbyists.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, the decision whether to override the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act has been a difficult one.

Every Member of this body has vivid memories of September 11: the fires raging in the towers, smoke billowing from the Pentagon, a plane destined for the Capitol, but taken down by brave Americans—the sense that this Nation would never be the same.

I strongly support the ability of Americans who are victims of terrorism on U.S. soil to receive compensation and their fair measure of justice. That, at its core, is the goal of this bill.

I have met with the families. I know many of those killed or injured in the attacks were not only the breadwinners in their families, but also mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins and friends. I know the families' deep and abiding sense of grief is just as intense today as it was 15 years ago.

This bill has elements that are very strong and have my unqualified support. For example, it expands the Antiterrorism Act to allow victims to hold accountable individuals who aid and abet or conspire to commit terrorist attacks.

I have decided to support the bill today, but continue to be concerned about unintended consequences that may require Congress to revisit this bill in the future.

My key concern relates to the exception to the immunity of foreign governments. Proponents of this bill argue that the exception is narrow, that it applies only if a foreign nation, with ill intent, takes unlawful actions that cause an act of terrorism on our soil.

But other nations that are strongly opposed to American actions abroad could respond by using the bill as an excuse to adopt laws that target our own government's actions.

A September 15 Washington Post editorial said it well: "It is not a far-fetched concern, given this country's global use of intelligence agents, Special Operations forces and drones, all of which could be construed as state-sponsored 'terrorism' when convenient."

Those of us on the Senate Intelligence Committee know that, if other countries respond to JASTA in this manner, it could jeopardize our government's actions abroad. If that happens, it is likely that our government would be forced to defend against private lawsuits, which could pose a threat to our national security.

I had hoped some agreement could be reached to narrow the bill's scope to limit those unintended consequences, such as by limiting the bill to the September 11 attacks.

I believe the threat of unintended consequences is real and must be mitigated. To that end I have signed a letter with several of my colleagues who feel as I do that this issue will have to be revisited.

I intend to work with my colleagues on a bill that would limit this bill to the 9/11 attacks, which were singularly devastating to our country. In addition, I intend to look into whether we should limit the bill to apply only to those directly impacted by an attack—including individuals, their estates and property damage, rather than companies with only tangential connections.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, over the course of the last several days, I have met with the victims of 9/11 and, like many people in this body have, I don't think I have ever met a more gracious, genuine, sincere group of people. I know they have sought some way of expressing their desire to seek justice in what happened on 9/11. We all have constituents who come up and meet with us. These people certainly have not been from the State of Tennessee, but I have to say, they have presented their case in a way that is most heartfelt, and I have tremendous empathy for all they and their families have gone through. Yesterday, on the way outside the building, a gentleman came up to me, recognized me, and told me about sitting in his home and seeing the planes go overhead, seeing them kill his wife. He talked to me about the conversation he had with the FBI agent, whom they have now gotten to know, about what had happened.

Senator SCHUMER and Senator CORKER have done a remarkable job in shepherding through this piece of legislation. I give them tremendous credit for what they have done. I do want to say, I don't think the Senate nor House has functioned in an appropriate manner as it relates to a very important piece of legislation. We have had no hearings in the U.S. Senate this Congress, and we have had no vote—no vote whatsoever—of record on this piece of legislation. As a matter of fact, today will be the first vote. There is no doubt by fact that we went through the unanimous consent process and no one objected. No one objected. No doubt that registered our

“yes” votes, if you will, without a record on this piece of legislation.

Yesterday I brought my niece and nephew to this building before it opened, and I told them about the fact that there is a place in the back here that from time to time I have gone to pray before a big vote, and how in recent times there haven't been many votes that have been that decisive or that have weighed on me as much as this vote today. Today is one of those votes.

I have tremendous concerns about the sovereign immunity procedures that could be set in place by other countries as a result of this vote. I do. For that reason, I have circulated a letter that lays out those concerns, and numbers of people within this body have signed that letter. They have said we feel there could be in fact unintended consequences as a result of what we know is going to happen today.

I have seen our country's standing in the world be eroded over the course of the last several years. I know there is debate over that. In my opinion, I have seen our standing erode. I am concerned about the consequences that over time this vote will have on that. At the same time, I believe the victims of 9/11 do deserve an outlet, a way, themselves, of seeking justice in this particular case.

This, to me, is not about Saudi Arabia, it is about us, and I don't think the Senate has yet gotten it right as it relates to the best way for the 9/11 victims to seek that justice. I know this bill provides them a way for that to occur. I don't think it is perfect. I think a better way might have been to establish some type of tribunal, where experts could come in and really identify what actually happened on discretionary decisions that took place within the country of Saudi Arabia.

We make decisions around here that we believe are to be in our national interests. I have had tremendous difficulty with this one. That is the reason we have generated a letter of concern to the two sponsors of this bill who have handled this in the manner they have. They have done an exemplary job. To me, the Senate has not functioned quite in the manner that it should, nor has the House, and I think we end up today with an imperfect solution.

I have concerns about this legislation not having a waiver. I have concerns about the fact that over time, if this continues to build upon itself, we as a body—a body that, to me, could use some great strengthening. To me, we have a body that is in the process of building itself back to the place it ought to be, and we have done that over the last couple of years. Let's face it. The institution of the United States Senate itself has diminished over time, and we have work to do to overcome that.

On balance, I think this bill has problems. I think we will be dealing with overcoming this over time, and I know numbers of us have joined together to express that, but I do think that to be consistent and to give the victims who have lost so much an opportunity to express themselves in this way is the appropriate thing to do at this time.

I have read the concerns that have been expressed by the head of our Joint Chiefs. I read the letter that came over from the President. Certainly, there are significant and important points to have been made. As a matter of fact, 6 months ago those points might have led us to a slightly different place today.

So with tremendous reservations and concerns about where this legislation is going to lead us, with tremendous empathy toward the victims—who have lived through so much, have seen loved ones gone, it has affected their lives and will affect their lives for the long term—I am going to support passage of this legislation today, but I do so understanding that there could be in fact unintended consequences that work against our national interests, and with a determination—should that occur—to work with others within this body to try to overcome that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a bipartisan letter to Senators CORKER and SCHUMER regarding S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, from myself and Senators CARDIN, GRAHAM, FEINSTEIN, ALEXANDER, WARNER, ROUNDS, REED, ROBERTS, COONS, FLAKE, UDALL, COATS, NELSON, THUNE, SHAHEEN, KING, CARPER, COTTON, MCCASKILL, SULLIVAN, MERKLEY, RISC, SCHATZ, MCCAIN, HEITKAMP, HIRONO, and BENNET be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016.

Hon. JOHN CORKER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS CORKER AND SCHUMER: We are writing regarding the anticipated override of the president's veto of S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA).

We appreciate the efforts that you have undertaken to allow the families who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001 to have additional recourse.

We have a great deal of compassion for the families and respect their desire for justice. We understand your purpose in drafting this legislation is to remove obstacles so those who commit or support terrorist acts in the United States face the full range of consequences of the U.S. legal system. However, concerns have been raised regarding potential unintended consequences that may result from this legislation for the national security and foreign policy of the United States. If other nations respond to this bill by weakening U.S. sovereign immunity protections, then the United States could face

private lawsuits in foreign courts as a result of important military or intelligence activities.

We would hope to work with you in a constructive manner to appropriately mitigate those unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Bob Corker (R-TN), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mark Warner (D-VA), Mike Rounds (R-SD), Jack Reed (D-RI), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Chris Coons (D-DE), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Tom Udall (D-NM), Dan Coats (R-IN), Bill Nelson (D-FL).

John Thune (R-SD), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Angus King (I-ME), Tom Carper (D-DE), Tom Cotton (R-AR), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Jim Risch (R-ID), Brian Schatz (D-HI), John McCain (R-AZ), Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Michael Bennet (D-CO).

Mr. CORKER. With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor. I know the distinguished Senator from New York who sponsored this bill wishes to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, how much time is left on each side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democrats have 14 minutes remaining. The majority has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to finish my remarks and the vote occur immediately thereafter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Tennessee. I know he comes at this with the best of intentions and spirit. We disagree, but he is an expert on foreign policy, and we all respect his judgment.

I rise to speak on behalf of my bill, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. Soon we will vote on whether to override the President's veto of this bill. This is a decision I do not take lightly, but as one of the authors of this legislation and a firm believer in its purpose, I believe the Senate should confidently vote to override, and I will lay out the reasons why as clearly as I can.

The bill is near and dear to my heart as a New Yorker because it would allow the victims of 9/11 to pursue some small measure of justice, finally giving them the legal avenue to pursue the foreign sponsors of a terrorist attack that took the lives of their loved ones.

Unfortunately, the courts in New York have dismissed the 9/11 victims' claims against certain foreign entities alleged to have helped the 9/11 attacks. These courts are following what I believe is a fundamentally incorrect reading of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. Do we want it established inflexibly in precedent that foreign countries, directly responsible for financing terrorist acts on U.S. soil, are beyond the reach of justice? I don't

think so. I don't think that. In an age where we have state sponsors of terrorism, I don't think that is what the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ever intended.

For the sake of these families, it should be made clear—beyond a shadow of a doubt—that every entity, including foreign states, will be held accountable if they are sponsors of heinous acts like 9/11. It is very simple. If the Saudis were culpable, they should be held accountable. If they had nothing to do with 9/11, they have nothing to fear.

I might add, the families are not simply seeking justice for themselves. They want to make sure Saudi Arabia or any other country in the future knows they will pay the consequences if they aid and abet terrorism. In a certain real sense, they are lighting a candle.

When tragedy befalls somebody in a horrible and irrational way, a vicious way—as has befallen these families—the natural instinct the Scriptures tell us is to curse the darkness—why me?—to be angry, to turn inward, to wish the world would go away, but these families, with amazing fortitude, persistence, and courage, are lighting a candle. They are trying to make the world a better place, even though it will never bring their loved ones back, so it will never happen again. I so respect that, among many other things, about them.

Let me address the foreign policy concerns some may have about the bill from which the veto arises. Senator CORNYN and I have discussed in depth many times on the floor how we have narrowed the bill to strike the proper balance between our interests abroad and the right of our citizens to obtain redress when they are victims of terrorism on U.S. soil. In fact, we penned a joint op-ed on that question in USA TODAY.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that that article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From USA TODAY, Sept. 27, 2016]

GIVE 9/11 FAMILIES A LEGAL AVENUE:
OPPOSING VIEW

(By Chuck Schumer and John Cornyn)

The Senate will vote Wednesday on whether to override the president's veto of our bill, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA). As the authors of this legislation and firm believers in its purpose, we believe the Senate should confidently vote to override the veto. JASTA was written for one main purpose: to clarify under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (FSIA) and the Anti-terrorism Act that every entity, including foreign states, must be held accountable if they are found to be sponsors of heinous acts of terrorism on U.S. soil.

If the veto is overridden, this legislation would provide a legal avenue for the families of the victims of the 9/11 attacks to seek jus-

tice in a court of law for the terrorist attacks that took the lives of their loved ones. And it would deter foreign entities from sponsoring terrorism in the future.

The concerns we've heard about the legislation don't hold up to scrutiny. JASTA's opponents claim that the bill will subject U.S. diplomats and other government officials to a raft of potential lawsuits in foreign courts. Not true; JASTA simply builds on well-established principles under FSIA.

It returns the law to the way it was before a 2008 court case that granted sovereign immunity even in terrorism cases where citizens are murdered on U.S. soil. In the decades before this, there was no flood of lawsuits against U.S. interests.

Consistent with FSIA, as designed by Congress, victims can sue a foreign government if one of its employees causes damage arising from drunken driving, assault or breach of contract. If U.S. victims can sue a foreign government for these reasons, they should be able to sue a foreign government that harms their loved ones by financing a terror attack on our homeland.

There is always an excuse not to do something, but the chief argument used by JASTA's detractors is flimsy. When weighed against the moral imperative to do right by the families of the 9/11 victims—who continue to strongly advocate for this bill—the choice is clear: Senators should vote to override.

Mr. SCHUMER. I wish to read a section of the op-ed that addresses the chief concern of JASTA's opponents:

JASTA's opponents claim that the bill will subject U.S. diplomats and other government officials to a raft of potential lawsuits in foreign courts. Not true; JASTA simply builds on well-established principles under [the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act].

It returns the law to the way it was before a 2008 court case that granted sovereign immunity even in terrorism cases where citizens are murdered on U.S. soil. In the decades before this, there was no flood of lawsuits against U.S. interests.

Consistent with FSIA, as designed by Congress, victims can sue a foreign government if one of its employees causes damage arising from drunken driving, assault or breach of contract. If U.S. victims can sue a foreign government for these reasons, they should be able to sue a foreign government that harms their loved ones by financing a terror attack on our homeland.

Senator CORNYN and I have worked very hard over the course of 6 years and several iterations of the bill to strike the right balance. It has been a long work in progress, and I believe the measure of our success is reflected by the unanimous support the bill received in both Houses of Congress. In this body, not a single person objected when it was brought to the floor to be voted on.

Democrats and Republicans don't agree on much these days, but we agree on JASTA. Both parties agree the families of the 9/11 victims deserve justice. That, more than anything else, should weigh most heavily on our minds today.

It has been 15 years since that awful day—a day that changed every New Yorker, every American. We will never forget the shock, the fear, the holes in our hearts, the friends and neighbors

and loved ones we lost, the first responders and union workers and firefighters and policemen who bravely rushed to the towers searching for signs of life in that smoldering rubble. I was there the day after. The smell of death was in the air. As a nation, we came together. We rebuilt. As New Yorkers, we did the same thing, but we will never ever forget. In this debate, we cannot forget what this legislation means to the families of victims.

It has been 15 years since Ms. Terry Estrada lost her husband Tom, who worked in the North Tower. Terry didn't just lose a husband, she lost a father to a young son 7, daughter of 4, and a newborn baby boy. She lost a loving father and her best friend. Terry and her children have championed this bill for over a decade. I thank them and all the other families—especially Monica Gabrielle, Mindy Kleinberg, Lorie Van Auken, Kristin Breitweiser, Patty Casazza—for their tireless advocacy and patience. Of course, no compensation could ever repair the broken hearts of a family who lost a loved one to such mindless hate, but as Jane Bartels, a mother from Staten Island who lost her husband Carlton on that sunny morning 15 years ago put it recently, “We just want our day in court.” “We just want our day in court.”

The victims of 9/11 and other terrorist acts have suffered such pain and heartache, but they should not be denied their day in court. They should not be denied their pursuit of justice.

There is always an excuse not to do something, but as Senator CORNYN and I have explained, the chief argument used by JASTA's detractors is not strong. In fact, it is flimsy. When weighed against the moral imperative, we have to do right by the families of the 9/11 victims. The choice is clear. I urge my colleagues to override.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The question is, Shall the bill (S. 2040) pass, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding?

The yeas and nays are required under the Constitution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote yea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 148 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Fischer	Murray
Ayotte	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Boxer	Heitkamp	Rounds
Brown	Heller	Rubio
Burr	Hirono	Sasse
Cantwell	Hoeven	Schatz
Capito	Inhofe	Schumer
Cardin	Isakson	Scott
Carper	Johnson	Sessions
Casey	King	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kirk	Shelby
Coats	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cochran	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Lee	Thune
Corker	Manchin	Tillis
Cornyn	Markey	Toomey
Cotton	McCain	Udall
Crapo	McCaskill	Vitter
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Menendez	Warren
Donnelly	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Mikulski	Wicker
Enzi	Moran	Wyden
Ernst	Murkowski	
Feinstein	Murphy	

NAYS—1

Reid

NOT VOTING—2

Kaine Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 1.

Two-thirds of the Senators voting, a quorum being present, having voted in the affirmative, the bill, on reconsideration, is passed, the objections of the President of the United States to the contrary notwithstanding.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

FUNDING FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this month, the Senate voted to help families affected by lead poisoning in Flint as part of the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA. We are glad to see that progress is being made in the House as well to pass a WRDA bill that also includes help for Flint families. I have worked closely with Speaker RYAN and Leader PELOSI to encourage that progress, and I made it clear to them that I was extremely serious, and I just mentioned that again to Senator STABENOW—very serious about defending the Senate position in conference and ensuring that Flint funding remains in the final bill.

We have a path forward to getting our work done, and if we keep working together, we will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader and I have had a number of conversations. I yield to the senior Senator from Michigan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I wish to thank the majority leader for his comments and for the conversations we have had—publicly and privately—and our Senate Democratic leader, as well, for being such a stalwart, as well as all of our colleagues.

We in the Senate have done the right thing and moved forward on a WRDA bill that has an important package for Flint and other communities that have lead-in-water issues.

At the beginning of this week, there was a House bill that did not include anything for Flint or anything around that contamination. We now have a commitment. There is going to be something in the House WRDA bill and a commitment that the final bill will include the work that we did in the Senate.

So I wish to thank again Senator INHOFE, Senator BOXER, and all of our colleagues. This is a very positive step forward.

I will just remind people that folks in Flint are literally bathing with bottled water every single day, and the sense of urgency only grows. So I am anxious to work with our leadership to get this done.

Thank you.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we expect to start voting on the CR around 2 o'clock, and with a little cooperation, we should be able to get that over to the House this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to yield 1 minute to our ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator BOXER. I wish to yield to her for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to thank my leader very much. Yesterday, Senator INHOFE and I were on the floor and I stated that if I felt there was an ironclad commitment to take care of the Flint, MI, problem and the lead in water across this Nation, I would support the CR. I interpret the strong language from my leader, HARRY REID, and the Republican majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, as an ironclad commitment. They spoke to the powers that be in the House.

I know that Senator INHOFE and I are bound and determined to fix this, and believe me, I want to send a message to the people of Flint and to their Senators, who have worked their hearts out: This will happen. If it doesn't happen, I have some ideas of how I am going to protest it, but it will happen. I take it as an ironclad commitment.

I yield the floor back to my colleague, Senator REID.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2912

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to honor

the life of Trickett Wendler, pictured here, who was a young mother of three who fought and lost her battle with ALS disease, and the lives of so many others who want the right to try to save their lives by passing the Trickett Wendler Right to Try Act of 2016.

Now, like so many of my colleagues, we are often visited by our constituents, people who are battling their own diseases, whether it is ALS or Duchenne muscular dystrophy, or different forms of cancer.

This is a very simple bill. What it is trying to do is very simple. It is trying to restore freedom. It is trying to give patients and their families hope—the freedom and hope that is being denied them right now by our Federal bureaucracy.

This is a bill about people. Coming from my own standpoint, I think all of us recognize ALS as—initially, in its original name—Lou Gehrig's disease. I certainly understood a little bit more about ALS when I heard about Tom Watson's caddy. Then in Oshkosh, WI, a family member of our Lourdes High School family was stricken with ALS—Doug Potarske. He courageously battled the disease and lost his fight as well.

I met Trickett Wendler on May 23, 2014, when she came to Washington, DC, with a group of other advocates for ALS cures. Simply talking about my meeting with the Goldwater Institute and the bill they were promoting through the States—the Right to Try—and indicating to her my support for it, tears began streaming down her cheeks. She wanted that hope.

But along this path, as I have advocated for the Right to Try bill, I have met other individuals—people like Matt Bellina, a former Navy pilot who testified before our committee just yesterday. He is a father of two, with his wife expecting their third child. He is also fighting ALS. He wants hope.

During our press conference, when I introduced this piece of legislation, a man from Pennsylvania, Frank Mongiello, asked to say a few words. Already pretty far advanced in his ALS, it was difficult to understand Frank, but he quoted Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln said: "If you get shot, you die once. If you dream, you die over and over again." He made the point that not having access to some of these treatments for ALS is like dying over and over again. He wants some hope to be able to stay alive for his wife and six children.

This bill isn't only about ALS, though. It is about other incurable diseases. It is about other terminal patients who have no further treatment options—little boys like Jordan McLinn, who also testified before our committee with his mother, Laura, a volunteer firefighter, and who is suffering from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a disease that is also terminal.

This disease in particular indicates the problem we have with the FDA. There were more than 50 patients and advocates for an effective treatment, something that is being proven to be effective to extend the muscle function of these little boys. The FDA had an advisory committee meeting and listened to the testimony of over 50 Americans begging the FDA to allow and approve that treatment. The FDA advisory committee voted 7 to 3 and said no, we are not going to give you that right; we are not going to give you that hope.

Now, fortunately, I was overjoyed a couple of Mondays ago when the FDA overruled that advisory committee and actually approved those drugs and provided some hope.

If we want to understand how broken the process is, let me give a couple of metrics. In the decade of the 1990s, it took about 10 years from discovery to approval of a new drug. Today that time period stands at about 14 years. In today's dollars, in 2004, it cost about \$1 billion for a successful drug to go through that approval process. Today, it costs about \$2.6 billion to have a drug approved. That indicates there is something wrong with the system. The Right to Try bill addresses what is wrong. It is not a panacea, but it is a good first step.

The last person I wish to speak about is someone I consider a hero, someone I consider as a whistleblower, a courageous oncologist from Houston, TX, whose name is Dr. Ebrahim Delpassand. Dr. Delpassand was part of a clinical trial treating neuroendocrine cancer with a therapeutic agent called LU-177 octreotate. He was, in his opinion, successfully treating these cancer patients. He was extending their lives, but he butted up against a limit in terms of a clinical trial of 150 patients. So he requested from the FDA to expand that to include another 78 of his patients who were terminal, who were dying from this aggressive form of cancer. The FDA said no.

Now, fortunately, for that doctor and those 78 patients, Texas had passed a Right to Try bill. The problem is the FDA has not weighed in. We don't know whether the FDA will challenge these Right to Try bills. I could not get an answer from the FDA bureaucrats as to whether or not they are going to challenge it. So Dr. Delpassand took it upon himself and, on behalf of his patients, courageously began treating those additional 78 patients. They are alive today because of his courage, with no help from the FDA.

Thirty-two States now have enacted their own individual Right to Try legislation. In those States, 4,186 legislators—both Democrat and Republican—have voted on those bills. Only 108 have voted no, and 4,078 legislators—97.4 percent of legislators in 32 States—have voted yes to Right to Try. There is

nothing partisan about this. This is a completely bipartisan effort—again, trying to restore freedom, trying to restore hope.

The latest State was California. Governor Brown just signed that bill into law. We had in front of our committee last week State assembly majority leader Ian Calderon—a Democrat, I might add—who is a sponsor of that Right to Try bill.

So all I am asking—we have 42 cosponsors of this bill in the Senate. I have asked my other colleagues to join us as cosponsors. I realize that some of them don't want to go that far. All I am asking is that no Senator stand up and object to providing a little bit of freedom, a little bit of hope to patients who simply have no other avenue.

Now, to be respectful of people's time, let me move to my request. I see Senator BARRASSO is here, and if he would also like to speak to this bill, I would like to give him that opportunity.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2912 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; and I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I reserve my right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand the seriousness of my friend's proposal. I understand the urgency that patients and their families feel who are desperate for new treatments. I could go through a litany of people who have been in predicaments like this, like this young lady here where we see her picture.

I remember Wendy Rockenfeller. I went to see her in Boulder City. She was all dressed up, knowing that I was coming, in bed. She, at a very young age, was stricken with Lou Gehrig's disease. She died 5 days after I saw her. She loved politics. She was involved in my campaigns. But this dreadful disease took her.

Her husband was desperate. He took her to Mexico for some treatment that didn't work, of course. But as my friend from Wisconsin said, he was looking for hope. Her husband Uwe Rockenfeller.

Bob Forbuss was a young school teacher in Las Vegas, but he had a great knack for business. Without going through a lot of detail, he worked part time with an ambulance company. He wound up owning that big, big ambulance company. He was very successful, made a lot of money, but he was stricken with Lou Gehrig's

disease, and he died—not as fast as Wendy, but he died. I went to see him the day before I saw Wendy.

So I understand the urgency of the patients, but also we have a situation here. There are ways to improve the access process so it works better and faster for patients. My friend talks about 40 or 42 cosponsors. Basically, virtually every one of the Republicans are cosponsors but not Democrats. Why? Because, there are major players in this bill that simply haven't had an opportunity to tell us what is wrong with the bill. They have told me personally.

I believe we should do what we need to do in order to have a good, responsible piece of legislation. I also want everyone to understand it is really difficult to comprehend when we have had 7 weeks—we just finished a break here and we are going to take 10 more weeks. Why didn't we take the time to have a hearing on this?

I think we should have had a hearing on Merrick Garland. Why haven't we had a hearing on Merrick Garland? The reason my Republican friends have not had a hearing on Merrick Garland is that they know that if they had a hearing on Merrick Garland, people would see who he is, and having seen or listened to this man, they would be hard-pressed to vote against him. That is why they are not doing a hearing.

So, for all these reasons, that we haven't had a vote on Merrick Garland, we had absolutely no workout on this process. As desperate as the situation is, and I understand it, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, this is beyond disappointing that the minority leader would refer to this as potentially a partisan bill. Let me reiterate. In 32 States, where 4,186 State legislators have voted on this, 4,078 have voted yes, Republicans and Democrats alike—97.4 percent. This is a bipartisan effort. It provides freedom, it provides hope, and it is beyond disappointing that the minority leader would object.

I would ask my colleague Mr. BARRASSO, the Senator from Wyoming, who has been a real leader on the issue, for example, with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, what has he heard from patients and his constituents in terms of the hope that this bill will provide them?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, people ask for hope. They want hope and need hope. As a young doctor in my training, I worked at a children's hospital in the muscle disease clinic, and what I saw were families because muscular dystrophy, specifically Duchenne's, runs in families.

Families come into the clinic, and you knew the day you were seeing that

young person it was going to be the best day that person ever had because this is a progressive disease and they are looking for hope and they look to you as a physician for hope and they look to the researchers for hope.

That is what this Right to Try legislation does. It provides hope. I believe it goes further than that. It is not just hope, it is also help because the research we have seen with this drug for muscular dystrophy, for Duchenne muscular dystrophy—and when you talk to the parents and talk with the patients, and I have met with the parents and met with the patients, what they are seeing is that day in the clinic is not their best day with declining after that, they have actually seen a reversal, which is miraculous. I am talking about working in a muscle disease clinic when I was in my twenties. We are talking a long time ago in my professional career working with people with muscle disease. This is the first thing I have actually seen that has actually reversed that declining trend that we see in young people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, where they go from being able to walk to then walking more slowly, to then graduating to a wheelchair. So all we are asking for is hope, when we know there is hope that is available and it may provide help.

The State of Wyoming passed the Right to Try law. The attorney general for the State of Wyoming is with us today. He knows about this. He knows it is bipartisan. There was nothing partisan about this, I would say to my colleague from Wisconsin. There was overwhelming bipartisan support by the legislature. It was signed by our Governor. Yet we see the minority leader come to the floor and object to a vote, which is something that would pass incredibly. He did it because his reasoning was something about a nominee of the President to be on the Supreme Court.

We are talking about people who are dying today, such as the woman whom this legislation is named after with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis—Lou Gehrig's disease. People did the ice bucket challenge. We saw Bill Gates have somebody pour a bucket of cold ice water over his head in an effort to try to help someone with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The minority leader came and named a couple of people who lost their lives. We all know people who lost their lives. The Senator from Alaska had a relative who lost his life to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Every time I go to mail a letter at the Post Office in Casper, WY, and drive down Randy Maxwell Boulevard, it is named after a postal worker who lost his life to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. He would have loved the right to try.

So I come to the floor in support of my colleagues, in support of this legislation, and I am so sorry and sad to see

the minority leader, the Senator from Nevada, stand and object to an opportunity to give the Senate the right to try, to give patients the right to try, at a time when we know there is actually potential cures available and there are people who are looking for the hope and looking for the help those potential cures provide.

I would say to my friend and colleague from Wisconsin, thank you for your leadership. Thank you for bringing to the floor the beautiful face of the patient from your home State who lost her life in the fight, who didn't have a chance to try.

Thank you for your leadership on the Duchenne muscular dystrophy front and for all people who are suffering around this country who need hope, who need help, and we know there is actually help available. Thank you for your caring and your work on this, and I continue to stand with you and your efforts, as do many Members of the U.S. Senate and many, many Americans. I thank you for your continued leadership and your determination. I thank the Senator from Wisconsin for his incredible efforts, and I say this with profound disappointment in the minority leader to see that he would come to the floor and object to people having a right to try to save their lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Wyoming for his leadership on this issue. I want to also point out how bad I feel and how sad it truly is because some of those individuals I spoke of—some of those patients and families—were watching on C-SPAN today. They had their hopes up that the minority leader would not play politics with this issue, would not play politics with their lives. In the last 15 minutes, those hopes have also been dashed. I care about that.

I note for the RECORD that in my committee we have held two hearings on this Right to Try bill so the minority leader is simply incorrect when he says we have not held hearings. We have fully vetted this piece of legislation.

I once again point out how bipartisan this has been in the States—97.4 percent of State legislators who voted on this have voted in support of it.

I have another colleague, the Senator from Indiana, who has joined me in a number of instances in writing to the FDA to try and break the logjam on some of these treatments, making them available to people, giving them hope.

I would ask the Senator from Indiana what stories he has to tell about his constituents who are asking for that freedom, that right to try, that right to hope?

Mr. COATS. I thank the Senator from Wisconsin, a great friend and someone whose passion has been brought to the U.S. Senate.

Based on issues where people are hurting, I just can't thank him enough for bringing to this body the kind of energy and the kind of passion that is directly related to the pain people are suffering with in his State—whether it is loss of a job, the death of a child or something related to education or whether it is something related to just every day, Senator RON JOHNSON has been on top of it.

This is a perfect example of the kind of passion he brings. He refuses to say: I can't go any further. He refuses to take and accept the minority leader's objection to this—along with my colleague from Wyoming and others—to this bipartisan supported measure. How can the minority leader come down and give an example of why every parent deserves the right to try, to try to save their children, to take advantage of medicines and procedures that might be that miracle cure, and then say: No, we are not going to take it up. We are not going to give that to you because we know you are in a tight race. Essentially, that is what he is saying. We know you are in a tight race so we are not going to do anything.

Put yourself in the shoes of a parent who is trying to save the precious life of a child. How can you put an election in a State that is up for grabs—how can that trump the kind of sorrow and clinging to the last hope parents are making?

I commend the Senator. I have had the great privilege of serving together with him since 2010, and we have become friends. His passion, whether it is the national debt or whether it is any number of issues, but particularly on this, that goes right to the heart and soul of every parent in this country who is doing everything they possibly can to save their child, and to be denied that opportunity because of a political situation just astounds me.

I commend Senator JOHNSON. I know he will not give up. I know he will fight this to the end. We stand with him. There is nothing partisan about this issue, and there is no reason we can't come down as a body and endorse and pass by unanimous consent what Senator JOHNSON is asking. There is no reason whatsoever. I am with him to the end. We are all with you to the end. I think we ought to just keep asking because I don't believe a Senator here can understand why politics should trump something like what you are trying to do.

Mr. JOHNSON. I certainly thank the Senator from Indiana for his support on this issue. I will conclude by saying, this is a sad day for the U.S. Senate; that the minority leader would turn his back on terminal patients and their families, deny them that freedom, that right to try, that right to hope, to score a political point—it is a sad day for the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, people talk about partisan gridlock and the do-nothing Congress. There is plenty of justification for it. Judge Merrick Garland, nominated to the Supreme Court on March 16, has been waiting for a hearing, not to mention a vote, for more than 6 months. None of the appropriation bills to fund the government in 2017 will be enacted before the end of this fiscal year, just 2 days from now, even though every one of them has been reported by the Appropriations Committee. We are once again voting on a stopgap continuing resolution to keep the government running until December 9.

As part of the continuing resolution, I proposed including a provision that would give American businesses a level playing field against their foreign competitors.

Right now, the Export-Import Bank cannot approve financing totaling more than \$10 million, because the Republicans have refused to vote on the President's nominee for the third member of the Ex-Im Bank's board of directors. Under current law, that means the Bank lacks a quorum, and it is severely limited in what it can do.

My provision would have permitted the current board members to approve financing over \$10 million, for the period of the continuing resolution.

This was not a farfetched idea. In fact, both House and Senate fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills that are waiting for a vote include a similar provision. By including it in the continuing resolution, we would simply be doing what majorities in both appropriations committees have already agreed to.

According to the Ex-Im Bank, it currently has a pipeline of more than 30 transactions, each of which exceeds \$10 million, valued at over \$20 billion in total that are stalled because of the quorum requirement.

In other words, the Republican leadership is blocking financing to U.S. companies that are ready to compete for contracts to sell their products and services overseas. They may not get the chance.

One would think, since Republicans regularly insist that they are the party that cares more about American business, this would not be difficult. They talk about wanting to help U.S. companies so they will not move offshore. They talk about standing up for American workers. They talk about a lot of things.

But did they include it? No. There wasn't even a debate. They just said no dice because a tiny minority of their members opposes it.

That is what has happened to the Congress. Because the Republican leadership either supports or is unwilling to challenge obstructionists on their fringe, nothing happens. There are countless examples of it.

I hope the American people are paying attention. I hope businesses around the country that pay taxes and need support from the Ex-Im Bank are paying attention. Elections do matter, and this is just one of many reasons.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the continuing resolution that the Senate will soon be voting on, which regretfully, I am unable to support.

For the past year, I along with my colleague from Michigan, Senator PETERS, worked to craft a bipartisan agreement with funding to help fix the city of Flint's water system that exposed 100,000 people to lead laced drinking water. And thanks to the leadership of Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member BOXER, the Senate a few weeks ago voted 95-3 to approve the Water Resources Development Act with this desperately needed funding.

Unfortunately, the CR before us today addresses disaster funding for flooding in Louisiana and other communities, but asks the families of Flint to wait at the back of the line again. I cannot support a CR that includes funding for other communities but not Flint, whose residents have waited too long for much-needed aid.

However, because of the stalwart support of my colleagues—particularly vice chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee BARBARA MIKULSKI, Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member BARBARA BOXER, and Democratic leaders HARRY REID and NANCY PELOSI—Republicans in the House of Representatives have agreed to a path forward for enacting legislation this year that contains assistance for the people of Flint.

I would also thank Majority Leader MCCONNELL for his commitment to ensuring that Congress does not adjourn this year without enacting WRDA legislation that contains the Senate approved funding for fixing Flint's water pipes and addressing drinking water problems that communities across the country face.

While the absence of assistance for Flint prevents me from supporting the continuing resolution, I am very pleased that it contains \$1.1 billion to combat the spread of the Zika virus.

More than 2,000 pregnant women in the Nation and our territories have evidence of being infected by Zika, more than 20 babies have been born with Zika-related birth defects such as microcephaly, and at least six pregnancies ended because of the virus. In Puerto Rico, the Surgeon General said that 25 percent of residents will be infected by Zika virus by the end of this year. In southern Florida, health officials are combating the mosquitoes spreading the virus there in the hopes of slowing the virus's path. With funding to combat Zika now secured, the hard work begins to end the threat Zika presents to our families.

I am also grateful that the short-term spending agreement contains the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which provides funding to ensure that our military facilities are mission ready and that Michigan's 698,000 veterans can access the care and benefits they have earned.

The fiscal year 2017 Military Construction and Veterans bill includes \$11.3 billion more in mandatory funding and \$2.6 billion more in discretionary funding than last year's budget. Although discretionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs is below the amount that was included in the bill approved by the Senate earlier this year, the total amount in the CR still exceeds last year's enacted level by \$2.9 billion. I strongly support this funding that provides for essential medical care, disability compensations, mental health services, long-term care, veteran specific medical research, and claims processing improvements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, I was asked to act as emcee for the Arizona Distinguished Young Women's Scholarship Program. During the self-expression portion of the evening, meant to showcase how quickly these women could think on their feet, the participants were asked the following question: If you could live a day without rules and consequences and do something truly outrageous, what would it be?

Remember, these are high school seniors. As I stood on stage and called on each of the young women to answer the question, Alexis, from Tempe, confidently took the microphone and said:

I would fly to Washington, DC, go to the United States Senate floor, and ask each Senator this question: "What do you plan to do about the national debt?"

The audience roared its approval, and I was put on the spot. This is a topic that has received scant attention in this political season, this election season, but it was put front and center at a scholarship program.

We shouldn't be surprised by this. For every day that we adults continue our obsession over emails and birth certificates, these high school seniors recognize that we are spending \$1.4 billion more than we are taking in. This will result in nearly a \$500 billion deficit this year, which will be added to our burgeoning \$19 trillion debt. They know this and understand this because this is the debt they will be left with long after our political careers are over.

I have long believed that of the myriad problems we face in this country—

from terrorism to nuclear proliferation, to infectious diseases, to climate change, to aging infrastructure, to unaffordable health care—our looming debt and persistent deficit are our most urgent challenge. If we don't put our fiscal house in order and put ourselves on a sustainable fiscal path forward, we will not be able to address any of the problems and the challenges I just listed.

If we continue in our current state of denial, one day in the not so distant future, we will wake up and discover that the financial markets have already decided we are no longer a good bet. When this happens, the low interest rates that have made our debt manageable over the past couple of years will begin an upward march. For every quarter point that interest rates go up, an additional \$50 billion will be required annually just to service the debt for every quarter point the interest rates go up.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if we don't address our fiscal imbalance and interest rates return to where they traditionally have been, within a decade nearly all of our discretionary budget will be swallowed up with just one item—paying interest on the debt.

Think about that for a minute. How do we fight a war on terrorism without spending any money on national defense? That is part of our discretionary budget. How do we replace aging infrastructure when there is no money left after we have paid our monthly installment on our credit cards? Infectious disease-carrying mosquitoes will not stop at our borders out of concern for our fiscal predicament.

Once national interest rates begin their inevitable rise, the control over our fiscal situation will pass from this body, from Congress, and from the executive branch to our creditors. We will then enter an austerity cycle that will negatively impact the global economy, and it will worsen our own fiscal outlook.

How do we avoid this gloomy picture? If we want to put ourselves on a sustainable fiscal path, we can't just nibble around the edges. Discretionary spending has been largely held in check over the past several years, but the retirement of the baby boomer generation has led to huge increases in our so-called entitlement programs.

Discretionary spending represents an ever-shrinking percentage of our total spending. Putting ourselves on a sustainable fiscal path has to involve a grand bargain of sorts, such as the one contemplated by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, more commonly known as Simpson-Bowles. Of course, this outline will need to be updated to take into account the nearly \$7 trillion of debt that has accumulated just in the past 6 years, but it is a good place to start.

It is tempting for both Republicans and Democrats to say: Well, we will deal with this debt problem if voters give us control of both Chambers and the White House. Believe me when I tell you that this will not happen. No one party, Republican or Democrat, will take the political risk that is inherent in dealing with our debt problem—not my party, not the party on the other side of the aisle. Midterm elections are never more than 2 years away.

No, it will take buy-in from both parties. Both parties have to be willing to hold hands and jump together.

With divided government over the past 6 years, we have had the conditions necessary for a long-term budget agreement, but we have lacked the political courage to get it done. We cannot afford to squander that opportunity any longer.

If the results of the November elections produce divided government once again in January, here is hoping that while we may publicly grumble, we will privately see it as an opportunity to redeem ourselves as stewards of this institution and put the country back on a sustainable fiscal path.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. President, I rise to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is celebrated from September 15 to October 15. Originally signed into law in 1968 to be just 1 week, it was expanded by President Ronald Reagan as a month-long recognition in 1988.

This month recognizes the social, economic, and cultural contributions of the more than 57 million Latinos living in the United States. In my home State of Arizona, the Latino population has nearly tripled in the past 25 years, and now it stands at just over 2 million people. This is nearly one-third of the State's population, and Hispanic children already make up more than half of the K-8 public school students in Arizona.

From an economic view, Hispanic-owned small businesses are growing at a rate of two or three times the national averages and now roughly total 125,000 statewide. Businesses owned by Hispanic women are growing even faster.

In Arizona, Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated through historic lectures, movie screenings, culinary and arts festivals, gallery exhibitions, and musical celebrations. These are but a few items to highlight when noting the contributions of those of Hispanic heritage.

I am pleased to have a moment on the Senate floor to talk about National Hispanic Heritage Month.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Indiana.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, as we are temporarily winding down here, I am

told we will be back in November, passing a short-term continuing resolution or funding for the government until we do return. Then, after the election, we will deal with the longer term. I wish to take advantage of this remaining time to once again, for the 52nd time in this last 2 years, come to the Senate floor to talk about the waste, fraud, and abuse that exists within the Federal Government and what its impact is on taxpayers' hard-earned tax dollars.

I have talked about everything from the very serious ways in which Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security have been violated and spent, wasting billions of dollars through checks going to people who are dead, people who don't qualify, and on and on. We have talked about some ridiculous examples of expenditure of Federal dollars.

Today, I was thinking: Well, this is kind of a small amount. We are only talking about \$1 million here, and we have been talking about billions.

All of a sudden it hit me that \$1 million is not a small thing. I think we have lost perspective here in terms of these numbers. What do they mean to us?

People say: Do you want to be a millionaire? Well, that would be unbelievable if I could be a millionaire. I mean, of course I would want to be a millionaire. If you are a millionaire, you are living in high cotton.

But we dismiss \$1 million as change, just a few pennies here and there when it is compared to billions of dollars, hundreds of billions of dollars, and even trillions of dollars.

In just the last 8 years under the Obama administration, we have taken our national debt—that is money we borrow to pay for things we have expensed. We don't have the revenue to cover it, so we have to borrow that money. As my colleague from Arizona was just discussing, interest has to be paid.

When we arrived at the beginning of this administration, it was about \$10 trillion, and it has literally doubled—almost doubled. In just 8 years of time, 230-some years since the beginning of this country, we have doubled the debt from \$10 trillion to nearly \$20 trillion.

It is hard to grasp what a million is, let alone a billion, let alone a trillion. So, yes, this is just "a million dollars," but every penny that is wasted is taken from taxpayers or is money not applied to essential functions of the Federal government, such as our national defense, health care, or whatever. This is one of these ridiculous wastes of a million dollars.

The Department of Education has paid money for the creation of a video game called ECO. The Department of Education is trying to have classrooms use this game for students, literally for ideological purposes. Obviously, what they were basing ECO on is what hap-

pens in Washington, DC. They were creating a virtual government through a video game. The students could vote by a majority vote as to whether to add something to this government in terms of what their policies were or take it away, but the game rules also ruled that the group's operator could act as a king, issuing all rules by himself or herself. If the king didn't like what the students did by majority vote, the king would simply say: Fine, that means nothing. I am going to implement it anyway.

It sounds an awful lot like what we have been through under this administration. The vote of the peoples' representatives in the House of Representatives and the Senate essentially has been bypassed in many instances by the President of the United States.

Once again, through an ideological decision made by members of the administration, we now are teaching students that this is really how it works. If you want to make a difference, we need to give that king all kinds of authority.

I define this as a waste. I define this as a waste of taxpayers' money.

The function of government is not to brainwash students, through video games, into a form of government that violates our Constitution, violates all precedents in terms of how we operate around here. Yet time and again I have stood on this floor, Members have stood on this floor, and simply said: This is the function of the people's representatives. This is a function of how they vote, yea or nay. This is a function of how it works through the process of defining a law, ultimately landing on the President's desk. Yet we have a President who simply says: The heck with all that stuff. I am just going to implement whatever I want to do, and, by the way, let's spend taxpayer dollars to teach children that this is how government should work. I think it is not just a shame, I think it is ridiculous. It is way over the top.

We are adding not a huge amount to the number, but through these 52 weeks we have accumulated \$328 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse. It just keeps on going. I could come to the floor every day. I could come here every hour of every day to try to describe the volume of certified waste, fraud, and abuse we have collected in our office. As long I have the opportunity to be able to do that, I am going to keep doing it, pointing out how government is mishandling the money that the taxpayers are sending to Washington.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, in the time remaining that I have, let me simply say that while the White House spin that the economic recovery from the Great Recession is a huge success, to use their words, poll after poll—from The Economist to YouGov, to Reuters, to Ipsos, to Rasmussen—shows that nearly two-

thirds of Americans think our economy is on the wrong track.

The White House spin is one thing, but the facts clearly define the Obama administration's record of low economic growth numbers. So we hear the rhetoric coming out of the President's spokesman and the President himself and some Members of the Senate that things are working very well. Well, let's look at the facts. The truth lies in the facts, not on what somebody wants to tell you the truth is.

Fact: Under the Obama administration, real growth continues to average only half the growth of an average recession recovery over the last half century. We have had many recessions, but the surge of economic activity post those recessions has been twice as much as what has happened over this recession, which took place in late 2008 and early 2009. It has been nearly 8 years, and we have had half of the average growth of all other recessions over the past half century.

Fact: Productivity growth has slumped under President Obama.

Fact: Business dynamism has slowed down significantly.

Fact: Today, a smaller number of Americans are working than before the recovery began.

Fact: For those Americans who have been able to get jobs, a larger number are working part time.

While President Obama is touting recent gains in household income, the facts show that the median American household is still bringing home less money than it was before the recession began almost 9 years ago.

Based on these facts, it is clear that the economic policies employed by the Obama administration have not worked.

It is one thing to come down here and listen to the President or Members say: Look, these policies have worked, and it is a great success; it is another thing to look at the reality of what has happened and say: No, it is not a success.

Too many Americans feel there is no end to this current cycling of mediocrity. It has almost become the new normal that we are going to grow at 1, 1.5, or 2 percent a year instead of normal post-recession growth of 3.5 or 4 percent or even more.

There is a reason why these policies, in my opinion, have not worked. I think it is also a major reason why the American people simply say: Look, you had your shot. You said you knew how to run government. You said you knew how to grow the economy. You put these policies in place. Well, it hasn't worked.

When something doesn't work, you don't just keep perpetuating it—which is what I think the election is all about, frankly—you turn to other policies that worked successfully before.

I want to name three things that I think should substantially improve the

growth of the economy in the United States.

Clearly, taxes are too complex, regulations are tying the hands of job creators, and the ever-growing Federal debt is crowding out private sector investment. All these are facts.

So it is time to change this truth, take a long-term look at why the Obama administration policies have failed, and employ new policies. Let me outline three new policies.

First, our broken Tax Code is punishing job creators.

We have the highest combined corporate tax rate in the developed world—all of our competitors have a much lower corporate tax rate than we do—and that puts us at a disadvantage. Of course that is why we have an imbalance in our trade accounts. Small business owners face mind-numbing complexity in rates as high as 44.3 percent due to Obama tax increases.

Reducing business tax rates, both large and small, and simplifying the 74,000 pages in the Internal Revenue Code—the Tax law—will help American companies retain their competitive edge in the face of globalization so that we can expand and create new jobs. We have been talking about this for years. It hasn't happened. Tax reform is absolutely necessary to get our economy growing again.

Secondly, policymakers in the administration need to streamline and reduce burdensome regulations that are holding our economy down.

The Obama administration continues to issue regulations at a record-setting pace. This flood of redtape wastes time and resources, stifles jobs and new business startups, and dampens economic growth. The businesses I visit in Indiana have story after story saying: We are swamped with regulations. Instead of producing or selling our product, we are filling out paperwork and sending it to Washington, going through months and months of waiting for approval of this, that, or whatever.

Regulatory reform is absolutely essential if we are going to get our economy to grow.

Third and last of the three major issues: Growing Federal debt is crowding out the private sector.

Over the years, as I have said, President Obama has nearly doubled our national debt, racking up more debt in the 8 years of this administration than in all previous years of every President who preceded this 44th President. Think about that. The amount of debt we have incurred under this President exceeds all of the other debt since the beginning of this country under 43 previous Presidents.

When we put these three together, I believe that is the direction in which we need to go. Hopefully, as we are closing out this administration, that is the direction we will be able to take to get our people back to work, get our

economy growing again, and make America great again.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PREScription DRUG OVERDOSES

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, we have come to a crisis point in our country, and I speak about this on a weekly basis. It is drug overdose, legal prescription drug overdose. When I talk about legal prescription drug overdose, these are well-noted, good pharmaceutical companies that make a lot of products that save people's lives and help them immensely. It is done with the approval of the Food and Drug Administration, and then it is administered and basically recommended by the most trusted person next to your most trusted family members—your doctor. Then we look around and we have a product on the market that basically is killing Americans every day.

In West Virginia, drug overdose deaths have soared by more than 700 percent since 1999. We lost 600 West Virginians to opiates last year alone—more than any other form that has terminated people's lives in that State. Of the 628 drug overdose deaths in the State in 2014, most were linked to prescription drugs; 199 were OxyContin related, while 133 were attributed to hydrocodone. West Virginia had the highest rate of prescription drug overdose deaths by any State last year—31 per every 100,000 citizens. The next closest State was New Mexico, with 25 deaths per 100,000.

In West Virginia, providers wrote 138 painkiller prescriptions for every 100 people. I want to repeat that. The providers, our doctors, wrote 138 painkiller prescriptions for every 100 people. That doesn't even sound feasible. It doesn't even sound right. It is the highest rate in the country.

Between 2007 and 2012, drug wholesalers shipped more than 200 million pain pills to West Virginia. My State has a population of a little less than 1,850,000. So we have about 1,800,000 people and prescription drug wholesalers shipped more than 200 million pain pills to my State. Think about that—200 million pain pills and we have fewer than 2 million people. Unbelievable. That is 40 million per year. And this number doesn't include shipments from the two largest drug wholesalers, so it is even higher than that.

Every day in our country, 51 Americans die from opioid abuse. People are dying as we speak. Here are the national drug abuse facts:

Drug overdose was the leading cause of injury and deaths in 2013. Among

people 25 to 64 years old, drug overdose caused more deaths than motor vehicle crashes.

There were 41,982 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2013. Of those, 22,767—or almost 52 percent—were related to prescription drugs.

Drug misuse and abuse caused about 2.5 million emergency department visits in 2011. Of those, more than 1.4 million were related to prescription drugs. Among those emergency visits, 420,000 were related to opiate analgesics.

Nearly 2 million Americans ages 12 or older either abused or were dependent on opiates in 2013, and on top of that, they are recommending giving hydrocodone to children as young as 12 years of age.

Of the 2.8 million people who used an illicit drug for the first time in 2013, 20 percent began with the nonmedical use of prescription drugs, including pain relievers, tranquilizers, and stimulants.

The United States makes up only 4.6 percent of the world population. With over 7 billion people who live in the world, we have about 320, 330 million people, so that is a little less than 5 percent. Yet we consume 80 percent of the opiates. This Nation, which is less than 5 percent of the world's population, consumes over 80 percent of all the opiates that are produced and consumed in the world—how did we become so addicted?—and 99 percent of the world's hydrocodone, which is Vicodin. Opiate abuse has jumped 287 percent in 11 years. We are not very pain-tolerant anymore.

In 2012, health care providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for painkillers—enough for every American to have a bottle of pills.

Misuse and abuse of prescription drugs cost the country an estimated \$53.5 billion per year in lost productivity, medical costs, and criminal justice costs. Ask any law enforcement—town, county, or State police—and they will tell you that 80 to 90 percent of all the calls they go on are related to some kind of drug use or abuse.

Since 1999, we have lost almost 200,000 Americans. If that is not an epidemic, I don't know what is. And why we are not up in arms—everybody in this country—fighting this epidemic is beyond me. I have always said this is a silent killer. It doesn't matter whether you are Democratic or Republican. This is not a partisan killer. Whether you are a liberal or a conservative, whatever your religious beliefs, whatever your race is, this one has no home. This goes after everybody. But it is a silent killer because we keep our mouths closed because we don't want to admit to anybody outside of our family that we have a problem. My son has a problem. My daughter has a problem. My niece or my nephew, my mom or my dad, my uncle or my aunt has a problem. We think we will keep that

in. We won't talk about it. Well, we don't talk about it, and it continues to grow and grow.

We have a lot of bills in the hopper right now.

The LifeBOAT Act. If I hear 1 time a day, I hear 10 times a day: There is no place to get treatment. I want my child to get treatment. I want my parents to get treatment. There is no place to send them.

I have said we need to do something about that. We need to get a permanent funding stream. So I have introduced a bill that says that one penny for every milligram of opioids that is produced in the United States of America will go to a treatment plan. That means every part of the country that has been affected will be able to get treatment. They will have a funding mechanism.

Some people say: Well, that is a tax. We don't want to put a tax on it.

Well, I am sorry, we do it on cigarettes and we do it on alcohol. We know this is killing people all over the country. No State is immune. Yet we are afraid to move forward.

I am hoping we can come together as a body and find a pathway forward so that we can treat addiction as the illness that it is and try to get people back into productive lives and, most importantly, save their lives. This would be one way to do it and do it in a way that we can all look at ourselves and look at what we have done for our constituents and say: We helped you.

The Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescription Act. This bill would decouple hospital and physician payments. Right now, if an addict comes in and they don't get what they want, they will report you for bad service. They will report a doctor and they will report a hospital or a clinic, and that basically determines the type of reimbursement they get from Medicaid or Medicare. That is ridiculous. If addicts don't get what they want, they are going to be mad at everybody. So we need to change that.

The Changing the Culture of the FDA Act. The FDA should not be putting products on the market that we know are going to alter your life or alter the community or destroy your life. They are there to protect us. If they give a stamp of approval, it should be done because it is a product that we know will not deteriorate or destroy our lives.

The FDA Accountability for Public Safety Act will require the FDA to seek advice. I will give a perfect example. They continue to put opioids on the market every day. There are people who are applying to put more products on the market. We don't need any more products. We have enough painkillers, and we are consuming 80 percent of the world production now. How many more do we need? They come out with tougher and stronger products. I can't even

understand why they do it, but they say it is needed for different purposes. And then what happens on top of that is that it is against the advice of their own advisory committee. The experts in their field are saying: Don't put this product on the market, but they do it anyway. We are saying: Stop that practice. And they will not be able to do that anymore if we pass this piece of legislation.

My good friend from Louisiana, who is a doctor, understands Jessie's Law. Jessie's Law basically would say this: If you have a member of your family—a child, and you are the guardian or the parent and you go to the hospital, both the child who is trying to recover from an addiction and the parents sign that this child has an addiction and this child is in recovery right now, so be very careful what you administer. Red flag that. Make sure—the same as if they were allergic to penicillin—that everyone who handles their chart knows.

A young girl named Jessie Grubb in my State of West Virginia died because the discharging physician was not made aware of her condition and prescribed 50 oxycodone. She used 10 of them, and she was dead at 1 o'clock in the morning, the same day she got discharged. This can be prevented. This piece of legislation should have been passed, and I am hoping we can come to grips with that.

I am going to read one letter, if the Senator from Louisiana will indulge me, my good friend and colleague from Louisiana. I am going to read the obituary of Emmett Scannell. This obituary was written by Emmett Scannell's father. No father should ever have to write his own child's obituary.

I have spoken with Mr. Scannell. He has given me permission to share his son's story as part of his ongoing efforts to break down the stigma surrounding addiction. The first thing you break down is the silence. Parents are willing to speak out now. They want help. They want us to recognize that they need help, and we need laws to help protect them.

On April 20, 2016, our 20 year old son, Emmett J. Scannell, lost his battle to Substance Use Disorder and died due to a heroin overdose. Emmett had been in recovery and sober in Alcoholics Anonymous for 2 years when he went off to college in late August 2014. Within 6 weeks, heroin came into his and our lives, stole him from us, and Substance Use Disorder killed him in only 18 months.

Adored brother of Zachary Scannell and Alice D'Arpino of Mansfield. Beloved son of Aimee Manzoni-D'Arpino (and her husband John A. Manzoni-D'Arpino) of Mansfield and William E. Scannell (and his life partner, Brenda Rose) of Bridgewater; Nephew of Paula Mountain and Brian Mountain of Raynham and Brian Scannell of Raynham; grandson of Peter and Patricia Campos Manzoni of Easton and Paul Scannell and Nora Scannell, both of Raynham; loving

cousin of Josie Mountain, Scott Mountain, and Carley Scannell, all of Raynham.

Emmett was a National Honor Society student who graduated from Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School in May 2014. Unfortunately he is not the first member of his class to die from Substance Use Disorder. Emmett was a sophomore at Worcester State University, where he was studying computer science on a full academic scholarship. But most recently he had, and died from, Substance Use Disorder.

Emmett was a caring, funny, smart young man with the potential for greatness. He loved his brother and sister, biking and snowmobiling and had a smile and charm that could light up a room, but it won't ever again because he had and died from Substance Use Disorder.

You see, Substance Use Disorder is not something to be ashamed of or hidden. It is a DISEASE that has to be brought out into the light and fought by everyone. It continues to cut down our loved ones every day. Please do whatever you can to fight it so that you never have to feel what every one of us who has lost a loved one is feeling right now. We all thank you for your condolences and prayers and ask that you continue to pray for Emmett's soul and our family. . . . Please come to the church where he and his Dad attended their 12-Step Recovery Program together and enjoyed the best years of their lives together. . . . Our family cannot begin to express how much the outpouring of love and support we have received means to us. Knowing our son was loved by so many simply means the world to us!

No parent should ever have to write their child's obituary, especially when it was preventable.

We have to come to grips with this as a society. We are losing a generation. We are losing a generation that could be helping us economically, that could be helping us find new cures for diseases, that could be helping us in maintaining the superpower of the world and the world order.

I look at this, and every day people are pleading for help. They need help.

I ask all of you to pray for Emmett and his family, but also, if you have a problem in your family, speak out about it. Let's get the help that is needed. We have professionals who want to help. As a body, let's do the right thing and find a funding source so that we can put the clinics and the treatment centers around the country that are needed.

In the State of West Virginia, my colleague Senator CAPITO knows very well that we have a challenge and we have a problem and we have a killer, and we are going to stop it, rid it, and wipe it out.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have spoken on the floor twice now to tell the stories of the devastation caused by the great flood of 2016 and the depth of need the families of Louisiana have.

Since I last spoke, about 10,000 more people have applied for individual assistance through FEMA, and now about 150,000 folks in Louisiana have applied

for individual assistance. This is a serious, immediate issue, and we need help for those who are in great need.

In all of the debate back and forth, some people have forgotten or never realized how massive this disaster was—an unprecedented event. The National Weather Service deemed this as a once-in-a-thousand-years event. Twenty parishes have been declared disaster areas. In the city of Denham Springs, 90 percent of homes flooded, and in about half of the structures flooded, it will cost owners over 50 percent of the value of the building to repair. Ninety percent of the housing stock in this town has been flooded.

According to the estimates by the Advocate newspaper—the paper in the Baton Rouge area—as many as 12,000 Baton Rouge area businesses flooded. The National Flood Insurance Program has found that when businesses floods, as much as 40 percent of them never reopen. For a small business to reopen their doors, there is great cost, and this can prove too great to rebuild. The consequence of this is to the owner of the business, but it is perhaps felt more greatly by the employees—and their families—who lose their jobs.

This flooding caused \$8.7 billion in damage. If you take out hurricanes, this has been the most expensive natural disaster to happen in the United States in the last 100 years. Let me repeat that. Take out Sandy and Katrina, and we have the most expensive natural disaster in the last 100 years—\$8.7 billion.

No one was prepared, and it is not their fault. Less than a quarter of the population had flood insurance because the flood occurred in areas more than 50 feet above sea level. One fellow who called me lives 7 miles from the river, and he got 4 feet of water. He did not expect to have a flood and was not required to have flood insurance. Why would you when you are 7 miles away from the river?

Thousands of families were completely caught off guard by a thousand-year flood and are now struggling to pick up the pieces. They need our help. They are trying to make a decision whether to rebuild or just move on: We can't afford to repair our house. We owe more than it is worth. Let's just walk away from our mortgage, buy a trailer, and hopefully be able to do something different in the future.

Here are a couple of examples of families affected. This is a street. This is not a lake; this is a street. This is a family being evacuated by volunteers. The water was too deep for them to get out. You can imagine, if this is on the street, it is also in the house. And that which most people keep—wedding dresses, picture albums, toys, clothes—is flooded too. When the water recedes and the water goes out of the house, also what goes out are these heirlooms, picture albums, clothes, and piles of debris on the side of the road.

Let me also remind you of Dorothy Brooks. She is 78 years old. In this picture, she was being rescued out of 3 feet of water. You can see the water here next to the deputy's leggings. This is in Tangipahoa Parish, and this is Sergeant Thomas Wheeler. Dorothy relies on a wheelchair. As you might guess, she could not evacuate, nor could she prepare for the flooding.

Dorothy is not the only person who is handicapped or who is a senior citizen who was affected. At their age, they have been unable to evacuate but also unable to carry out the repairs once the floodwaters recede. One example of this is Roy and Vera Rodney—both in their eighties—who had 4 inches of water in their house. It was not a whole lot, but 4 inches. The FEMA inspector told them their home was habitable, so they were denied repairs and rental assistance. Being in their eighties and having no family in town, they couldn't gut and repair their home on their own. The water sat, and there was damage to the carpet. Their belongings sat. Mold came in, mold spread, and now their house is too unhealthy to live in. They have evacuated to family who live far away, and while there, they are not available to let volunteers come in to gut their house. In the weeks that they have been forced to wait, the house has remained ungutted and mold has continued to spread. Because they could not get their aid in time, the cost of recovery has grown.

The Rodney story is the story of the whole region. Dollars to help that come sooner will have a greater impact than the same amount of money that comes later. Again, if the Rodneys had been able to take out 4 inches of wet baseboard, furniture, carpet, wood flooring, their home would have dried and they would have rebuilt. Because they could not, mold spread, the damage increased, and now the whole house has to be remediated. The same amount of money sooner has a greater impact than later. That is the story of us seeking funding for Louisiana in the CR.

Helping each other is a fundamental American value. I ask all my colleagues to support this continuing resolution with the money for disaster relief for families—not just in Louisiana but also in Louisiana—who have been faced with natural disasters, to help families like these who have lost everything put their lives back together. Let's do what is right and pass this legislation so we can help relieve these flood victims.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for all the hard work he has done to try and make sure those folks he talked about, and those tragedies he has brought to light for all us, are getting the best assistance they deserve.

I think every State, whether it is Louisiana, West Virginia, Georgia, or wherever we live, we are all subjected to a national emergency at some point. It could be a flood, fire, large snowstorm, windstorm, or tornado—any of these events could happen to any of us. That is why I have always, through the course of my legislative career, looked favorably to try and help particular areas of this country that need extra assistance. Senator CASSIDY has been particularly effective here, and it has been my pleasure to work with him and others on this subject.

I have already talked on this topic earlier in the week. We are close to having a vote on this legislation, and hopefully it will pass so we can bring badly needed relief not only to Louisiana, West Virginia, and other places but to also have the funding that will carry us through December.

I am a member of the Appropriations Committee, and the Senator from Louisiana is a member as well. I think we are both frustrated that we are at a point where we have a continuing resolution after passing our appropriations bill out of the Appropriations Committee in a bipartisan way. I think we worked well together to provide the greatest impact and voice on individual bills, but unfortunately that process broke down. We are where we are, and in between the time of those appropriations bills, West Virginia suffered one of the worst floods we have seen.

A State like West Virginia has small communities, such as Clendenin, Rainelle, Richwood, and Clay. These are small towns much like every small town in America, and there are people who are still not able to get back into their homes and water systems that have not been running since June. Banks of creeks and water systems are still in disrepair.

In order for folks to get their needed assistance, we need to pass this continuing resolution. Our Governor has identified 310 million additional dollars through the Federal Community Development Block Grant Program, and an overwhelming amount of this—90 percent of the homes that have now been impacted—was not covered by flood insurance. The \$310 million, which the State has identified as a real need, was supposed to go to putting folks back in their homes, new homes, and homes that any one of us would want to live in, but unfortunately they were not able to do that.

More than 5,000 homes in the State of West Virginia were identified as a loss. Twenty-three people lost their lives in the flood because it came so suddenly. West Virginia has beautiful hills, but we also have some valleys as well. When the water rushes, it rushes fast and quickly fills those valleys, and unfortunately some of the families had

very tragic circumstances. Many families, thousands of them, lost everything. Small businesses are unsure if they can rebuild and workers don't know if they still jobs. I know the town of Clendenin—19 miles from where I live in Charleston—has a very uncertain future, and that is why it is very important that we get this downpayment of emergency relief for our State and States like Louisiana and Texas. We are going to work together to make sure we can secure additional funding, if that is what our Governors—and I think both of our Governors have identified additional problems.

I thank the leader, Senator McCONNELL. I think this has been a week of pushes and pulls and ups and downs. I think he was very skillful by working with the Democratic leader and the leaders over in the House, and we now have a good pathway forward. I wish to express my appreciation to him for his leadership and his ability to, I think, find an answer to some very difficult questions.

I also thank our Appropriations chair, Senator COCHRAN, for his work on this bill.

I wish to speak about Flint, MI, for a few minutes. Nearly 7 months ago, I was one of the very first cosponsors of the bipartisan legislation that Senator STABENOW introduced, along with Chairman INHOFE and Ranking Member BOXER, that would direct resources to address the serious water problem in Flint. I strongly supported the inclusion of the Flint provisions in the Water Resources Development Act, as did many of us, and the vote was 95 to 3, 2 weeks ago.

I know the leadership is committed to taking final action to help Flint later in the year, and I wholeheartedly support that. Unfortunately, West Virginia had a water crisis, too, and although the impact we had was different than what we saw in Flint, we know how devastating it is for businesses and residents to not have clean drinking water. This also has critical funding for our veterans and the opioid and heroin crisis we see sweeping across the country.

I see my colleague from Maryland is here. Her State has also had some flooding as well. We are right next door to one another, and I thank the Senator for her leadership.

With that, I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise in support of voting for the continuing resolution. Over the last several days, there have been votes I have had to oppose, but I think we have arrived at a place where both sides of the aisle can support this continuing resolution. Is it perfect? No. Is it acceptable? Yes. Is it necessary? Absolutely.

The first thing we need to do is make sure we do not have a government

shutdown or a government slamdown. Those wonderful men and women who work for the Federal Government, those who are keeping our Social Security offices open, those who serve our veterans, and those who are working at NIH right this minute on a cure for cancer or helping people with Alzheimer's need to know we are not going to play partisan politics with last-minute dramatic efforts to get one party or the other to stare each other down.

This continuing resolution, which will be before our colleagues shortly, meets three goals that we Democrats have laid out. No. 1, it keeps the government open through December 9 so we can finish the work on government spending and what they call an omnibus bill, meaning all of the subcommittees that would fund the U.S. Government; No. 2, that we do it in a way that abides by the balanced budget agreement of 2015; No. 3, ensure that it does not contain draconian poison pill riders, which is true with one regrettable exception, the SEC political disclosure rider, which is where we tell corporations that if they give money to political parties, they need to disclose it.

The bill does do important things. First of all, it fights Zika with \$1.1 billion worth of emergency funding without objectionable riders restricting funding. It also contains funding for our veterans so they get the health care they deserve and have earned so we can shrink the disability backlog and that we don't leave the veterans stranded while waiting to see a doctor.

I wish to compliment those who worked on that particular funding. I also want to say it does contain disaster relief for flooded communities like Louisiana and West Virginia, but the bill does not respond to the compelling needs in Flint, MI. However, we do have leadership on both sides of the aisle and both sides of the dome pledging to get money to Flint during the lame-duck session.

I commend Senators STABENOW and PETERS for their advocacy—those of the Senators from Michigan—for their constituents. There are still 100,000 people in Flint, MI, waiting for their water pipes to be clean and safe. Small business owners are trying to keep their doors open, and mothers are worried about whether their children will suffer any cognitive damage as well as slow growth and development in the future due to the lead in their water.

When we were fighting for Flint, we were fighting for the 100,000 people who needed to be able to count on their government so we could get the lead out of what we do and get the lead out of their waters. We were disappointed about Flint, but we do know it contains an approach that is acceptable to the Senators and the Members from Michigan.

This bill includes \$1 billion for Zika funding that I talked about, and it also

funds money for our veterans. I could elaborate on this more, but what I want to say is this. Through a conversation that was arrived at by talking across both sides of the aisle, we were able to get through this legislation.

I thank the Republican leader, Senator McCONNELL, for his work and talking with me as well as working with our leadership to achieve a bill I think we can support. We want to make sure we finish the job today so we can keep the government open and that we pass the omnibus in December, among the other bills we are going to be dealing with, which will be very important, and I will have more to say about it. What I am saying now, to my side of the aisle, is that this is an acceptable compromise. It might not be the most desirable, and we could continue to debate and dispute that, but it is acceptable.

I urge my colleagues to vote for the bill, and I look forward to keeping our government open and working on the final product of an omnibus bill with my chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the Senator from Mississippi, who again wants to achieve compromise and do it in a way that is civil.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 5082 to H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Roger F. Wicker, Thom Tillis, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 5082, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. McCONNELL, to H.R. 5325, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote "yea".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Durbin	Murphy
Ayotte	Enzi	Murray
Baldwin	Ernst	Nelson
Barrasso	Feinstein	Portman
Bennet	Fischer	Reed
Blumenthal	Flake	Reid
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Gillibrand	Roberts
Boxer	Grassley	Rounds
Brown	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Heinrich	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Shaheen
Cardin	Isakson	Shelby
Carper	Johnson	Sullivan
Casey	King	Tester
Cassidy	Kirk	Thune
Coats	Klobuchar	Tillis
Cochran	Leahy	Toomey
Collins	Manchin	Udall
Coons	McCain	Vitter
Corker	McCaskill	Warner
Cornyn	McConnell	Whitehouse
Cotton	Mikulski	Wicker
Crapo	Moran	Wyden
Donnelly	Murkowski	

NAYS—21

Booker	Inhofe	Perdue
Cruz	Lankford	Peters
Daines	Lee	Sasse
Franken	Markey	Scott
Graham	Menendez	Sessions
Heitkamp	Merkley	Stabenow
Heller	Paul	Warren

NOT VOTING—2

Kaine	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 21.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion, upon consideration, is agreed to.

Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls.

The majority leader.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 5083 AND 5085 WITHDRAWN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw amendments Nos. 5083 and 5085.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 5082

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to vitiate the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 5082.

The amendment (No. 5082) was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5325.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5325.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, Thad Cochran, John Cornyn, Daniel Coats, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, John Barrasso, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Susan M. Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Steve Daines, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 5325, an act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close, upon reconsideration?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote yea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 21, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 150 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Alexander	Durbin	Murphy
Ayotte	Enzi	Murray
Baldwin	Ernst	Nelson
Barrasso	Feinstein	Portman
Bennet	Fischer	Reed
Blumenthal	Flake	Reid
Blunt	Gardner	Risch
Boozman	Gillibrand	Roberts
Boxer	Grassley	Rounds
Brown	Hatch	Rubio
Burr	Heinrich	Schatz
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Shaheen
Cardin	Isakson	Shelby
Carper	Johnson	Sullivan
Casey	King	Tester
Cassidy	Kirk	Thune
Coats	Klobuchar	Tillis
Cochran	Leahy	Toomey
Collins	Manchin	Udall
Coons	McCain	Vitter
Corker	McCaskill	Warner
Cornyn	McConnell	Whitehouse
Cotton	Mikulski	Wicker
Crapo	Moran	Wyden
Donnelly	Murkowski	

NAYS—21

Booker	Inhofe	Perdue
Cruz	Lankford	Peters
Daines	Lee	Sasse
Franken	Markey	Scott
Graham	Menendez	Sessions
Heitkamp	Merkley	Stabenow
Heller	Paul	Warren

NOT VOTING—2

Kaine	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 77, the nays are 21.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion, upon reconsideration, is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on H.R. 5325.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the measure?

If not, the question is on the engrossment of the amendment and third reading of the bill.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, shall the bill pass?

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) would vote yea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 72, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 151 Leg.]

YEAS—72

Alexander	Daines	Moran
Ayotte	Donnelly	Murkowski
Baldwin	Durbin	Murphy
Barrasso	Enzi	Murray
Bennet	Ernst	Nelson
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Portman
Blunt	Fischer	Reed
Boozman	Gardner	Reid
Boxer	Gillibrand	Roberts
Brown	Grassley	Rounds
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Cantwell	Heinrich	Schatz
Capito	Hirono	Schumer
Cardin	Hoeben	Shaheen
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Casey	Johnson	Sullivan
Cassidy	King	Tester
Coats	Kirk	Thune
Cochran	Klobuchar	Tillis
Collins	Manchin	Toomey
Coons	McCain	Udall
Cornyn	McCaskill	Vitter
Cotton	McConnell	Warner
Crapo	Mikulski	Wicker

NAYS—26

Booker	Leahy	Scott
Corker	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	Markey	Stabenow
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Graham	Paul	Wyden
Heitkamp	Perdue	
Heller	Peters	
Inhofe	Risch	
Lankford	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—2

Kaine	Sanders
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The bill (H.R. 5325), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1053, the nomination of John Mark McWatters, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank; that the Senate proceed to its consideration and vote without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SHELBY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SHOOTING ONE YEAR LATER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator MERKLEY and Senator PETERS for their courtesy to speak for a few minutes.

In a few days, it will be exactly 1 year since the tragic shooting that took nine innocent lives and left nine more injured at Umpqua Community College, outside of Roseburg, OR. Senator MERKLEY and I will be there in a few days. We understand that for the families and the friends of those lost or injured—the students, faculty, and staff—this time is going to be a painful reminder of an extraordinarily difficult day.

Senator MERKLEY and I are so proud of that community. We call it “UCC Strong.” Yet we want to remember those individuals whose lives were ripped away that day and all in the community who have been suffering. Oregonians everywhere have had these victims and their families in their thoughts, and those thoughts are going to be uppermost throughout Oregon in the days ahead.

Senator MERKLEY and I have spent a lot of time in Roseburg over the last few months. Folks there will tell you they do all they can to go forward, but the trauma doesn’t really disappear. Whether it is a walk past Snyder Hall or the sight of a student running on campus, the painful memories just keep rushing back.

As the school presses on, there are a lot of exciting developments on the campus. There is a new college president hard at work. The school just opened its doors to the new Bonnie J. Ford Health, Nursing, and Science Center, with state-of-the-art classrooms. Extraordinary resilience is being seen at UCC and Roseburg, but this is going to be a very difficult few days as we reflect on this horrendous shooting. Of course, the sad reality is that the shooting takes place on a long list of such shootings—horrible mass shootings targeting the innocent. Families and across the country scarred by the shootings share a sorrowful bond.

I know that Roseburg and the movement we know as UCC Strong and the whole State of Oregon have come together over this last year to support the families, the victims, and those who were injured. Over the next few days, Senator MERKLEY and I are going to dedicate and redouble our efforts to do all that we possibly can to reach out again to folks in Roseburg and be supportive and do everything we can as Senators, honored to represent Oregon in the U.S. Senate, to prevent more shootings such as the horrible one that took place at UCC in Oregon.

I yield the floor to my colleague Senator MERKLEY.

I very much appreciate the chance to work with him and our delegation on this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I join with my friend and colleague, Senator WYDEN, to recognize the somber anniversary of the tragedy that struck our home State of Oregon a year ago. On October 1, 2015, the town of Roseburg was changed forever.

Roseburg is a quiet, beautiful, small town, like so many others across our Nation. I spent part of my childhood in Roseburg. I was there as a toddler, in kindergarten and first grade. That is where I learned to swim, in the Umpqua River. It is a place where I find it hard to imagine anything terrible happening.

Community members are so supportive of each other, but something terrible did happen that beautiful autumn day of October 1, when the lives of 9 Oregonians—students and teachers—at Umpqua Community College were tragically cut short by the actions of a crazed gunman. Nine incredible, innocent people were taken from us in the blink of an eye.

I want to take a moment to share the names of those nine victims and to say a few words about each of them.

There is 19-year-old Lucero Alcaraz, who was a freshman who had graduated from Roseburg High School. She wanted to become a pediatric nurse and to help care for the most vulnerable of our citizens.

Quinn Cooper was a member of the Cow Creek Band of Indians who graduated with Lucero from Roseburg High School. That fateful October day was only his fourth day of college. He loved dancing and voice acting. He loved martial arts and was just a few days away from taking his brown belt test.

Lucas Eibel graduated from Roseburg High School. Lucas was studying chemistry. He loved soccer. He loved animals. He spent his time out of school volunteering at the Wildlife Safari animal park, as well as at a local animal shelter.

There is 20-year-old Treven Anspach. His parents called him the perfect son, who was, in their words, larger than life and brought out the best in those around him. He was a talented athlete who also loved working with the Douglas County Fire District.

Kim Dietz loved the outdoors, her husband Eric, their daughter Shannon, and their two Great Pyrenees dogs. She would carpool with Shannon every morning and worked alongside her husband for many years as a caretaker at the Pyrenees Vineyards in Myrtle Creek.

Jason Johnson. Jason had been facing substantial challenges, as so many others have, but he was proud to have taken control and turned his life

around. After completing a 6-month rehab program with the Salvation Army, Jason decided he wanted to go back to school and continue his education. Jason's mother said: "He finally found his path."

Sarena Moore. Sarena came from my hometown of Myrtle Creek. She was in her third semester at UCC studying business. She was an active member of the Grants Pass Seventh-day Adventist Church and the proud mother of two adult sons.

Lawrence Levine was an English professor at UCC who loved the blues, and he loved fly fishing. He was a quiet, laidback guy who loved teaching, but his true passion lay in writing novels, though tragically his life was cut short before he could publish his work.

Rebecka Ann Carnes. She was my first cousin's great-granddaughter. She was an 18-year-old graduate of South Umpqua High School. She was an avid hunter and loved four-wheeling.

Rebecka was a beautiful spirit. She was excited for college and excited to get out and explore the world. In a picture she posted online, you can see that she had written on her high school graduation cap, which she was holding in front of her, "and so the adventure begins." She was ready for the adventure of a life to come, but it was an adventure that was cut short in a hail of bullets.

Though the persistence of time may force us to move forward, we must never forget these beautiful members of the community or forget the tragedy that took their lives. Their families, the Roseburg community, the Douglas County community, and the entire State of Oregon continues to mourn their loss.

There is an Irish saying which goes: "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal." Our hearts continue to ache for these nine wonderful individuals who were taken from us far too soon. In the aftermath of this tragedy, the fabric of the Roseburg community and greater Douglas County community has only grown stronger. The community has rallied together through the UCC Strong Fund to support the families of those who died, to give aid to those who survived, to make Umpqua Community College an even greater asset to the community than it was a year ago, and to celebrate the lives of these nine men and women and ensure that their memories continue to live on.

This Saturday, another autumn October 1, the community will come together and walk together to mourn, remember, and support the families of those lost, embrace and help heal those who were injured and those who were traumatized, and continue to rebuild the community. As they come together on Saturday morning, all of Oregon will come together with them by holding them in our thoughts, our hearts,

our prayers, and mourning with them. We will be remembering, supporting, embracing them, and partnering with the amazing Umpqua Strong community.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

FUNDING FOR FLINT, MICHIGAN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to thank my colleagues for their ongoing support and patience as we continue to fight to deliver Federal support for Flint families. With an agreement earlier today to take up a bipartisan House amendment to the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, we have taken another step forward to finally put Flint on the road to recovery.

Just a few days ago, we still had some Members in Congress who were refusing to allow even a vote to provide any assistance to the families in Flint, but with this agreement, we now have a commitment from the House leadership to move forward in helping Flint families. While I am pleased with this development, I remain disappointed that the passage of today's continuing resolution will not deliver Federal funding to Flint residents.

To be clear, I strongly support continuing to fund the government, and I believe there are many good policies in the CR. It contains resources to address the spread of the Zika virus and disaster relief for flood victims, both of which I support a great deal. In fact, we know the threat Zika poses to our Nation's public health, and it is critical that we have finally passed funding to accelerate vaccine development, prevent Zika transmission, and boost public health efforts to the impacted communities. In addition to addressing these emergencies, I also support the inclusion of legislation to fully fund military construction and the VA for the coming year.

As a former lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, I support investments in VA programs, military personnel, and family housing for our servicemembers. This critical funding will also address disability claims processing, the health care needs of female veterans, and the urgent need to modernize the VA's information technology systems. Inclusion of veterans funding and resources to fight Zika had broad bipartisan agreement, but I think it is important to know the Senate also reached consensus on providing much needed relief to the victims in Flint by passing a WRDA bill earlier with 95 votes, but these fully paid-for Flint resources were put on hold while disaster relief for flood victims in Louisiana was included in the CR. I support helping the people of Louisiana, but I also strongly believe we should not be in a

position where we pick some States to help and not others. Everybody, no matter who they are or where they live, if they are facing a crisis, if the U.S. Congress is going to help those in need, we need to help everyone regardless of where they live. Americans are Americans regardless of the State in which they reside; therefore, I could not support a government spending bill that will once again force the citizens of Flint to wait for the help they so desperately need.

It is simply unacceptable that a bipartisan, fully offset Flint aid package was left out of the CR. There is no excuse whatsoever for leaving the people of Flint behind. It has been a year since the first public health emergency declaration was made in Flint and over 8 months since a national emergency was declared. Yet almost 100,000 residents of Flint still do not have a reliable source of safe water. They are still using bottled water to drink, cook, and bathe.

I deeply appreciate the progress we have made so far, but Flint families should not have to wait any longer. When a disaster strikes in this country, we pull together to help each other out. We should do that for all communities. We shouldn't tell people who have waited so long—yet we are telling them—to get to the back of the line. This is why I cannot support this bill which prioritizes one State's emergency over another.

We should do right by the people of Flint as well as the victims of flooding, Zika, and other national emergencies.

Over the coming weeks, I will be working to ensure that we follow through on the promises that were made to the people of Flint this week in both Chambers of Congress. We must send a bill to the President that will help the people of Flint continue to replace their damaged pipes so they can turn their faucets on and have clean, safe water flowing from their taps once again. I certainly hope and expect that my colleagues in both Chambers will not let the people of Flint down in their desperate time of need.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

(The remarks of Mr. COONS and Mr. BOOKER pertaining to the introduction of S. 3432 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OUR BUDGET PROCESS

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I rise today and ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with my Republican colleagues up through the next hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I believe what we are going to talk about over the next hour is one of the most important issues facing our government.

We sat here today and listened to a lot of very valid pleas for help from the Federal Government. The reality is, we don't have the money. There are four words I have not heard in the U.S. Senate or Congress, actually, since I have been here over the last year and a half, and those words are "We cannot afford it."

The problem is that right now we have a budget crisis. We have a debt crisis. Let me say this: Fixing the budget process will not solve the debt crisis. Let's be very clear about that. But we will not solve the debt crisis unless and until we address the dysfunction in our budget process.

The problem is that in the last 42 years, since the Budget Act of 1974, the budget process has only worked four times.

This chart explains this fact. We can see the yellow lines show that—and I hope my colleagues can focus on this—only four times in the last 42 years has this budget process that was enacted in 1974 actually functioned at all to fund the Federal Government.

One of the major responsibilities of our jobs here in the Senate and the House is to fund the Federal Government, to take care of discretionary needs such as those heard today from Flint, MI, Louisiana, West Virginia, and Maryland. These are valid needs, but every dime we spend in our discretionary spending is borrowed. I will talk more about that a little later. We have some speakers today who are going to talk about the results of not having a budget process that works.

This chart explains that over the last 42 years, since 1974, there were four times that the 13 appropriations bills actually got passed and we funded the government the way we are supposed to.

The blue lines are the actual appropriations bills. Since 1998—somewhere in there—we went from 13 bills to 12 bills that actually fund. These are appropriations bills that fund the Federal Government. They fund \$1.1 trillion of a \$3.9 trillion spend of the Federal Government.

This chart shows that over the life of this law—these are the laws, the appropriation bills that have been passed each year, and the average is the red line. The average over this period of time is 2.6 bills of the 12 or 13 bills that have to be passed to fund the government.

Over the last 19 consecutive years, we have used 107 continuing resolutions to get past the fiscal year to make sure we fund the government on the first day of the new fiscal year.

This is how serious this is. Next Monday is the first day of the next fiscal year, fiscal year 2017. We sitting here today are voting on the CR to get us past this day so the government doesn't have to shut down next week—those dreaded words of "irresponsibility" and "intransigence." Quite frankly, this is part of the problem because what happens is what happened last year.

The dysfunction in the system is centered around this: The budget is not a law, it is a resolution. That means that a majority, with 51 percent of the votes in this body, can pass a political statement. That is exactly what happened last year.

Let me say this before we go any further: Everything you hear today is nonpartisan. This should be about a nonpartisan exercise that we have in funding the government. Yes, we are going to have debates based on our partisanship and based on what our beliefs and principles are, but the basic process should be a politically neutral platform that allows us to argue our differences in the budget process, get to a budget, move to the appropriations, and fund the government by the end of the fiscal year, and we have only done that four times in the last 42 years.

The dysfunction is centered around this. If you look at this chart, every year we just don't have enough time, basically. And it is not just time, it is the process. The budget is based on a resolution, and 51 percent can vote for it. Last year, as an example, the majority—the Republican majority, by the way—voted a political bill that took \$7.5 trillion out of the President's budget over the next 10 years without one Democratic vote. Then we got to the authorization process—and the authorization process, by the way, is a law and they have to have 60 votes. So guess what. The people on the other side of the aisle, my friends, said: Well, you didn't ask our opinion in the budget process, why do you want our help now? So they don't let us get on the appropriations. We have some \$310 billion that we are funding today that is not authorized, over 256 agencies and programs.

The next thing is we go to appropriation. Again, the minority party can stop the process by not letting us get on the bills.

We have a situation right now—this is nonpartisan, but it is a reality. The Defense appropriations bill which funds our military was passed unanimously in committee, the way it was supposed to operate. Democrats and Republicans got together, worked it out, made amendments, and came up with a bill that funded our Federal Government's

military. Yet we tried six times to get it to the floor. There are political reasons why it hasn't gotten to the floor, but it shows the dysfunction we have in this process.

Mr. President, the time has come for us to address this process. I am so excited to have various Members of the freshman class here. We have the chairman of the Budget Committee coming down. We have some other senior Members who have been working on this for years.

I notice my good friend from the State of North Carolina, Senator THOM TILLIS, is here, and I will ask him to give us his perspective. There is a big military effort in their State, and Senator TILLIS has been a soldier in this, not only in the Senate but in his time as speaker of the house in North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. President.

I thank my colleague and friend from the great State of Georgia for taking a leadership position to really cleanse the dysfunction and the problems that are going on.

Mr. President, Senator PERDUE is only a 2-year politician. His tenure in the Senate is actually only 2 years. He has spent all of his time in business. He spent time in business, where you didn't keep your job if you couldn't balance your budget. You didn't keep your job if you couldn't make the difficult decisions year to year—making payroll, making strategic investments, and doing the kinds of things good business leaders do. That is what he has done all of his life. Now he finds himself in the U.S. Senate, where that is almost the exact opposite of what we do.

We just had passage of a continuing resolution today for a few weeks because we can't come to terms on long-term spending measures. Over a dozen bills passed out of appropriations with strong bipartisan support and within the constraints of the bipartisan budget, and now we can't get them passed. Why is that a problem? Because when you have the world's largest and most complex entity that has ever existed that can't figure out how much money it is going to spend or commit on more than about a 12-month cycle—and sometimes only a few months—how on Earth can you save money and make long-term investments?

We were in a committee hearing yesterday where we heard that right now it takes an average of 15 years from the concept of a new satellite to the time we are launching it into space. How on Earth can we make those long-term investments when we can't even be clear on what we are going to be spending money on but for every 12 months? This is a threat to our national security. This is a threat to our economic

security. This is a threat to the security of every man and woman in the United States because they can't rely on the government to provide businesses or individuals with any kind of certainty whatsoever.

It is tough to make budget decisions, but they need to be made. I know a little bit about this because I was speaker of the house in North Carolina in 2011. We had a budget crisis. We had a \$2.5 billion debt and 6 months to solve it. Unlike the Federal Government, where you can run up a deficit every year—it is now almost \$20 trillion—most States, with the exception of maybe one or two, have a constitutional obligation to balance the budget, so we did it.

What was the result of providing that long-term certainty? Living within our means and actually having a transparent and decisive budget process. We had one of the greatest economic turn-arounds in any State in the Nation in the last 5 years.

Being decisive and making the tough decisions accrues a benefit to the business community, accrues a benefit to every man and woman who lives in the United States, and it actually settles the global economic condition more than most people know.

At the end of the day, let's start doing our job. Let's not just create a budget like we did, a bipartisan budget, set it on the shelf, and then pass several appropriations bills and kill them on the floor. That is what is going on here, and I think my freshmen colleagues think it is time—there are a lot of people who put posters up here saying "Do your job," but they are failing to do their jobs by preventing us from doing one of the most important things we can do—make the tough, long-term fiscal decisions that are necessary for this great Nation.

I say to Senator PERDUE, thank you for allowing me to speak.

I thank Senator PERDUE for bringing up this very important subject. We need to stay in front of this and recognize that doing our job is tackling this budget crisis, tackling the uncertainty that we, by failing to do our jobs, are placing on every hard-working American and business in this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. PERDUE. I say to Senator TILLIS, thank you for coming to the floor and talking about this issue. With your experience in State government in North Carolina, you know that 44 States have a balanced budget law. Guess what States don't have a financial situation, a financial problem.

I thank the Senator for speaking.

I note that my colleague from Oklahoma, Senator LANKFORD, is on the floor.

He has been a warrior on this budget before when he was in the House and now in the Senate for the last 2 years. I welcome his comments to speak about this as well.

Senator LANKFORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, this is a long-term issue. This is not something new. I am amazed at the number of times I run into people in Oklahoma who say: Why can't we seem to get the budget done now? What has happened?

I have said: Let's back up for just a second. Since 1974 we have done a budget and done it correctly four times total. The Congressional Budget Act was created right after Watergate, in 1974, to try to create this more transparent process. What they created was a process so incredibly difficult to work with that it has worked four times since 1974. We have only had 2 years since 1974 when we haven't had a single CR. That is a continuing resolution. This body just passed another continuing resolution, meaning the appropriations process won't be done on time again this year. That was settled today.

The issues we face with budgeting are not new. It has been 20 years since we had no CR at all. This constant issue of putting the big budget issues off and trying to figure out how we are going to navigate through the Senate procedures and get the budget done has to stop. At some point we have to have a determination to say that we can't just keep saying: Next year this will improve; next year this will improve.

We are not going to get a better product until we get a better process. We have a very bad process right now, and we need to admit it is a bad process.

What I am proud of is that there are multiple Members of this body—from the leadership of the Budget Committee through the freshmen who are brandnew Senators—who are all focused on the same thing. Let's solve how we do budgeting and actually get to a better product by improving the process. What do we have? We have almost \$20 trillion in debt, and everyone argues about what we are going to do on a few things to try to do management, but no one is really talking about how we actually get us back to balance and paying off the debt.

It is a common conversation I have with people in Oklahoma.

This is a conversation where people say: Can we ever get this resolved? Is it too late?

On the whole, Americans believe nothing will get better in Washington, DC, dealing with the budget, and their question is this: When and how does it get better? I wish I could give them a lot of hope on that.

What I typically tell people is this: Let's just do a "for instance." Right now, let's take the balanced budget piece that we had and that we put out earlier this year. It actually took 10 years and chipped away at the deficit. In 10 years we chipped away at it and

got back to a balance where we had no deficit that year. It was balanced. Then let's say the next year we actually had a \$50 billion surplus. It would be a pretty good surplus. So we chip away and in 10 years get to balance. The next year we have a \$50 billion surplus.

Do you know how long it would take us to pay off our debt if we had a \$50 billion surplus? If we had a \$50 billion surplus every year for 460 years in a row, we would pay off our debt—460 years in a row of \$50 billion surpluses and we can get on top of this. Everyone says that is unreasonable. I would say it is certainly unreasonable if we don't change the way we do our process. It just continues to get worse.

There are some basic things we can do. We can do budgeting every 2 years. People may say: Well, how does that solve anything? Well, that is predictability and planning. It creates greater oversight.

Right now we do this every single year. In the speed of what has to be done, how it has to be done, there is very little oversight on our spending. We could actually put all the areas we have in spending—all accountable, every year.

Right now there is about 25 percent to 30 percent of our budget with the appropriations process that we actually focus on every year. The rest of it is on autopilot, and it is never touched.

Until we get everything in front of everybody every year to be able to look at it for oversight, we are not going to solve the big issues. We have to deal with what are called budget gimmicks.

I have been at war with a budget gimmick called CHIMPS. It is my favorite of the gimmicks. There are a lot of them out there. It stands for "changes in mandatory programs," or CHIMPS. The changes in mandatory programs is a budget gimmick out there that says we were planning to spend this much—when we really weren't, but on paper it said we were—and then instead we said: No, we are not going to spend that much this year so we will spend it on something else.

But guess what. The next year they come back to the exact same dollars again and say: No, we are planning this year to do it, but we are really not, and so we will spend it on something else.

It just adds debt every year. We will have billions of dollars of CHIMPS built into our budget and claim that the deficit is even lower than it is. It is not. It is just this budget gimmick, and in real dollars it makes it even bigger. We have to deal with those budget gimmicks in there and be able to take that away so that when the appropriations process is done you get real numbers. The hardest thing to get in DC is the real number. So you have to deal with all these gimmicks out there to remove those. You get a longer time period to be able to plan and create some certainty, but one of the key things we

have to have is an actual deadline. This town doesn't function on anything other than deadlines and pressure points. When it is time that it actually has to be resolved, we get it resolved. But if we don't have to resolve it right now, this town just says: Tomorrow. We will get it done next week. We will get it done next session.

The focus is how do we actually create those pressure points? How about a simple idea that says that if we don't get the budget done on time—the appropriations bills done on time—then it goes to an automatic CR so we don't have a government shutdown, because government shutdowns just waste money on the whole? It automatically kicks in to last year's budget amount. But here is what changes. All of the Members of Congress, our budget, our staff for how we function, our operating expenses, all of our committees, and the Executive Office of the White House—that is the three groups. From both the House and the Senate and the White House, all of our budgets drop immediately. Let's say 4 percent, 5 percent, 6 percent the first day and then it does that for 30 days. Then, if you still don't have the appropriations process, it cuts again another big percentage. It puts the pressure where the pressure needs to be. It is not the fault of the agencies or the American people that the job wasn't done. It lies squarely in the House, the Senate, the White House, and our negotiations for not getting it done on time.

It is a simple mechanism to say: If the task has not been done, put the pressure where the pressure needs to be—the cuts in the House, the Senate, and on the White House. Push all of us to the table and get it resolved.

The goal is to do appropriations in a transparent process so the American people can see how their money is being spent and to be able to do it wisely and to be able to create a process where you can actually solve the problem.

Currently, we don't have a process that solves the problem. This magically doesn't balance the budget. It still takes hard decisions, but it at least creates a format where we could solve the problem. Right now, we don't even have that.

In step one, like an AA group, let's at least admit there is a problem. There is a problem.

In step two, let's get to work on fixing it and actually resolve the process. Then let's actually get to work balancing this and paying off our debt.

I appreciate the opportunity to be able to talk about this issue.

Mr. PERDUE. I say thank you to Senator LANKFORD.

I think my colleagues can see the passion and history he has had here and a lot of great thoughts.

I note that the chairman of our Budget Committee in the Senate, Sen-

ator MIKE ENZI from Wyoming, is here on the floor. I am going to turn it over to him and ask him to give us his comments. He has been fighting this for years. As chairman of the Budget Committee last year, he managed to get a budget out of our committee that actually took over \$7 trillion out of the President's budget at that point in time.

I say to Senator ENZI, thank you so much for joining us.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his comments. I don't get invited many places to speak because I talk about what the Senator has been talking about. It depresses people, but it is about time we got depressed over the budget and made some changes. I appreciate everybody on the committee and those who are not on the committee who have been working to solve this problem. I know that most of you ran on getting a balanced budget, getting to a balanced budget, balancing it now if we could.

I get real frustrated because I know we are \$20 trillion in debt and heading to \$29 trillion. Then I hear people say: Yes, but we cut the deficit in half.

That is not the debt.

I don't like the word "deficit." I call it overspending. That is what we are doing.

We just got the report that we are going to be \$590 billion overspent this year. As Senator LANKFORD pointed out, 70 percent of the budget is on autopilot. So that 30 percent that we get to make a decision on is \$1,070 billion.

We have to worry a little bit because interest rates might go up. But on \$20 trillion, if it is 1 percent, that is \$200 billion a year that we are throwing into a rat hole. But if that goes to 5 percent, which is the norm for the Federal Government, we are out \$1,000 billion a year in interest.

Let's see. We get to make decisions on a \$1,070 billion and \$1,000 billion of that would go to interest. We better solve this pretty quick. I think we could be at 5 percent within 3 years. The defense is over \$500 billion, and that is not enough.

We definitely have a problem, as has been pointed out by the chart. In the 40 years since the Congressional Budget Act was passed, we have only completed all 13 bills four times. We have been holding hearings in the Budget Committee. This group of people have been holding other meetings to see how it is done in the private sector, how it is done by other countries, and how it is done by the States. Nobody does it like the Federal Government.

When I was trying to figure out first budgets, I found out the format we use is not the same as the one the Appropriations Committee uses and definitely not the same format the President uses. Then I found out that is intentional. That is so you cannot follow the dollars.

But there are a lot of problems besides that in following the dollars. For instance, we have 120 housing programs administered by 20 different agencies. That is not seven per agency or one having more than the others. That means that the 120 programs are administered by all 20 of the agencies. Nobody is in charge. There is no goal set. We don't know if they completed what they set out to do, and there is no way to make a correction if they did.

I pointed out a lot of times how far behind we are on actually approving the things that we do. We don't ever go back and look at the old stuff. We are paying for a program from 1983 that has expired, another one from 1987, and a whole bunch of them from before 2006. We have to get off this auto pilot and get to a new format.

I congratulate this group and particularly Senator PERDUE. The first time we had a Budget Committee meeting I remember introducing him, and I said: Senator PERDUE knows how to balance a budget. He has been working in the private sector.

He said: No, in the private sector you have to show a little bit of a profit.

Well, we are going to have to show a little bit of a profit around here if we are ever going to get rid of the debt. We better do that or our kids are really going to suffer.

In fact, in the private sector we are having some pension problems, but we have been making the private sector put money away for the pensions, invest the money so they would be able to meet the promise that they made.

The Federal Government doesn't do that. We just take it out of this budget.

If we spend \$1,000 billion on interest and there is only \$1,070 billion, what do you think is going to happen to Federal employees who are expecting retirement? That could be in worse shape than the multiemployer plans.

We are going to have to come up with some solutions, and I appreciate this approach where we are looking at what the private sector does, what the States do, and what other countries do—and they have had success.

It is a little difficult because it causes some reorganization in what we are doing. Maybe we can wind up with one or five housing programs, and they would all be under one agency so we could have goals.

We are going to have a portfolio method of budgeting so that we know what we are trying to do and whether we get it done. There are already some laws on the books that say that we do that, but we don't.

I congratulate you for doing this. I am so pleased that we have Senator PERDUE heading up this effort because, as I mentioned, he has saved some businesses before. They took his advice and reorganized. I think a lot of us have looked at this and said it could be done. It is going to be difficult because

we don't even go back and look at old programs—let alone reorganize.

I hope people will pay attention to this and see if they have some other ideas to throw in. But listen carefully to what is being said here today because this has to be fixed.

I was hoping we could fix it before the elections because we were getting cooperation from the other side of the aisle and a lot of good suggestions. One of the reasons we were able to participate in a very bipartisan way, I think, is because none of us knew who was going to be in the majority in the Senate, nor did we know who the President was going to be. I think that made all of us a lot more reasonable. I hope after the elections we can still be reasonable and do something that will save this country.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I thank the chairman for his comments, but more importantly I thank him for his heart in terms of running the Budget Committee and leading us into this observation and recognition. As this chart says, we have a dysfunctional system, and we don't have an alternative but to find a better plan.

With that, I note my good friend and esteemed colleague from Tennessee Senator CORKER is here. He is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, but more importantly he lets me sit next to him on the Budget Committee.

I want to say this about the Foreign Relations Committee. It is a very bipartisan committee. Under Bill Clinton, just 16 years ago, we spent about \$20 billion on the State Department and USAID. Currently, we are spending about \$54 billion. That is just one department. Those are constant dollars to show you how government has sort of exploded in the past 16 years—both under Republican leadership and under Democratic leadership.

I am so glad Senator CORKER is here, and I look forward to his comments.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I am thrilled to be here. I thank the Senator for his leadership on this issue. I also thank Senator ENZI for the way he conducts committee business, as the Senator just mentioned.

We are on a committee where basically the way it is set up, it binds both his arms and his legs behind his back, meaning that just the process we have in place makes it impossible for us to deal with our country's fiscal issues. With the Senator from Georgia joining the committee, having been a person who has dealt with businesses throughout the world, and quickly seeing these frailties that Chairman ENZI has to deal with, the Senator has thrown himself into trying to deal with those issues, and I admire him for it.

I think the Senator from Georgia and I both know this is going to take a while because, in essence, we are talking about a total reorder. We really

don't have a budget process. To even call what we do a budget, for most human beings' understanding of what a budget is, is obviously not realistic. So I thank my colleague for that.

I am an advocate for what Senator PERDUE and Senator ENZI are trying to do. We have to, in essence, get a process in place that actually works. That is impossible with the process we have today, and today is the perfect example of that, right? We passed a CR through December 9, and, by the way, we make no policy changes.

Now, think about an entity the size of our Federal Government, where we spend \$4 trillion of the American people's money each year, and yet we don't do the authorization process which lays out policies. If you can imagine IBM or Apple or Google or any company like that just continuing each year to do things exactly the same way and thinking there is going to be a different result, that is not possible.

Worse than that, in spending the \$4 trillion we spend each year, we only have a budget over \$1.2 trillion, \$1.3 trillion, and the rest is on autopilot. It is the part that is on autopilot that is the greatest threat to our country's national security.

So I actually think we need to do two things at once. One is we need to continue working through the processes that Senator PERDUE and Senator ENZI are working on. It will take a while to get that done. We are going to have a total reordering of how we do business. That affects Senate careers and staff, and we understand how difficult that is. We are dealing with human beings. We are dealing with people who have an investment in what they have been doing for years, and it is going to take us a while to overcome the culture that has been established here.

Simultaneously, as my good friend Senator Gregg from New Hampshire had laid out, we also need to begin putting in place policy changes that begin saving our Nation.

One of the problems with the budget process is, we pass a budget that makes assumptions, but those assumptions never become reality. So we say the budget balances over 10 years, but we never do the tough things it takes for those policies to actually be put in place. So a forcing mechanism—I know several thoughts have been put forth—to force us to do that, to force us to do that and to keep government open and functioning is something that has to occur.

I am proudly a part of this effort as a wingman. I appreciate all the meetings that are taking place. I hope we are going to get to a result. I agree with Senator ENZI that it would have been good to have done it when we didn't know who the President was going to be or who was going to be in the majority. That is not going to happen, but things like this that matter,

that save our Nation, take years to happen.

Senator PERDUE is a young Senator here by tenure. These things take a long time. I look forward to working with him to ensure we get the right outcome to save our Nation and to keep us from this moral depravity that is taking place where, in essence, every day that goes by, we are involved in generational theft because we are not doing this. We are really laying a huge burden on future generations.

I yield the floor, and I thank my colleague for his effort.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I thank Senator CORKER very much.

Moral depravity is so prevalent here, and it is no more present and no more important than in the area of funding our military.

I notice Senator ERNST from Iowa is here, and I appreciate her leadership as a fellow freshman in the Senate, but let me highlight one thing very quickly. Senator CORKER just mentioned that about one-third, 30 percent of what we spend—35 percent over the last 8 years—is borrowed, and it is projected that over the next 10 years about 35 percent will be borrowed. About 30 percent of what we spend is discretionary. That means every discretionary dollar we spend as a Federal Government is borrowed. Let me say that again. Every dollar we spend in our discretionary budget is borrowed. That means our military, our Veterans' Administration, our military construction, our domestic programs, all the things we are talking about are borrowed. That means we have to get serious.

We have disinvested in our military because of this budget crisis, and it is just another reason to get at this budget process.

I can't tell Senator ERNST how much I appreciate her being here, and I look forward to her comments.

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague from Georgia for spearheading this very important effort. We have heard discussions about getting back to regular order. We have heard discussions about the difference between the debt and the deficit and where do we go as America. So I am glad my colleague is investing his time in this effort, and we look forward to walking through that process.

It is good to see so many of us here today, engaged and very active in this effort, and so I would like to thank all my colleagues. I know a number have already spoken.

Truly, our Nation faces some very serious challenges and challenging budgetary times and all of that coming at us in the future. If we aren't honest about where we are right now and where we are headed in the future and fix it, our children and grandchildren are going to be handed a very heavy burden.

We are already over \$19.5 trillion in debt and a level that is growing rapidly every single day. I am from Iowa, and back home in Iowa we generally don't talk about things in trillions of dollars or even in billions of dollars. So when you break it down, that debt load represents about \$60,000 per person in this great country. That is quite a number, and one that all of us should be concerned about.

The American people are concerned, and they are frustrated with Washington for a reason. Washington doesn't seem to be serious about stopping the reckless spending habits this town has. That is why I think this proposal is a very interesting one and one that could provide opportunity as we move into the future.

As we stop and look at the reckless spending habits—and most Americans agree we have reckless spending habits here in Washington, DC. I tend to agree with those Americans. I agree. Since coming to the Senate last year, I have worked to cut down wasteful and duplicative spending. Let me give just one example of taxpayer money that has been wasted.

Earlier this year, I introduced a bill that would limit the perks that wealthy former Presidents receive. In 2015, taxpayers spent \$2.4 million on travel, office space, communications, personnel, and other expenses for past Presidents—I might add, wealthy past Presidents. At a time when they receive well-compensated book deals, speaking engagements, and all kinds of activities, hard-working Americans shouldn't foot those bills, and they shouldn't be expected to.

We passed that bill in the Senate and in the House with bipartisan work on that effort. Unfortunately, President Obama decided to veto it. While we are still working on a path forward, it leaves me just as frustrated as all the other Iowans who know we can't continue spending money we don't have on things that aren't necessary.

Washington can't even do the basic business of balancing our own budget. Plain and simple, we should. Families in Iowa do it every day, and they expect us in Washington, DC, to do the same. After all, it is their tax dollars that are being spent, and it deserves to be spent wisely. Unfortunately, it might just take a complete overhaul of Washington's ways to help us solve this problem.

Again, I thank my colleagues for joining us in this effort. While some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have certainly made it very difficult, if not impossible, to conduct business in any sort of regular manner, the reality is excess spending in this town seems too often to be bipartisan.

I know my colleague from Georgia mentioned earlier our debt has ballooned under both Republican and Democratic administrations. We are

far too often unable to take a good hard look at the money that is being spent because we often will get a 1,900-page bill at the last minute, and we are given the choice of either taking it or leaving it. Normally, that is for funding most of our government. That kind of practice doesn't show us a good way forward. It forces us to make difficult choices about how we are spending taxpayer money, and it certainly doesn't give us the opportunity to cut wasteful spending. We have to do better by our taxpayers.

I thank my friend from Georgia and my other colleagues joining us today to help us start thinking about how we solve this crisis and how we can do it in a creative way. I again thank Senator PERDUE for leading this effort, being at the tip of the spear, and hopefully we are moving toward a smarter way of doing business in Washington. If we don't do better, I am afraid the future of this great country will be a lot dimmer.

I thank the Senator and I appreciate the opportunity to be here.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I thank Senator ERNST. I enjoy her leadership in the Senate.

With that, I notice Senator ROUNDS of South Dakota is here. He was a Governor who dealt with this budget issue in an executive and legislative body in South Dakota, and I am looking forward to his comments. I thank him for being here.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, first, I want to start by thanking my colleagues here today, particularly Chairman ENZI, who leads the Budget Committee, as well as Senator PERDUE for not only being the only freshman who serves on the Budget Committee but for leading us on the floor in the discussion of this very important topic of our Federal broken budget system.

Once again, today, Congress has just met our deadline to fund the government past the end of the fiscal year. While many of us in the Chamber, as well as the American people, are rightly frustrated by this requirement for a last-minute reprieve, it is a reminder of our broken Federal budget process and why we can no longer afford to continue down this dangerous path.

I spent a great deal of time holding different meetings across South Dakota during August, meeting with folks all over the State. During that time, our soaring national debt and runaway spending has continued to be a concern to me. What I relayed to them about our country's fiscal future and what I would relay to you now is that it is just not very pretty.

I shared with them a report from the Congressional Budget Office, which, in January of this year, released an in-depth analysis of our debt and our deficit. It found that, by 2026, annual deficits will double the share of GDP to 4.9 percent—more than tripling in dollar

terms to \$1.37 trillion, or \$1,370 billion, as the chairman of the Budget Committee likes to put it.

It also found that in 2026, just 10 short years from now, 99 percent of revenue that comes into the Federal Government—income taxes, both personal and corporate, all the gas taxes, all the fees—will go back out in mandatory payments and net interest spending, leaving no room to pay for roads, bridges, health care, our Armed Forces, and other vital needs within our Nation. That 99 percent number, as they projected in 10 years, is a crisis. I would suggest to my colleagues that crisis is not in 10 years. That crisis is now.

Earlier, we heard Senator CORKER explain very, very eloquently the fact that it takes time to move things here. I suggest that time is of the essence, and we no longer have a 10-year cycle in which to make these changes. We have to begin the process of fixing this broken system, and we need to begin now.

In 2026, our country turns 250 years old. Wouldn't it be a marvelous goal if, by that time, we not only had this process fixed, but it was actually working once again?

The CBO report concluded that the driver for this rising debt is largely from growing mandatory payments, as we heard our colleagues say. That is Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, as well as interest on our debt. Yet here in the Senate, when we work through the appropriations process to determine the best way to spend Americans' hard-earned money, we don't even vote on mandatory payments, which are mandatory payments on mandatory programs. Today, those mandatory payments account for nearly three-quarters of all Federal spending. That means the continuing resolution we just did is based upon about 28 percent of the total amount we will spend next year. It is simply not acceptable that we continue to look at and try to balance yearly deficits of \$500-plus billion every single year when we only look at 28 percent of the total spending that goes on.

Let me suggest this. In order to fix this, as my colleagues have said today, we have to begin a process with expectations that the process actually works once again and that there are timelines established well in advance of the end of the fiscal year. But even more than that, any process we use in the future also has to bring in accountability, authorization, and appropriations together. Why is it that when we talk about Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—well, we just don't talk about it. There is no place in which we can actually sit down in a committee assigned specifically for Social Security, a committee assigned specifically for Medicare, or one for Medicaid. Why is it that, in States like South Dakota,

where we have the South Dakota Retirement System—a retirement system which is one of the best funded and best run in the entire United States, and it has been there since the 1970s—it gets looked at every single year. Yet, as to Social Security, which is such a huge and important part of a lot of people's lives in the United States, we are afraid to touch. It is not a matter of cutting it. It is a matter of managing and making it more efficient and delivering the services and actually keeping it up to date—revenues and expenses—so that the people a generation from now can count on it being there.

It is irresponsible for us to sit back here and to say that we are going to balance our budgets this year and make a commitment without looking at all of the programs that are out there because we simply can't balance a budget. We can't take care of those programs—Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid—unless we actively participate in managing them and in making good decisions. Again, the buy-in from the public is that what we are trying to do is to make it better for them long term and that we have their best interests at heart.

With that, I say thank you. I think this is a critically important thing for all of us. Last year, we did an omnibus bill at the end of the year, and a group of us got together and said no more. In our freshmen bear den, as we call it, we said: It is time we have a meeting with our leadership. I cannot tell you how pleased I was with the reception that we received from our leadership, who said: Look, we agree. You guys work together and put this through. I give Senator PERDUE huge accolades for actually doing the hard work to get this done. This is important to our country, and this is one way in which we can begin to build credibility once again with the citizens of our Nation. I thank the Senator for the work he is doing, and I certainly look forward to working with our colleagues to fix a broken budget system—not only in the Senate but in Congress—and to get on with actually sending back to the American people on a regular basis a budget they believe in and they can count on.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. PERDUE. I thank Senator ROUNDS for his comments. I appreciate his leadership as an ex-Governor in this body.

I note that Senator SULLIVAN from Alaska is here, and he has been very outspoken about this since he got here last year—another freshman Member. I look forward to Senator SULLIVAN's comments.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator PERDUE for his leadership on this important colloquy.

As some of us have seen down here, as Senator ROUNDS mentioned, there are a lot of Members of the Senate who are very concerned. But what we are

seeing here are a lot of the new Members—12 new Republican freshmen. It is good to see the Presiding Officer, who is one of them. We are very concerned about this. We were concerned because a lot of us ran for office—a lot of us for the first time—because we saw what was going on with this budget process. With all due respect to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they didn't even attempt to pass a budget for a number of years. They didn't even try.

Think about that. You are back home, in a State government such as Senator ROUNDS was talking about or in a household or a business, and you are not even going to try to pass a budget. That was what was going on in the Senate—remarkable. So what we are trying to do is to fix that.

The first thing we did—and Senator ENZI was on the floor a little bit ago—is we came here and we passed a budget. It hadn't happened in years. We passed a budget resolution. That was an important start. Then we started to pass appropriations bills. As a matter of fact, this year, to the majority leader's credit, we started working on appropriations bills at an earlier time than at any time in decades. We got 12 appropriations bills passed out of the Appropriations Committee. Then what happened? We tried to start bringing them to the floor to vote on them, to move them. The vast majority of those bills—all of which were very bipartisan—were filibustered by the minority leader of the Senate.

Again, I am new here. I still don't understand why they did that. A lot of us who came down to the floor were really upset when the minority leader of the Senate filibustered the Defense appropriations bill—the bill that funds our troops—six times in the last year and a half—six times. That is a disgrace, in my view.

So what are we doing here? More delay. More delay. We just got through a continuing resolution, which is not how to run the government, and they were looking at opportunities for more delay. For example, at the very end of this discussion, there was the idea of maybe adding additional funds for Flint, MI. Well, nobody cares about clean water as much as I do. My State has huge challenges with communities that not just have aging infrastructure, like Flint, MI, but no infrastructure. I have over 30 communities in the great State of Alaska that don't have clean water and sewer and don't have flush toilets—Americans—if you can believe that. So I certainly wanted to focus on that. That is what we did in the regular order through the EPW Committee with the WRDA bill—for Flint, MI, the State of Alaska, and other communities that have challenges with clean water. We are going to address those through the regular order.

That is what Senator PERDUE is leading on right now in the Senate—the regular order and getting back to a budget process that can handle the enormous challenges that we have heard about on the floor here—\$20 trillion in debt and exploding deficit. That is what we need to do, and I commend Senator PERDUE for his leadership. What he did is something that takes a lot of courage here—a whiteboard approach. We just need to look at everything anew. With his leadership and his experience, a number of us lead by Senator PERDUE have been working on this for months. This is what we need to do to finally get ahold of these enormous budget challenges.

I encourage all of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—to join in this process, to bring their ideas to fix what is clearly, clearly a broken process that is not helping our Nation, that is driving up the deficit, that is saddling the next generation with trillions of dollars of debt. We have the beginning of a way to start fixing this.

Again, I thank Senator PERDUE and Senator DAINES for their hard work on this. I am certainly going to be part of their important efforts as we look to put our country on a fiscal path of sustainable economic growth and budgets, which we are not on right now.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, Senator SULLIVAN is a warrior. I am glad to be here with him. It gives me hope that we are going to persevere and get this done.

Now to help us close this out, we have our good friend from Montana, Senator DAINES, who has real world experience—both as a consultant but also starting and running a high-tech company. He understands what profit is about, but, more importantly, he understands what meeting needs is about. I am so glad that he can help us close this out. I have a few remaining comments when he finishes, but I thank Senator DAINES for being here.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I thank Senator PERDUE for his leadership.

What an honor it is to be down here on the Senate floor surrounded by freshmen—the freshmen Republican class. We have the Presiding Officer, Freshman CORY GARDNER from Colorado; Lt. Col. DAN SULLIVAN, U.S. Marines, from Alaska; and DAVID PERDUE, who was the CEO of a company before he came to the Senate. We have LTC JONI ERNST from Iowa. I am proud to serve with Joni here and thankful for her service to the country, both in the military and now in the Senate. There are others. MIKE ROUNDS is a former Governor from South Dakota who had to balance his budget there or he would lose his job.

As Senator PERDUE mentioned, when I first came to Washington, I did come equipped with a skill that was familiar to Montanans, like hunting and fishing are, and that is how to balance a budget. Before I came here, I spent 28 years

in the private sector, 13 years with Proctor & Gamble and then 12 years with a startup company, and in between that, 3 years in our family construction business. I know what it takes to make a payroll. I know what it takes to make a family's household budget work. Yet balancing the budget is a skill this body has not embraced for nearly 20 years. As Senator PERDUE mentioned, four times out of 42 years has this process worked. That is broken.

Think about this. It is September 28. On Saturday, it is October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year of the U.S. Federal Government, on which we will spend about \$4 trillion this next fiscal year. We begin the next fiscal year in 2 days without a budget.

We were all here last year at this same point in time—the last week of the fiscal year, the last week of September—and we moved into this fiscal year without a budget. It is no wonder that we are \$20 trillion in debt when you don't have a budget.

There is an old saying in business: If you aim at something, you will hit it. We do not have a budget here, and that has created \$20 trillion in debt.

When the Congressional Budget Office issued its August 2016 report last month, it shared that this year's projected budget deficit now has increased from an already staggering \$439 billion in a January report. They have raised it now to \$590 billion—an increase of 34 percent.

If I were running a business, I could not get away with this. I would be out of business. Serving on a board of a publicly traded company, we would be firing the CEO and we would be firing the board with results like this.

Here is something to think about. Deficit spending is nothing short of age discrimination because this excessive spending is at the cost of our children and grandchildren. That is what we are passing down. We are racking up the credit card debt, figuratively speaking, and passing it on to our kids. The American people are asking themselves: Why aren't the people they have elected able to ensure the future for our children? How can balancing the budget be so difficult?

Being here for 2 years in the Senate, I have come to realize that the biggest hurdles to balancing the budget are the very rules, the very process that guides this institution. They are broken. Unless we fix the process with the leadership of Senator PERDUE, who is getting out in front of this issue—unless we fix that—we will continue to repeat the growing deficits because this process is yielding the results it was designed to deliver. It is unacceptable. It must change.

We are now approaching \$20 trillion, which is 105 percent of GDP. The first bill I introduced when I came to Congress—in fact, I walked down to the

Chamber, laid the bill on the desk of the clerk—was called the Balanced Budget Accountability Act. It said simply this: If Members don't balance the budget, they shouldn't get paid.

Let's bring some real-world accountability to this institution. Let's put the pain on the Members of Congress instead of the American people. I thought perhaps if our pay was on the line, it would force us to be held accountable to not only balance the budget but get on track to long-term responsible spending.

If we do nothing, we know what will happen. We will be right back here—mark it on your calendars—the last week of September, and we will be here debating a CR, pushing it into December with some big omnibus vote. It will happen again, guaranteed, unless we change this process and change the people who serve in this institution. We need action, we need accountability, and we need it now.

In conclusion, I will say this. I have one distinction, perhaps; that is, I am the only chemical engineer who serves in the U.S. House or the U.S. Senate. When you are trained as an engineer, you are trained to take a look at a problem and identify a solution. We have a solution with Senator PERDUE's leadership. You see, the freshmen Members of the Republican class of 2014 came here not to accept the status quo but to reject it and to change the way this country operates; truly, to save the future of our kids and our grandkids.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to reform the budget process. Let's get this country back on the right track.

I say to Senator PERDUE, it is an honor to serve with you. Thanks for getting in front of this very important issue.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I say thank you to Senator DAINES. His leadership means the world here. With that, I have hope we are going to get there.

In light of the time and the hour and the other business that is before this Senate body tonight, I will abridge my closing comments. I want to say this. There is a four-letter word missing in Washington today—H-O-P-E. People sent this class, 12 members of the Republican caucus—that is almost 25 percent of our caucus—are freshmen this year. We ran on this topic, as you heard several Members say, but we had the chairman of the Budget Committee here. We had the chairman of Foreign Relations here.

These people are very concerned about this topic. We are not just complaining about the status quo. Again, we are not complaining about the other side. There are no innocent parties when it comes to this debt crisis. If you look at the last 75, 80 years, this country has lived and benefited from the

greatest economic boom in the history of mankind. Yet here we are today, \$20 trillion of debt, over \$100 trillion of future commitments already made by this Federal Government. It is basically \$1 million for every family in America.

We don't need to talk about the need anymore. What we need to talk about is what do we do. That is what we came up here for. We need to focus on results. This is what we are proposing. We put it in language now. We are moving to put it into a bill on the floor. We have Democratic input.

Again, let me say this. The goal is not to solve the debt crisis. That is the need. The goal in this process is to create a politically neutral platform where both sides—whether they are in the majority or the minority—can make their points during a budget process, move to an appropriations process, and get the government funded every year without all this drama. That is what the people of America want.

It will protect our military. It will protect our national security. It will let us take care of the domestic needs we need, and it will let us invest in our infrastructure to get this economy going again. Without this exercise, we will not start down the path that may take 30 or 40 years to bring this debt under control. It is that large.

Let me emphasize one more thing. If this debt is not addressed soon, the rising interest rates that we all know are coming—we are living in a false world today of zero interest rates. If we just get back to our 30-year average of about 5 percent, we will be paying \$1 trillion in interest. That is not possible. It simply is not workable. All things come into the conversation.

This is what is going to happen. We are going to start debating this on the floor, hopefully soon. It may run into next year. It may go to the following year. My commitment to my people at home is, we are not going to give up on this fight until we get something done about this. We proposed a couple of things.

Three guiding principles were developed by a small group of people, and it has been welcomed by a growing number of people in this body. No. 1, the budget needs to be a law. No. 2, everything we spend—all \$4 trillion of it—needs to go into the budget. They need to be debated and covered in the budget by both sides. No. 3, if we don't fund the government by the end of the fiscal year, there has to be serious consequences.

You heard one proposal tonight by Senator LANKFORD. There may be others, but we are going to put on the Senate and the House, for that matter, real consequences if we don't get the Federal Government budget done. Again, this is an exercise that we hope will be bipartisan. We want no advantage in this. We want a process that

doesn't advantage either party. It gives both equal standing in the budget process, leading to a reasonable and effective funding of the Federal Government. A politically neutral platform, that is our goal.

I will close with this. If not now, when? If not us, who? I thank the forbearance of the Presiding Officer tonight. Thank you for allowing us to do this.

I yield back my time. I see we have other speakers on the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The Senator from New Mexico.

(The remarks of Mr. HEINRICH and Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3458 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 2253

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, too often this body talks about supporting our veterans while doing far too little to pass critical legislation that would actually help them.

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, of which I am a member—and I am joined by my colleague on that committee, Senator TILLIS, with whom I have worked on a number of issues in our time together in the Senate. Chairman ISAKSON and Ranking Member BLUMENTHAL have had in this committee perhaps the best cooperation of any standing committee in the Senate. And we continue to work to address challenges facing veterans and the Veterans' Administration.

Through hearings and legislative markups, we have listened and learned from veterans. As a result, we have worked together across the aisle to produce legislation that reflects the needs of those who served our country. It is a minimum we ought to be doing, and I think we are generally doing that pretty well.

One result of our efforts has been the bipartisan Veterans First Act. It is a good bill that comprehensively addresses a host of issues facing veterans, including education benefits, homelessness, health care, and VA accountability. As we see too often, even commonsense legislation like Vets First can't make its way to the floor. Our inability to act on this doesn't mean we shouldn't try to address specific issues that have bipartisan support.

One of those issues which I hope we can agree on is the need to provide relief to veterans who, through no fault of their own, were—there is no other way to say it—bilked by the for-profit school ITT. Veterans and other students were betrayed and bilked, and taxpayers were fleeced. Veterans who were attending ITT at the time of its closure lost the GI bill or VA benefits

used to pay for their education. Meanwhile, all other students who were enrolled at ITT were eligible to have their Federal student loans discharged. So if you are not a veteran and you had Federal student loans, you could get those loans discharged. If you are a veteran under the GI bill or VA benefits, you couldn't. It wasn't anybody's intent to do that, but that is what the law says.

I know Senator ISAKSON, the chairman—and we are joined by Senator CARPER on the floor as well—he is interested in this. I also know that Senator TILLIS has cosponsored my bill to actually fix this. This is something we need to do. We are not the only ones who believe action needs to be taken. Governor Mike Pence, the Governor of the State next door to mine, Indiana, who is the Republican nominee for Vice President, supports this.

The closure of ITT was the fault of the management of that school, who spent a lot of money on marketing and a lot of money on helping students get financing but not much money on education and even less on job placement for their students. The closure of ITT was not the fault of the veterans, for sure, not the fault of the students, but now veterans are worried about being able to pay their rent and pursue their education, which is what this legislation is going to allow them to do. In my State of Ohio, 520 veterans have been impacted by ITT's closure.

There are some questions of finding a way to pay for this legislation, but I believe finding a pay-for is a red herring. We are simply giving the VA the authority to provide relief to veterans. No one is running around trying to find a pay-for for the Federal student loans that are going to be discharged. So we are saying we are just going to do the discharge on the nonveteran students, and we have to find a little legislative sleight-of-hand pay-for to take care of the veterans. That just doesn't make sense. Why should veterans be treated differently or worse than nonveteran students? All we are looking to do is to make sure veterans are treated like all other students who attended an institution like ITT or Corinthian, another scam institution that shut down.

Veterans were promised GI benefits when they signed up to serve our country. ITT has cheated them out of the quality education they earned. If we fail to act today before leaving town, we abandon the responsibility to our Nation's heroes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2253 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my colleague from Ohio and I have worked on a number of different measures on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and I hope to continue to work with him.

I wish to talk a little bit about the process here. It may seem odd, on a bill on which I am one of the lead Republican sponsors, to come to the floor and object to the UC, but let's talk about structurally what is going on here. We said that the only reason there is a problem is there is no pay-for. In other words, we are trying to pass a policy that we haven't taken the time to make a decision about how to pay for it. We can say that we are authorizing the VA to pay for it, but what are they going to do? We haven't provided them with any funds to do it, so what potentially suffers as a result? That is one piece.

We just heard a number of speeches here with Republican freshmen and a couple of veteran Members on the floor talking about being responsible in the budgeting process and actually living within our means and paying for things. Now I am in the uncomfortable position of having to object, potentially—reserving my right to object—to a measure that includes policy that I fundamentally support. What I don't want to do, though, is send something half-baked to the House and pretend that somehow it is going to be taken up before we get back from the recess. It won't be. As a matter of fact, if we don't do our job here, it will probably not move in the House.

So why not work with Senator ISAKSON, who has done a remarkable job of trying to work with the veterans service organizations that have a concern with the direction we were going with the pay-fors, to find a legitimate way to pay for this policy before we send it to the House and make it more likely that before we get out at the end of the year, this bill will be passed? This is just about being responsible and doing both parts of our jobs—coming up with good policy and then coming up with a way to pay for it.

So for those reasons, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank Senator TILLIS, and I understand his view on this issue. I appreciate the position of Senator TILLIS, my colleague on the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I just fundamentally say that, first of all, we shouldn't leave town. We should finish our work. We should confirm the Supreme Court nominee or at least have hearings. We should finish our work that we haven't done this year. We have been in session less this year than any Senate in the last 60 years. I

know Senator MCCONNELL wants to send his Members home so they can campaign for reelection and spend their Koch brothers money that they have benefited from.

More than that, what I don't get here is—we are only giving the VA the authority to provide relief for these veterans. We are treating veterans worse than other students at ITT or Corinthian. So if you were at ITT and you found out 3 weeks ago that that school was closing—2, 3 weeks ago, something like that—and you are a veteran and you have a friend who is a nonveteran, the nonveteran gets their loans discharged, and you as the veteran don't with your GI benefits, because they had Federal student loans and you had GI benefits. It is just not fair to them.

I don't think we should ever leave this place having treated a veteran worse than a nonveteran in the exact same situation. So I don't really understand the opposition. I hope we can re-engage and figure this out and take care of these 500 or so Ohioans who served their country well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I support Senator SHERROD BROWN's unanimous consent request that the Senate adopt the Veterans Education Relief and Restoration Act, S. 2253, to support veterans who were harmed by the closure of ITT Tech.

ITT Tech's predatory practices led to its sudden closure early this month, leaving tens of thousands of students in the lurch. Many veterans using GI bill benefits at ITT Tech have been particularly affected by this company's practices and now its closure and bankruptcy.

ITT Tech has for years been a major recipient of GI bill benefits. According to a 2014 report by Senator TOM HARKIN's HELP Committee, ITT Tech was the third largest recipient in 2012–13, receiving \$161 million in GI bill funds. When it closed earlier this month, an estimated 7,000 veterans were enrolled at ITT Tech.

Not only have these veterans used up part or in some cases all of their limited GI bill education benefits, some of them relied on VA housing assistance to pay their rent and afford a place to live for themselves and their families. Veterans can only receive this housing stipend if they are enrolled in a school that qualifies for GI bill benefits, so the closure of ITT Tech has put them at risk of being unable to afford their current housing and further disrupting their lives.

I support the bipartisan Veterans Education Relief and Restoration Act, or VERRA, introduced by Senators BLUMENTHAL and TILLIS, to reinstate GI bill education benefits in certain cases and to give the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to temporarily extend housing benefits to veterans, including those who attended

ITT Tech, who find their education interrupted by a sudden closure of a school.

The closure of ITT Tech makes the need to pass VERRA an emergency for so many veterans across the country. This is a commonsense bill—it's bipartisan—and it's time sensitive.

I urge Republicans not to block this effort to extend this modest and much-needed relief to our veterans who have been put in this terrible position by ITT Tech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I stand before my colleagues this evening as a veteran of the Vietnam War who returned to this country after a third tour in Southeast Asia. I moved from California to Delaware and enrolled there at the University of Delaware in their business school, in their MBA program. I was fortunate enough, along with many other Vietnam-era veterans, to receive a GI bill benefit; it was about \$250 a month. College tuition was a lot less in those days. I was happy to have every penny of it. But today we offer a GI bill benefit that is far more robust and far more needed than it was when I came back from Southeast Asia.

Today, veterans return often throughout the course of the year in Delaware. The Governor and our congressional delegation—Senator COONS, Congressman CARNEY, and I—will either send National Guard men and women off to deployments around the world or we might welcome them home. Whenever we welcome them home, I say to the returning National Guard men and women, the Army Guard and Air Guard: Welcome home to the best GI bill benefits in the history of the country.

If they want to go to the University of Delaware, tuition is paid for; at Delaware State University or Delaware Community College, tuition is paid for. If they need books—they probably do—they are paid for, and fees are paid for. If they need tutoring, it is paid for, and they also receive roughly a \$1,500-a-month housing allowance. That is a great benefit, and folks who go to those schools generally get a very good education, and they get a lot of help in job placement after they have completed their education. That is not always the case in some of our for-profit colleges and universities. Some of them do a good job; some of them don't.

One of them that hasn't done a good job is called ITT Tech. We heard it talked about this evening on the Senate floor. There were about 7,000 veterans using the Post-9/11 GI bill benefits that ITT Tech took from them when the school suddenly collapsed earlier this month. This provided \$22,000 a year in educational assistance to private nonprofit and private for-profit colleges. The Post-9/11 GI bill

provides a housing allowance that our veterans depend on to support their families while they attend class.

When ITT Tech closed its doors, it also meant that this housing allowance came to an abrupt halt. I urged the Department of Veterans Affairs to work closely with the Department of Education to ensure that ITT Tech student veterans had the same resources and guidance they need to transfer and continue their education at high quality institutions of learning. But some veterans will not be able to transfer to another school this month or next month. We want them to make smart decisions about their educational future. That is why passing this bipartisan bill or some similar bipartisan bill to restore lost educational benefits and temporarily—underline temporarily—extend the housing allowance for students who attend schools like ITT Tech that suddenly close is so critical to our Nation's veterans and their families.

We want to make sure that the student veterans have enough time—not an endless period, but enough time—to decide whether it is best to transfer to another school, to discharge their student loans, or start over at another school, such as a community college. This legislation is really about making sure the veterans continue to receive benefits they have earned in service to our country.

Our Nation's veterans did not cause ITT Tech to collapse. Our Nation's veterans and our Nation's taxpayers deserve better than they have received at the hands of ITT Tech. The least we can do is provide some very modest relief during this tough period of transition. I think passing this bill or something similar to this legislation is the least we can do.

My hope is that after we return from the recess after the election we can start talking across the aisle about more help to our student veterans and folks on the Post-9/11 GI bill. It is ironic that folks who are not veterans but recipients of Federal aid for education are in a similar situation, and they essentially would be made whole, but that is not the case with our veterans. I am not comfortable with that situation, and I suspect a lot of my colleagues are not either.

I will close this part of my remarks. I think most of us ascribe to the Golden Rule—treat other people the way you want to be treated. I have been a veteran myself. I got a great education, graduate school at the University of Delaware, but I know how I would want to be treated if I were in the shoes of these thousands of veterans who have been mistreated at the hands of ITT Tech. We need to do something about it, and I hope that when we return, we will.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL
EMPLOYEES

JUSTO "TITO" HERNANDEZ AND MELISSA
FORBES

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, as some of my colleagues know, nearly every month for more than 1 year now, I have come to the Senate floor regularly to highlight the diverse and difficult work performed by the men and women at the Department of Homeland Security. I have been privileged to be at times in recent years the chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and today serve as the senior Democrat, the ranking member of that committee.

The Department of Homeland Security is part of the government that we have direct jurisdiction over, and it is one that I have had a great privilege to work with and have had an opportunity to oversee the operation of that Department. The Department of Homeland Security has more than 230,000 employees stationed around our country at our ports of entry, major transit hubs, and in major cities and small communities alike. Each day the Department of Homeland Security performs some of the most challenging jobs in the Federal Government. From securing radiological material to protecting our cyber networks to responding to natural disasters such as floods, fires, and tornadoes, the Department of Homeland Security employees work around-the-clock to stay ahead of threats to our communities, our homes, and our families.

I commend Secretary Jeh Johnson, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, and their entire leadership team for their continued efforts to bring the entire department together and make the Department of Homeland Security more than just the sum of its parts.

Last week, the 2016 Federal Employee Viewpoint survey was released with some good news. The annual survey is provided to hundreds of thousands of Federal employees every year to gauge their satisfaction with their jobs and their engagement with their agency as a whole. After 6 years of declining morale numbers, the tide has begun to turn at the Department of Homeland Security. That is a good thing. Since last year, morale has increased throughout the Department by some 3 percent. I think that is probably more than any other Department in the Federal Government—over the last year, a significant one-year improvement and a better result than the Federal Government average over the same period.

Like turning an aircraft carrier, improving morale over a large Federal agency takes time. You can turn an aircraft carrier's course, but it takes a little while, and so does changing and improving the morale of a department with a quarter of a million people spread out all over the world. I believe

this latest survey shows that the hard work done by Secretary Johnson and Deputy Secretary Mayorkas and their team has begun to put this ship on a better course for the future.

While more work needs to be done to improve morale at the Department of Homeland Security, this effort does not fall on Secretary Johnson alone. Each Member of Congress and every American can help support the Department and its employees by simply acknowledging the good work that the employees do there every day. Whether we simply say thank you to a TSA agent or TSO officer the next time we pass through an airport or give an occasional speech on the Senate floor as I am doing tonight and have done on other occasions, our support makes a difference.

Mr. President, each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which we affectionately call FEMA, marks National Preparedness Month. Throughout the month, FEMA encourages all Americans to prepare for natural disasters and emergencies. To continue highlighting National Preparedness Month and to continue to highlight the important work done by FEMA and its people, I want to take a moment tonight to thank just a few of the employees of FEMA, one of the 22 component agencies all told that make up the Department of Homeland Security.

As my colleagues may know, just last month, historic flooding inundated much of the State of Louisiana. What some may not know is that even before the floodwaters had peaked, FEMA employees and personnel were on the ground there. They were setting up Incident Support Bases to provide supplies, coordinating with State and local officials, and supporting first responders in rescue efforts. FEMA also set up Disaster Recovery Centers to assist residents seeking Federal aid to get back on their feet in the aftermath of the storms.

One of the first FEMA employees on the ground there more than a month ago was Justo Hernandez, and Justo's picture is right here. Justo goes by the nickname Tito and is a Team Leader of the East II National Incident Management Assistance Team. With 28 years' experience with FEMA, Tito leads his team in immediate response efforts to natural and manmade disasters whenever and wherever they occur.

Ready at a moment's notice, Tito and his team are experts in disaster response, specializing in operations, logistics, planning, and recovery. They put their experience to use by supporting State and local officials as they work through the most trying of situations.

Members of Tito's team say that he is by far the best manager and supervisor they have ever worked for. As a leader, Tito leads by example, not

afraid to get his hands dirty and never turning down a task, large or small. With their team expected to be deployed nearly 9 months out of the year, Tito has a deep respect for his team members' personal time.

When Tito does get some time back at home, I know he enjoys spending every moment with his wife and three children. His family is incredibly generous, and we are grateful to them for lending our Nation their husband and father so he may undertake this important work in many parts of America on behalf of all Americans.

As a FEMA employee, Tito embodies the spirit of dedication and caring, shaking hands with each individual he comes into contact with, asking them, "How are you doing?" As with most of the men and women at FEMA, Tito doesn't stop there. He does all he can do to help people.

Last month, I visited FEMA headquarters here in Washington, DC. I met a number of the thousands of dedicated employees who work there. This is a picture from FEMA. These are some of the exceptional people who help us in some of our darkest hours. While many of these men and women were not directly involved in the response effort in Louisiana, they felt obligated to do all they could for their colleagues who were on the ground in Louisiana or coordinating from around the country. In fact, FEMA headquarters established a backup call center in their offices, and dozens of FEMA employees volunteered—during or after their regular working hours—to man the phones and talk to people through some of the toughest situations imaginable.

One FEMA employee who asked how she could help is Melissa Forbes. Melissa has a Ph.D. in public policy and serves as Director of Enterprise Resource Planning in FEMA's Office of Policy and Program Analysis. Melissa's day job is to ensure that FEMA has the resources needed for the challenges it expects to face in the months and years ahead.

For 27 hours over the course of 5 days—that is more than five hours each day—Melissa put her regular work on hold and came to the call center. In those 27 hours, Melissa took countless calls, answering questions and connecting people with her colleagues at FEMA who could get them immediate help.

In the Navy, when someone does a truly remarkable job, we say these words: "Bravo Zulu." So, to Melissa and to all who worked and volunteered at FEMA headquarters, I would say a great big "Bravo Zulu."

As I mentioned earlier, FEMA is made up of thousands of men and women who ask every day: How are you? How are you doing? How can we help? While Tito, his team, and others from FEMA were on the ground in Louisiana, Melissa felt compelled to do all she could do to support them.

More than a year ago, Secretary Johnson launched his Unity of Effort initiative to bring the Department of Homeland Security employees closer together in their shared mission. Last month, Melissa and Tito were reunited from a thousand miles away in their efforts to help the people of Louisiana.

Every month I come to the Senate floor and highlight the amazing dedication of two or three people, in some cases entire teams of men and women who are united in their shared goal of keeping Americans safe.

In closing, let me say that I don't think the results from this year's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey are a fluke. I believe the improvement in morale that has been reported by the thousands of employees at the Department of Homeland Security represents the growing unity within the Department of Homeland Security, the youngest and third largest Cabinet Department in the Federal Government.

I, for one, look forward to next year's viewpoint survey, as well as those in the years to come, because I believe they will continue to put on display an ever more united and effective department. So to Tito, to the East II team, to Melissa and the volunteers at FEMA headquarters, as well as to everyone at FEMA, we say a great big thank you. Thank you for coming together, not only by asking "How are you doing?" but by going to work to make things better for all of us. Keep up the great work that you are doing, and God bless you.

I have been joined on the floor by the majority leader.

Before I yield the floor, let me say to another person who has joined us, my colleague from New Hampshire, who is the ranking member Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee for Homeland Security that she and the chairman, former Governor HOEVEN, Senator HOEVEN now, do a wonderful job that is important to Homeland Security. On behalf of Melissa and Tito and all the hundreds of thousands of people who work with them in Homeland Security, thank you for being there for them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE CONVENTION ON THE LAW APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN RIGHTS IN RESPECT OF SECURITIES HELD WITH AN INTERMEDIARY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to executive session to consider the following treaties on today's Executive Calendar en bloc: Nos. 9 and 10; I further ask unanimous consent that the treaties be considered as having passed through their various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolutions of ratification; that any committee conditions, declarations, or reservations be agreed to as applicable; that any statements be printed in the RECORD; further, that each treaty be voted on en bloc but considered voted on individually; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be notified of the Senate's action; and that following the disposition of the treaties, the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The treaties will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Treaty document No. 110-19, Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Treaty document No. 112-6, The Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities Held with an Intermediary.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a division vote on the resolutions of ratification en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A division vote has been requested.

On treaty document No. 110-19, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO AN UNDERSTANDING AND A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States of America on November 1, 2002 (the "Treaty") (Treaty Doc. 110-19), subject to the understanding of section 2 and the declaration of section 3.

SEC. 2. UNDERSTANDING.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following understanding, which shall be included in the United States instrument of ratification: The United States of America understands that Article 12.3d shall not be construed in a manner that diminishes the availability or exercise of intellectual property rights under national laws.

SEC. 3. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is not self-executing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On treaty document No. 112-6, Senators in favor of the resolution of ratification will rise and stand until counted.

Those opposed will rise and stand until counted.

On a division vote, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative, the resolution of ratification is agreed to.

The resolution of ratification is as follows:

Resolved, (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

SECTION 1. SENATE ADVICE AND CONSENT SUBJECT TO A DECLARATION.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Convention on the Law Applicable to Certain Rights in Respect of Securities Held with an Intermediary, done at The Hague on July 5, 2006, and signed by the United States on that same day (the "Convention") (Treaty Doc. 112-6), subject to the declaration of section 2.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Convention is self-executing.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 4511

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m., on Tuesday, November 15, the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4511 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that there then be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form, and that following the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar Nos. 720 through 727 and all nominations on the Secretary's desk; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Kenneth P. Ekman

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Jon T. Thomas

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Army under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be brigadier general

Col. Alfred F. Abramson, III
Col. Peter B. Andrysiak, Jr.
Col. Robert W. Bennett, Jr.
Col. Jonathan P. Braga
Col. John W. Brennan, Jr.
Col. David E. Brigham
Col. Miguel A. Correa
Col. Clement S. Coward, Jr.
Col. Patrick J. Donahoe
Col. Christopher T. Donahue
Col. Robert L. Edmonson, II
Col. Scott L. Efflandt
Col. David J. Francis
Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh
Col. David M. Hamilton
Col. Neil S. Hersey
Col. Lonnie G. Hibbard
Col. Johnnie L. Johnson, Jr.
Col. Omar J. Jones, IV
Col. Mark H. Landes
Col. David A. Lesperance
Col. Stephen J. Maranian
Col. Douglas M. McBride, Jr.
Col. Matthew W. McFarlane
Col. Stephen L. Michael
Col. Christopher O. Mohan
Col. Laura A. Potter
Col. Anthony W. Potts
Col. Robert A. Rasch, Jr.
Col. Kenneth T. Royar
Col. Douglas A. Sims, II
Col. Stephen G. Smith
Col. John C. Ulrich
Col. Robert F. Whittle, Jr.
Col. David Wilson

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Gen. John E. Hyten

IN THE NAVY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Christopher W. Grady

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. John F. Thompson

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Robert D. McMurry, Jr.

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Reynold N. Hoover

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1768 AIR FORCE nomination of Scott E. Williams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1769 AIR FORCE nomination of John D. Cinnamon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1770 AIR FORCE nomination of Alfred G. Traylor, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1771 AIR FORCE nomination of Mark C. Anarumo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1772 AIR FORCE nomination of Steven C. M. Hasstedt, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

IN THE ARMY

PN1773 ARMY nomination of Karl E. Nell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1774 ARMY nomination of Todd D. Wolford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1775 ARMY nomination of Lance L. Jelks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1776 ARMY nomination of Matthew A. Levine, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1777 ARMY nomination of Daniel J. Donovan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1778 ARMY nomination of Donna A. McDermott, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN1642-2 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (188) beginning Diana Isabel Acosta, and ending Elisa Joelle Zogbi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2016.

PN1643-2 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (4) beginning Jennisa Paredes, and ending Jamoral Twine, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 13, 2016.

PN1704-2 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (99) beginning Jorge A. Abudei, and ending Deborah Kay Jones, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

PN1705 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (161) beginning John Robert Adams, and ending David M. Zwick, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

IN THE NAVY

PN1700 NAVY nomination of Thomas M. Hearty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 6, 2016.

PN1779 NAVY nominations (40) beginning JORDAN M. ADLER, and ending RICHARD C. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1780 NAVY nominations (59) beginning JOHN A. ALLEN, and ending TIMBERON C. VANZANT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1781 NAVY nominations (23) beginning CHRISTOPHER D. AYALA, and ending ANDREW S. WEST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1782 NAVY nominations (13) beginning FRANCIS B. CARNABY, and ending REBECCA I. SUMMERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1783 NAVY nominations (14) beginning BENJAMIN R. ADDISON, and ending RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1784 NAVY nominations (27) beginning JOSHUA C. ALCAZAR, and ending JUI I. YANG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1785 NAVY nominations (4) beginning SILAS O. CARPENTER, and ending CHRISTOPHER E. WELLS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1786 NAVY nominations (17) beginning GALO A. CAVALCANTI, and ending AUDRA M. VANCE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1787 NAVY nominations (902) beginning CHRISTOPHER T. ABPLANALP, and ending RYAN E. ZYVITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1788 NAVY nominations (42) beginning STEVEN M. ARBOGAST, and ending JOSEPH M. STARK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1789 NAVY nominations (154) beginning DORIAN R. ACKER, and ending JASON YORK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

PN1790 NAVY nominations (65) beginning MICHAEL A. AMMENDOLA, and ending MICHAEL B. ZIMET, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 22, 2016.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Calendar Nos. 728 through 734. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Rena Bitter, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign

Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Sung Y. Kim, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines; Andrew Robert Young, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Burkina Faso; W. Stuart Symington, of Missouri, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Joseph R. Donovan Jr., of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Indonesia; Christopher Coons, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Seventy-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; and Ronald H. Johnson, of Wisconsin, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Seventy-first Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bitter, Kim, Young, Symington, Donovan, Coons, and Johnson nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MAKING A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 5325

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 53.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 53) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 53) was agreed to.

(The concurrent resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9, 2016, THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2016, AS "EARTH SCIENCE WEEK"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 562.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 562) expressing support for designation of the week of October 9, 2016, through October 15, 2016, as "Earth Science Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 562) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 15, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 585, S. Res. 586, S. Res. 587, and S. Res. 588.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reso-

lutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles, where applicable, were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, where applicable, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to the Senate that in the funding bill it includes the money for Zika, \$1.1 billion that has been so desperately needed, not only assisting local governments and State governments with things such as mosquito control but also starting the trial on the Zika vaccine. The first trial is necessary. There will be a second and larger trial, and, hopefully, at the end of that, we will have a Zika vaccine.

This has gotten to the level of being quite uncomfortable. Over 2,000 pregnant women in the continental United States and our territories have the Zika virus. We know from the CDC that for up to 12 percent, it is likely there will be a birth defect.

So I want the Senate to know how much I appreciate this. In my own State of Florida, we have been so severely hit now, with 91 of our fellow citizens who are pregnant and have the virus. We say Godspeed to them and hope they will not have babies with birth defects. But now at least the cavalry has arrived and we have the money to proceed with trying to stamp out this Zika virus.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SURVIVORS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2016

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor for the same reason Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire is here. I rise today to speak on the Survivors' Bill of Rights. This is a non-controversial and very bipartisan bill. It has already passed the Senate.

Amanda Nguyen is a rape victim and a survivor who has been the driving force behind this legislation. She is founder and president of an organization that goes by the acronym RISE, a group which advocates on behalf of survivors of sexual violence. Amanda has worked hand in hand with both political parties on this bill to establish new rights for survivors of sexual violence. That is the way it should be because regardless of political party, all

Members of Congress should be empowering survivors of sexual violence. However, while Republicans were ready to move forward on this bill last week, Democratic leadership has been stalling Amanda's diligent efforts.

This bill ensures that all survivors of sexual violence have equal access to all available tools in their pursuit of justice. This includes the proper collection and preservation of forensic evidence that is so vital in cases of sexual violence. This bill also guarantees these survivors a new package of rights.

As I said, this is a bipartisan bill, very noncontroversial. It has already passed this body 89 to 0.

Each day, others like Amanda will fall victim to sexual violence. The Senate should not wait one more day to help these people seek justice, so, after Senator SHAHEEN speaks, I am here now to request unanimous consent to move this bill. My understanding is that it is now OK with the Democrats to agree to the passage of this legislation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, hopefully for the purpose of Senator SHAHEEN stating her views on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, the chair of the Judiciary Committee, as he requests a unanimous consent vote to pass the Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act. Passage of this bill marks a momentous day for survivors of sexual assault, and it really is a testament to the important progress we can make in Congress when we work together on a bipartisan basis to address the needs of the American people.

The Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act for the first time establishes a set of codified, court-enforceable rights to address unique issues faced by sexual assault survivors. It also ensures survivors the opportunity to enforce these rights in Federal court.

Last February, I introduced this legislation, but the real inspiration for the bill came many months earlier when I first met with Amanda Nguyen, a young sexual assault survivor who faced heartbreaking challenges after reporting her assault. As Senator GRASSLEY said, she was really the moving force behind this legislation.

Amanda told me about the repeated battles she fought to prevent her rape forensic kit from being destroyed, and she recounted the grueling legal process that she and other survivors have endured in order to win justice. Well, I was deeply moved by Amanda's experience, and soon after that initial meeting, I got to work with staff. We worked through multiple drafts, and with invaluable counsel from Amanda, as well as dozens of nationally recognized experts and organizations, we produced the final bill that was introduced in February.

I thank Senators BLUMENTHAL and LEAHY for their counsel throughout the process and for serving as original cosponsors. As I said earlier, I also thank Senator GRASSLEY and Senator SCHUMER, who helped moved the bill through the Judiciary committee in April. It passed the full Senate in May. The same legislation, sponsored by Representatives WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, LAMAR SMITH, MIMI WALTERS, and ZOE LOFGREN, was unanimously passed by the House earlier this month.

Following the introduction of the bill, there was a groundswell of nationwide support for the rights set forth in this legislation, including more than 90,000 people who signed a petition urging Congress to act. Clearly the bill resonated with the American people, especially survivors of sexual assault because so many survivors feel intimidated by the legal process and they choose not to go forward. That is one reason sexual assault is among the most underreported and unpunished crimes nationwide. Nearly 70 percent of attacks go unreported. Many survivors who initially file charges become frustrated by the legal obstacle course, and they give up before their cases are resolved, or, for many of them, their cases simply slip through the cracks.

The rights set forth in this new law will apply only in Federal cases, but we know from experience that when Congress makes reforms to Federal statutes, it often serves as a model and catalyst for States to improve their own laws. The goal is to create a standardized, transparent process that reassures survivors they will be supported and protected as they pursue justice.

The Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act, as Senator GRASSLEY said, will establish fair procedures with regard to rape forensic kits, including the right not to be charged any fees related to the forensic medical examination; the right to have sexual assault evidence preserved for the entire statute of limitations period; the right to be informed of the results of medical exams; and the right to written notice prior to destruction of a rape kit. These and other rights are basic and essential protections that all survivors ought to have regardless of where they live.

In drafting the legislation, we wanted to make clear that by establishing these rights for survivors, without precondition we ensure that survivors' interests are legally protected, regardless of how or if they choose to move forward with an official report to police. We know that sometimes in the immediate aftermath of an attack, many survivors are not prepared to face the additional emotional challenges of confronting their attacker in the legal system. We also know that after survivors have a chance to heal, they are often more prepared to seek justice. States around the country are recognizing this fact and extending their statute of limitations on sexual crimes.

The rights in this legislation, hand in hand with that process at the State level, ensure that even if a survivor only seeks a medical forensic exam or reports an assault anonymously, even if a survivor is not ready to immediately move forward with the criminal process, the survivor will have enforceable rights in our legal system and can be assured that evidence is preserved for the future.

I thank all my colleagues in both the Senate and the House who have come together on a bipartisan basis to create a reform process that ends the silence surrounding sexual assault, that brings it out of the shadows, and that gives survivors a fair shot at justice.

When the President signs this bill into law in the days ahead, it will send a powerful message to survivors all across the country: You do have rights. We do care about you. And if you choose to come forward, we are going to ensure a justice system that treats you with dignity and fairness.

Again, I thank all my colleagues. I know Senator GRASSLEY is going to be requesting unanimous consent that this legislation go forward. Mr. President, I would like to be recorded as present and voting yes on that unanimous consent request, and I am pleased to be able to join Senator GRASSLEY as he makes this momentous request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I thank Senator SHAHEEN for her support and her detailed explanation of what the legislation does and for everything she has done to help move this legislation along.

At this time, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5578 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5578) to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the measure?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 5578) was passed.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on H.R. 5578 we take an important step forward for victims of crime by establishing key protections for survivors of sexual assault in our criminal justice system.

I was proud to work with Senator SHAHEEN on this legislation when it passed in the Senate earlier this year. Her Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act addresses the unique challenges faced by sexual assault survivors. This bipartisan bill received overwhelming support in the Senate. The House has acted on a companion bill, H.R. 5578, that is nearly identical to what Senator SHAHEEN championed in the Senate. Today we pass the House measure and ensure that it will become law.

In many jurisdictions across the country, survivors of sexual assault face a labyrinth of complex policies that deter them from pursuing justice. We have seen that even when survivors make the decision to come forward, sometimes evidence is not properly preserved or tested. This is not acceptable. Survivors of sexual assault should never feel abandoned by our criminal justice system.

Senator SHAHEEN's Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act treats survivors with the dignity and respect that they deserve. It guarantees basic rights to survivors and serves as a model for reform across our Nation. It strengthens notice requirements to ensure that survivors understand their rights, and know the status of their cases.

Senator SHAHEEN was an original co-sponsor of the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law in 2013 and significantly increased resources for survivors of sexual assault. We are building on that progress today by passing the Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act, but our work is not done. I urge the House to pass my bipartisan Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which increases protections for victims of crime and provides resources to ensure key evidence is tested. The Senate passed this bill in June by voice vote, and I hope the House will act soon so that it can become law.

Today, I stand with survivors of sexual assault and with Senator SHAHEEN, whose work to protect the rights of victims is of great importance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for such time as I may consume, and I would say it would be in the neighborhood of about 10 or 12, maybe 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the leadership on the other side of the aisle in letting this survivors' bill of rights pass. I do have some comments on the procedures that have held this bill and other bills up for too long a time. I usually don't feel the need to address the Democratic leader's remarks on the floor, but he has decided to put partisan politics above rape survivors for the last week at least, so I cannot stand on the sidelines and let those remarks go unrebuted.

The Democratic leader recently said right here on the floor of the Senate that "Congress is floundering because of Republican inaction." This could not be further from the truth. If you want to know what is really going on, it is that the Democratic leader is using political gamesmanship to hold up non-controversial as well as bipartisan legislation, mostly by Republican Members who are up for reelection this year.

Why isn't the so-called objective media reporting on this? One need look no further than earlier today when Senator JOHNSON offered a non-controversial bill to fight ALS, a tragic disease, and the Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened last week to Senator TOOMEY's bill, a noncontroversial bill to prevent animals from cruelty and torture. The Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened earlier this week to Senator THUNE's bill, the noncontroversial MOBILE NOW Act. The Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened earlier this summer to another noncontroversial bill backed by Senator JOHNSON that would improve whistleblower protections. The Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened a few months ago to Senator AYOTTE's bill, a non-controversial bill to make anthrax vaccines available to first responders. The Democratic leader blocked it. That same day, just a week after five police officers were killed in Dallas, I tried to pass my noncontroversial bill to assist families of fallen police officers. The Democratic leader blocked that bill as well.

Each time Republicans tried to pass noncontroversial, bipartisan legislation, the Democratic leader blocked it. He is the common denominator. I wish I could say that I am surprised by the obstruction that is being pushed by the Democratic leader. But how can I be? This is how the Senate operated under his control. Under his tenure, even Members of his own party weren't allowed to offer amendments to his legislation unless he allowed it. In fact, there was at least one Member on the other side who went a full 6-year term without ever being allowed to offer a single amendment on the Senate floor for a vote.

The Democratic leader's actions in recent weeks—blocking these other bipartisan and, let me emphasize, non-controversial bills—is pure, unfiltered partisanship. It is election-year politics at its very worst. It is the same failed strategy American voters rejected in 2014 when they gave Republicans control of the Senate. Perhaps the Las Vegas Tribune had it right a few months ago when they wrote that for the Democratic leader, "[it's] politics first, last and always."

Today I had an opportunity to champion for Amanda Nguyen and all survivors of sexual assault across the country. I am delighted the Democratic leader relented on this very important piece of legislation and let this bill pass. I urge the Democratic leader to allow these other bipartisan initiatives to pass as well.

RESTRICTIONS ON UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I want to again discuss the unnecessary restrictions on unclassified documents from the FBI's investigation of Secretary Clinton.

By way of background, on September 12, I came to the floor and gave a speech about the FBI improperly restricting unclassified documents as if they were actually classified. Since that speech, the FBI Director has continued to talk about transparency, as transparency should be talked about because the public's business ought to be public, and when there is transparency, there is accountability in government.

Behind the scenes, the FBI won't provide documents to the Senate Judiciary Committee unless we agree to very strict controls and strict secrecy. The FBI doesn't want the committee or the committee staff talking about what is in these documents to anyone, not even privately with witnesses and their attorneys.

Today, I personally spoke with Director Comey about the terms his staff is insisting on as a condition for providing the Clinton investigation documents. I want to be clear with the people of Iowa and the American public about what I told him and what my position is as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the FBI.

The committee did not agree to any conditions before the first document delivery last month. In fact, nobody at the FBI, Senate security, or Senate leadership consulted with me as chairman of that committee before accepting the documents addressed to the Judiciary Committee. Still, we honored those limits in good faith anyway while we tried to get the unclassified material separated from the classified material. We honored the limits even though we were not obligated by any legal restriction or agreement.

The controls of these documents are overkill for this kind of unclassified material. The access controls make it unnecessarily difficult to use documents and to follow up on the information in those documents.

The most objectionable restriction is that we cannot talk about the content of the documents with witnesses and other third parties, such as their counsel, even if we do it in a nonpublic way, and that substantially interferes with the Senate's ability to continue its constitutional oversight of the executive branch. So the majority leader and I each wrote to Director Comey asking for a separate set of unclassified documents. Director Comey did not answer that letter. Then the FBI released, through the Freedom of Information Act, virtually all of the same unclassified material that it was asking the Senate to treat as if it was classified.

Releasing as much as possible to the public is the right thing to do, and I very much appreciate that Director Comey is complying with his legal obligation for transparency under the Freedom of Information Act. But these document controls imposed before the public release make it look as if the FBI is trying to muzzle Congress and keep us from working with the information until after the FOIA process is completed. So what is Congress forced to do? Congress has to wait in line behind FOIA requesters before we get access to information in a way that we can actually use it as followup for our investigation. The way this process is working sets a very dangerous precedent that could undermine transparency, and transparency is essential for accountability in government.

Frankly, this whole process is an end run around our constitutional oversight responsibility. If an agency wants to slow-walk Freedom of Information requests and give unclassified information to Congress with all kinds of strings attached to prevent us from using it, it could easily thwart oversight and accountability for months or even years.

I cannot agree to document controls that prevent the committee from doing its job, and the FBI should not ask me to do that.

We actually offered not to publicly disclose the contents of the documents and to treat them as confidential under Senate rules. Why is that not enough for the FBI to provide documents before the Freedom of Information process is complete so that we can use those very same documents in privately questioning witnesses?

All 100 Senators need to consider the consequences of allowing the executive branch to unilaterally impose restrictions on unclassified information like this. We must protect the independent powers of the Senate from the executive branch overreach.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 2971

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about legislation that would support our first responders—specifically those who work on our urban search and rescue teams. These are FEMA forces around the country staffed by volunteers—brave individuals who are willing to go into danger, who are willing to go into places like the aftermath of 9/11, as they did, or Katrina, as they did.

We just had the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and many of my colleagues came on the floor and talked about how much they appreciate those first responders who responded for us. They talked about their virtues and how they put their lives on the line to rescue victims. Those heroes included members of our urban search and rescue teams.

As we all do, I remember where I was on 9/11. I was here in Washington. My wife was in for a rare visit. The morning 9/11 happened, I think she got the last Enterprise rental car out of town and went straight home to be with our three kids to let them know they would be safe. As she was driving back to Ohio on a Pennsylvania highway, she saw flashing lights coming the other way. It was Ohio Task Force One. She recognized the truck right away because we knew a lot of the members of that task force. The lights were flashing as they went into danger: They were driving to 9/11. They were there for weeks. Some were there for months. They put their lives on the line for all of us.

At every place around the country, these task forces are staffed by the same brave individuals—not just brave but highly skilled. We think about the bravery of people like Chief Jeff Payne of Ohio Task Force One, who immediately left his family and went to the World Trade Center. We think of men like Ray Downey, one of the architects of FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue Program. Ray gave his life that day, 9/11, so that others could live. I think about so many around the country who are not just brave but highly skilled and do extraordinary work. They bring specialized skills that most first responders wouldn't have, skills such as heavy rigging or the ability to lift large and heavy objects like iron beams and concrete walls—tools that were needed at the World Trade Center. They are absolutely critical to the future of our emergency response. They also went to Katrina to save lives there. They are volunteers. They leave their families on a moment's notice when they are needed for this vital support. On 9/11, some lost their lives in service.

The families who were affected by that want to be sure that when those members deploy at the risk of their health, employment, and personal liability, that when they put it all on the line, we are there for them. That is what this legislation does.

It doesn't have to be the way it is now because we could put legislation in place that would take a lot of those concerns away, give people more peace of mind, and protect these first responders from lawsuits, medical expenses, and job loss as a result of their service. The legislation is called the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System Act. It is something FEMA asked this Congress to do after 9/11. It took Congress a while to get through it, but we finally put together legislation with FEMA over the last year and a half. The legislation was worked on by Republicans and Democrats alike. It has been totally non-partisan.

The coauthor of this legislation is TOM CARPER, the ranking Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee. The Homeland Security Committee passed this legislation not with a vote of Democrats and Republicans on each side but unanimously, with Democrats and Republicans working together. We actually passed the legislation unanimously back on May 25.

The legislation not only has the support of Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Chairman JOHNSON, Ranking Member CARPER, Senator CORY BOOKER, Senator MIKE BENNET, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, but it is also just common sense. This is exactly the kind of legislation we should be passing around here.

It has the support of FEMA, strong support. They are the ones who worked with us to put this together because they want to codify what current rules are and expand those rules and clarify them.

It has the strong support of the International Association of Firefighters, and they are wondering why we can't get this done.

It also has the support of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, with whom I spoke yesterday in a public hearing about this very bill. He said, "Let's get it done." He wants us to complete this project. He testified before us yesterday—what will probably be his last testimony as Secretary before the Homeland Security Committee—and he said, "Let's get this done."

Despite this unusual and strong bipartisan support on a critical bill to help these first responders, we can't seem to get it done.

After getting out of committee on May 25 with a unanimous vote, we then took it to the floor. In fact, over the last couple of weeks, we have had it as a hotline, meaning you ask your colleagues whether they are OK with it

passing. Of course, there has been no concern at all about the substance of the bill, so on our side of the aisle, no concerns were raised. By the way, it took 1 day to hotline it on our side, of course, because there is no controversy about it.

On the other side of the aisle, we have been asking every day. I have been asking my colleagues, including TOM CARPER and CORY BOOKER, who want to get this done, if they can help. They said there seems to be a hold on it. They say it is an anonymous hold. In other words, somebody is objecting to it over there on the other side of the aisle, but they won't come forward and say they are objecting to it. To me, that is wrong. That is why a couple days ago I said I was going to come to the floor and ask unanimous consent to find out who could possibly be objecting to this. My colleagues asked me if I could give them a couple days to check it, so I have. So I didn't do it the day before yesterday when I planned to, and I didn't do it yesterday because they wanted more time to check on it.

They continue to tell me that there is a hold, and it is an anonymous hold. I hope it is not for political purposes. That would, of course, be an incredible disservice to these first responders. If they think these task force members should come home from saving lives and have to pay for expensive injuries or health problems acquired in their service, we should have a conversation about that. If they think they shouldn't have a job waiting for them when they get back, we should have a conversation about that. But frankly, in my view, I don't think that is the issue. I can't imagine anybody objects to this on the substance, so let's get this done.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we get it done; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 578, S. 2971; further, that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend from Ohio talks about common sense. Common sense dictates to me that the Republicans who run the Senate have had months to turn their attention to bills like this. They also have had months to do something else. For almost 200 days we have been waiting—waiting for the Republicans to have a hearing with Merrick Garland.

The Supreme Court is at a standstill. Nothing is being done. A new term, and they basically are afraid to take cases of controversy. Why? Because it is four to four. So common sense dictates to me that we should address the vacancy

on the Supreme Court caused by the death of Justice Scalia.

On March 16, 2016, he was nominated. We are approaching October. To date, the Senate has not held a vote or even a hearing. It is nice that a few have decided to break from the Republican leader and even met with the man. That was nice of them to do that. Why haven't they held a hearing? Because they know they can't hold a hearing. Here is one of the most reasonable people who could ever be selected for the Supreme Court. The former chair of the Judiciary Committee, ORRIN HATCH, said he should be put on the bench. He would be a consensus nomination. But not in this Republican world, no.

So Democrats would be happy to consider bills like this about which the Senator inquires as soon as Republicans have a little common sense—they used that word—and schedule a hearing and a vote on the nomination of Judge Garland.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio has the floor.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this will probably be the last time I will have a chance to talk to the minority leader across the floor. I have worked with him on a number of things over the years, including when I was in the Senate and before the Senate. I guess I am going to plead with him this evening and say please don't block this. This has nothing to do with Supreme Court nominations. It has nothing to do with the other rancor we have seen here on the floor. This is a bill that is totally bipartisan. In fact, it is one that TOM CARPER, the ranking member of the committee, is the co-author of. It is one they have been asking for from FEMA for 10 years, even going back to a previous administration. It is one that has been up here on the floor for the last couple of weeks with no objections on the substance, not a single one.

I know Senator REID knows well that he has a task force in Nevada too. It is Nevada Task Force 1, located at the Clark County Fire Station in Las Vegas. I know he knows it well. They strongly support this legislation. Of course they do. All of them do. The International Association of Firefighters strongly supports this legislation.

If I can ask unanimous consent to put Senator REID's name as the author rather than me, I would do that tonight. Am I permitted to do that, Mr. President?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am willing to have this be a Reid bill. It

would be a good bill here toward the end of the session for the Senator to do, which would help his firefighters. I will withdraw my name from the bill.

I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my name from the bill and insert Senator REID's name instead or anybody else he chooses.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. I have objected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank him for hearing me out tonight.

And to my colleagues, I hope this is legislation we can move forward on as soon as we get into another session, I guess the lame duck session. I hope to go to work with my colleague from Nevada on that. I know he has been very supportive of firefighters and does not object to the merits of the legislation, so my hope is that we can get this done.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would ask my friend before he leaves that the Senator modify his request: that following a vote on confirmation of the nomination of Merrick Garland to be a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of his matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator modify his request?

Mr. PORTMAN. No. On behalf of the majority leader, of course I object to that. I am amazed that we are blocking legislation to help our urban search and rescue teams by bringing partisan politics into this discussion, and I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I submit that—my friend still has the floor, so I don't want to interrupt.

Mr. PORTMAN. I would be happy to yield to the minority leader.

THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM IOWA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I don't know how anything could be more political, more repugnant to our system of government than what has happened with Merrick Garland.

The senior Senator from Iowa came here, and I waited for him—came to the floor to talk for a long time and in the process took credit for a bill that was Senator SHAHEEN's bill. It was her bill. He took it and put his name on it. That was interesting. In the same setting, he complained that I had objected to some bills advanced by Republican Senators.

I have to say that the Senator from Iowa has a lot of nerve to complain about our side blocking legislation. The Republican Senate has written the book on obstruction, filibustering 644 times in the time I was leader. That is

a lot. It is so far out of the norm that it is not worth trying to be able to state more than what I did yesterday.

Lyndon Johnson was the majority leader for 6 years. There is some dispute over how many filibusters he had to overcome. We know it was one, and some say two. So two compared to 644 shows how outrageous is the conduct of the Republicans. The Senator from Iowa has written the book on obstruction of nominations. He singlehandedly blocked Judge Garland's nomination, and doing so is unprecedented. Never has a Judiciary Committee acted in this manner.

To use Senator GRASSLEY's own words, Senator GRASSLEY's action is "pure, unfiltered partisanship. It is election-year politics at its very worst." That was a quote from my friend, Senator GRASSLEY. If the senior Senator from Iowa is looking for pure, unfiltered partisanship, the next time he combs his hair or shaves, he should look in the mirror.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ZIKA VIRUS FUNDING

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I want to come to the floor to say that after a lot of work, the Senate has finally passed funding to take on Zika—a cause I have been talking about since April of this year. I want to say, in full credit to the Senate, that this is actually a very similar proposal that the Senate proposed in May, and it is now the one before us. I am sad that it took so long to get to this point, but at least we are here now.

As I said before, it is better late than never. To the people of my home State of Florida, to the people of the island of Puerto Rico, who have been disproportionately impacted by the outbreak of Zika in the United States, I want to say that despite a long wait, help is finally on the way. Help is finally on the way in the form of a \$1.1 billion anti-Zika package which is part of this larger law—this larger bill that passed today to keep the government open beyond September 30.

Included in the law that passed today is \$15 million that is specifically targeted for States with local transmissions. The only State so far that has had local transmissions is my home State of Florida. Today, \$15 million is, hopefully, on its way to Florida if we can get this done in the House to help with the fight against Zika.

It also includes \$60 million, specifically for territories like Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico has the highest number of infected American citizens with Zika. Today is good news for Puerto Rico.

This took far too long, but I am glad we are finally here. This anti-Zika package rightfully prioritizes Americans in Florida and in Puerto Rico, and

I am encouraged that after months of working on this, my calls for action have finally been answered and real assistance from the Federal Government is finally on its way.

I have to reiterate that it is shameful that it took so long and that this public health crisis was made worse by people playing political games in Washington, DC.

If anyone is in doubt about whether that is partisan, I think the games have come from both side of the aisle. It took far too long for colleagues in my own party to understand the gravity and severity of this outbreak, and, sad to say, the Democratic minority in the Senate used this as a political tool for much of the month of August and even as late as yesterday. I am glad that these critical resources are now moving forward so that we can help thousands of Americans suffering from this virus and so that we can step up our mosquito eradication efforts and ultimately so that we can develop a vaccine that eradicates Zika for good.

While the funding is on its way, the problem still continues. In the mainland of the United States, there are now 3,358 cases of Zika. In U.S. territories, primarily the island of Puerto Rico, there are now close to 20,000 cases. In my home State of Florida, there are now 904 cases—109 of them were locally transmitted, meaning they were not acquired abroad. They were acquired in the State. There are 91 pregnant women in the State of Florida infected by Zika.

While Congress did nothing and while the President refused to fully spend the spending authority it had available to him for weeks, this crisis continued to grow. The health impact of it is well understood, but the economic impact has not been discussed nearly enough.

We know for a fact that there are bookings that are down in Miami Beach. That is not just an inconvenience. My parents worked in the hotel industry. That is how they raised our family—my father in particular. If hotels are suffering because people are canceling trips because they are afraid of Zika, it is the people that work at those hotels who are most immediately impacted.

We have seen restaurants and small businesses associated with visitors report the same thing. Anecdotally, I have had people come up to me over the last month and say: Is it safe to travel to Florida? Is it safe to go down there?

The answer is that it is. It is safe to come to Florida, but that doesn't mean we don't have a Zika problem. It doesn't mean it doesn't need to be addressed. Local communities in the State of Florida and the island of Puerto Rico—the territory, the Commonwealth—had to step forward and fund it on their own until now.

While it is good news that we have finally passed Zika funding in the Sen-

ate, it now has to go to the House. I would urge my colleagues in the House to pass this quickly—not just to keep the government open but to finally fund the fight against Zika and to ensure that the research that is going into the development of vaccine is not slowed down.

There are other things we can do to address this. For example, I have proposed opening up the Small Business Administration loan program that is available for businesses that suffer the effects of natural disasters to also be able so that businesses may avail themselves of these loans if they are suffering because of a health epidemic. The SBA has indicated that they are open to that change, and I hope that is something we look at when we return in November.

Suffice it to say that I want to close out here today by telling the people of Florida that, after a wait that took far too long, after months of hard work and focus and bipartisan cooperation, help is finally on the way. Help is finally on the way in the form of \$1.1 billion, including \$15 million for Florida and \$60 million for the territory of Puerto Rico.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX AND HEALTH CARE POLICY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, we are currently in the middle of an election year. Like most Americans, I look forward to the end of the political campaign season and the end of the rhetoric, spin, and constant battle to win the latest news cycle.

Don't get me wrong, I am not saying this election is meaningless. In fact, there is quite a bit at stake this coming November. And the American people have some clear choices to make.

Unfortunately, some of the more complex and consequential policy matters are the ones that most frequently end up in the middle of the political echo chamber, surrounded by hyperbolic rhetoric, empty promises, and overly simplistic answers to some very difficult questions.

This includes, among many other areas, tax and health care policy, both of which fall largely under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, which I chair.

Let me be clear: I understand why both tax and health care policy are fertile grounds for political gamesmanship.

When we are talking about the Tax Code or our health care system, we are

taking about issues that impact the lives and livelihoods of individuals, families, and businesses throughout our country. As a result, people are particularly sensitive to the notion that one party or candidate might raise their taxes or enact policies that will increase—or decrease—their health care costs.

Politicians are usually more than willing to promise that, if elected, they will make sure that the people in category X will “finally pay their fair share in taxes,” while simultaneously promising that the intended audience will not see their taxes go up.

Similarly, politicians are quite fond of telling people that their policies will bring down their health care costs—or even eliminate them altogether—while promising that the people in category X will be the ones to pay for it.

I suppose the factor that most often separates these politicians from one another is whom they include in category X, whom they choose to slap with an unfavorable label so that their audience has no problem raising their taxes or making them foot the cost of an expanded health care system.

This type of rhetoric—defining enemies and promising to make them pay—may make for good politics, but it almost never results in favorable conditions for meaningful reforms.

That is a big reason why, despite almost universal dissatisfaction with the Tax Code, Members of Congress have for years now been unable to enact meaningful reforms.

It is also a major reason why, even though the vast majority of Americans do not believe our current health care system works for them, many politicians refuse to even acknowledge that there is even a problem.

Put simply, we need to do better. While I understand the importance of elections to our system, we should not let election-year rhetoric paint us into a corner when it is time to draft and enact policy.

Case in point, for years now, the Obama administration has been ramping up its political rhetoric on corporate inversions, fully aware that the American people were rightly concerned about U.S. businesses moving their headquarters offshore.

After years of attacking American businesses—and Republican politicians—for a supposed lack of “economic patriotism,” they finally had to translate their rhetoric into policy, which resulted in the recently proposed debt-equity regulations that have drawn criticism from observers and businesses throughout our economy and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle for being too broad and too blind to ways in which businesses legitimately manage their finances.

By all means, we should try to prevent inversions and go after earnings stripping, which is a closely related

problem. I think most reasonable people want to do that. But the Obama administration’s proposed regulations go after many legitimate business transactions—transactions that are not at all motivated by tax avoidance.

Put simply, these regulations will impose substantial burdens on businesses throughout the country and will likely hamper our still fragile economic recovery.

Despite the backlash that we have seen to the Treasury Department’s proposed regulations under section 385, they show no signs of backing down—and how could they? After years of demonizing American companies and Republicans over inversions, how politically advantageous would it have been to sit down with Members of Congress to craft more narrowly focused, reasonable solutions that would not grab as many headlines?

Ultimately, the Obama administration has determined that it is better—politically speaking—to, as the saying goes, go big or go home on its anti-inversion policies and hope that anyone from the opposing party who speaks out against them will be seen as soft on corporate inversions.

And, when it comes to tax policy, it appears that the pattern will not be changing if we are faced with another Democratic administration after November.

The Democrats’ nominee for President has been relatively short on details when she talks about her tax proposals. For the most part, her campaign sticks to the tried and true Democratic tactic of promising everything from tax cuts to “free” college tuition, to child care for middle and lower-income workers, while simultaneously claiming that all of it and more can be paid for simply by raising taxes on the rich and closing corporate tax “loopholes.”

Just last month, a top advisor to the Democratic nominee said that she opposes any reduction of the U.S. corporate tax rate, even though there is a broad consensus among both parties that our corporate tax rate is too high and needs to come down.

I suspect that Secretary Clinton’s advisors share this belief behind closed doors, as it is, for the most part, conventional wisdom among tax policy experts; yet, as they have in countless other situations, they have made a political calculation that supporting a reduction in corporate tax rates doesn’t play well with the Democratic base.

Let’s set aside the fact that increasing the tax burden on American businesses results in costs that are largely passed along to consumers, including lower and middle income earners.

Let’s also set aside that their nominee has expressed support for ideas like a carbon tax that would also result in higher costs of living for Americans across the board, particularly on the

middle class and lower-income workers.

And let’s also set aside the fact that she has endorsed taxes on goods like guns and soda, many of which would be predominantly imposed, not on the super wealthy, but the middle class and lower-income earners.

If you ignore those statements on her part and focus on her plan, her tax and spending proposals have little basis in reality. Modest increases in the individual tax rates for the highest earners wouldn’t cover our current and projected deficits, let alone pay for the massive spending increases she has proposed. Similarly, there aren’t enough corporate tax “loopholes” that could reasonably be eliminated to cover the costs of her campaign promises.

We know this because we have gone through it with the current occupant of the White House. In every major budget dispute and many of the conflicts surrounding the statutory debt limit, President Obama has repeatedly clamored for increased taxes on the so-called rich, often claiming that doing so would solve our budgetary problems.

This is, of course, a facade that only serves a political agenda and it has permeated beyond the election season and into discussions that are supposed to be about actually creating policy.

As I mentioned earlier, this problem persists outside of the tax space. We also see it in our debate over health care policy.

Here is the reality we are living in when it comes to health care: Costs are going up across the board as insurance premiums continue to skyrocket while the implementation of the President’s health law continues to be a disaster. Enrollment numbers in the Obamacare exchanges continue to fall well below the projections made by both the administration and the Congressional Budget Office, and the result is a steady decrease in options for patients and consumers and increased burdens on businesses and hardworking taxpayers.

Even without the inherent systemic problems causing the downward spiral of the entire Obamacare system, the implementation of the law has been remarkably inept and unaccountable.

For example, nearly two-thirds of the Obamacare CO-OPs have failed, costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office repeatedly reports that criminals and fraudsters are likely able to navigate the Obamacare exchanges and even obtain tax subsidies due to the lack of proper safeguards in the system.

Despite all of these failures, which highlight both the shortcomings of the law and the innate inability of government to regulate such a vast and complex marketplace, the Democrats still argue that more government is the answer.

President Obama has repeatedly refused to acknowledge that the health law isn't working, writing off unfavorable data points as being anecdotal or irrelevant to the bigger picture.

The Democrats' nominee for President takes it one step further, doubling down on the Obama administration's position while promising even more government control of the health care system.

She has outlined a number of "reforms" she would like to add to the "progress we've made" under Obamacare. And, each of her proposals amounts to an expanded role for the Federal Government.

Most notably, of course, she has resurrected the so-called public option, by promising voters access to a government-run health care plan.

She is not alone. An expanded role for the government in health care is what most Democrats openly say that they want.

I am not making that up or casting unfounded aspersions. This isn't paranoia on my part. My colleagues have purposefully chosen to make the creation of a government-run health care plan a central tenet of their 2016 campaigns. Just a few weeks ago, the vast majority of the Senate Democratic caucus signed onto a resolution calling for a government-run health insurance option.

It is almost as if the last 7 years didn't happen.

It is almost as if my colleagues haven't seen the failures of the existing system and the overwhelming evidence of government ineptitude when it comes to health care.

In their resolution, my colleagues are telling the American people that expanding the government's role in health care will "lead to increased competition and reduced premiums," and "ensure that consumers have the affordable choices they deserve," even though virtually everything about the Obamacare experience contradicts that conclusion.

The inevitable result of the course my colleagues want to follow is a single-payer health care system, even if many of them won't admit that is their long-term goal. I have noted several times that, in a world where the government dictates both the products on the health insurance market and the prices at which they are sold, the eventual result will be a market where the government is the only available provider.

From the time Obamacare was drafted, I have argued that Democrats intended to keep expanding the role of the government in the health care sector until they could argue that, after a series of failures, the only option left is a nationalized, single-payer health care system.

And my arguments have been called paranoid and inflammatory by pundits

and politicians on the other side; yet, looking at this current campaign season, it is not remotely a stretch to say that my colleagues support and eventually intend to impose a health care system run entirely by the government.

Whether we are talking about taxes or health care or anything else, the problem with this type of rhetoric and all of these campaign promises isn't that my colleagues are simply wrong on the facts. The problem is that, when the rubber meets the proverbial road, these kinds of promises don't lead to good results for the American people.

And, here is why: While some unfortunately seem to live in a perpetual election cycle, once the votes are all counted, we have an obligation to actually govern the country.

I know that fact is sometimes lost on a number of people in this town, but it is the cold, honest truth. The purpose of elections is to eventually enact policies that are preferred by the voters.

Yet, in every election, candidates and Members of Congress spend months taking unreasonable positions and making outlandish promises because they play well with the voters. But, once the election is over, all of that rhetoric—the promises as well as the attacks—have to be translated into actual policy. And, far too often, that process of translation leads either to gridlock when elected officials refuse to move off of their unreasonable campaign positions or to results that, in the eyes of many voters, appear watered down in comparison to the promises they heard in the middle of campaign.

Is it any wonder, then, that the American people are, by and large, growing more distrustful of the government?

Is it any wonder why the vast majority of Americans across the ideological spectrum have a negative view of Congress?

As chairman of the Finance Committee, I am well aware that I am going to be tasked with translating election-year rhetoric into workable policies. I am also aware that the policies that fall within the Finance Committee's jurisdiction are often those where we hear some of the most contentious rhetoric and unrealistic promises during each and every election cycle, which makes the job of crafting policy that much harder.

Don't get me wrong, I don't doubt my own ability to reach policy solutions that can satisfy members of both parties, and, as chairman and previously as ranking member, I have worked very hard to do so. And, prior to that time, I had a great deal of success working through difficult policy matters with members in both parties to find the right answers to complex problems.

I believe strongly that we can be successful in coming up with tax policies, health care policies, or any other poli-

cies that serve the best interests of the American people. I simply do not believe that election-year rhetoric and hyperbolic campaign promises are the right starting points for these efforts.

Allow me to boil it down a little further and get more specific.

I believe wholeheartedly that we can reform our broken Tax Code on a bipartisan basis, I just don't think we can do it by starting with the notion that tax reform should be about raising revenue for increased spending and punishing disfavored income groups, unpopular industries, or savvy investors.

I also believe we can find a bipartisan way to fix our ailing health care system. But I simply don't believe that it can be done if we are focusing on expanding government in order to keep campaign promises to create a government-run health plan.

I look forward to tackling these issues with my colleagues and to reaching across the aisle to find the right answers. In my view, that will be much easier to accomplish if my friends on the other side of the aisle will eventually be willing to set aside the rhetoric they have employed during the campaign to appease their base.

I am willing to work with anyone to address these and other issues. We're just going to have to find a way to cut through the politics and partisanship that all too often slows us down.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I reluctantly voted to sustain President Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, JASTA. It is essential that we honor families of the 9/11 victims. I am supportive of their efforts to pursue justice and hold accountable foreign powers that support terrorism in the United States. However, I am concerned that JASTA erodes longstanding international immunity protections that are essential to the security of the United States.

As President Obama explained in a letter to me, "Enacting JASTA into law . . . would neither protect America from terrorist attacks nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. . . . JASTA sweeps much more broadly than 9/11 or Saudi Arabia, and its far-reaching implications would threaten to undermine important principles that protect the United States, including our U.S. Armed Forces and other officials overseas, without making us any safer."

In its current form, JASTA undermines the principle of sovereign immunity in U.S. courts, which could have significant reciprocal ramifications. If JASTA becomes law, other countries will likely follow suit and enact laws that threaten U.S. interests and jeopardize the United States' ability to operate internationally. As Secretary of

Defense Ash Carter noted, “[JASTA] is likely to increase our country’s vulnerability to lawsuits overseas and to encourage foreign governments or their courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials in situations in which we believe the United States is entitled of sovereign immunity. U.S. Servicemembers stationed here and overseas, and especially those supporting our counterterrorism efforts, would be vulnerable to private individuals’ accusations that their activities contributed to acts alleged to violate a foreign state’s law.”

As the Senate Democratic leader, I feel an obligation to support my President. Although I am voting to sustain the President’s veto, I would be supportive of follow-on efforts to modify the JASTA bill in a way that would allow victims to secure justice while protecting core U.S. interests.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to talk about the continuing resolution passed by the Senate earlier today. This bipartisan agreement is the result of weeks of negotiations between Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate. It funds the Federal Government through December 9 at fiscal year 2016 levels and provides much-needed funding to fight the ongoing Zika public health emergency. We also now have an agreement on a path forward to finally address the public health crisis in Flint, MI.

Funding the government through a stop-gap measure like this is not ideal, but it provides Congress additional time to negotiate a larger funding agreement to fund the Federal Government through the end of the 2017 fiscal year.

Included in this agreement is \$1.1 billion in emergency funding to help States and our Federal health agencies properly respond to the Zika epidemic. As of last week, there were more than 23,000 reported cases of Zika in the United States and its territories, including more than 2,000 pregnant women who have been infected. This money will be used for vaccine development, mosquito control, and the delivery of much needed health care.

While I am glad Congress will finally provide these much-needed funds, Congress should have provided this funding sooner. It has been 7 months since the President requested emergency funding to address Zika and 4 months after the Senate passed a bipartisan bill to provide Zika funding.

But it has taken this long for Republicans to finally agree to drop their outrageous demands to attach partisan poison pills to this vital public health funding. The agreement does not include controversial policy riders to overturn provisions of the Clean Water

Act, nor does it block money from going to Planned Parenthood health centers that so many women rely on to access health care.

We have also reached a bipartisan agreement on providing funding to address the crisis in Flint, MI. The people of Flint have waited 1 year—far too long—for Congress to do our job and address the public health emergency that has poisoned 9,000 children and left 100,000 residents without access to clean and safe water. Instead of turning on the tap to make breakfast or take a shower, Flint residents start their day by waiting in long lines for bottled water to feed and bathe their children, take showers, and stay healthy. The House has moved to include funding for Flint in their Water Resources and Development bill, and I am hopeful that a final agreement on assistance for Flint will be reached in the coming months. I also hope the final agreement will include funding for other communities, like those in my home State of Illinois, facing lead contaminated water issues.

While this continuing resolution is a promising, bipartisan step forward, I am concerned about a provision that limits the Security and Exchange Commission’s ability to finalize, issue, or implement a corporate political spending disclosure rule. In 2010, the Supreme Court issued a far-reaching decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. On a divided 5-4 vote, the Court struck down years of precedent and held that the First Amendment permitted corporations to spend freely from their treasuries to influence elections. As a result of *Citizens United* and a series of decisions that followed in its wake, special interests and wealthy, well-connected campaign donors have so far poured more than \$2 billion of outside spending into recent Federal elections, including 2016 races. In the years since *Citizens United*, several of my colleagues and I have called for the SEC to initiate a rulemaking requiring public companies to disclose their political spending to shareholders. More than 1.2 million securities experts, institutional and individual investors, and members of the public have asked the SEC for a disclosure rule. Such a rulemaking would bring much-needed transparency to the U.S. political process. Shareholders deserve to know when outside spending in political campaigns comes from the coffers of a company they have invested in.

Unfortunately, last year, this provision limiting the SEC’s rulemaking authority was slipped into the omnibus appropriations bill, which we had to pass in order to fund the government for the 2016 fiscal year. And I am disappointed that under this continuing resolution, this rider will continue to strangle the SEC’s authority. I will work with my colleagues to strike this problematic rider in future legislation.

I am also disappointed that the continuing resolution fails to address ongoing issues with the Export-Import Bank. Last fall, a bipartisan majority of the House and Senate joined together to end a 5-month shutdown of the Export-Import Bank. Despite the end of the shutdown, the Bank remains unable to function because the board lacks the quorum necessary to approve financing deals of more than \$10 million. This not only harms large manufacturers and their employees, it also has a negative impact on thousands of small businesses that are suppliers and subcontractors and the hard-working men and women they employ. The President has nominated two qualified candidates, including a Republican, to serve on the board, but those nominations are being held hostage by the Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. That is why I have supported language to deem the existing board as having the quorum needed to do its work until these nominations can be considered—a move that is not unprecedented. It is my hope that we will continue to work together to restore the Bank’s operating board quorum so that we can prevent further disruption to the economic security of American workers.

I am proud that bipartisan cooperation resulted in today’s continuing resolution to keep the federal government open and operating through December 9, but our work here in Congress is hardly done. I will continue to work with colleagues over the months ahead to reach a bipartisan agreement on how we will fund the federal government for the year to come and finally provide funding to address the public health crisis in Flint.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, and I wish to commend the association for its seven-and-a-half decades of dedicated service to the people of Illinois.

Since its creation in 1941, the association has worked to elevate the training and professional development of law enforcement leadership throughout the State, including working to establish the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois. The association makes sure that police chiefs have the information and training they need to engage in effective community policing. From its headquarters on Fifth Street in Springfield, the association’s influence has spread across the Nation and the world, with seven members of the association having served as the president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Throughout its history, the association has worked to earn and maintain

the respect of the people the association's members serve. The association has been guided by its values of compassion, integrity, accountability, fairness, professionalism, innovation, continuous improvement, diversity and inclusion. Not only has the association represented the voices of Illinois' law enforcement leaders as they work to protect the community, but the association also has given back to the community through its longstanding support of the Special Olympics and other charitable causes.

As the association comes together on October 1, 2016, to celebrate its 75th anniversary, I want to recognize and honor the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, its more than 1,200 members from nearly 500 agencies across Illinois, its staff, and its board of officers: President Chief Steven Casstevens of the Buffalo Grove Police Department, First Vice President Chief James Kruger of the Oak Brook Police Department, Second Vice President Chief Brian Fengel of the Bartonville Police Department, Third Vice President Chief Steven Stelter of the Westchester Police Department, Fourth Vice President Chief James Black of the Crystal Lake Police Department, Immediate Past President Chief Frank Kaminski of the Park Ridge Police Department, and Parliamentarian Chief Russell Laine of the Fox Lake Police Department.

Our men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line every day to help protect and serve our communities. For the past 75 years, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police has been there to help support and guide Illinois' police chiefs and their departments every step of the way. I am grateful to the association for its steadfast service to our State, and I commend and honor the association on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, CEO, program, a yearlong class that creates a real-world learning environment for high school students across Illinois.

The CEO program was started by author Jack Schultz, Craig Lindvahl, and other community leaders to change the way America's youth approach problems and give them more control over their futures. The mission of the CEO program is "to prepare youths to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs and contribute to the economic development and sustainability of their community."

Throughout this program, participants visit 30 to 50 community businesses during the school year. They learn how to start their own businesses

from actual CEOs of local, national, and international companies. They also develop important life skills: critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and communication. Through this program, students gain a new sense of self-confidence to become future business leaders.

The success of the CEO program would not be possible without Craig Lindvahl, the executive director of the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship in Effingham, IL. Every day he works to empower students through the CEO program. Craig, who is a nationally recognized teacher and filmmaker, has spent the last 5 years teaching the CEO program and bringing together business people, community leaders, and students from high schools across Illinois. The program has also expanded into Minnesota and Indiana.

Under Craig's leadership, the CEO program is helping build a strong foundation for our students, which will have a lasting effect on their futures. Our Nation's economy is evolving at a rapid rate, and in order to meet labor demands and foster innovation, we need mentors like Craig and programs like CEO to help prepare our students with the necessary skills to be competitive and successful. I had a chance to see this for myself when I visited the Williamson and Jackson Counties CEO classes in May and watched students present their final projects.

It is with great pride that today I recognize the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities program for the transformative education they are providing the next generation of entrepreneurs and community leaders.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID YEPSEN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to acknowledge David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, SIU. Earlier this year, David announced that he would be retiring in late October.

Prior to joining the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU, David was a political writer, editor, and columnist. He spent over three decades at the Des Moines Register. If you have a passion for covering politics, like David Yepsen does, there is no better place to be. Every 4 years, the political class descends on Iowa, and no one takes this more seriously than Iowans. Iowans and politicians fill churches, community centers, schools, libraries, and homes on cold winter nights to talk politics with friends and neighbors. At the center of this political three-ring circus is the Des Moines Register, and for nine Presidential campaign cycles, that meant David Yepsen.

It should come as no surprise that David has had a lifelong interest in politics. In high school, he was elected student body president, governor of the

Iowa American Legion's Boys' State program, and U.S. senator in the group's Boys Nation program.

David Yepsen is "Mr. Iowa." Born in Jefferson, IA, David graduated from the University of Iowa, studied journalism and mass communications at Iowa State University, and earned a masters in public administration from Drake University in Des Moines. In 1977, David became a Statehouse reporter for the Des Moines Register. And in 1983, he got his big break becoming the Des Moines Register's chief political reporter. He was later named political editor and, in 2000, was promoted to full-time political columnist.

In 1997, after retiring from the U.S. Senate, Paul Simon established a public policy institute at Southern Illinois University. When it first opened, the institute was considered a think tank by many, but not by Paul Simon. He called it a "do tank." In 2009, David Yepsen became director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, and under his leadership, it was exactly that. Throughout the years, he has organized countless events—including a "pizza and politics" program—encouraging students on campus to get involved in politics and government. David never lost sight of Paul Simon's vision and always searched for ways the institute could educate the public and even influence Washington, DC. He was always looking for opportunities to take the institute to the next level.

Although Senator Paul Simon never saw David Yepsen lead his institute, it was clear what he thought of him and the job he would do. In 1988, when Senator Simon ran for the Democratic nomination to be President of the United States, he praised David's objectivity. He said: "Every four years the chief political reporter for the Des Moines Register becomes the most important reporter in the nation. It is a position that could cause vanity and abuse. To his credit, David Yepsen handled this position with sensitivity and balance. And he worked hard." That is high praise, but well deserved.

Some of the best advice I have received is from Senator Paul Simon. He used to say that "when people disagree with my vote I want them to say that it's because I'm ignorant or stupid, not because I'm greedy or making money." With his credentials and years at the Des Moines Register, David had plenty of opportunities to cash in on his success and make money, but instead, he chose to take a job as director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU in Carbondale, IL. Paul Simon would have been proud.

I want to congratulate David Yepsen on his distinguished career and thank him for continuing the outstanding work started by Senator Paul Simon at Southern Illinois University. I especially want to thank David's wife, Dr. Mary Stuart, and daughter Elizabeth

for sharing so much of their husband and father with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU. I wish him and his family all the best.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY DELAURENTIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday President Obama nominated Jeffrey DeLaurentis to be U.S. Ambassador to Cuba. If confirmed, Mr. DeLaurentis would be the first U.S. Ambassador in Havana in more than half a century.

I have known Jeff DeLaurentis since he became the U.S. chief of mission in Havana, and he is the obvious choice to be ambassador. He is a career diplomat who is universally respected by his peers and by Democrats and Republicans in Congress for his intellect, his integrity, and his thoughtfulness.

The decision to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba has been widely supported, and the number of Americans traveling to Cuba is increasing dramatically. We need an ambassador who knows Cuba, who is respected by the Cuban Government, and who will stand up for U.S. interests and values. Jeff DeLaurentis is that person. The Cuban people have their ambassador in Washington. The American people need their ambassador in Havana.

Not surprisingly, one Senator who has opposed the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba criticized the nomination of Mr. DeLaurentis. While he did not challenge Mr. DeLaurentis's qualifications for the job, since he is obviously exceptionally well qualified, the Senator instead said "rewarding the Castro government with a U.S. ambassador is another last-ditch legacy project for the president that needs to be stopped." He said the nomination "should go nowhere until the Castro regime makes significant and irreversible progress in the areas of human rights and political freedom for the Cuban people." He was joined in his opposition to Mr. DeLaurentis's nomination by another Senator.

Having been to Cuba many times where I have met with Cuban Government officials, as well as with critics of the government, including some who have been persecuted and imprisoned, no one is a stronger defender of human rights there than I am. Like President Obama, we all want the Cuban people to be able to express themselves freely and to choose their own leaders in a free and fair election.

For 50 years, we have tried the isolationist approach advocated by a dwindling minority of Members of Congress, and it has failed miserably. The Castros are still in power, and Cuba is still a country where political dissent is not tolerated.

No one who knows Cuba expected the resumption of diplomatic relations to quickly result in an end to repression

or free elections. But I am confident that, in a lot less than 50 years, the Cuban people will have a lot more freedom than they have had for the past 50 years.

Consider for a moment what it would mean if we did what these Senators advocate. Not only would we have no ambassador in Cuba, to be consistent, we would have no ambassador in China, Vietnam, Russia, South Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, or in any number of other countries where human rights are routinely violated, where political opponents, journalists, and human rights defenders are imprisoned and tortured, where there is no such thing as a fair trial, where civil society organizations are threatened and harassed, and where dissent is severely punished.

Is that what the Senators want, or are they just concerned about human rights in Cuba? Their argument is as illogical as it is inconsistent.

The purpose of an ambassador is to represent the interests of the U.S. Government and the American people. Appointing a U.S. Ambassador is not a reward to a foreign government, any more than their ambassadors are a reward to our government. Do the Senators think that our ambassador in Russia is a reward to President Putin, or that having an ambassador in Moscow somehow conveys that we agree with President Putin's corrupt, repressive policies? Does anyone think that Russia's ambassador is somehow a reward to the Obama administration? Or that our ambassador in Vietnam legitimizes the repressive policies of that government? Does anyone think that the Cuban Government regards its ambassador here as a reward to us?

Let's be sensible. The United States has interests in every country, even if it is just to stand up for the rights of Americans who travel, study, or work overseas. But there are many other reasons like promoting trade and investment, protecting national security and public health, and supporting educational and cultural exchange.

We could do as these Senators urge and downgrade our diplomatic presence and withdraw our ambassadors from every country where there is a repressive government. That, of course, would mean that our lower-ranking diplomats would be relegated to meeting with foreign officials of lesser rank than ambassador.

And, of course, those governments, like Cuba, they would still have their ambassadors in Washington, with access to officials of comparable rank in our government. Would that help us advocate for U.S. interests, for U.S. values, for the American people?

We either believe in diplomacy or we don't. We either empower our diplomats or we don't. The Cubans, after a year of difficult negotiations, agreed to reopen embassies. Now, with their ambassador here conducting business, we

are somehow better off without an ambassador there? Of course not.

I understand that this is an emotional issue for some Cuban-American families. But after 55 years, Cuban-Americans overwhelmingly support the new policy of engagement. They want the U.S. to have an ambassador in Havana.

There is a time for family politics, and there is time for what is in the interest of the nation as a whole. Ambassadors serve the national interest, and that is what Jeff DeLaurentis would do, and he would do so as a career diplomat with years of experience.

Finally, I want to quote from Alan Gross, who as we all know, spent 5 long years in a Cuban prison. This is what Mr. Gross said about Mr. DeLaurentis's nomination: "I advocate for the appointment of a U.S. Ambassador to Cuba and I have a very high regard for Ambassador Jeff DeLaurentis. Had there been diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cuba in December 2008, a U.S. Ambassador could have prevented the loss of five years of my life. Any one in Congress who opposes this nomination goes against the best interests of the United States."

We should listen to Alan Gross. He suffered in Cuba, as do thousands of Americans imprisoned overseas. They depend on our ambassadors to assist and advocate for them, just as we would if it were a member of our families.

I urge these Senators to put what is in the interests of the American people over their personal interests and to not obstruct the confirmation of Jeff DeLaurentis, a superbly qualified nominee, from becoming ambassador to Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL GORDON SULLIVAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, earlier this summer, GEN Gordon Sullivan, a man who has dedicated his life to caring for and developing world-class leaders, retired from his role as chairman of the Norwich University Board of Trustees, a position he held for 13 years. At the same time, he retired from his role as president of the Association of the United States Army, a post he held for 18 years.

General Sullivan's lifetime of service began in 1959, when he earned his degree in political science from Norwich University and assumed a commission in the Army as a second lieutenant of armor. Like so many from this prestigious Vermont institution, he went on to excel among his peers. He completed two distinguished tours in Vietnam, earning the Purple Heart. General Sullivan could have justifiably concluded his military service then, and his contributions to that point would have been impressive, but he

continued to serve, and in clear recognition of his tireless devotion to soldiers, he was eventually appointed as the Army's top officer.

As the 32nd Army Chief of Staff, General Sullivan directed a post-Cold War downsizing that spanned the administrations of two U.S. Presidents. These transitional years saw unprecedented reorganization within the Department, occurring amid ongoing, complex global peacekeeping operations. By continuing to prioritize the men and women he was tasked with leading, General Sullivan navigated this critical era with a skill and tact that few can match. In 1995, he retired from the Army to begin a new chapter.

In 1998, General Sullivan began his tenure as president of the Association of the United States Army, AUSA, the Nation's largest Army-oriented, non-profit organization. As president of the association, he was known for focusing efforts on improving conditions for soldiers and their families. General Sullivan served as head of AUSA while maintaining close ties to Norwich University, and that connection was further solidified in 2003 when he became chairman of the Norwich University Board of Trustees.

As chairman of the board, he directed and supervised countless improvements to the university, while always adhering to Norwich's core values. During his 13 years leading the board, General Sullivan assisted with the meticulous design of the school's 2019 plan. His influence helped bring about some of the most significant improvements in Norwich's history, including the expansion of student housing, academic resources, and athletic facilities. Perhaps most notably, he played an integral role in building the school's reputation as an internationally known center for education in cyber security. Like Norwich's founder, Captain Alden Partridge, General Sullivan has contributed to Vermont and our Nation's academic prosperity in so many ways.

I would like to recognize GEN Gordon Sullivan for his contributions to Norwich University, the Army, and the Nation as a whole. It gives me great pride to know that General Sullivan benefited so strongly from a Vermont-based education, and I know that our State has benefited from a longtime relationship with him. I am confident that General Sullivan's contributions will continue, and I wish him well as he further expands his already proud and accomplished legacy.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today we have made great progress in protecting whistleblowers and veterans at Veterans Affairs hospitals across the country by passing the fiscal year 2017 Military Construction—Veterans Affairs Appropriations Conference Agreement,

which includes S. 2291, VA Patient Protection Act. This bill provides protection for the protectors of our veterans, the whistleblowers, who are shedding light on the egregious acts of some employees at VA hospitals across the country. Unfortunately, one of those hospitals is the Edwards Hines Jr. Veterans Affairs Medical Center in my State of Illinois.

Today I sent a letter to Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald regarding the most recent injustice uncovered by whistleblowers at the Hines VA.

Whistleblowers brought to my attention that the remains of indigent veterans and those without next of kin are often left in the Hines VA morgue for over a month, sometimes longer, without proper postmortem care. The whistleblowers, who wish to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation and losing their jobs, brought forward information identifying Mr. Christopher Wirtjes, chief, patient administrative services at Hines VA, as the person responsible for this blatant disregard of a veteran's right for a timely and dignified burial. I have asked the Secretary to fire Mr. Wirtjes for failure to perform his duties. In addition to this latest trespass against veterans at Hines VA, Mr. Wirtjes was the only manager identified in the VA's own inspector general investigation as the mastermind behind directing staff to manipulate wait times for appointments at Hines VA.

Whistleblowers provide an important service of reporting waste, fraud, and abuse of veterans care. In fact, whistleblower disclosures play a pivotal role in promoting accountability and better health care for veterans at the VA. However, whistleblowers at Hines VA tell me retaliation continues despite the whistleblower protections in place. This is why I am pleased the continuing resolution that passed the Senate today overwhelmingly includes my bipartisan VA Patient Protection Act, which increases penalties for those who retaliate against whistleblowers, creates a formal process for whistleblowers to file claims at the VA, and establishes a central whistleblower office to investigate all whistleblower claims.

Just as no servicemember is left behind on the battlefield, no veteran should ever be left in a morgue or placed on a secret wait list for health care appointments. I thank the brave whistleblowers who come forward to protect our veterans. I also reiterate to Secretary McDonald, do the right thing and fire Mr. Wirtjes now.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have my letters dated September 1, 2016, and September 28, 2016, printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 1, 2016.

Hon. ROBERT A. McDONALD,
Department of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY McDONALD: It has been brought to my attention by a whistleblower that the Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Affairs Hospital has failed to treat the remains of unclaimed and indigent veterans with dignity and ensured burial within a reasonable amount of time. Specifically, whistleblowers report there are currently two veterans who have been left in the Hines morgue for over a month. The graphic details of what happens to these remains without timely post mortem care is sickening and shameful. Your support to uncover the truth and protection for the employees who came forward on behalf of veterans is imperative.

The Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1601B.04 states that "if a Veteran dies . . . at a VA facility under authorized admission . . . and the Veteran's remains are unclaimed, the facility Director will request funeral and burial services to be procured through a contract."

I am asking, on behalf of all veterans at Hines VA, if a service contract with an established funeral home or two would allow for the timely transport of unclaimed or indigent veterans' remains to be prepared for burial and laid to rest. Whistleblowers also suggest the service relationships between Hines VA and some local funeral homes no longer exist because of the health risk posed by the extreme decomposition of remains after being stored for so long without post mortem care.

Finally, I would like information on the federal funds made available by the annual Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill for the seamless transfer of unclaimed or indigent veterans' remains to local funeral homes. Ignoring the law or misusing funds is a clear disregard to the VA's standard operation procedure and possibly illegal.

Every hero who serves in our U.S. Armed Forces deserves a dignified final farewell from a grateful nation. To learn these veterans remains have been sitting in the morgue for over a month, sometimes longer, without proper post mortem care, is unacceptable and unjustifiable.

Just as no servicemember is ever left behind on the battlefield, no veteran should ever be left behind in morgue.

Therefore I ask for your immediate attention to correct this disgrace, demand that the two veterans who are currently in the morgue promptly receive a proper and respectful burial, and take appropriate disciplinary action against the person or persons responsible for letting this happen. I also ask that you launch a review of VA hospitals across the country to ensure that this mistreatment of our heroes' remains is not happening elsewhere.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

MARK KIRK,
U.S. Senator.

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, September 28, 2016.
Hon. ROBERT A. McDONALD,
Department of Veterans Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY McDONALD: As follow up to our phone conversation last week, I write to reiterate that you should use your ability

as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to terminate Mr. Christopher Wirtjes from his post at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital in Hines, Illinois.

As I wrote to you on September 1, 2016, whistleblowers came to me last month reporting that the remains of indigent veterans, or those without next of kin, were left in the Hines VA morgue for inappropriate amounts of time following their death. At times, the remains of these veterans were left to badly decompose in the Hines morgue for upwards of 30 plus days before being properly released to a local funeral home for a dignified burial or cremation. At the time of my letter, the remains of two veterans had sat in the Hines VA morgue without any post mortem care for over 45 days. This is unacceptable.

These whistleblowers, who wish to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation and losing their jobs, brought forward information identifying Mr. Wirtjes, Chief, Patient Administrative Services (PAS), as the person responsible for this unacceptable situation. Mr. Wirtjes, according to whistleblowers, fails to do his duty of ensuring timely and respectful burials for our indigent veterans, and veterans without next of kin. Emails provided to my office show efforts by VA staff to get proper and timely approval of paperwork failed, despite available funds and an internal operating procedure to procure payment that is known and should be in place. The whistleblowers also state Mr. Wirtjes does not have a contract with an established funeral home to transport the unclaimed remains to be prepared for burial, per normal operating procedure.

I find this behavior unacceptable and another exhausting example of a culture of malfeasance and corruption at Hines.

This is not the first time Mr. Wirtjes has failed to perform his duties. The Office of Special Counsel's letter to the President from February 25, 2016 specifically named him as the manager who directed staff to manipulate patient appointments, directed staff to zero out patient wait times and directed the use of a separate Excel spreadsheet to track appointments. This resulted in a false appearance of acceptable wait times and masked significant delays in veterans' access to care.

Specifically, the Office of Special Counsel Analysis titled OSC File No. DI-14-2762 (Hines VA Hospital, Chicago, Illinois) regarding the VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigations on manipulated wait times raised by whistleblowers states that the VA "OIG found only one manager, patient administrative services (PAS) chief Christopher Wirtjes, responsible for implementing these improper practices."

As a result, Mr. Wirtjes was merely given a 14-day administrative leave for his role in the scheduling manipulations. To add insult to injury, whistleblowers have informed my office that Mr. Wirtjes responded to this punishment by taking an additional 2-week vacation and upon his return continuously bragged about his VA commissioned "vacation."

The OSC analysis also stated that the OIG investigation confirmed that a senior manager instructed schedulers to manipulate scheduling data to hide the actual wait times experienced by veterans, however it provided no information on how the manipulations impacted veterans, and failed to provide corrective action. Is Mr. Wirtjes continuing to direct schedulers to manipulate wait times for care at Hines VA?

While manipulating the wait time for several departments according to the VA's own

OIG investigation is unspeakable, continuing to leave in place a corrupt and inept chain of command to continue to harm our veterans, like leaving our unclaimed and indigent veterans in the morgue, is unforgivable. I find it irresponsible that the VA has left the one manager finger pointed as the mastermind of the manipulated scheduling practices in a position to continue overseeing scheduling, patient administration, health information management and decedent affairs.

Mr. Wirtjes must be held accountable now. Otherwise the corrupt culture of the VA will be justified and encouraged.

You have the ability to fire VA employees for misconduct. Congress gave you that power in Public Law 113-146. If manipulating scheduling wait times putting veterans' health at risk and failing to allow the burial of unclaimed veterans' remains is not misconduct, then I ask you what is. If you cannot make this happen within the next 30 days then I would like an explanation to Congress and 700,000 Illinois veterans.

America was built on the sacrifices of our service members. And as a grateful nation, we are indebted to our veterans who unselfishly served to fight for the freedoms we enjoy. No veteran who has served should be left for weeks without a proper and dignified burial.

Sincerely,

MARK KIRK,
U.S. Senate.

THE ADVANCING HOPE ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about S. 1878, the Advancing Hope Act. This is a bill I introduced with the support of my Republican cosponsor, Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON. This is a bipartisan bill that brings hope to some of our most vulnerable citizens: children living with rare diseases.

Despite significant unmet medical need, private companies seldom pursue new therapies for rare diseases because it requires making an investment in products that will likely not recoup the high costs associated with their research, development, marketing, and distribution. Developing products for children is particularly challenging because of the difficulties associated with conducting clinical trials in this population.

So, several years ago, former Senator Brownback authored the Creating Hope Act with Senator SHERROD BROWN. In 2011, I became the Senate leader on this bill, which provided an incentive for drug developers to pursue therapies for rare pediatric diseases. The goal was to bring hope to the millions of American children living with a rare disease.

Provisions based on the Creating Hope Act were included in the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, which became law in 2012. The new FDA program established three "priority review vouchers" that would be awarded to companies who develop a new drug for a rare pediatric disease. A company that earns a voucher can then sell it to another company, which can use the voucher to speed up the FDA's review time for one of its

own new drugs. Companies that earn and then sell their vouchers can use that money to fund additional drug development to treat rare pediatric diseases. So far, seven vouchers have been awarded, including on the 19th of this month.

However, the pediatric priority review program is due to expire on September 30, just days away. In fact, it would have expired in March of this year, but Congress passed an extension through the end of fiscal year 2016 as the House and Senate worked on legislation to extend and improve the program. In July of 2015, I introduced S. 1878, the Advancing Hope Act, with Senator ISAKSON, to extend the pediatric priority review program. We had extensive consideration of the bill in the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which voted favorably on the Advancing Hope Act in April 2016. Thanks to an agreement we reached here in the Senate on September 21, we were able to pass S. 1878 with an extension of the program through the end of this year, which included important policy changes to the program. I would like to thank my colleagues for working with me on this agreement. I hope that we will be able to come to further agreement later this year for a longer extension to the program.

The pediatric priority review program is important for families, and a longer extension is warranted. If this program is allowed to lapse, Congress will have broken faith with these children with rare diseases.

Last year, I went to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and met with the Rinaldi family. I met Jennie Rinaldi and her daughter Adelyn, who was receiving treatment at the hospital. Adelyn was born with congenital hypophosphatasia, an extremely rare bone disorder. There are only a handful of children in the world with this disease.

At the time, Adelyn was receiving an experimental therapy for her condition. That drug, Strensiq, was later approved by the FDA in October 2015, and the drug sponsor received a priority review voucher. Strensiq is the first drug to treat hypophosphatasia. There are no other options. It is now available commercially, and Adelyn continues to receive treatment.

Just imagine for a moment the uncertainty that families like the Rinaldis live with every day. We owe it to these families to give them the peace of mind in knowing that this important incentive for drug development will continue. We cannot let this program expire. I am pleased that the House passed S. 1878 yesterday, and I hope that we can continue to work in good faith on a longer-term extension before the end of the year.

We need to provide certainty for drug developers so that they can count on

this incentive when deciding to invest the time and money into drugs for rare pediatric diseases. We need to provide hope for the other children like Adelyn. On behalf of these children, we must incentivize companies to take on the challenges of developing new treatments for rare pediatric diseases.

LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2015

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to speak on the importance of passing legislation to address a serious issue that impacts New Hampshire, New England, and the rest of the country each year, the issue of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

This fall, as the leaves begin to turn and temperatures start to drop, millions of Americans will head outdoors to hike and otherwise experience the beauty of nature. In my home State of New Hampshire, hiking is one of the State's most popular recreational activities. New Hampshire is also among the 14 States through which the Appalachian Trail runs. Stretching from Georgia to Maine, the Appalachian Trail spans nearly 2,190 miles, and is hiked annually by 2 to 3 million people.

While our attention in the Northeast usually turns to the dangers of ticks in the spring and summer months, adult blacklegged ticks, also known as deer ticks, are still active in the fall. Approximately half of these deer ticks carry Lyme disease, and they have played a leading role in our Nation's dramatic rise in tick-borne diseases. While approximately 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported annually by State health departments, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC, the actual number of cases each year is about 300,000, making Lyme disease the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the country. Underscoring that Lyme is no longer simply a regional problem, the CDC reports that the species of ticks that spread Lyme disease now live in 46 percent of the Nation's counties.

That is why I am continuing to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bipartisan Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act, S. 1503. Working with Senator BLUMENTHAL, I coauthored and introduced this legislation which is designed to better coordinate the Federal Government's response to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases by creating an advisory committee within the Department of Health and Human Services HHS. The committee established under our bill would be tasked with identifying best practices to combat tick-borne diseases and would be comprised of patients, advocates, researchers, medical professionals, and government officials. Our legislation would also require the HHS Secretary to co-

ordinate efforts to strengthen disease surveillance and reporting, develop better diagnostic tools and tests, create a physician education program, establish epidemiological research objectives for Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses, and report to Congress on the progress of efforts to combat these devastating diseases.

The significant increase in cases of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases over the past decade is extremely troubling, and it demands a strong and coordinated effort at the Federal level. This critical legislation has been endorsed by nearly 100 Lyme and tick-borne disease patient groups, along with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Despite the staggering statistics, the voices of those who are living and struggling with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases have not adequately been heard. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have put forth a commonsense, bipartisan legislative proposal that will bring greater attention to Lyme disease and give patients and their families a greater say in their care.

I ask my colleagues to cosponsor the Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act, and I urge the Senate to follow the lead of the House by passing legislation that will help more effectively prevent, diagnosis, and treat Lyme disease.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as leaves begin to turn and temperatures begin to drop, millions of Americans will head outdoors this fall to hike. In Connecticut, hikers will flock to trails in the State's 107 parks and 32 State forests, which together account for more than 200,000 acres.

While ticks are often thought of as spring and summer pests, ticks that carry the disease are still active in the fall. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the country, with more than 300,000 people becoming infected each year. The CDC also reports that the species of ticks that spread Lyme disease now live in 46 percent of the Nation's counties. The spread of Lyme disease, paired with a lack of action at the Federal level, has led tens of thousands of Americans to become infected, disrupting patients' lives and placing major emotional and financial burden on families.

With this in mind, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the bipartisan Lyme and Tick Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act, S. 1503. The legislation is designed to better coordinate the Federal Government's response to tick-borne diseases by creating an advisory committee within the Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, that would be tasked with identifying best practices to combat tick-borne diseases. The group would be comprised of

patients, advocates, researchers, medical professionals, and government officials. The bill would also require the HHS Secretary to coordinate efforts to strengthen disease surveillance and reporting, develop better diagnostic tools and tests, create a physician-education program, establish epidemiological research objectives for Lyme and other tick-borne illnesses, and prepare regular reports to Congress on the progress of efforts to combat these devastating diseases.

The rapid rise in active Lyme and other tick-borne disease cases over the past decade demands a strong and coordinated effort at the Federal level to address the public health threat to our Nation. This critical legislation has been endorsed by hundreds of Lyme and tick-borne disease patient groups, along with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, ATC. According to a 2014 Appalachian Trail hiker survey, 9 percent of respondents reported that they had been diagnosed with Lyme disease.

Our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives have already passed this critical legislation, and now it is our turn. I urge our Senate colleagues to join as cosponsors, and help pass this critical measure expeditiously. Thank you.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of legislation to address a serious public health concern: the spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases in the United States.

In my home State of New York, there were 37,977 reported cases of Lyme disease between 2005 and 2014, one of the most heavily affected populations in the country. This disease affects hundreds of thousands of people around the Nation and is the most commonly reported vector-borne illness in the United States, with an estimated 300,000 people becoming infected each year. The species of ticks that spread Lyme disease now live in 46 percent of the Nation's counties.

If caught early, Lyme disease can be treated with antibiotics. Unfortunately, the disease can be difficult to diagnose because its symptoms mimic the symptoms of other serious diseases and because existing diagnostic tests still have many limitations. As a result, Lyme disease often goes undetected or misdiagnosed, making effective treatment of patients more difficult. Untreated Lyme disease can be debilitating and result in severe pain and suffering.

To help address this epidemic, I urge my Senate colleagues to help pass the Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act, S. 1503. The House of Representatives approved this legislation over a year ago, and we must now come together to pass this bill in the Senate as soon as possible.

The Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research

Act, would coordinate Federal efforts to address Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. It would create an advisory committee within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, made up of patients, advocates, researchers, health care providers, and government officials tasked with identifying best practices for combatting tick-borne diseases. It would also direct the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out activities coordinated across agencies to improve data collection, develop better diagnostic tests, enhance prevention and public awareness activities, and support clinical research into treatments.

The prevalence of Lyme and other tick-borne disease cases in this country demands a strong and coordinated effort at the Federal level. The Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act is a critical step toward ending this epidemic.

I strongly encourage my colleagues in the Senate to cosponsor and help pass this legislation to improve our Federal response to tackling Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Thank you.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the issue of Lyme and tick-borne diseases. Fall is a beautiful time of year, especially in Maine, as it is the season for hiking, hunting, and leaf-peeping. Unfortunately, fall is also tick season and a time of increased risk of Lyme disease.

Each year, 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention. The most recent CDC data noted that 96 percent of those cases were concentrated in just 14 States in the Upper Midwest and Northeast. Maine has one of the highest and fastest growing incident rates of the disease, with cases increasing from 225 in 2004 to 1,169 cases in 2014.

Fall is a time of heightened risk because the immature ticks, or nymphs, that fed heavily during the late spring and early summer have now molted into adults and must feed again. Although larger and easier to spot than the tiny nymphs, they are numerous and active.

Lyme disease was long thought to be a form of juvenile arthritis and was not identified as being spread by ticks until 1976. It is still considered an emerging disease and knowledge gaps remain. For example, diagnostic methods for tick-borne illnesses have not advanced as much as they should have. Consequently, the validity and accuracy of information regarding the incidence and geographic spread of the disease may be lacking. Now, another tick-borne disease called anaplasmosis is emerging, carried by the same blacklegged tick as Lyme disease and with symptoms that are similar in nature but often more severe.

The rapid spread of these diseases is alarming and makes it essential that

Federal, State, and local health agencies, public health organizations, and the scientific community work together to improve prevention and detection efforts, as well as to accelerate research to address this crucial public-health challenge. This is the reason why I have cosponsored the Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act introduced by Senators BLUMENTHAL and AYOTTE, which would help ensure that necessary resources are dedicated to fighting tick-borne diseases.

Prevention and treatment are crucial because there are currently no vaccines for Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, anaplasmosis, or other tick-borne diseases. In order to mount a strong national prevention and treatment effort, the legislation would create a tick-borne diseases committee that would consist of physicians, scientists, public health leaders, health agency officials, patients, and patient advocates. This national advisory body would help bring needed focus to improve reporting methods, better diagnostic tools, and more coordinated efforts from local to Federal levels.

With individual precautions, we all can reduce our risk of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses and continue to enjoy the outdoors. With a national effort, we can stop the spread of these devastating diseases and protect the health of all. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING SHIMON PERES

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of a dear friend, a great leader, a pioneer in his own right, someone I admire, and someone many of us have cheered on, President Shimon Peres. President Peres helped build Israel through hard work and tough diplomacy aimed at restarting peace talks, and championed Israel's security and prosperity until his last breath. A giant among statesmen and inspiration to so many, his passing marks an end of an era and is a great loss to Israel, the region, and the world; but his legacy lives on in his unwavering commitment to regional peace and in the future of the Jewish people where generations upon generations will build a better, safer, and more peaceful future.

Last night, we got the very sad news that President Peres passed away after suffering a stroke 2 weeks ago, and I want to come to the floor to speak about him.

We all know the biography. Born in Poland, he grew up in Tel Aviv and spent some time studying in the United States, including at Harvard University and New School for Social Research in New York. Since the mid-20th century, President Peres committed his life to advancing peace and reconciliation in the Middle East and ad-

ressing security issues that faced the region. He became the Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defense at the age of 29 and had an impressive political career that spanned seven decades, which included two terms as Prime Minister and one as President. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 for his role in negotiating the Oslo accords, along with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. President Obama awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. A further testament to his hard work, commitment to his country, and legacy, he continued to engage on matters of importance to Israel after leaving public office in 2014.

I have known and observed President Peres for a long time, in particular, during my almost 40 years in Congress, and I can say that we have much to celebrate in him, starting with one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century—the founding of the modern State of Israel, which followed the most incomprehensible and evil event of the 20th century, when the Nazis, with the complicity of so many others, sought to exterminate a people. Peres, along with survivors of the Holocaust, helped to build modern Israel, and as a result, never again will the Jewish people be dependent on anyone else for their security.

I met with then-President Peres on my last trip to Israel in 2012, and, as with every engagement we have had, I was reminded of his strong commitment to regional peace that I believe changed the course of Israel's history in so many areas—defense, the occupation of the West Bank, the economy, and the peace process itself. Now, I have been a longtime friend and supporter of Israel, and I also have had the great honor in my years in the Senate to be on the committee that provided billions in foreign assistance and missile defense to Israel and ensured Israel had the resources it needed while enforcing current and potential future sanctions against Iran. So I have been a close observer of Israel and seen Peres up close and personal.

What I can say about him is that, in our conversations, I told him my support for Israel is unabashed and unwavering and that I will continue to be a voice for Israel and a vote for Israel in the U.S. Senate. I said the United States will always stand by Israel since we are bound together by our common values, by history, and by our shared national interests. I said that support for Israel must be unflinching and unflagging and that the United States will continue to make sure that Israel maintains its qualitative edge—the ability to counter and defeat any military threat. We have had good conversations over the years, so I could not be more emphatic when I say that his legacy, along with his status as the last surviving member of Israel's

founding generation which we cannot ignore, puts him in his own category among Israel's most iconic political figures.

Israel has had to endure many wars and live in constant readiness for battle under the constant threat of terrorism; yet the people of Israel have remained strong and resolute, a testament to the legacy of Shimon Peres.

Today we honor the life and legacy of our friend Shimon Peres, and all friends of Peres and Israel should recommit ourselves to ensuring the survivability and viability of the State of Israel, now and forever. I will miss my dear friend, but look forward to a future of peace, prosperity, and friendship that will live on.

MONTREAL PROTOCOL 28TH MEETING OF PARTIES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my support for a successful 28th meeting of parties to the 1989 Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, scheduled to take place next month in Kigali, Rwanda. The 28th meeting of parties, commonly referred to as MOP28, is undertaking the incredibly important task of reaching an agreement on an amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down the worldwide production and application of hydrofluorocarbons, HFCs, which are incredibly potent, short-lived, greenhouse gases most commonly used as refrigerants in air conditioners and for cold storage. Phasing down HFCs is a critically important step towards realizing the enhanced ambition goals of the Paris Agreement to limit the rise in global average temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

I fully support MOP28's aims of reaching an agreement that is high on ambition and expeditious in its timeline. There is no time to lose if we, as a global community, are to act successfully to stem the causes of the Earth's rapidly changing climate system.

Prior to the Montreal Protocol's implementation, the Earth's ozone, O₃, the thin layer of concentrated O₃ in our atmosphere responsible for regulating the intensity of the Sun's penetrating ultraviolet, UV, light, had developed massive holes near the Earth's poles and had worn dangerously thin around most of the world. A diminished ozone layer poses serious threats to human health by proliferating skin diseases from overexposure to UV light, seriously harms global crop yields and agricultural production, and hastens the useful life of a variety of plastic materials utilized in a variety of outdoor applications.

The Montreal Protocol's incremental approach to phasing out harmful ozone depleting substances, ODSs, is a testament to how inclusive and transparent

approaches to multilateral environmental agreements that incorporate constructive inputs from affected industries and the scientific community can achieve positive environmental results. Starting with the phase out of chlorofluorocarbons, CFCs, the worst-of-the-worst ozone depleting substances, followed by the phase out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons, HCFCs, these agreements have the Earth's ozone on track to be fully recovered by 2065.

Hydrofluorocarbons, HFCs, are the chemical refrigerant alternative that replaced HCFCs and CFCs. Unfortunately, HFCs are extreme greenhouse gases. Some HFCs are 4,000 times more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. The fairly recent expansion of mass production and worldwide use of HFCs, post-HCFC and CFC elimination, are believed to have significantly contributed to the recent worsening of the global climate crisis.

While the Montreal Protocol is designed to address ODSs, not climate change, the decision was made at the Montreal Protocol's 27th meeting of parties in Dubai that the Montreal Protocol provides an effective mechanism to address this family of chemicals effectively.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, "HFC use and emissions are rapidly increasing as a result of the phase out of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and growing global demand for air conditioning and refrigeration. The continued emissions of HFCs—primarily as alternatives to ODS and as byproduct emissions of HFC-23—are having an immediate and significant effect on the Earth's climate system. Without further controls, HFC emissions could largely negate the climate benefits achieved under the Montreal Protocol."

The United States has demonstrated exceptional leadership with respect to phasing down HFCs on all fronts. U.S. chemical producers and the refrigeration manufacturing sector have led the world in developing safe, effective, and commercially viable refrigeration chemical alternatives, namely hydrofluoroolefin, HFO, and hydrocarbon, HC; refrigerants, that neither pose significant threats to the ozone nor the climate crisis. In addition to making these technological advances, the industry has helped bring countries to the table and fully supports adopting an ambitious HFC amendment to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali.

The U.S. is taking bold domestic political action to promote a significant reduction in the use of HFCs in the marketplace by promulgating some of the world's most ambitious domestic HFC abatement policies. This action provides the U.S.'s delegation to the Montreal Protocol with a strong footing to lead by example when it comes to advancing an ambitious agreement

to phase down HFCs globally as quickly as possible.

The United States and our North American neighbors, Mexico and Canada, have put forward one of the most ambitious HFC amendment proposals for consideration at MOP28. Moreover, our amendment has broad support from developing and developed countries on every continent. According to the State Department, more than 120 parties to the Montreal Protocol have expressed support for the policy concepts in the North American amendment proposal.

I want to congratulate the hard-working diplomats, negotiators, and policy experts at the U.S. State Department, the Commerce Department, and the EPA who have masterfully developed and rallied support for an ambitious proposal. While I am confident a deal on a new and effective HFC amendment to the Montreal Protocol is within reach, there is certainly still some diplomacy necessary with some very important parties to the Montreal Protocol, and I encourage our delegation to continue working with these parties in Kigali.

Phasing down the global presence of HFCs is the low-hanging fruit in the global effort to combat climate change. If we are going to be successful in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, we need to do the easy things first. So let's act fast and effectively to get potent HFC greenhouse gas reductions as soon as possible. These are noncontroversial steps we can take to abate climate change that should absolutely have bipartisan support from Congress.

Thank you.

ENSURING JUSTICE FOR DISAPPEARED PEOPLES IN MEXICO

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to observe the second anniversary of the forced disappearance of 43 students in the Mexican state of Guerrero, a tragedy that continues to haunt the students' families and friends. I also rise to speak to the endemic challenges posed by cases of missing and disappeared persons across Mexico and to appeal to President Pena Nieto and Mexico's political leaders to be more responsive and transparent on this critical issue.

On the evening of September 26, 2014, in a series of events that the New York Times has characterized as a "night of terror," local police from the town of Iguala turned their weapons on the civilian population and colluded with the criminal organization known as the Guerreros Unidos to target and terrorize students from the Escuela Normal Rural Raul Isidro Burgos, which is a teachers' college. By the end of that night, 6 people were killed, 25 were injured, and 43 students were forcibly "disappeared" in a tragic story that has echoed around the globe.

As links between the U.S. and Mexico abound and given the more than 33 million Mexican-Americans and Mexicans residing in the United States, the disappearance of the 43 students has been felt deeply throughout our country.

Whether it is in California, Texas, Arizona, Illinois, New York or Maryland, almost all of our States are home to large, dynamic Mexican-American communities that remain in contact with friends and families throughout Mexico. Many of our constituents have direct and personal ties to the tragedy that took place in Iguala and the broader crisis of unresolved disappearances in Mexico.

In the 2 years since the disappearance of the 43 students, it is important to recognize that there have been critical advances in the investigations. Moreover, I want to recognize the Government of Mexico's decision to work with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, IACHR, to create an Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts, GIEI—by its initials in Spanish—which has provided invaluable technical assistance for the investigation, as well as key recommendations to strengthen ongoing investigative efforts.

It is imperative to note, however, that the GIEI faced repeated obstacles such as restricted access to key documents and individuals and found significant inconsistencies in the Mexican Government's investigation, including incidents of mishandled evidence.

It is also important to note that the experts found evidence which indicates that members of the federal and state police may have joined the local police in colluding with the criminal organizations involved in the disappearance of the students. In addition, members of the Mexican Army's 27th Battalion were discovered to have been at the scene of the crime and closely involved in the fatal events of that night. And we cannot overlook the fact that 2 full years after the students' disappearance, there has not been a single criminal conviction in the case.

For these reasons, I urge President Pena Nieto and his administration to take all necessary steps to make operational a special follow-up mechanism for the investigation the IACHR established in July. This follow-up mechanism will include two IACHR-appointed advisors responsible for working with Mexican authorities and monitoring further action on the group of experts' recommendations.

Continued progress on this case is critical. My staff has met directly with the families of the 43 students, and we cannot let their call for justice end in impunity. So whether it includes pursuing new leads, discarding flawed theories, granting broader access to case files, or removing officials who have obstructed the investigation, I appeal to President Pena Nieto and his

administration to ensure that the investigation has the full political backing and sufficient resources to achieve the needed results.

I also want to speak to how the case of the 43 students is representative of the endemic challenge of missing and disappeared peoples across Mexico. According to its own statistics, since 2007, the Mexican Government has documented more than 28,000 cases of missing and disappeared people. In fact, in the months after the students' disappearance, as investigators and families of disappeared persons fanned out across Guerrero state, they encountered numerous mass graves of victims of unknown crimes and carnage. So the resolution of this case is particularly symbolic as it would give hope to the thousands of Mexican families who have relatives who have disappeared.

I want to recognize President Pena Nieto's decision to submit draft legislation last December for a general law to prevent and punish the crime of disappearances, which would establish obligations for federal, state, and local authorities and improve coordination across jurisdictions. I appeal to members of the Mexican Senate and Chamber of Deputies to pass this important legislation. By prioritizing this issue and providing increased budgetary, forensic, and technological resources, Mexican authorities can ensure justice for the tens of thousands of Mexican families who have suffered the disappearance of a friend or loved one.

Finally, I want to call upon the State Department and our Embassy in Mexico City to use their diplomatic discussions with the Mexican Government to offer all relevant assistance and to underscore the importance of learning the truth about the disappearance of the 43 students and the broader issue of missing and disappeared people. We must stand ready to support our Mexican partners as they pursue justice in these critical cases, which have touched the lives of too many Mexicans and, in turn, our constituents here in the United States.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 38TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the 38th Infantry Division, ID, and honor the soldiers of the 38th ID for their service to our Nation.

The division was first activated in August of 1917 as a National Guard division composed of units from Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The division was originally conducting initial training at Camp Shelby, MS, when a tornado touched down, prompting MG Robert L. Howze to give the 38th ID the nickname the "Cyclone Division." The Cyclone Division would later deploy to Europe during World War I and lost 301 soldiers.

The division returned to service in January 1941 in response to the attack on Pearl Harbor and the start of World War II. The 38th Infantry Division took part in the New Guinea, Southern Philippines, and Luzon campaigns where they would earn their second nickname, "the Avengers of Bataan," bestowed on them by GEN Douglas MacArthur.

The Cyclone Division also served in the Vietnam war where the Company D Rangers, 151st Infantry of the 38th ID were among a few National Guard units to serve and became one of the country's most highly decorated units.

Since September 11, 2001, the 38th ID has sent soldiers to serve in a wide range of missions, including Operation Joint Forge in Bosnia, Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The 38th ID also answered a different kind of call when it assumed command of all National Guard elements deployed in Mississippi in response to Hurricane Katrina. The 38th Infantry Division continues to deploy soldiers worldwide in support of our national defense.

I am proud to honor 38th Infantry Division soldiers past and present on this special anniversary. Thank you to the men and women of the Cyclone Division for their steadfast defense of our Nation and their service to their home States, including Indiana. I wish the 38th Infantry Division another 100 years of setting an exemplary standard for our total force.

17TH HONOR FLIGHT OF HONOR FLIGHT NORTHERN COLORADO

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the veterans of the Honor Flight Northern Colorado and the organization's 17th trip to Washington, DC. More than 120 veterans have traveled to our Nation's Capital to visit the memorials that stand in their honor. This group includes veterans from various wars and generations, but all are linked by their service to our country.

Ten years ago, the Honor Flight was created to fly veterans that had served in World War II to Washington, DC, so they could visit the World War II memorial. Now, the Honor Flight welcomes veterans from across the country to fly to Washington, DC, free of charge, to visit the memorials of the wars in which these heroic veterans fought. No words are sufficient to show the gratitude and respect we all have for the courageous men and women who have protected our Nation. These veterans have preserved our rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Of the 123 veterans on the most recent honor flight, 20 served in World War II, 34 served in Korea, and 69 served in Vietnam.

Please join me in honoring Fredric Arnold, Gene Bennett, C.H. Clark, Lillian Crosley, Raymond Dickey, Darwin Dixon, James Edmisten, Jimmie Godsey, Louis Hamman, Delbert Haynes, John Hess, Robert Horton, Dolores Kochheiser, Harry Maroncelli, Elmer McGinty, Frank Occhiuto, Robert Schueneman, Raymond Valadez, William VanBeber, William Way, Richard Bernhardt, Harold Bohm, Lee Boylan, George Brandt, Casper Brixius, James Comer Jr., Russell Daniels, Ralph Darrough, Ross DeBey, Garold Fox, S. Gilbert Garcia, Ronald Gillam, William Harrison, Virgil Hecker, Allan Hedberg, Dennis Lance, Gordon Leben, Albert Lowe, Jimmy Martin, Francis McKenna Jr., Ernest Medialdea, James Montgomery, Delmer Moss, James Petrie, William Pool, Carroll Quick, Robert Ray, Kennedy Roode, Al Schott, William Sherman, James Shuey, Donald Trettenero, Herbert Wenger, Eugene Ziehm, Roy Armstrong, Wilbur Boegli, Cary Bott, Thurman Bradley, Claude Buehrle, Robert Bullard, John Carpenter, Terrence Carroll, Robert Cofone, Larry Coldren, Paul Conley, Byron Daniels, Robert Davis, Mark DeDecker, Michael Doherty, Gary Dorsey, Mark Drake, Dale Eggleston, Jerry Eldred, Gary Ellerman, Daniel Ferguson, William Fisher, Roy Friesen, Glenn Fulcher, Glenn Gaines, Jerry Graham, Paul Graves, Dwight Gutsche, Percy Hamilton II, Christopher Harris, Robert Hawkey, William Hellyer, Thomas James, Normann Kegerreis, Michael Krier, LeRoy Lawson, Harold Lif, Peter Lister, Jimmy Lofink, William Margheim, Dallas Maurer, Kevin McGrath, Richard Miller Jr., David Naylor, Wesley Nelson, Richard Norris, Larry Perkins, Robert Randall, Danny Robinett, Robert Rutz, Robert Schrader, Billy Schwindt, Jackie Scott, David Sellers, David Shigley, Tommy Silva, Kenneth Skoglund, Darrell Smith, John Smith, Farrell Spencer, Edward Stephens, Stanley Suichta, Martin Trembl, Kerry Tyler, Linda Tyler, Daryl Vande Hoef, Thomas White, Terry Willert, and John Young.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN R. ANDREW MURRAY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the military service of CAPT R. Andrew Murray on the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. Coast Guard. I commend Captain Murray's Coast Guard career and offer my thanks for his 35 years of faithful service to our country. Although he has gone ashore for the last time as a coastguardsman, his commitment to public service continues in North Carolina. As a civilian, Captain Murray has acted as the elected district attorney of Mecklenburg County since 2011.

Captain Murray enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1980, serving 6 years of Active Duty as an aviation electronic techni-

cian and helicopter flight crewman. He then became a Reservist and received a commission as an officer through the Reserve Officer Candidate Indoctrination School, ROCI.

Meanwhile, Captain Murray graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1992 with a bachelor of arts in political science. He received a juris doctorate from the University of North Carolina School of Law, and he is a member of the North Carolina Bar.

Throughout his career as an attorney and eventually as district attorney of Mecklenburg County, Captain Murray also served in a number of roles as a Reserve officer. He acted as the senior Reserve officer of Group Charleston, SC; a senior analyst for the Coast Guard Counter Terrorism and Defense Operations Unit; and the senior Reserve officer of Sector Charleston, SC.

As a Reservist, Captain Murray has also been called to Active Duty. In 2013, he received the call to serve as the legal adviser for the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team in New Orleans, LA, where he contributed to Operation Deepwater Horizon, the Federal cleanup effort for the massive oil spill of 2010.

Captain Murray most recently served as the Western Rivers and Coastal Region senior Reserve officer for the Eighth Coast Guard District. He was responsible for monitoring the readiness of 870 Reservists assigned to the Coast Guard's Eighth District, which comprises of seven sectors, spans 26 States, and covers more than 12,000 miles of river and coastline. His outstanding leadership assured the availability of a robust reserve capacity to respond to all subsequent contingencies, including a 30,000-gallon fuel spill and extreme Midwest regional flooding. At his recent retirement ceremony, Captain Murray was honored with the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal for his leadership in this post.

Captain Murray's other decorations include three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Coast Guard 9/11 Service Medal.

I offer Captain Murray my warmest congratulations and appreciation for the many years he has spent protecting this Nation, saving lives, and performing his faithful duty as a U.S. Coastguardsman. I ask my fellow Senators to join me in saluting Captain Murray for his service.

REMEMBERING HENRY SHELTON

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the life and significant accomplishments of Henry Shelton, a tireless advocate for Rhode Island's poorest citizens, who passed away on September 21, 2016. Our world is a better place because Henry was in it, and he will be sorely missed.

Born and raised in Central Falls, RI, Henry served as a priest in Providence, where he began his lifelong fight for those in need. After leaving the priesthood, he led the Coalition for Consumer Justice and founded the Pawtucket-based George Wiley Center, where he served as director for over 30 years. Henry empowered low-income Rhode Islanders to push for social change and policies to alleviate poverty and provide access to basic needs. He truly put the word "active" into activism. From protesting in the street to arguing in the courtroom, Henry made a difference in the causes he championed, including securing bus passes for the elderly, working to provide free school breakfast and summer meals for low-income children, and promoting access to unemployment services, to name a few.

Henry Shelton's legacy is perhaps most felt in his work to lower utility costs and to help low-income families with their energy bills so that their heat or electricity was not turned off. New England winters can be particularly brutal. Henry understood that paying utility bills is a real struggle for those who are trying to make ends meet. His mission was to make sure that no one was left out in the cold. He was a vocal supporter of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, which I too have long championed, to provide vital assistance to help low-income households, seniors, and veterans pay their energy bills. Accessing this assistance is not automatic and each year individuals have to prove their eligibility. That takes a lot of work by dedicated individuals on the ground who help people enroll and get the assistance they need. Henry was unrelenting in working for each and every person who needed help.

Henry played this essential role by bringing LIHEAP funds and protections across the finish line. He worked to make sure families understood their rights, could navigate the utility assistance process, and were able to access payment forgiveness plans when needed. Indeed, Henry was such an effective advocate that when Rhode Island State lawmakers passed a bill allowing for a utility payment-forgiveness program for low-income, disabled, and elderly Rhode Islanders, they named it the Henry Shelton Act.

Henry received a number of awards for his work, including the Providence Newspaper Guild's John F. Kiffney community service award, which is given to a Rhode Islander "whose caring, courage and humor light the way for those who follow," and he was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame in 2015. Despite his many accomplishments, Henry was exceptionally humble, never seeking praise or recognition for his work to help others.

I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering Henry Shelton, who was

kind, caring, courageous, and passionate about helping and empowering those who were less fortunate. I offer my heartfelt condolences to Mr. Shelton's wife, Carol; his sisters Rosemarie and Catherine; his five children, Joseph, James, Patrick, Eamon, and Caitlin; and grandchildren, Benjamin, Mathew, Henry, Emmett, Frederic, and Felicity. I know that Henry's constant example of good will and selflessness will continue to sustain and inspire his family and all of us.

REMEMBERING ERIC VON BROADLEY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Eric Von Broadley, known throughout the country as Eric Von, whose untimely passing at the age of 58 has left the Milwaukee community without one of its most thoughtful African-American leaders. Over the last three decades, Eric Von has been a bridge builder, a healer, and an important voice in Milwaukee's African-American community.

Eric was a 25-year veteran of the radio industry, starting his career as a disc jockey and then moving into news as a reporter and anchor. He served as the business manager for Radio One in Washington, DC. Then, when his career took him from Washington, DC, to Milwaukee, he became the director of operations for the former 1290 WMCS radio.

It did not take long before local news programs sought out his gravitas as a commentator. Eric became a regular panelist on Wisconsin Public Television's Interchange and the cohost of "Black Nouveau." Milwaukee ABC network affiliate, WISN Channel 12, turned to Eric's influence in the community to motivate people to vote in local and national elections. Eric became a special assignment reporter and cohost of "It's Your Vote," a weekly political affairs show which featured candidate forums, debates, and voter education information.

Beyond broadcast journalism, Eric was the managing partner of the public relations firm he founded, Von Communications. In addition, Eric Von and his wife, Faithe Colas, cofounded an online health magazine committed to improving the health of African-American men, known as Brain, Brawn & Body.

Eric was a fearless opinion leader. As a broadcast journalist, he spoke frankly and from the heart on the day's most controversial social and political issues. He was brave enough to take on the stereotypes and misconceptions that divide Milwaukee and do it in a way that earned the respect of even his strongest detractors. And in a city where inflammatory talk radio is prevalent, his was a voice of reason in the debate over inequality and injustice.

He was known for speaking the truth about Milwaukee's racial divide and

using his platform as a vehicle for positive change. Just last month, I had the honor of speaking with Eric about the recent unrest in Milwaukee's Sherman Park neighborhood that was tied to lack of job opportunities in the central city. We discussed how we could work together to bring healing to the city, and we promised to speak again soon to find solutions that will build a stronger Milwaukee community.

Eric Von was the loving husband of Faithe Colas; father of Erica Broadley, Bria Culp, and Paige Colas; and grandfather to Domonic Patten and Erielle Taylor. He leaves behind a host of family and friends that truly loved him and will miss him dearly.

As we honor the life of Eric Von Broadley, I join with mourners across the Milwaukee community in pledging to continue Eric's fight for equal opportunity and to honor his legacy of action.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID AND LIANE PHILLIPS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize cofounders David and Liane Phillips on the 20th anniversary of Cincinnati Works.

Cincinnati Works began with the dream of founders Dave and Liane Phillips to eliminate poverty in the community. As a result of significant research and review of best practices in workforce development programs across the Nation, a program model was developed which focused on job retention and advancement rather than simply job placement.

Since its opening in 1996, Cincinnati Works and the Phillipses have helped to provide hope and encouragement for thousands of people living in poverty, assisting in advancing self-sufficiency through employment.

Cincinnati Works offers a comprehensive approach to eliminating poverty in the Tri-State area through a network of job services and employer partnerships. The contributions and dedication the organization has shown is commendable and continues to be a vital asset in the community.

I applaud the outstanding commitment of David and Liane and all who were involved in reaching this milestone. I congratulate and thank them for making the first 20 years of Cincinnati Works a success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOHN G. CENTANNI

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize John Centanni, a firefighter, lifelong Newarker, and friend who is retiring from the Newark Fire Department after 30 years of dedicated service. A true public servant, John has guided the Department since

2010, providing steady leadership during a critical time.

John G. Centanni was born to John and Pamela Centanni on July 25, 1965, in Newark, NJ, where he was raised with his younger sisters, Marlene, Angela, and Cassandra, in the city's North Ward. In 1986, at the age of 20, John fulfilled a childhood dream when he became a Newark firefighter. Over the three decades that followed, John advanced through the ranks, serving as captain, battalion chief, deputy chief, chief of staff to the battalion director, and finally, fire chief.

Assigned to Engine 6—one of our Nation's busiest—John quickly became known for his exceptional work ethic and commitment to safety. As a firefighter, he earned numerous commendations for courage, valor, and heroism, including two Individual Lifesaving Awards from the Newark Firefighters Union. In 1992, he was inducted into the Police and Firemen's Insurance Association Heroes Hall of Fame, in recognition of his lifesaving work.

In 2010, John's substantial experience, impressive record of leadership and service, and great reputation among his fellow firefighters made it easy for me to select him as Newark's fire chief. During his tenure at the helm of New Jersey's largest municipal fire department, John was instrumental in securing Federal funding for equipment upgrades and maintaining crucial relationships and mutual aid agreements with sister fire departments. These accomplishments made Newark and our State safer, saving countless lives.

John will retire from the city of Newark on October 21, 2016. His career of three decades, spent exclusively with the Newark Fire Department, has been marked by incredible heroism and service. It is a true honor to formally recognize Fire Chief John G. Centanni for the contributions that he has made to the citizens of Newark throughout his career, thank him for his tremendous service, and wish him happiness in a well-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO STANLEY S. FINE

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, it gives me great joy to congratulate a dear friend, Stanley S. Fine, who is being rightfully honored next month by the Baltimore District Council of the Urban Land Institute, ULI, with its 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award. The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual who has been a recognized leader in the development community; who has touched all aspects of development including acquisition, design, finance, and implementation; who has volunteered his or her time and/or resources to help advance the industry; and who commands the admiration and respect of his or her peers for lifetime accomplishments. I doubt there is any

other individual as deserving as Stanley, a native Baltimorean, to receive this recognition.

My wife, Myrna, and I have known Stanley since we were all in junior high school. One of the most important things to know about Stanley is that he is always ready to offer a helping hand. I doubt any of us know just how many people Stanley has helped over the years; because of his inherent modesty, he never seeks acknowledgment or recognition or accolades. In 1982, Stanley's wife, Bailey—a dedicated and accomplished public servant—ran my reelection campaign to the Maryland House of Delegates and then served as my campaign aide during my first congressional race in 1986; as my district director for 20 years; and, finally, as my State director during my first term in the Senate before she retired at the end of 2012. Stanley and Bailey will be celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on November 28. They have two lovely adult children, Michael and Laura, and three grandchildren. Michael and his wife, Whitney, have two daughters, Riley and Blakely; Laura and her husband, Ben Liebman, have a son, Eli.

Stanley is a partner in the law firm of Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP. He has been representing developers and businessowners in high-profile Baltimore city land use and zoning matters for 35 years. The city's skyline and neighborhoods, from office buildings to shopping centers and local businesses, from industrial buildings and office parks to neighborhood restaurants, reflect Stanley's tremendous impact on Baltimore. Over the years, Stanley has cultivated long-term relationships with developers, engineers, architects, attorneys, planners, city and State officials, preservationists, conservationists, and others engaged in real estate development. These relationships, coupled with Stanley's legal acumen and personal commitment to the city of Baltimore, have helped him to bring prominent and challenging commercial, industrial, and residential projects to realization. Stanley is a consensus-seeker and always finds creative solutions for each project—solutions that serve the interests of his clients, the government agencies involved, the community, and other stakeholders. As ULI Baltimore District Council coordinator Lisa Norris stated, "Throughout Stanley's career his priority has been to make the City of Baltimore a better place in which to live and work."

Stanley is a cofounder of the Baltimore Development Workgroup and previously served as the director of the Maryland State Lottery Agency and chairman of the Maryland State Lottery Commission. He is a former member of the Baltimore City Planning Commission and president of a community association. Best Lawyers in

America magazine has recognized Stanley as "Land Use & Zoning Lawyer of the Year" for 2011 through 2014 and as one of Maryland's top land use and zoning attorneys in the 2007 through 2017 editions. And he has made the list as one of "Maryland's Super Lawyers" in the 2007 through 2013 and 2015 through 2016 editions of Baltimore Magazine. Stanley received his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University in 1965 and his J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1969.

In addition to being a superb lawyer, Stanley is an exceptional athlete. While he was a freshman at Johns Hopkins, he played in the first game of Baltimore's box lacrosse league, televised live in 1962, and scored a game-high four goals for his club team, which won the game. At the university, he was the backbone of a tenacious midfield for the Blue Jays varsity lacrosse team and joined the Phi Sigma Delta fraternity.

I think Stanley's colleague Benjamin Rosenberg, the founder and chairman of Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, summed it up best, saying:

... this award is long overdue recognition of the major role Stanley has played in the life of our City. Over the past several decades there have been very few significant real estate developments in Baltimore that Stanley has not had an important hand in. He has also been a behind the scenes confidante and sounding board for virtually every public official at the State and local level. They rely on Stanley for practical, discreet advice and counsel. Take a walk over to City Hall or a trip to the State House with Stanley and you'll see what I mean. While some people may think of Stanley as Bailey's sidekick or Michael and Laura's dad or one of the greatest left-handed shooters who ever played lacrosse, wherever you look at bright spots in Baltimore, chances are you'll see something that Stanley has helped bring about.

The epitaph in St. Paul's Cathedral for Sir Christopher Wren reads, in part, "si monumentum requiris, circumspice," which means "if you seek his monument, look around you." What is true for Christopher Wren in London is true for my friend Stanley Fine in Baltimore. I ask my fellow Senators to join my wife, Myrna, and me and Stanley's colleagues, peers, family members, and his legions of friends and admirers in congratulating him on receiving such a richly deserved Lifetime Achievement Award from ULI Baltimore.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES CAWLEY

● Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS and Congressman JOHN CARNEY of Delaware, I would like to set aside a few minutes today to reflect on the life and work of the late Charles "Charlie" Cawley. He was a Delawarean who created a division called Support Services to employ hundreds of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and enhance their quality of life as employees of

MBNA Corporation, the successful credit card business he founded which was later acquired by Bank of America in 2006.

Charlie made it his mission to give back to the communities in which he and his employees lived. Over the course of more than two decades, his company and its employees gave more than \$50 million to organizations and innumerable worthy causes. One major way that Charlie and the people of MBNA helped transform those communities was through a division of MBNA called Support Services. Now a division within Bank of America, it currently employs more than 300 associates with intellectual or developmental disabilities at Bank of America offices in Delaware, Maine, and Texas. These employees handle a variety of tasks, some of which include manual package assembly, performing quality control on automated teller machines, printing t-shirts, letter folding, and mailing and processing detailed, confidential documents. Employees receive a competitive salary, full benefits, and the opportunity to grow professionally and build relationships with mentors at the bank.

It all began when Charlie was out to dinner with friends who felt their disabled son had little opportunity for employment and independence, so Charlie hired their son—and three others—and not long after, Support Services was born. Charlie knew there was value to this division, and with an abiding commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities, he grew the division to more than 200 employees. When Bank of America acquired MBNA, the division could have been downsized or even eliminated; however, Bank of America's vice chairwoman Anne Finucane saw an opportunity to involve Support Services in more aspects of the bank's businesses, not less, so the program was expanded even further.

Contributing significantly to the success of Support Services is that its employees are treated the same as other employees of the bank. Managers look at the team as a whole, determine what skills each member possesses, and then provide the conditions needed to foster success. Doing so has helped to ensure that the efforts of Support Services employees, which require near perfect accuracy and high efficiency rates, are met with success. In the early years of the division, many clients of Support Services were skeptical that people with disabilities would be able to complete the very meticulous and time-sensitive tasks in which this division specializes; however, those high expectations are always met and very often exceeded.

Support Services is a quiet gem that has given hundreds of employees the opportunity to build confidence and independence. It is a blessing in their

lives. From recognizing project accomplishments, milestones, and promotions, to celebrating weddings and the birth of children, there is no shortage of success stories to come out of such a positive and impactful area.

Support Services is more than a division of the bank; it represents an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution every workday of their lives. Support Services has survived mergers and acquisitions because the potential value that Charlie once envisioned over dinner with his friends many years ago has been enthusiastically embraced by a new generation. Sadly, Charlie passed away in 2015, but his legacy of giving lives on through this program and its employees who together comprise the Charles M. Cawley Support Services team. Long may they serve.●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE TAKEI

● Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, “Oh Myyy!” My friend George Takei is being honored with the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association’s, NAPABA, Inspire Award. In addition to his many contributions to the arts, George has been on the forefront for decades, fighting for those who don’t have a voice.

When he was just 4 years old, the trajectory of George’s life changed forever. His family and nearly 120,000 other Japanese Americans were declared enemy aliens and were forcibly removed from their homes for the duration of World War II. George’s family packed up their entire lives into one suitcase and endured harsh living conditions in ramshackle internment camps.

The internment of Japanese Americans remains one of our country’s darkest moments, and George has made it his life’s work to educate a new generation of Americans about the importance of protecting fundamental rights.

George’s most ambitious endeavor, “Allegiance,” a musical on the internment, exposed a new audience to the shock, humiliation, anger, and resolve of one family, the Kimuras, who were interned in Heart Mountain, WY. As for others, the Kimura’s internment harm didn’t end when the war did. There was irreparable damage to the family’s unity, hopes, and dreams.

In a TED Talk, George recounted the heroism of Japanese Americans who volunteered to serve in the military despite being declared enemy aliens. Their segregated units—the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service—remain some of the most decorated units in the Army.

“They gave me a legacy, and with that legacy comes a responsibility, and I am dedicated to making my country an even better America, to making our government an even truer democracy,

and because of the heroes that I have and the struggles that we’ve gone through, I can stand before you as a gay Japanese-American, but even more than that, I am a proud American.”

George is also a tireless advocate for and leader in the LGBT community. In 2005, George bravely stood up to conservative attacks on marriage equality by publicly coming out as gay. In 2008, he and his husband, Brad, became the first LGBT couple in West Hollywood to apply for a marriage license. More than a decade later, America has caught up to George, and marriage equality is the law of the land.

George has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to stand up for people who don’t always have a voice. And this award is as much a recognition of the work he will continue to do as much as for what he has already done.

Congratulations, George, on a well-deserved honor.●

RECOGNIZING BARRY CONCRETE, INC.

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, family-owned small businesses have a strong tradition in Louisiana and are the backbone of the business community. This week I would like to recognize Barry Concrete, Inc., of Lafayette, LA, as Small Business of the Week, which has been family-owned for three generations.

Barry Concrete was founded in 1947 by Charles Weldon Barry, Sr., better known as “Tex.” After working as an electrician in the New Orleans Higgins Boat factory during World War II, Tex returned to his native Lafayette and established Barry Concrete. He successfully ran the company until his retirement in the late 1970s, when his son Charles Weldon Barry, Jr., better known as “Buzzy,” took the reins. Upon Buzzy’s untimely death in 1991, his wife, Bonny, continued to run the business, persevering in the face of great difficulties in order to help her sons attend college. After all three Barry sons—Mitch, Patrick, and Brady—graduated, they each joined the family business and today oversee day-to-day operations as CEO, VP of operations, and quality control manager respectively.

With four locations in Breaux Bridge, Lafayette, New Iberia, and Opelousas, Barry Concrete is well-positioned to provide concrete for a range of jobs in the Acadiana region. Barry Concrete is a nimble operation that can pour concrete on any scale, from residential driveways and wheelchair ramps to bridges, and even helped build the University of Louisiana-Lafayette’s Cajundome.

Congratulations, again, to the Barry family and the employees of Barry Concrete, Inc., for being selected as Small Business of the Week and for carrying on Louisiana’s tradition of family-owned small businesses.●

RECOGNIZING BRAIN FREEZE SNOWBALLS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians are constantly looking for a way to cool off from the summer heat, and one of the most popular ways to do so is by enjoying an ice-cold snowball. This week, I would like to recognize Brain Freeze Snowballs of Broussard, LA, as the Small Business of the Week.

A stay-at-home mom, Kristi Broussard found herself with a lot of extra time once her daughter was old enough to go to school. With the neighborhood snowball stand recently vacated, Kristi and her husband, Colby, decided to buy the stand in 2014 and share their family’s 50-year-old snowball recipes with the local community, including the popular Cheesecake Stuffed Snowball. Kristi and Colby bought a bright orange trailer and parked it on West Main Street and, since its opening, has attracted a loyal clientele that grows each year.

Today Brain Freeze Snowballs is in the process of expanding to a new portable building, which will allow customers to try their snowballs without waiting in line on the side of a major road. The new building will complement the original bright orange trailer that is still used for local fairs and festivals.

Congratulations again to Brain Freeze Snowballs for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING CELTIC MEDIA CENTRE

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the people and businesses of Louisiana have continued to display remarkable strength, perseverance, and selfless service throughout the ongoing flooding and fallout in the State. Celtic Media Centre is certainly no exception to this outpouring of help and determination in its efforts to aid the community, and for this reason, I would like to recognize this fine company as Small Business of the Week. Without its willingness to accommodate any and all victims at a moment’s notice, over 2,000 people would have been left to weather the catastrophe alone and with no roof over their heads.

Celtic Media Centre, CMC, was founded by Brendan O’Connor in 2005 and has become the largest film and television production studio in the State of Louisiana. A Baton Rouge-based company, CMC originally catered exclusively to the smaller independent film industry. However, after continued success and expansion, the company now boasts an impressive resume, including major productions such as “True Blood” and “Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Parts 1 and 2.” Brendan’s son Michael took over as president and CEO after his father’s unfortunate passing in 2009, and

Patrick Mulhearn was brought on as the executive director of studio operations. Under their leadership, the studio has blossomed into what it is today.

The recent flooding in Louisiana is not the first time that Michael and Patrick teamed up to help the community. In 2012, after signing an agreement to aid the Red Cross during disasters, CMC provided shelter to over 500 Red Cross volunteers in the aftermath of Hurricane Isaac. This experience became vital for the much bigger task they had to face during the recent floods. Although no State or Federal contract was in place in advance, Mr. O'Connor gave Patrick the green light when a phone call came through from the Office of Emergency Preparedness at 3:05 a.m. August 14 to do whatever was necessary to help the increasing number of victims seeking shelter. Despite no time to prepare, CMC opened all its facilities and the buses of evacuees began to arrive at 5 a.m. Not only did Celtic take in over 4,000 evacuees at high water mark the first day and sheltered over 2,500 at night, they also welcomed all pets due to their long-standing pet-friendly policy. Although at first a struggle to provide anything but a roof and water, the operation ultimately expanded to include countless generous individuals and other companies throughout the area. Guests were able to enjoy a wide range of free desserts, gourmet coffee, moon bounces for the kids, live music, and even a special visit from the LSU football team. In addition, CMC was not only willing to host these thousands of victims and families, but the last evacuees did not leave until 12 days later. During one of the most trying times in Louisiana history, Celtic Media Centre not only showed its resolute dedication to the Louisiana community but did so for nearly 2 weeks straight. CMC is a remarkable example of true community spirit and selfless service.

I would like to extend my humble gratitude to Celtic Media Centre for its tremendous efforts in service to the Louisiana families and communities affected by the horrific flooding. Actions like theirs truly embodies the American spirit of unity and service that is required in such times of need. I wish them the best in their ongoing recovery efforts and continued growth and success in the business world.●

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL CRUDE OF LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisiana plays a major role in keeping our Nation powered up and running, and our natural resources industry provides many crucial jobs to residents of the Bayou State. This week, I would like to recognize Central Crude of Lake Charles, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

Central Crude was founded in 1974 with the goal of safely transporting crude oil while minimizing the environmental impact. Over the next two decades, Central Crude added numerous oil pipelines and terminals in order to expand their transportation capabilities and customer base in southwest Louisiana. In 2000, Central Crude expanded again by adding a state-of-the-art gas gathering system, which allowed them to provide full service capabilities to the natural gas market for the first time.

Today, Central Crude operates 7 pipelines, a 260,000-barrel tank farm, a rail and barge terminal, and a trucking division. With the addition of these assets, Central Crude has been able to grow their business considerably, creating even more Louisiana jobs. The company now participates in the marketing and transportation of natural gas along with crude. Under the leadership of CEO Steve Jordan, this small business's consistent growth and expansion has made the company the largest privately owned crude oil purchaser in Louisiana.

In addition to the excellent services they provide to the oil industry, I would also like to recognize Central Crude for their commitment to the highest level of customer service through their honesty, integrity, and reliability and for their consideration to all aspects of the community in which they serve. Congratulations again to Central Crude for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING CLEGG'S NURSERY AND NAYLOR'S HARDWARE AND GARDEN CENTER

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in the ongoing fight to rebuild much of south Louisiana after the devastating losses we experienced from widespread flooding, I am proud of the perseverance, resilience, and spirit of service clearly present amidst the efforts to restore and rejuvenate our great State. As such, I would like to recognize Clegg's Nursery and Naylor's Hardware and Garden Center of Baton Rouge, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

Following the deadly, unprecedented flooding in south Louisiana this August, Clegg's Nursery has permanently merged businesses with Naylor's Hardware and Garden Center, whose facility was severely damaged. Their joint determination and commitment to helping other local businesses has inspired the Baton Rouge community to maintain a positive and selfless attitude and continue to lend helping hands to friends and neighbors during this time of loss and recovery.

In 1955, Sam and Effie Clegg founded Clegg's Nursery in Baton Rouge, LA. They began by selling just a few plants

from an empty lot on Florida Boulevard, but this quickly led to the opening of a small garden center on North Donmoor in Baton Rouge's Lobdell-Woodale neighborhood. In 1981, Sam Clegg sold the business to his son Marshall, who then expanded the family business to two other locations in Baton Rouge. In 1999, Clegg's was again sold to current managers, Scott Ricca and Tom Fennell, who dedicated themselves and the company to the same values, mission, and passion for gardening that both Sam and Effie Clegg envisioned over 40 years before. What started out as a plant stand in an empty lot has now developed into a wholesale growing operation with several locations throughout the Baton Rouge area.

Today Clegg's owns over 40,000 square feet of commercial greenhouse space, with a dedicated staff committed to providing customers with the best locally grown plants in Baton Rouge. Amidst the devastating thousand-year flood disaster that has plagued our State in recent weeks, Clegg's has led by example and embodied the true spirit of service, specifically through its aid to Naylor's Hardware and Garden Center, another local hardware and garden store in the area. Following the storm, Naylor's was left completely and irreparably destroyed. Clegg's offered immediate help to its fellow company by giving jobs to several of Naylor's employees, including its owner, Johnny Naylor, and now is merging with the successful Naylor establishment to continue to supply the Baton Rouge community with the same great products and customer service all under one roof. Despite the tragic circumstances, Naylor's has found new life through Clegg's, which is a prime example of service, unity, and true community support.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the friends and families of Naylor's for the loss of their business, while expressing profound admiration toward Clegg's for its remarkable display of true Louisiana strength and helping others in the community during this time of need. I am honored to name Clegg's Nursery and Naylor's Hardware and Garden Center as Small Business of the Week. I wish them all the best during this time of recovery and look forward to seeing their new growth and success as they embark on a new business venture together.●

RECOGNIZING GREAT RAFT BREWING CO.

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, over the past several years, small locally owned breweries have exploded in popularity across the country, and Louisiana is no exception to this trend and is home to a number of small breweries that have gained regional and national success. As such, I would like to recognize

Great Raft Brewing Co. of Shreveport, LA, as this week's Small Business of the Week.

In 2013, Andrew and Lindsay Nations opened Great Raft Brewing in Shreveport's historic Highland neighborhood with the mission of creating fresh craft beer that complemented the lifestyle and cultures of northwest Louisiana. Having fallen in love with craft beer while living in Washington, DC, the Nations set out to share their passion with their native northern Louisiana. In October 2013, Great Raft Brewing Co. made history by selling the first locally made beer in Shreveport since Prohibition and quickly cemented themselves as a new pillar of their community.

Named for the "Great Raft" logjam that once prevented travel along the Red River, Great Raft Brewing remains committed to their community, hosting numerous charity and festival events each year and representing northwest Louisiana culture at events around the county. In late 2013, Great Raft Brewing Co. opened their tasting room, originally serving their three flagship brews before expanding to offer a number of limited release and seasonal beers. In a span of 3 years, Great Raft Brewing Co. has been able to expand to a level that allows them to distribute their beer all around the State of Louisiana, as well as garnering regional and national success, including being recognized as one of the South's Best Breweries by Southern Living Magazine, a Best American Lager by Food & Wine Magazine, a Best Coffee Beers in the World by Men's Journal, and numerous other recognitions in State, local, and national publications.

Congratulations to Great Raft Brewing for being named this week's Small Business of the Week. I have no doubt that this local brewery will continue to thrive and provide great beer for the people of Louisiana in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING HAIR FACTORY

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in Louisiana, football is a way of life, with the players often competing to be seen as role models to the young folks in our community. The Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers, arguably one of the best college football teams in the country, is a prime example of this and boasts many outstanding players that influence and inspire their community, State, and Nation. This week, I would like to recognize the ventures of one such student athlete as Small Business of the Week. For his commitment to serving the Baton Rouge community and inspiring entrepreneurship among young folks across Louisiana, I am very proud to honor Lewis Neal and Hair Factory of Baton Rouge, LA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

North Carolina native Lewis Neal isn't your typical entrepreneur. A senior at LSU this year, Neal began his entrepreneurial endeavors in high school when he participated in day trading on the Foreign Exchange market, something he continues to do. Neal's entrepreneurial talent led to him and a friend creating a smartphone app, and his love for the city of Baton Rouge inspired him to recently become co-owner of Hair Factory, joining Joan Campbell, whose family opened the local salon in 1986. After the police shooting in July rocked the Baton Rouge community, Neal and Campbell showed their commitment to their community by offering free Hair Factory haircuts to local members of the military, along with first responders and their families.

Congratulations to Lewis Neal, Joan Campbell, and the entire Hair Factory team for being selected as the Small Business of the Week, and I thank them for their commitment to the Baton Rouge community and providing for those who serve us daily.●

RECOGNIZING HAYES MANUFACTURING

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, for over 60 years, one small business based out of Pineville, LA, has played a major role in building central Louisiana and creating hundreds of jobs along the way. This week, I would like to recognize Hayes Manufacturing as Small Business of the Week.

In the early 1950s, James Hayes, Sr., worked in a local fabrication shop and quickly realized that he could produce a better product on his own. Working out of his garage with a welding machine mounted on a Model-T Ford, Hayes, Sr., established his namesake manufacturing small business in 1954. Over the next two decades, Hayes, Sr., acquired a small machine shop and successfully provided steel manufacturing products for central Louisiana. In 1972, his son James Hayes, Jr., joined the family business, and was shortly followed by his brother Cliff. Under their combined leadership and vision, Hayes Manufacturing has grown to become one of the highest regarded steel fabrication shops in the south.

Today Hayes Manufacturing is one of three divisions under the Hayes Companies, which is operated out of a 13-acre property in Pineville. Hayes Manufacturing regularly partners with the local community to give back. Following the deadly, historic flooding in south Louisiana this August, Hayes Manufacturing organized volunteers to help Baton Rouge families repair their flooded homes. Hayes Manufacturing has also worked with the State and local governments in public-private partnerships that build Louisiana's infrastructure and grow hundreds of direct and indirect jobs. In 2011, as the

CEO of the Hayes Companies, James Hayes, Jr., was awarded Small Business Person of the Year by the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to the entire team at Hayes Manufacturing for being selected as Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING HOOK & BOIL

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, with the recovery of the south Louisiana community underway, I would like to recognize Hook & Boil of Broussard, LA, as Senate Small Business of the Week. The folks at Hook & Boil played a significant role in serving its neighbors during the recent devastating floods and its selfless action in the midst of such widespread devastation is a shining example of the commitment to community and service among all Louisianians.

Mark Alleman, a third-generation crawfish famer and chef, began his culinary career by starting his own catering company, Cravin' Cajun Seafood. His skillful combination of Cajun flair with a wide range of local ingredients caught on quickly, and its tremendous success led Mark to expand his operations into Hook & Boil, the full-scale restaurant and catering business we know today. The new Hook & Boil strives to provide the ultimate Cajun experience. This experience, however, would be incomplete without a strong bond and commitment to the greater Broussard community.

This commitment was on full display during the recent fallout from the tragic flooding of southern Louisiana. Despite waters rising to over an inch in his own house, Alleman and his team at Hook & Boil served over 2,000 meals to those in need. With a crew of three Hook & Boil employees and a few locals with high vehicles, the team delivered food to affected neighborhoods throughout the community. Although the Hook & Boil team was small, its impact was wide-ranging and felt throughout the entire city.

This generosity and service is deserving of the deepest gratitude and respect, and I would again like to give my sincerest thanks to Hook & Boil for its remarkable service and action during such a tragedy. This showcase of service has not only bolstered community pride but shines as a light and tremendous example of unity, compassion, and human spirit. I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING KELLY PLUMBING

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, family-owned small businesses are essential to keeping our homes and businesses running and providing much needed jobs in our local communities. The skill set and level of service from these small

businesses drive our communities to succeed and are the backbone for our economic success. This week, I would like to recognize Kelly Plumbing, Inc., of Monroe, LA, as Small Business of the Week for their commitment to customers and exceptional service in northeast Louisiana.

Kelly Plumbing was founded in 1928 by Ernest and Vivian Kelly in their hometown of Monroe. Since 1928, the company's focus on customer satisfaction not only makes them a premier plumbing service but has allowed them to survive the economic downturns and recessions that our Nation has faced since the Great Depression. After 88 years, the Kelly family continues to provide exceptional plumbing and home repair services to members of their community, building a successful business that offers its expertise to countless customers in the Monroe and West Monroe communities. This success has allowed the owners to pass down their business for three generations and is now currently operated by Bobby Kelly, Jr.

Kelly Plumbing's focus on customer and quality service has not gone unnoticed, as they were awarded DeltaStyle Magazine's "Best Plumbing Company" of 2016. This is further proof of the strength and success a small business can have in conjunction with hard work and maintaining strong family values. I once again would like to congratulate Kelly Plumbing, Inc., for their perseverance and am proud to honor them as Small Business of the Week. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING LAMULLE CONSTRUCTION, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the success and stability of the Bayou State's economy works largely in conjunction with the abundance of natural resources at our fingertips. Considering the variety of industries that work in and around Louisiana's vast coastline, it is important to have a solid water infrastructure system in place. A veteran-owned small business based in Slidell, LA, has been building that water infrastructure for the citizens of south Louisiana for nearly 70 years. I would like to recognize Lamulle Construction, LLC, as Small Business of the Week.

It was during World War II when E.J. Lamulle served in the U.S. Army and learned the skill of pile driving. Lamulle's regiment was responsible for building docks off islands in the Pacific Ocean so Allied ships could drop off supplies. After the war, Lamulle returned to Louisiana in 1947 to find his home devastated by a hurricane. When rebuilding his home, Lamulle used his pile driving skills to protect it from future storms, and when his neighbors took notice of his work, Lamulle inad-

vertently started his namesake construction company.

Over the next several decades, Lamulle Construction grew to specialize in constructing residential and commercial waterfront projects, including bulkheads, docks, piers, and bridges. Today, E.J. Lamulle's son David manages the family-owned small business, which has grown to employ 25 crewmembers and 8 administrators who maintain the high level of service and attention to detail that the company has become known for.

Congratulations to the great team at Lamulle Construction for being selected as this week's Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING LASYONE'S MEAT PIE RESTAURANT

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, down in the Bayou State, our generations-old recipes are well regarded and in high demand. This week I would like to recognize Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant of Natchitoches, LA, as Small Business of the Week, for their commitment to supporting the local economy and keeping the tradition of southern cooking alive and well.

In the 1950s, James Lasyone was the butcher for the Live Oak Grocery and began experimenting with a meat pie recipe. In the years that followed, Lasyone's recipe became a local favorite, which led to the 1967 opening of Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant in historic downtown Natchitoches. A few years later, the editor of House Beautiful Magazine dropped in, and Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant soon began receiving national recognition.

Today Lasyone's original recipe is a well-kept secret, but Chefs Angela Lasyone and Tina Lasyone Smith continue to share meat pies with the community, along with several other staples of Southern cuisine, including crawfish pie, red beans and sausage, dirty rice, southern fried catfish, bread pudding with rum sauce, and chicken and dumplings. In their nearly 50 years of operation, Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant has been praised in national newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune and the New York Times, major television shows On the Road with Charles Kuralt and Good Morning America, and even in international publications from France, Italy, and Spain.

Congratulations again to the Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant for being selected as Small Business of the Week. I look forward to my next visit to Natchitoches to have another one of your delicious meat pies and wish the entire team at Lasyone's continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MAGGIO GROCERY AND DELI

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses in Louisiana play a major role in their local communities and economy, and far more often than not, they support and showcase the values and livelihood of the people around them. In that spirit, I would like to recognize Maggio Grocery and Deli of Bossier City, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

In 1923, Sam and Mary Maggio opened Maggio Grocery along the Red River in Bossier City, LA. An Italian immigrant and World War I veteran, Sam built the grocery store with the goal of providing his Bossier City neighbors with the highest quality groceries, meats, seafood, and service-with-a-smile one could find in the community. Even with a friendly rival grocery store across the street, Sam found success with Maggio Grocery and eventually passed the business along to his two sons, Joe and Charlie. These days Maggio Grocery is run by Charlie's son, Vince, and his wife, Sharon, who work to make sure the family's namesake grocery store maintains the same traditions that have lasted three generations. Even with the prolific growth of supermarkets, 93 years later, Maggio Grocery continues to thrive in northwest Louisiana and remains in its original location on Thompson Street.

I would like to congratulate Maggio Grocery and Deli for being recognized as Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING METALCRAFT MANUFACTURING

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as this body continues to honor the importance and contributions of the small business community across America, I would like to specifically recognize MetalCraft Manufacturing of Shreveport, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

After years of experience as an engineer and businessman, Todd Leleux acquired MetalCraft Manufacturing in 2008. Building upon his extensive background in the oil and gas industry and MetalCraft's history of providing top of the line metal manufacturing and customer service, Leleux quickly grew the company's manufacturing in a few short years. With an increasing client base, Leleux sought to expand to Lafayette, LA, in 2011. During this process, he included Garland Champagne and Jeff Prejean as co-owners who brought over 70 combined years of experience in down hole oil tools.

Over the years, MetalCraft has helped provide high-quality products to industry leaders such as General Electric, GE, and the Halliburton Company, while also delivering their signature

level of service to all clients, regardless of size. Today MetalCraft continues to serve Louisiana with the highest level of expertise and craftsmanship to industry, ranging from agriculture to petroleum. MetalCraft has and will continue to offer quality employment opportunities to Louisianians for many years to come.

Congratulations again to MetalCraft Manufacturing for being selected as this week's Small Business of the Week, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MOONBOT STUDIOS

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses have the unique ability to connect with and inspire members in their communities. It is especially noteworthy when these businesses are able to inspire their neighbors through a creative use of the arts. This week I am proud to honor Moonbot Studios of Shreveport, LA, as Small Business of the Week, for their commitment to captivating the imaginations of folks of all ages through beautiful animation and superb storytelling.

In 2009, three visionary artists—Bill Joyce, Brandon Oldenburg, and Lampton Enochs—hatched a revolutionary idea: open a full-service design and production studio in Louisiana's budding entertainment hub, Shreveport, LA. The trio aimed for creating and producing visually stunning and intricately told stories for folks of all ages. Helmed by Joyce, a former illustrator for Disney/Pixar, and Oldenburg and Enochs, two successful entertainment-industry professionals, the group began producing top-notch and award-winning animated short films and digitally animated books and cell phone apps. The experience of these talented professionals helped shape the first major animation studio in Louisiana.

Today Moonbot has grown into an award-winning team of 50 employees ranging from animators, illustrators, and a large film and marketing team creating beautiful stories that capture the imaginations of folks both in Louisiana and around the world. Currently, the studio is working with Amazon Studios in creating and producing a new animated children's show to be streamed on the popular Amazon Prime Web site. Additionally, the group boasts a number of prestigious awards including a handful of Emmy Awards and an Oscar for best animated short film with their original production "The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore."

Congratulations again to Moonbot Studios for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to inspiring our next generation of Louisiana artists and storytellers. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING MORRIS & DICKSON CO. LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, oftentimes the truest test of a small business's strength is its longevity. In Louisiana, our small businesses have worked through countless challenges and survived for generations to improve the lives of their neighbors and make substantial contributions to the economy. In honor of their 175th anniversary, I would like to present Morris & Dickson Co. LLC of Shreveport, LA, with the Senate Small Business Legacy Award for the important achievements of this Louisiana-based small business success story.

In 1841, John Worthington Morris opened J. W. Morris & Co., an independent pharmacy in downtown Shreveport, LA. Working out of a single riverfront warehouse, J.W. first received goods by steamboat from New Orleans and with the help of his brother, Thomas Henry, ran his namesake small business until his death 12 years later. A second generation of the Morris family continued J.W.'s legacy until Claudius Dickson bought the business in 1899, renaming it to be Morris & Dickson Co. Claudius worked with members of the Morris family to grow their wholesale pharmaceutical business. As technology improved, with new railway lines and gasoline-powered trucks, Morris & Dickson Co. embraced the revolutionary improvements to distribute their pharmaceuticals in Louisiana and the surrounding States.

In order to survive the Civil War, the Great Depression, as well as the day-to-day struggles of running a successful business, the leaders of Morris & Dickson Co. took advantage of each technological improvement to ensure the company would stay afloat.

It wasn't until the 1980s that Morris & Dickson Co. grew exponentially and became a nationally recognized competitor. At the time, Morris & Dickson Co. was working out of the same building it had first moved into in 1905. Nearly eight decades later, they were still transporting goods in a manual freight elevator and used a dumbwaiter or rope bucket to send orders upstairs. Claudius's son Markham Allen Dickson recognized that major changes had to be made and, much like his predecessors, had an immense respect for technology's growing influence. M. Allen's foresight and ingenuity allowed the family-owned business to grow to become the region's leading wholesale drug distributor. He moved the company out of downtown Shreveport, utilized the early use of computers, and under his leadership, Morris & Dickson Co. exploded on the national wholesale pharmaceutical scene. By 2013, Morris & Dickson Co. was the fourth largest pharmaceutical distributor in the Nation.

Still driven by the 175-year old ambition to elevate the standard of patient

care for their neighbors and community, today Morris & Dickson Co. is run by M. Allen's son, Paul Dickson. Morris & Dickson Co. has a well-earned reputation for persevering through many hardships by embracing innovation in order to harness the power of an ever-changing economy and increasingly technology-driven world.

Today Morris & Dickson Co. provides operational and logistic innovation support for independent pharmacies. This includes everything from on-time delivery of pharmaceutical inventory to inventory management software. With Morris & Dickson Co.'s help, independent pharmacies in 14 States can focus on supporting and improving the health of their local communities, while also remaining financially solvent.

This Shreveport-based family-run business is a great example of the American dream in action, and companies like Morris & Dickson certainly serve as role models for the next generation of entrepreneurs. I congratulate the hard-working folks at Morris & Dickson Co. LLC on 175 years in business and for the well-deserved honor of the Senate Small Business Legacy Award.●

RECOGNIZING PARADISE OUTFITTERS, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, as I continue to honor the success and contributions of the small business community in the United States, I would like to honor the work of Paradise Outfitters, LLC, located in Venice, LA, as this week's Small Business of the Week.

Paradise Outfitters, LLC, has become a premier deep sea charter fishing company, not only in Louisiana but throughout the entire gulf region. Captain Hunter Caballero opened his doors almost a decade ago, following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. An accomplished angler who holds the Louisiana State record for big eye tuna, Captain Caballero's work has been featured in *Saltwater Sportsman*, *Louisiana Sportsman*, the *Waterman's Journal*, among others. Captain Caballero started with only one boat and a small crew but now has a fleet of 4 boats, employs 4 captains, and a crew of roughly 10 to 20 individuals, depending on the fishing season. Paradise Outfitters delivers essential services in fishery management while contributing to the commercial and economic development essential to keeping Louisiana competitive.

I am proud to support Louisiana's reputation as the "Sportsman's Paradise," and companies like Paradise Outfitters, LLC, provide unparalleled services that help Louisiana uphold that moniker. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and even during the BP oilspill in 2010, Captain Caballero and

his crew continued providing a significant boost to our State's irreplaceable tourism industry and have allowed us to showcase the unique and wonderful fishing opportunities that only Louisiana can provide.

I would like to congratulate Paradise Outfitters, LLC, once more and thank their team for the services they have provided throughout our State's most challenging times. I look forward to seeing their continued success and applaud them for giving people the unique experiences one can only find in Louisiana.●

RECOGNIZING RENAISSANCE PUBLISHING, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, in my role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am fortunate to come across entrepreneurs across the United States who have dedicated so much time and effort to creating jobs and boosting our Nation's economy. This week, I would like to recognize Renaissance Publishing, LLC, located in my hometown of Metairie, LA, as Small Business of the Week.

Renaissance Publishing first opened its doors in Jefferson Parish in 2006. In the last 9 years, Todd Matherne has consistently provided folks across Louisiana with exceptional printing and publishing services and today employs over 50 people. With a guiding directive to "celebrate life" in each of Mr. Matherne's publishing ventures, Renaissance Publishing has grown from producing custom publishing titles for local organizations to also owning and managing a handful of local magazines and periodicals, including MyNewOrleans.com, New Orleans Magazine, and Louisiana Life. As such, Renaissance Publishing has the latest information on what to do and what is going on in New Orleans. For his many achievements, Mr. Matherne was designated as Small Business Person of the Year by Louisiana Economic Development in 2015.

In recognition of their years of dedication to growing jobs and contributing to southern Louisiana's economic development, I congratulate Renaissance Publishing, LLC, for being selected as Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING THREE BROTHERS FARM

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the opportunity to buy from local businesses affords consumers fresher and higher quality products, but it also gives them the chance to support the communities in which they operate. In that spirit, I am proud to recognize Three Brothers Farm of Youngsville, LA, as Small Business of the Week for their commitment to bringing high-quality locally

grown products to restaurants and consumers all around the State of Louisiana.

Three Brothers Farm in Lafayette Parish got its start in 1944 when it began producing fresh, all natural fig preservatives. They traveled to farmer's markets all across the State to bring their quality products to the masses. For years they enjoyed growth and success in the fig industry; however, in 2005, when Hurricane Rita came ashore bringing 22 consecutive hours of salty gulf rain with it, Three Brothers Farm faced an unprecedented challenge. The result of such extended rain was devastating to the fig tree population on the farm and dramatically decreased Three Brothers Farm's ability to produce enough figs to supply the demand.

Instead of giving up, the owners turned their efforts to a new endeavor and began to develop the sugar aspect of the business. Under this new direction, the farm added an FDA-approved kitchen to be used to scrub raw sugar and thus be able to provide it to area restaurants and co-ops. Their venture paid off tremendously as they now have 29 acres of naturally produced sugarcane and Celeste figs, which allows them to service some of the best restaurants in Louisiana including the Besh Restaurant Group, Herbsaint, Cochon, and Le Petite Grocery, amongst many more.

Congratulations again to Three Brothers Farm of Youngsville, LA, this week's Small Business of the Week, for their dedication to providing Louisiana with "Certified Cajun" products and I look forward to your continued growth and sweet success.●

RECOGNIZING TOCE ENERGY, LLC

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, with the right tools, small businesses have the unique opportunity to drive economic growth and opportunity across the country, providing good-paying jobs in their communities. In energy-rich Louisiana, small oil and gas companies are no exception to this. This week I would like to recognize Toce Energy, LLC, of Lafayette, LA, as Small Business of the Week, for their commitment to spurring economic growth through the State's distressed oil and gas industry.

In 1997, after many successful years in the oil and gas industry, Victor and Paul Toce teamed up to found their namesake Toce Energy, LLC, in energy-rich southwest Louisiana. Initially offering services in acquisitions of oil and gas properties, Toce Energy quickly expanded their reach into neighboring parishes, spurring growth in the local communities in which they operate.

Today Toce Energy boasts operations in 18 parishes across the southern region of the State. Contracting over 500 vendors to support their operations in

geology, geophysics, land, drilling, production, accounting, and legal services, the group provides scores of good-paying jobs both in Louisiana's struggling oil and natural gas industry and across various industries which serve the sector.

Congratulations again to Toce Energy for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to Louisiana's energy sector and providing jobs for citizens of Louisiana. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING TRIPLE N OYSTER FARM

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisiana is known for serving some of the best seafood in the world, and that includes our locally grown and raised oysters. We are especially lucky in that many Louisianians are putting pen to paper in order to hammer out real solutions that will preserve, protect, and rebuild our vulnerable coastal habitats that also give a boost to some of our richest industries. One such Louisiana-based business is this Small Business of the Week Triple N Oyster Farm.

Biology professors at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Dr. Steve Pollock and Dr. Ginger Brininstool took the entrepreneurial leap in 2015 when the Grand Isle community sought new ways to farm oysters in the popular coastal community. The husband and wife team worked together to develop an innovative new way to farm and harvest oysters with minimal damage to Louisiana's vulnerable coastal habitats. By suspending their oyster habitats off the sea floor, Dr. Pollock and Dr. Brininstool experiment with alternative farming techniques that allow oysters to mature more quickly and cleanly than in traditional farming methods.

Recently, Triple N Oyster Farm was selected to join a competitive impact accelerator program at Propeller, a popular New Orleans, LA, nonprofit organization whose aim is to help start and grow entrepreneurial ventures in the greater New Orleans area. In this program, Dr. Pollock and Dr. Brininstool will join a small team of local startups to develop additional innovative and entrepreneurial options to improve Louisiana's coastal water management.

Congratulations again to Triple N Oyster Farm for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your commitment to innovating Louisiana's rich seafood industry while preserving our vulnerable coast, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:21 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment and an amendment to the title, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 253. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to consolidate the reporting obligations of the Federal Communications Commission in order to improve congressional oversight and reduce reporting burdens.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 954. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program.

H.R. 5065. An act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5391. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance certain duties of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Social Security

Advisory Board for a term of 6 years, effective October 9, 2016: Ms. Kim Hildred of Alexandria, Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1103), and the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees for John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of 6 years: Mr. Gregg Harper of Pearl, Mississippi.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 1475. An act to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 5:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 3283. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

The message also announced that the House of Representatives having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 2040) to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes, returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, and passed by the Senate on reconsideration of the same, it was resolved, that the said bill do pass, two-thirds of the House of Representatives agreeing to pass the same.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 6:37 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

H.R. 2494. An act to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5065. An act to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to notify air carriers and security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration of such Administration's guidelines regarding permitting baby formula, breast milk, purified deionized water, and juice on airplanes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 5391. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance certain duties of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 954. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7000. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "System Safeguards Testing Requirements for Derivatives Clearing Organizations" (RIN3038-AE29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7001. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Revision of Time Frame for Continuance Referenda" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0054) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7002. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pyridaben; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9951-92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7003. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of Optimum Supply Requirements and Establishment of Inventory Release Procedures" (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0047) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7004. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0076) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7005. A communication from the Administrator of the Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the Definition of 'Condition' and Prerequisite Requirement for Shell Eggs Eligible for Grading and Certification Stated in the Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs" (Docket No. AMS-LPS-15-0044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7006. A communication from the Program Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities" (RIN1557-AD00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7007. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Releasing Information; Availability of Records of the Farm Credit Administration; FOIA Fees" (RIN3052-AD18) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7008. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "System Safeguards Testing Requirements" (RIN3038-AE30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7009. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Agency Drug-Free Workplace Program" and certification relative to the provisions and requirements of section 503(c) of P.L. 100-71; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Finance.

EC-7010. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an alleged violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred on September 29, 2014, and April 7, 2015, in the Environmental Programs and Management account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7011. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TRICARE; Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment" (RIN0720-AB65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7012. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualification Standards for Enlistment, Appointment, and Induction" (RIN0790-A178) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7013. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Procedures" (RIN0790-A136) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7014. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Ted N. Branch, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7015. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran as declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7016. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7017. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe that was declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7018. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was originally declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7019. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was established in Executive Order 13224 on September 23, 2001; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7020. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Quid Pro Quo and Hostile Environment Harassment and Liability for Discriminatory Housing Practices Under the Fair Housing Act" (RIN2529-AA94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7021. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual Implementation Report on Energy Conserva-

tion Standards Activities of the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7022. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Department of Energy Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, Fiscal Year 2015"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Indian Tribes in a Similar Manner as States for Purposes of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act" (FRL No. 9952-61-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Arkansas; Regional Haze and Interstate Visibility Transport Federal Implementation Plan" (FRL No. 9952-03-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa; Infrastructure SIP Requirements for 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 9952-55-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Prong 4-2008 Ozone, 2010 NO₂, SO₂, and 2012 PM_{2.5}" (FRL No. 9952-72-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7027. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Alabama and North Carolina; Interstate Transport—2010 NO₂ Standards" (FRL No. 9952-74-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7028. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Species; Identification of 14 Distinct Population Segments of the Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Revision of Species-Wide Listing" (RIN0648-XC751) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7029. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana Hurricane and Storm Damage

Risk Reduction project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7030. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Board's budget request for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7031. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clinical Trials Registration and Results Information Submission" (RIN0925-AA55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7032. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removing Outmoded Regulations Regarding the Smallpox Vaccine Injury Compensation Program" (RIN0906-AA84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7033. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety and Effectiveness of Consumer Antiseptics; Topical Antimicrobial Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use" ((RIN0910-AF69) (Docket No. FDA-1975-N-0012)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7034. A communication from the Senior Advisor to the Secretary Delegated the Duties of Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Priorities—Enhanced Assessment Instruments" ((CFDA No. 84.368A.) (Docket No. ED-2016-OESE-0004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7035. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Evidence from Excluded Medical Sources of Evidence" (RIN0960-AH92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7036. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement of the Results of the Phase III Allocation Round of the Qualifying Gasification Project Program" (Announcement 2016-34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7037. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Announcement of Certification Resulting from the 2012-2013 Phase III Allocation Round of the Qualifying Advanced Coal Project Program" (An-

nouncement 2016-33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7038. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit for Carbon Dioxide Sequestration; 2016 Section 45Q Inflation Adjustment Factor" (Notice 2016-53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7039. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update of Address for Qualified Vehicle Submissions" (Notice 2016-51) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7040. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Tax Credit Guidance Under Section 909 Related to Foreign-Initiated Adjustments" (Notice 2016-52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7041. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "applicable Federal Rates—October 2016" (Rev. Rul. 2016-25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7042. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Facilitating Compliance with Qualified Plan Document Requirements" (Announcement 2016-32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7043. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modifications to Minimum Present Value Requirements for Partial Annuity Distribution Options under Defined Benefit Pension Plans" ((RIN1545-BJ55) (TD 9783)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7044. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Amounts Paid to Section 170(c) Organizations Under Employer Leave-Based Donation Programs to Aid Victims of Severe Storms and Flooding in Louisiana that Began on August 11, 2016" (Notice 2016-55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7045. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Medical Criteria for Evaluating Mental Disorders" (RIN0960-AF69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7046. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting proposed legislation increasing the death gratuity for a Federal civilian employee killed in the line of duty; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7047. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Administrative Justice in the District of Columbia: Recommendations to Improve DC's Office of Administrative Hearings"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7048. A communication from the Acting Director, Planning and Policy Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Rights for Transferred Employees under the Dodd-Frank Act Regarding Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance" (RIN3206-AM81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 16, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7049. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2016 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7050. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7051. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Patent Term Adjustment in view of the Federal Circuit Decision in *Novartis v. Lee*" (RIN0651-AC96) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7052. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Solicit Gifts and Donations" (RIN2900-AP75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7053. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Authority to Solicit Gifts and Donations" (RIN2900-AP74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7054. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.3555(e) of the Commission's Rules, National Television Multiple Ownership Rule" ((MB Docket No. 13-236) (FCC 16-116)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7055. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory

Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approach Regulations for Humpback Whales in Waters Surrounding the Islands of Hawaii Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act" (RIN0648-BF98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7056. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments and Recodification of Alaska Humpback Whale Approach Regulations" (RIN0648-BF31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7057. A communication from the Senior Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer Price Index Adjustments of Oil Pollution Act of 1990 Limits of Liability—Vessels, Deepwater Ports, and Onshore Facilities" (RIN1625-AC14) (Docket No. USCG-2013-1006) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7058. A communication from the Chief of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Maritime Radio Equipment and Related Matters" ((WT Docket No. 14-36) (FCC 16-119)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7059. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Eagle Butte, South Dakota)" ((MB Docket No. 16-182) (DA 16-1007)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7060. A communication from the Chief of the International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Amendment of the Commission's Space Station Licensing Rules and Policies" ((IB Docket No. 02-34) (FCC 16-108)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7061. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Closed Areas Expiring" (RIN0648-XD604) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 7, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7062. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Ironman 70.3 Miami; Miami, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0483)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7063. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Shore (Belt) Parkway Bridge Construction, Mill Basin; Brooklyn, NY" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2014-1044)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7064. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0117–2016-0122); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7065. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7066. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-077); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7067. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-059); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-206. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to currency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-207. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to constitutional conventions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Christopher James Brummer, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 19, 2016.

*Christopher James Brummer, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring June 19, 2021.

*Brian D. Quintenz, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2020.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed sub-

ject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 3406. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require child care providers to provide to parents information regarding whether such providers carry liability insurance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3407. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate assignment of military trauma care providers to civilian trauma centers in order to maintain military trauma readiness and to support such centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3408. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide grants for access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3409. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include foster care transition youth as members of a targeted group for purposes of the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 3410. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct an independent review of the deaths of certain veterans by suicide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON:

S. 3411. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency from taking administrative action to recover certain payments for disaster or emergency assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3412. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3413. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kazakhstan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KIRK, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. 3414. A bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PERDUE:

S. 3415. A bill to require Federal agencies to issue appropriate identification for the carrying of concealed firearms by qualified

law enforcement officers and qualified retired law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 3416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain rules applicable to qualified small issue manufacturing bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 3417. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement and Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the electronic delivery of pension plan information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3418. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holocaust-era insurance policies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3419. A bill to amend the Veterans' Oral History Project Act to allow the collection of video and audio recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 3420. A bill to promote urban agricultural production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 3421. A bill to require air carriers to provide all flight attendants with scheduled rest periods of at least 10 consecutive hours between duty periods and to comply with fatigue management plans for flight attendants that have been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3422. A bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 3423. A bill to provide for the issuance of a "Gold Star Families Forever Stamp" to honor the sacrifices of families who have lost a loved one who was a member of the Armed Forces in combat; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 3424. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the avoidance of tax by insurance companies through reinsurance with non-taxed affiliates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 3425. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3426. A bill to provide nonprofit organizations and local governments with the op-

portunity to match a bid with respect to the sale of certain non-performing loans by the Government-sponsored enterprises and the Federal Housing Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3427. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to take action to eliminate human exposure to asbestos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3428. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that new wind turbines located near certain military installations are ineligible for the renewable electricity production credit and the energy credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3429. A bill to delay the implementation of the overtime rule submitted by the Department of Labor entitled "Defining and Delimiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales and Computer Employees" for a period of 2 years in States in which the President has declared that a major disaster exists; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 3430. A bill to establish the Bureau of Land Management Foundation to encourage, obtain, and use gifts, devises, and bequests for projects for the benefit of, or in connection with, activities and services of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3431. A bill to coordinate and advance fibrosis research activities at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 3432. A bill to reform the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 3433. A bill to coordinate, manage, and implement the Department of Labor's evaluation and research programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 3434. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the provision of services and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who experience domestic violence or sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 3435. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect and preserve access of Medicare beneficiaries in rural areas to health care providers under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3436. A bill to prevent proposed regulations relating to restrictions on liquidation

of an interest with respect to estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes from taking effect; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. HEITKAMP):

S. 3437. A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 3438. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3439. A bill to streamline the application process for H-2A employers and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3440. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide uniform standards for the use of electronic signatures for third-party disclosure authorizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3441. A bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 3442. A bill to amend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 to provide for the release of certain blocked assets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PERDUE:

S. 3443. A bill to prohibit the United States Government from making cash payments to state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 3444. A bill to clarify the hours of service requirements for education support professionals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3445. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services with respect to States and private employers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3446. A bill to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 regarding remedies and procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3447. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. AYOTTE:

S. 3448. A bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and the public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3449. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a program for labeling cultural property of Iraq or Syria legally entering the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3450. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include electric charging of certain vehicles as a qualified transportation fringe benefit excluded from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 3451. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable and advanceable tax credit for individuals with young children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3452. A bill to authorize the United States Postal Service to carry out emergency suspensions of post offices in accordance with certain procedures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3453. A bill to amend provisions in the securities laws relating to regulation crowdfunding to raise the dollar amount limit and to clarify certain requirements and exclusions for funding portals established by such Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3454. A bill to improve medication adherence; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 3455. A bill to allow for the expedited approval of generic prescription drugs and temporary importation of prescription drugs in the case of noncompetitive drug markets and drug shortages; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 3456. A bill to establish the Office for Partnerships Against Violent Extremism of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 3457. A bill to establish Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services SBIR or STTR program grants which shall be known as Medicare commercialization grants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3458. A bill to establish programs to improve family economic security by breaking the cycle of multigenerational poverty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 3459. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the requirements for secure geological storage of carbon dioxide for purposes of the carbon dioxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL:

S. Res. 583. A resolution amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to ensure that the Senate votes on whether to confirm judicial nominees; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 584. A resolution acknowledging the peaceful hunger strike of Guillermo "El Coco" Farinas, a political dissident in Cuba, applauding his bravery and commitment to human rights, and expressing solidarity with him and his cause; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 585. A resolution designating October 26, 2016, as "Day of the Deployed"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 586. A resolution honoring the life of Jacob Wetterling and recognizing the efforts of Jacob Wetterling's family to find abducted children and support the families of those children; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 587. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 588. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2016 as "National Principals Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 589. A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of Reformed Theological Seminary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. Con. Res. 52. A concurrent resolution honoring Vincent Edward "Vin" Scully, the United States baseball broadcaster who has magnificently served as the play-by-play announcer for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers for 67 Major League Baseball seasons since 1950; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COCHRAN:

S. Con. Res. 53. A concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Con. Res. 54. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 50

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 50, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.

S. 71

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects.

S. 241

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 241, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of temporary compensation to a surviving spouse of a veteran upon the death of the veteran, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to require breast density reporting to physicians and patients by facilities that perform mammograms, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 609

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and increase the exclusion for benefits provided to volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders.

S. 681

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico

(Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to prevent human health threats posed by the consumption of equines raised in the United States.

S. 1400

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to direct the task force of the Office of Veterans Business Development to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses.

S. 1677

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate estate and generation-skipping taxes, and for other purposes.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2040

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2040, a bill to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.

S. 2176

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2176, a bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2253, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by closures of educational institutions certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2484

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2484, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XI of the Social Security Act to promote cost savings and quality care under the Medicare program through the use of telehealth and remote patient monitoring services, and for other purposes.

S. 2506

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2506, a bill to restore statutory rights to the people of the United States from forced arbitration.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2645

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2645, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide comprehensive mental health reform, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, *supra*.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2851

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2851, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation

for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2962

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2962, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2989

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2989, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3034, a bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress.

S. 3039

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3039, a bill to support programs for mosquito-borne and other vector-borne disease surveillance and control.

S. 3043

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3043, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

S. 3095

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3095, a bill to prohibit sale of shark fins and for other purposes.

S. 3106

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3106, a bill to provide a coordinated regional response to effectively manage

the endemic violence and humanitarian crisis in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

S. 3127

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3127, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections of Native American cultural objects, and for other purposes.

S. 3142

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 3142, a bill to require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues.

S. 3164

At the request of Ms. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3164, a bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault under the Fair Housing Act.

S. 3177

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3177, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax-exempt financing of certain government-owned buildings.

S. 3179

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3179, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.

S. 3183

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3183, a bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 3227

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 3227, a bill to direct the President to establish an interagency mechanism to coordinate United States development programs and private sector investment activities, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3269

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3269, a bill to require the Attorney General to make a determination as to whether cannabidiol should be a controlled substance and listed in a schedule under the Controlled Substances Act and to expand research on the potential medical benefits of cannabidiol and other marijuana components.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3281, a bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

S. 3284

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3284, a bill to oppose loans at international financial institutions for the Government of Nicaragua unless the Government of Nicaragua is taking effective steps to hold free, fair, and transparent elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3288

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3288, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to exempt certain recipients of Department of Agriculture conservation assistance from certain reporting requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3292

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3292, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to make the Postmaster General the importer of record for the non-letter class mail and to require the provision of advance electronic information about shipments of non-letter class mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

S. 3304

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

HATCH), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3304, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 3308

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3308, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit prescription drug plan sponsors and MA-PD organizations under the Medicare program from retroactively reducing payment on clean claims submitted by pharmacies.

S. 3311

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3311, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt individuals whose health plans under the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan program have been terminated from the individual mandate penalty.

S. 3355

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3355, a bill to prohibit funding for the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in the event the United Nations Security Council adopts a resolution that obligates the United States or affirms a purported obligation of the United States to refrain from actions that would run counter to the object and purpose of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3392

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3392, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to improve the process whereby Medicare Administrative Contractors issue local coverage determinations under the Medicare Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 3405, a bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List.

S. CON. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 51, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 536

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 536, a resolution proclaiming the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as "National Obesity Care Week".

S. RES. 570

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 570, a resolution recognizing the importance of substance abuse disorder treatment and recovery in the United States.

S. RES. 581

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 581, a resolution prohibiting the Senate from adjourning, recessing, or convening in a pro forma session unless the Senate has provided a hearing and a vote on the pending nomination to the position of justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3428. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that new wind turbines located near certain military installations are ineligible for the renewable electricity production credit and the energy credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3428

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protection of Military Airfields from Wind Turbine Encroachment Act".

SEC. 2. NEW WIND TURBINES LOCATED NEAR CERTAIN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 45(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "Such term" and all that follows through the period and inserting

the following: "Such term shall not include—

"(A) any facility with respect to which any qualified small wind energy property expenditure (as defined in subsection (d)(4) of section 25D) is taken into account in determining the credit under such section, or

"(B) any facility which is originally placed in service after the date of the enactment of the Protection of Military Airfields from Wind Turbine Encroachment Act and is located within a 30-mile radius of—

"(i) an airfield or airbase under the jurisdiction of a military department which is in active use, or

"(ii) an air traffic control radar site, weather radar site, or aircraft navigation aid which is—

"(I) owned or operated by the Department of Defense, and

"(II) a permanent land-based structure at a fixed location.".

(b) QUALIFIED SMALL WIND ENERGY PROPERTY.—Paragraph (4) of section 48(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D), and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) EXCEPTION.—The term 'qualifying small wind energy property' shall not include any property which is originally placed in service after the date of the enactment of the Protection of Military Airfields from Wind Turbine Encroachment Act and is located within a 30-mile radius of any property described in clause (i) or (ii) of section 45(d)(1)(B)."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 3432. A bill to reform the use of solitary confinement and other forms of restrictive housing in the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to introduce the Solitary Confinement Reform Act, a bill that would make significant reforms to the use of solitary confinement in federal prisons and encourage states to implement similar reforms. Before I discuss what this legislation would do, let me explain why I am introducing it.

Several years ago, I read an article in the New Yorker magazine entitled "Hellhole." This article was written by Dr. Atul Gawande, a medical doctor who examined the human impact of long-term solitary confinement in American prisons. In this article, Dr. Gawande asked:

If prolonged isolation is—as research and experience have confirmed for decades—so objectively horrifying, so intrinsically cruel, how did we end up with a prison system that may subject more of our own citizens to it than any other country in history has?

At the time, I was serving as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights, and I decided to hold a hearing on solitary confinement—the first-ever congressional

hearing on the topic. It turned out to be a hearing that I will never forget.

One of our witnesses at the hearing was Anthony Graves. I will never forget Mr. Graves' testimony. He spent 18 years in prison, including 16 years in solitary confinement. In 2010, he became the 12th death row inmate to be exonerated in Texas. Think about that—Mr. Graves spent 16 years in solitary for a crime he didn't commit. At the hearing, Mr. Graves testified about his experience, and here is what he said:

I lived under some of the worst conditions imaginable with the filth, the food, the total disrespect of human dignity. I lived under the rules of a system that is literally driving men out of their minds.

He went on to say:

Solitary confinement does one thing, it breaks a man's will to live and he ends up deteriorating. He's never the same person again. . . . I have been free for almost two years and I still cry at night, because no one out here can relate to what I have gone through. I battle with feelings of loneliness. I've tried therapy but it didn't work. The therapist was crying more than me. She couldn't believe that our system was putting men through this sort of inhumane treatment.

I think that sentiment echoed through the minds of everyone in the hearing room as Mr. Graves gave his testimony. We couldn't believe that our system was putting inmates through this sort of inhumane treatment.

Mr. Graves' story shed light on the damaging impact of holding tens of thousands of men, women, and children in small windowless cells 23 hours a day—for weeks, months, years—with very little, if any, contact with the outside world. Clearly, such extreme isolation can have serious psychological effects on inmates.

At the hearing, we also examined the serious fiscal impact of solitary confinement. We learned that in a federal high security facility, the cost of housing an inmate in segregation is about 1.3 times the cost of housing an inmate in a general population unit. At the Federal supermax prison in Florence, CO, the cost of housing an inmate in segregation is more than 2.5 times the cost of housing an inmate in the general population. Is this a wise use of taxpayer dollars when the money we spend on our Federal prisons already consumes one quarter of the Department of Justice's budget every year? So every dollar that we spend holding a prisoner in solitary confinement is a dollar that we don't spend on community policing, crime prevention, and drug treatment.

We also discussed the significant public safety consequences of widespread solitary confinement. Some people might ask, "What happens in our prisons doesn't affect me, so why should I care?" But consider this—the vast majority of inmates held in segregation

will be released into our communities someday. So if solitary confinement destabilizes prisoners and makes them more likely to engage in violence or other criminal conduct, then that affects all of us.

Two years after my first hearing, I held a follow-up hearing. At that hearing, we heard from Damon Thibodeaux, who spent 15 years in solitary confinement at the Louisiana State Penitentiary before he was exonerated in 2012. Mr. Thibodeaux testified:

I do not condone what those who have killed and committed other serious offenses have done. But I also don't condone what we do to them, when we put them in solitary for years on end and treat them as sub-human. We are better than that. As a civilized society, we should be better than that.

Mr. Thibodeaux was right. We should be better than that. Thankfully, our society is beginning to recognize that the widespread use of solitary confinement in our prison system must change.

In 2014, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy testified to Congress that, quote, "solitary confinement literally drives men mad." Last year, Justice Kennedy again brought up the issue in a powerful concurring opinion. He wrote, quote, "research still confirms what this Court suggested over a century ago: Years on end of near-total isolation exacts a terrible price." He went on to note that, quote, "the judiciary may be required . . . to determine whether workable alternative systems for long-term confinement exist, and, if so, whether a correctional system should be required to adopt them."

Pope Francis has also criticized solitary confinement. In a 2014 speech at the Vatican, he referred to the practice of extreme isolation as "torture" and "a genuine surplus of pain added to the actual suffering of imprisonment." He went on to say:

The lack of sensory stimuli, the total impossibility of communication and the lack of contact with other human beings induce mental and physical suffering such as paranoia, anxiety, depression, weight loss, and significantly increase the suicidal tendency.

I still don't fully understand how our society reached a point at which the overuse of solitary confinement became acceptable, or normal. But I know that we need to do something about it.

In light of the mounting evidence of the harmful, even dangerous, impacts of solitary confinement, states around the country have led the way in reassessing the practice. Take Colorado, for example, which has implemented a number of critical reforms. Colorado no longer releases offenders directly from solitary to the community and no longer places inmates with serious mental illness in solitary. Have these reforms made Colorado's prisons less safe? No, in fact since Colorado changed its solitary confinement prac-

tices, inmate-on-staff assaults are at their lowest levels since 2006, incidents of self-harm have decreased, and most inmates released from solitary are not returning.

Progress has been made at the Federal level as well. After my 2014 hearing I called for an end to solitary confinement for juveniles, pregnant women, and inmates with serious mental illness in our federal prisons. I also asked the Federal Bureau of Prisons to submit for the first time to an outside independent assessment of its solitary confinement practices. The assessment, released last year, noted that some improvements have been made since the hearing, most importantly in the declining number of inmates in solitary confinement. The assessment also made a number of recommendations for additional reforms, such as improving mental health care for inmates in segregation and establishing alternatives to segregation for inmates in protective custody. BOP began taking steps to address these issues following the release of the assessment.

Last year, building upon this independent assessment, the Department of Justice undertook a review of the Bureau of Prisons' use of solitary confinement. This January, President Obama announced that he had accepted a number of DOJ's recommendations to reform and reduce the practice of solitary confinement in the Federal prison system—including implementing the ban on juvenile solitary confinement that I called for in 2014.

I welcome the reforms that the President announced, and I am glad to see that the Bureau of Prisons is making some progress in implementing these reforms. However, our Federal prison system is still housing more than 10,000 inmates in segregation as I speak. The number of inmates in solitary confinement since my first hearing has decreased from about 13,600 to about 10,400. But the number of total Federal prisoners has also dropped significantly since 2012. So the percentage of Federal prisoners in solitary has only gone down from 7.8 percent to 6.7 percent. Clearly, there is much more work to be done.

That is why Senator COONS and I are joining together to introduce the Solitary Confinement Reform Act. This legislation will build on the Justice Department's recommendations to further reform and reduce the use of solitary confinement in Federal prisons.

Our bill ensures that inmates are only placed in solitary confinement when absolutely necessary—such as to control a substantial and immediate threat to the safety of other inmates or corrections staff, or to punish an inmate for a significant and serious disciplinary violation.

Our bill also improves the conditions of confinement for prisoners in solitary and establishes firm time limits on

segregation, in order to combat long-term isolation. However, we recognize that some extremely dangerous inmates require long-term separation from the general population. That's why our bill ensures that BOP can continue to separate those inmates who pose the greatest risk to other inmates, staff, and the general public.

Among the most important provisions in our bill are the strict limits on the use of solitary confinement for inmates nearing their release date, inmates in protective custody, LGBT inmates, and inmates who are minors, have a serious mental illness, have an intellectual or physical disability, or are pregnant or in the first eight weeks of postpartum recovery after birth.

For inmates who are placed in segregated housing, our bill improves access to mental health care and ensures that a robust review process is in place. Additionally, our bill increases transparency and accountability by requiring the Attorney General to establish a Civil Rights Ombudsman within the Bureau of Prisons to review inmate complaints, and directing BOP to submit an annual assessment to Congress detailing their solitary confinement policies, regulations, and data. Finally, our bill establishes a National Resource Center on Solitary Confinement Reform that would provide vital resources to state and local jurisdictions as corrections systems around the country pursue reductions in solitary confinement.

I want to thank Senator COONS for working with me on this legislation, and Senators BOOKER, LEAHY, and FRANKEN for joining as original cosponsors of the bill.

I also want to thank the ACLU, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Just Detention International, Campaign for Youth Justice, Center for Children's Law and Policy, Human Rights Campaign, National Alliance on Mental Illness, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Bend the Arc Jewish Action, Interfaith Action for Human Rights, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs for endorsing the Solitary Confinement Reform Act.

This legislation is one of many steps we should take to reform our criminal justice system and make our country safer, more just, and more fiscally responsible. I urge my colleagues to support the Solitary Confinement Reform Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3432

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Solitary Confinement Reform Act”.

SEC. 2. SOLITARY CONFINEMENT REFORMS.

(a) **AMENDMENT.**—Chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 4050. Solitary confinement

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE MAXIMUM FACILITY.**—The term ‘administrative maximum facility’ means a maximum-security facility, including the Administrative Maximum facility in Florence, Colorado, designed to house inmates who present an ongoing significant and serious threat to other inmates, staff, and the public.

“(2) **ADMINISTRATIVE SEGREGATION.**—The term ‘administrative segregation’ means a non-punitive form of solitary confinement that removes an individual from the general population of a correctional facility for—

“(A) investigative, protective, or preventative reasons resulting in a substantial and immediate threat; or

“(B) transitional reasons, including a pending transfer, pending classification, or other temporary administrative matter.

“(3) **APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF CARE.**—The term ‘appropriate level of care’ means the appropriate treatment setting for mental health care that an inmate with mental illness requires, which may include outpatient care, emergency or crisis services, day treatment, supported residential housing, infirmary care, or inpatient psychiatric hospitalization services.

“(4) **DIRECTOR.**—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Bureau of Prisons.

“(5) **DISCIPLINARY HEARING OFFICER.**—The term ‘disciplinary hearing officer’ means an employee of the Bureau of Prisons who is responsible for conducting disciplinary hearings for which solitary confinement may be a sanction, as described in section 541.8 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

“(6) **DISCIPLINARY SEGREGATION.**—The term ‘disciplinary segregation’ means a punitive form of solitary confinement imposed only by a Disciplinary Hearing Officer as a sanction for committing a significant and serious disciplinary infraction.

“(7) **INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**—The term ‘intellectual disability’ means a significant mental impairment characterized by significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior.

“(8) **MULTIDISCIPLINARY STAFF COMMITTEE.**—The term ‘multidisciplinary staff committee’ means a committee—

“(A) made up of staff at the facility where an inmate resides who are responsible for reviewing the initial placement of the inmate in solitary confinement and any extensions of time in solitary confinement; and

“(B) which shall include—

“(i) not less than 1 licensed mental health professional; and

“(ii) not less than 1 medical professional; and

“(iii) not less than 1 member of the leadership of the facility.

“(9) **ONGOING SIGNIFICANT AND SERIOUS THREAT.**—The term ‘ongoing significant and serious threat’ means an ongoing set of circumstances that require the highest level of security and staff supervision for an inmate who, by the behavior of the inmate—

“(A) has been identified as assaultive, predacious, riotous, or a serious escape risk; and

“(B) poses a great risk to other inmates, staff, and the public.

“(10) **PROTECTION CASE.**—The term ‘protection case’ means an inmate who, by the request of the inmate or through a staff determination, requires protection, as described by section 541.23(c)(3) of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

“(11) **SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS.**—The term ‘serious mental illness’ means a substantial disorder of thought or mood that significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, or ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life.

“(12) **SIGNIFICANT AND SERIOUS DISCIPLINARY INFRACTION.**—The term ‘significant and serious disciplinary infraction’ means—

“(A) an act of violence that either—

“(i) resulted in or was likely to result in serious injury or death to another; or

“(ii) occurred in connection with any act of non-consensual sex; or

“(B) an escape, attempted escape, or conspiracy to escape from within a security perimeter or custody, or both; or

“(C) possession of weapons, possession of illegal narcotics with intent to distribute, or other similar, severe threats to the safety of the inmate, other inmates, staff, or the public.

“(13) **SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—The term ‘solitary confinement’ means confinement characterized by substantial isolation in a cell, alone or with other inmates, including administrative segregation, disciplinary segregation, and confinement in any facility designated by the Bureau of Prisons as a special housing unit, special management unit, or administrative maximum facility.

“(14) **SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES.**—The term ‘special administrative measures’ means reasonably necessary measures used to—

“(A) prevent disclosure of classified information upon written certification to the Attorney General by the head of an element of the intelligence community (as specified or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))) that the unauthorized disclosure of such information would pose a threat to the national security and that there is a danger that the inmate will disclose such information, as described by section 501.2 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; or

“(B) protect persons against the risk of death or serious bodily injury, upon written notification to the Director by the Attorney General or, at the Attorney General’s direction, by the head of a Federal law enforcement agency, or the head of an element of the intelligence community (as specified or designated under section 3(4) of the National Security act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))), that there is a substantial risk that the communications of an inmate or contacts by the inmate with other persons could result in death or serious bodily injury to persons, or substantial damage to property that would entail the risk of death or serious bodily injury to persons, as described by section 501.3 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

“(15) **SPECIAL HOUSING UNIT.**—The term ‘special housing unit’ means a housing unit in an institution of the Bureau of Prisons in which inmates are securely separated from the general inmate population for disciplinary or administrative reasons, as described in section 541.21 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

“(16) **SPECIAL MANAGEMENT UNIT.**—The term ‘special management unit’ means a non-punitive housing program with multiple, step-down phases for inmates whose history,

behavior, or situation requires enhanced management approaches in order to ensure the safety of other inmates, the staff, and the public.

“(17) **SUBSTANTIAL AND IMMEDIATE THREAT.**—The term ‘substantial and immediate threat’ means any set of temporary and unforeseen circumstances that require immediate action in order to combat a threat to the safety of an inmate, other inmates, staff, or the public.

“(b) **USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The placement of a Federal inmate in solitary confinement within the Bureau of Prisons or any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons to provide housing for inmates in Federal custody shall be limited to situations in which such confinement—

“(A) is limited to the briefest term and the least restrictive conditions practicable, including not less than 4 hours of out-of-cell time every day, unless the inmate poses a substantial and immediate threat; and

“(B) is consistent with the rationale for placement and with the progress achieved by the inmate;

“(C) allows the inmate to participate in meaningful programming opportunities and privileges as consistent with those available in the general population as practicable, either individually or in a classroom setting; and

“(D) allows the inmate to have as much meaningful interaction with others, such as other inmates, visitors, clergy, or licensed mental health professionals, as practicable; and

“(E) complies with the provisions of this section.

“(2) **TRANSITIONAL PROCESS FOR INMATES IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—

“(A) **INMATES WITH UPCOMING RELEASE DATES.**—The Director shall establish—

“(i) policies to ensure that an inmate with an anticipated release date of 180 days or less is not housed in solitary confinement, unless—

“(I) such confinement is limited to not more than 5 days of administrative segregation relating to the upcoming release of the inmate; or

“(II) the inmate poses a substantial and immediate threat; and

“(ii) a transitional process for each inmate with an anticipated release date of 180 days or less who is held in solitary confinement under clause (i)(II), which shall include—

“(I) substantial re-socialization programming in a group setting; and

“(II) regular mental health counseling to assist with the transition; and

“(III) re-entry planning services offered to inmates in a general population setting.

“(B) **INMATES IN LONG-TERM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.**—The Director shall establish a transitional process for each inmate who has been held in solitary confinement for more than 30 days and who will transition into a general population unit, which shall include—

“(i) substantial re-socialization programming in a group setting; and

“(ii) regular mental health counseling to assist with the transition.

“(3) **PROTECTIVE CUSTODY UNITS.**—The Director—

“(A) shall establish within the Federal prison system additional general population protective custody units that provide sheltered general population housing to protect inmates from harm that they may otherwise be exposed to in a typical general population housing unit; and

“(B) shall establish policies to ensure that an inmate who is considered a protection

case shall, upon request of the inmate, be placed in a general population protective custody unit;

“(C) shall create an adequate number of general population protective custody units to—

“(i) accommodate the requests of inmates who are considered to be protection cases; and

“(ii) ensure that inmates who are considered to be protection cases are placed in facilities as close to their homes as practicable; and

“(D) may not place an inmate who is considered to be a protection case in solitary confinement due to the status of the inmate as a protection case unless—

“(i) the inmate requests to be placed in solitary confinement, in which case, at the request of the inmate the inmate shall be transferred to a general population protective custody unit or, if appropriate, a different general population unit; or

“(ii) such confinement is limited to—

“(I) not more than 5 days of administrative segregation; and

“(II) is necessary to protect the inmate during preparation for transfer to a general population protective custody unit or a different general population unit.

“(4) VULNERABLE POPULATIONS.—The Bureau of Prisons or any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons shall not place an inmate in solitary confinement if—

“(A) the inmate is younger than 18 years of age, unless—

“(i) such confinement is a temporary response to the behavior of the inmate, which poses a substantial and immediate threat;

“(ii) all other options to de-escalate the situation have been exhausted, including less restrictive techniques such as—

“(I) penalizing the inmate through loss of privileges;

“(II) speaking with the inmate in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; and

“(III) a licensed mental health professional providing an appropriate level of care;

“(iii) such confinement is limited to—

“(I) 3 hours after the inmate is placed in solitary confinement, if the inmate poses a substantial and immediate threat to others; or

“(II) 30 minutes after the inmate is placed in solitary confinement, if the inmate poses a substantial and immediate threat only to himself or herself; and

“(iv) if, after the applicable maximum period of confinement under subclause (I) or (II) of clause (iii) has expired, the inmate continues to pose a substantial and immediate threat described in that subclause—

“(I) the inmate shall be transferred to another facility or internal location where services can be provided to the inmate without relying on solitary confinement; or

“(II) if a qualified mental health professional believes the level of crisis service needed is not currently available, a staff member of the facility shall initiate a referral to a location that can meet the needs of the inmate;

“(B) the inmate has a serious mental illness, has an intellectual disability, has a physical disability that a licensed medical professional finds is likely to be exacerbated by placement in solitary confinement, is pregnant or in the first 8 weeks of the postpartum recovery period after giving birth, or has been determined by a licensed mental health professional to likely be significantly adversely affected by placement in solitary confinement, unless—

“(i) the inmate poses a substantial and immediate threat;

“(ii) all other options to de-escalate the situation have been exhausted, including less restrictive techniques such as—

“(I) penalizing the inmate through loss of privileges;

“(II) speaking with the inmate in an attempt to de-escalate the situation; and

“(III) a licensed mental health professional providing an appropriate level of care;

“(iii) such confinement is limited to the briefest term and the least restrictive conditions practicable, including access to medical and mental health treatment;

“(iv) such confinement is reviewed by a multidisciplinary staff committee for appropriateness every 24 hours; and

“(v) as soon as practicable, but not later than 5 days after such confinement begins, the inmate is diverted, upon release from solitary confinement, to—

“(I) a general population unit;

“(II) a protective custody unit described in paragraph (3); or

“(III) a mental health treatment program as described in subsection (c)(2); or

“(C) the inmate is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (as defined in section 115.5 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto), intersex (as defined in section 115.5 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto), or gender nonconforming (as defined in section 115.5 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto), when such placement is solely on the basis of such identification or status.

“(5) SPECIAL HOUSING UNITS.—The Director shall—

“(A) limit administrative segregation—

“(i) to situations in which such segregation is necessary to—

“(I) control a substantial and immediate threat that cannot be addressed through alternative housing; or

“(II) temporarily house an inmate pending transfer, pending classification, or pending resolution of another temporary administrative matter; and

“(ii) to a duration of not more than 15 consecutive days, and not more than 20 days in a 60-day period, unless—

“(I) the inmate requests to remain in administrative segregation under paragraph (3)(D)(i); or

“(II) in order to address the continued existence of a substantial and immediate threat, a multidisciplinary staff committee approves a temporary extension, which—

“(aa) may not be longer than 15 days; and

“(bb) shall be reviewed by the multidisciplinary staff committee every 3 days during the period of the extension, in order to confirm the continued existence of the substantial and immediate threat;

“(B) limit disciplinary segregation—

“(i) to situations in which such segregation is necessary to punish an inmate who has been found to have committed a significant and serious disciplinary infraction by a Disciplinary Hearing Officer and alternative sanctions would not adequately regulate the behavior of the inmate; and

“(ii) to a duration of not more than 30 consecutive days, and not more than 40 days in a 60-day period, unless a multidisciplinary staff committee, in consultation with the Disciplinary Hearing Officer who presided over the inmate's disciplinary hearing, determines that the significant and serious disciplinary infraction of which the inmate was found guilty is of such an egregious and violent nature that a longer sanction is appropriate and approves a longer sanction, which—

“(I) may be not more than 60 days in a special housing unit if the inmate has never before been found guilty of a similar significant and serious disciplinary infraction; or

“(II) may be not more than 90 days in a special housing unit if the inmate has previously been found guilty of a similar significant and serious disciplinary infraction;

“(C) ensure that any time spent in administrative segregation during an investigation into an alleged offense is credited as time served for a disciplinary segregation sentence;

“(D) ensure that concurrent sentences are imposed for disciplinary violations arising from the same episode; and

“(E) ensure that an inmate may be released from disciplinary segregation for good behavior before completing the term of the inmate, unless the inmate poses a substantial and immediate threat to the safety of other inmates, staff, or the public.

“(6) SPECIAL MANAGEMENT UNITS.—The Director shall—

“(A) limit segregation in a special management unit to situations in which such segregation is necessary to temporarily house an inmate whose history, behavior, or circumstances require enhanced management approaches that cannot be addressed through alternative housing;

“(B) evaluate whether further reductions to the minimum and maximum number of months an inmate may spend in a special management unit are appropriate on an annual basis;

“(C) ensure that each inmate understands the status of the inmate in the special management unit program and how the inmate may progress through the program; and

“(D) further reduce the minimum and maximum number of months an inmate may spend in a special management unit if the Director determines such reductions are appropriate after evaluations are performed under subparagraph (B).

“(7) ADMINISTRATIVE MAXIMUM FACILITIES.—The Director shall—

“(A) limit segregation in an administrative maximum facility to situations in which such segregation is necessary to—

“(i) implement special administrative measures, as directed by the Attorney General; or

“(ii) house an inmate who poses an ongoing significant and serious threat to the safety of other inmates, staff, or the public that cannot be addressed through alternative housing; and

“(B) issue final approval of referral of any inmate who poses an ongoing significant and serious threat for placement in an Administrative Maximum facility, including the United States Penitentiary Administrative Maximum in Florence, Colorado.

“(8) RIGHT TO REVIEW PLACEMENT IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—The Director shall ensure that each inmate placed in solitary confinement has access to—

“(A) written notice thoroughly detailing the basis for placement or continued placement in solitary confinement not later than 6 hours after the beginning of such placement, including—

“(i) thorough documentation explaining why such confinement is permissible and necessary under paragraph (1); and

“(ii) if an exception under paragraph (2)(A), (3)(D), (4)(A), (4)(B), (4)(C), (5)(A), or (5)(B) is used to justify placement in solitary confinement or under paragraph (1) to justify increased restrictive conditions in solitary confinement, thorough documentation explaining why such an exception applied;

“(B) a timely, thorough, and continuous review process that—

“(i) occurs within not less than 3 days of placement in solitary confinement, and thereafter at least—

“(I) on a weekly basis for inmates in special housing units;

“(II) on a monthly basis for inmates in special management units; and

“(III) on a monthly basis for inmates at an administrative maximum facility;

“(ii) includes private, face-to-face interviews with a multidisciplinary staff committee; and

“(iii) examines whether—

“(I) placement in solitary confinement was and remains necessary;

“(II) the conditions of confinement comply with this section; and

“(III) whether any exception under paragraph (2)(A), (3)(D), (4)(A), (4)(B), (4)(C), (5)(A), or (5)(B) used to justify placement in solitary confinement or under paragraph (1) used to justify increased restrictive conditions in solitary confinement was and remains warranted;

“(C) a process to appeal the initial placement or continued placement of the inmate in solitary confinement;

“(D) prompt and timely written notice of the appeal procedures; and

“(E) copies of all documents, files, and records relating to the inmate's placement in solitary confinement, unless such documents contain contraband, classified information, or sensitive security-related information.

“(c) MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR INMATES IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.—

“(1) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING.—Not later than 6 hours after an inmate in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons or any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons to provide housing for inmates in Federal custody is placed in solitary confinement, the inmate shall receive a comprehensive, face-to-face mental health evaluation by a licensed mental health professional in a confidential setting.

“(2) MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM.—An inmate diagnosed with a serious mental illness after an evaluation required under paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall not be placed in solitary confinement in accordance with subsection (b)(4); and

“(B) may be diverted to a mental health treatment program within the Bureau of Prisons that provides an appropriate level of care to address the inmate's mental health needs.

“(3) CONTINUING EVALUATIONS.—After each 14-calendar-day period an inmate is held in continuous placement in solitary confinement—

“(A) a licensed mental health professional shall conduct a comprehensive, face-to-face, out-of-cell mental health evaluation of the inmate in a confidential setting; and

“(B) the Director shall adjust the placement of the inmate in accordance with this subsection.

“(4) REQUIREMENT.—The Director shall operate mental health treatment programs in order to ensure that inmates of all security levels with serious mental illness have access to an appropriate level of care.

“(d) TRAINING FOR BUREAU OF PRISONS STAFF.—

“(1) TRAINING.—All employees of the Bureau of Prisons or any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons to provide housing for inmates in Federal custody who interact with inmates on a regular basis shall be required to complete training in—

“(A) the recognition of symptoms of mental illness;

“(B) the potential risks and side effects of psychiatric medications;

“(C) de-escalation techniques for safely managing individuals with mental illness;

“(D) consequences of untreated mental illness;

“(E) the long- and short-term psychological effects of solitary confinement; and

“(F) de-escalation and communication techniques to divert inmates from situations that may lead to the inmate being placed in solitary confinement.

“(2) NOTIFICATION TO MEDICAL STAFF.—An employee of the Bureau of Prisons shall immediately notify a member of the medical or mental health staff if the employee—

“(A) observes an inmate with signs of mental illness, unless such employee has knowledge that the inmate's signs of mental illness have previously been reported; or

“(B) observes an inmate with signs of mental health crisis.

“(e) CIVIL RIGHTS OMBUDSMAN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Within the Bureau of Prisons, there shall be a position of the Civil Rights Ombudsman (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Ombudsman’) and an Office of the Civil Rights Ombudsman.

“(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Ombudsman shall be appointed by the Attorney General and shall report directly to the Director. The Ombudsman shall have a background in corrections and civil rights and shall have expertise on the effects of prolonged solitary confinement.

“(3) REPORTING.—The Director shall ensure that each Bureau of Prisons facility or any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons provides multiple internal ways for inmates and others to promptly report civil rights violations and violations of this section to the Ombudsman, including—

“(A) not less than 2 procedures for inmates and others to report civil rights violations and violations of this section to an entity or office that is not part of the facility, and that is able to receive and immediately forward inmate reports to the Ombudsman, allowing the inmate to remain anonymous upon request; and

“(B) not less than 2 procedures for inmates and others to report civil rights abuses and violations of this section to the Ombudsman in a confidential manner, allowing the inmate to remain anonymous upon request.

“(4) NOTICE.—The Director shall ensure that each Bureau of Prisons facility or any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons provides inmates with—

“(A) notice of how to report civil rights violations and violations of this section in accordance with paragraph (3), including—

“(i) notice prominently posted in the living and common areas of each such facility;

“(ii) individual notice to inmates at initial intake into the Bureau of Prisons, when transferred to a new facility, and when placed in solitary confinement;

“(iii) notice to inmates with disabilities in accessible formats; and

“(iv) written or verbal notice in a language the inmate understands; and

“(B) notice of permissible practices related to solitary confinement in the Bureau of Prisons, including the requirements of this section.

“(5) FUNCTIONS.—The Ombudsman shall—

“(A) review all complaints the Ombudsman receives;

“(B) investigate all complaints that allege a civil rights violation or violation of this section;

“(C) refer all possible violations of law to the Department of Justice;

“(D) refer to the Director allegations of misconduct involving Bureau of Prisons staff;

“(E) identify areas in which the Bureau of Prisons can improve the Bureau's policies and practices to ensure that the civil rights of inmates are protected;

“(F) identify areas in which the Bureau of Prisons can improve the solitary confinement policies and practices of the Bureau and reduce the use of solitary confinement; and

“(G) propose changes to the policies and practices of the Bureau of Prisons to mitigate problems and address issues the Ombudsman identifies.

“(6) ACCESS.—The Ombudsman shall have unrestricted access to Bureau of Prisons facilities and any facility that contracts with the Bureau of Prisons and shall be able to speak privately with inmates and staff.

“(7) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

“(A) OBJECTIVES.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Ombudsman shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman for the fiscal year ending in such calendar year.

“(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) contain full and substantive analysis, in addition to statistical information;

“(ii) identify the recommendations the Office of the Ombudsman has made on addressing reported civil rights violations and violations of this section and reducing the use and improving the practices of solitary confinement in the Bureau of Prisons;

“(iii) contain a summary of problems relating to reported civil rights violations and violations of this section, including a detailed description of the nature of such problems and a breakdown of where the problems occur among Bureau of Prisons facilities and facilities that contract with the Bureau of Prisons;

“(iv) contain an inventory of the items described in clauses (ii) and (iii) for which action has been taken and the result of such action;

“(v) contain an inventory of the items described in clauses (ii) and (iii) for which action remains to be completed and the period during which each item has remained on such inventory;

“(vi) contain an inventory of the items described in clauses (ii) and (iii) for which no action has been taken, the period during which each item has remained on such inventory, the reasons for the inaction, and shall identify any official of the Bureau of Prisons who is responsible for such inaction;

“(vii) contain recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as may be appropriate to resolve problems identified in clause (iii); and

“(viii) include such other information as the Ombudsman determines necessary.

“(C) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—Each report required under this paragraph shall be provided directly to the Committees described in subparagraph (A) without any prior review, comment, or amendment from the Director or any other officer or employee of the Department of Justice or Bureau of Prisons.

“(8) REGULAR MEETINGS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—The Ombudsman shall meet regularly with the Director to identify problems with reported civil rights

violations and the solitary confinement policies and practices of the Bureau of Prisons, including overuse of solitary confinement, and to present recommendations for such administrative action as may be appropriate to resolve problems relating to reported civil rights violations and the solitary confinement policies and practices of the Bureau of Prisons.

“(9) RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUREAU OF PRISONS.—The Director shall establish procedures requiring that, not later than 3 months after the date on which a recommendation is submitted to the Director by the Ombudsman, the Director or other appropriate employee of the Bureau of Prisons issue a formal response to the recommendation.

“(10) NON-APPLICATION OF THE PRISON LITIGATION REFORM ACT.—Inmate reports sent to the Ombudsman shall not be considered an administrative remedy under section 7(a) of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. 1997e(a)).”

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 303 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4049 the following:

“4050. Solitary confinement.”

SEC. 3. REASSESSMENT OF INMATE MENTAL HEALTH.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

(1) assemble a team of licensed mental health professionals, which may include licensed mental health professionals who are not employed by the Bureau of Prisons, to conduct a comprehensive mental health reevaluation for each inmate held in solitary confinement for more than 30 days as of the date of enactment of this Act, including a confidential, face-to-face, out-of-cell interview by a licensed mental health professional; and

(2) adjust the placement of each inmate in accordance with section 4050(c) of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 2.

SEC. 4. DIRECTOR OF BUREAU OF PRISONS.

Section 4041 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before the “The Bureau of Prisons shall be”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) OMBUDSMAN.—The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

“(1) meet regularly with the Ombudsman appointed under section 4050(e) to identify how the Bureau of Prisons can address reported civil rights violations and reduce the use of solitary confinement and correct problems in the solitary confinement policies and practices of the Bureau;

“(2) conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of each referral from the Ombudsman under section 4050(e)(5)(D), after each such investigation take appropriate disciplinary action against any Bureau of Prisons employee who is found to have engaged in misconduct or to have violated Bureau of Prisons policy, and notify the Ombudsman of the outcome of each such investigation; and

“(3) establish procedures requiring a formal response by the Bureau of Prisons to any recommendation of the Ombudsman in the annual report submitted under section 4050(e)(6) not later than 90 days after the date on which the report is submitted to Congress.”

SEC. 5. DATA TRACKING OF USE OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

Section 4047 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) PRISON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31 of each year, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives an annual assessment of the use of solitary confinement by the Bureau of Prisons, as defined in section 4050(a).

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each assessment submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) the policies and regulations of the Bureau of Prisons, including any changes in policies and regulations, for determining which inmates are placed in each form of solitary confinement, or housing in which an inmate is separated from the general population in use during the reporting period, and a detailed description of each form of solitary confinement in use, including all maximum and high security facilities, all special housing units, all special management units, all Administrative Maximum facilities, including the United States Penitentiary Administrative Maximum in Florence, Colorado, and all Communication Management Units;

“(B) the number of inmates in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons who are housed in each type of solitary confinement for any period and the percentage of all inmates who have spent at least some time in each form of solitary confinement during the reporting period;

“(C) the demographics of all inmates housed in each type of solitary confinement described in subparagraph (A), including race, ethnicity, religion, age, and gender;

“(D) the policies and regulations of the Bureau of Prisons, including any updates in policies and regulations, for subsequent reviews or appeals of the placement of an inmate into or out of solitary confinement;

“(E) the number of reviews of and challenges to each type of solitary confinement placement described in subparagraph (A) conducted during the reporting period and the number of reviews or appeals that directly resulted in a change of placement;

“(F) the general conditions and restrictions for each type of solitary confinement described in subparagraph (A), including the number of hours spent in ‘isolation,’ or restraint, for each, and the percentage of time these conditions involve single-inmate housing;

“(G) the mean and median length of stay in each form of solitary confinement described in subparagraph (A), based on all individuals released from solitary confinement during the reporting period, including maximum and high security facilities, special housing units, special management units, the Administrative Maximum facilities, including the United States Penitentiary Administrative Maximum in Florence, Colorado, Communication Management Units, and any maximum length of stay during the reporting period;

“(H) the number of inmates who, after a stay of 5 or more days in solitary confinement, were released directly from solitary confinement to the public during the reporting period;

“(I) the cost for each form of solitary confinement described in subparagraph (A) in use during the reporting period, including as compared with the average daily cost of housing an inmate in the general population;

“(J) statistics for inmate assaults on correctional officers and staff of the Bureau of Prisons, inmate-on-inmate assaults, and

staff-on-inmate use of force incidents in the various forms of solitary confinement described in subparagraph (A) and statistics for such assaults in the general population;

“(K) the policies for mental health screening, mental health treatment, and subsequent mental health reviews for all inmates, including any update to the policies, and any additional screening, treatment, and monitoring for inmates in solitary confinement;

“(L) a statement of the types of mental health staff that conducted mental health assessments for the Bureau of Prisons during the reporting period, a description of the different positions in the mental health staff of the Bureau of Prisons, and the number of part- and full-time psychologists and psychiatrists employed by the Bureau of Prisons during the reporting period;

“(M) data on mental health and medical indicators for all inmates in solitary confinement, including—

“(i) the number of inmates requiring medication for mental health conditions;

“(ii) the number diagnosed with an intellectual disability;

“(iii) the number diagnosed with serious mental illness;

“(iv) the number of suicides;

“(v) the number of attempted suicides and number of inmates placed on suicide watch;

“(vi) the number of instances of self-harm committed by inmates;

“(vii) the number of inmates with physical disabilities, including blind, deaf, and mobility-impaired inmates; and

“(viii) the number of instances of forced feeding of inmates; and

“(N) any other relevant data.”

SEC. 6. NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT REDUCTION AND REFORM.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term “eligible entity” means an entity, or a partnership of entities, that has demonstrated expertise in the fields of—

(1) solitary confinement, including the reduction and reform of its use; and

(2) providing technical assistance to corrections agencies on how to reduce and reform solitary confinement.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Justice Assistance shall enter into a cooperative agreement, on a competitive basis, with an eligible entity for the purpose of establishing a coordinating center for State, local, and Federal corrections systems, which shall conduct activities such as—

(1) provide on-site technical assistance and consultation to Federal, State, and local corrections agencies to safely reduce the use of solitary confinement;

(2) act as a clearinghouse for research, data, and information on the safe reduction of solitary confinement in prisons and other custodial settings, including facilitating the exchange of information between Federal, State, and local practitioners, national experts, and researchers;

(3) create a minimum of 10 learning sites in Federal, State, and local jurisdictions that have already reduced their use of solitary confinement and work with other Federal, State, and local agencies to participate in training, consultation, and other forms of assistance and partnership with these learning sites;

(4) conduct evaluations of jurisdictions that have decreased their use of solitary confinement to determine best practices;

(5) conduct research on the effectiveness of alternatives to solitary confinement, such as

step-down or transitional programs, strategies to reintegrate inmates into general population, the role of officers and staff culture in reform efforts, and other research relevant to the safe reduction of solitary confinement;

(6) develop and disseminate a toolkit for systems to reduce the excessive use of solitary confinement;

(7) develop and disseminate an online self-assessment tool for State and local jurisdictions to assess their own use of solitary confinement and identify strategies to reduce its use; and

(8) conduct public webinars to highlight new and promising practices.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The program under this section shall be administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

(d) **REPORT.**—On an annual basis, the coordinating center shall report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on its activities and any changes in solitary confinement policy at the Federal, State, or local level that have resulted from its activities.

(e) **DURATION.**—The Bureau of Justice Assistance shall enter into a cooperative agreement under this section for 5 years.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated—

(1) to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons such sums as may be necessary to carry out sections 2, 3, 4, and 5, and the amendments made by such sections; and

(2) to the Bureau of Justice Assistance such sums as may be necessary to carry out section 6.

SEC. 8. NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIREMENT.

The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall prescribe rules, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

S. 3432

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to speak about an urgent and long overdue reform to address how the United States houses and treats prison inmates in our Federal criminal justice system.

We are losing millions of Americans—disproportionately African-American men—to a criminal justice system that robs them of any meaningful opportunity to find gainful employment or participate in our democracy after they served their time.

Fortunately, Americans across the country have come to recognize that our so-called criminal justice system is broken. Here in the Senate, I am encouraged that many of my colleagues, including Senator DURBIN, Senator BOOKER, and many others have joined together in support of a broad bipartisan bill entitled the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. Our criminal justice system should be about justice and rehabilitation, not just punishment. Passing this Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act would be a significant step in that direction. Today I have come to talk about a specific and

targeted bill that Senators DURBIN, BOOKER, LEAHY, FRANKEN, and I are introducing.

Far too often Federal inmates find themselves placed in 6-by-8-foot cells for 23 hours a day in solitary confinement, colloquially called restrictive housing units. These units are intended to segregate dangerous prisoners from the rest of the prison population or to punish individuals for crimes or misdeeds committed behind bars, but when one looks at the actual evidence surrounding the use of solitary confinement, they find it doesn't actually stop or reduce crime or bad behavior and it doesn't keep us safer. What it does cause is lasting, often irreparable, harm to those inmates subjected to it, and oftentimes it makes it harder for them to later successfully reenter society after they served their time.

Senator DURBIN, who was to join me and Senator BOOKER on the floor this afternoon but for a change of schedule, first held hearings on this topic when he was Chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights.

He held a hearing on solitary confinement—the first-ever congressional hearing on the topic—back in 2012. In fact, he held two hearings. He left a note for me that says at one of his first hearings on solitary confinement, one of the witnesses was a man named Anthony Graves, whose testimony forever affected the Senator from Illinois. Anthony spent 18 years in prison, including 16 years in solitary confinement. In 2010, he became the 12th death row inmate to be exonerated in the State of Texas. Think about that. Mr. Graves spent 16 years in solitary confinement for a crime he was later proved never to have committed.

At that hearing, Mr. Graves testified about his experience, and here is what he said:

I lived under some of the worst conditions imaginable, with the filth, the food, the total disrespect of dignity. I lived under the rules of a system that literally drives men out of their minds.

He later said:

Solitary confinement does one thing—it breaks a man's will and he ends up deteriorating. He is never the same person again.

In those hearings, Senator DURBIN asked: How big is the impact of solitary confinement in our prison system? It is difficult to determine exactly how many inmates are housed in these so-called restrictive settings. One recent study estimated as many as 80,000 State and Federal inmates in total. In my home State of Delaware, 453 inmates, about 8 percent of our State prison population, were held in restrictive housing units in 2015. Nearly one-third of them were receiving mental health treatment.

To fully understand the extent to which our prisons utilize solitary confinement, we need to look at not just

the total number of inmates being placed in restrictive housing but the duration of time they spend there. One recent report by the nonpartisan Vera Institute of Justice found that inmates, even those not overly disruptive or violent, stay for long periods of time—months or years.

In Washington State, in 2011, the average length of stay in solitary confinement was 11 months. In the State of Texas, in 2013, the average stay was 4 years.

The overwhelming majority of individuals sentenced to prison will return to our communities. Rehabilitating those who have paid their debt to society is a key goal of our criminal justice system, and that is why we shouldn't subject inmates to practices like solitary confinement which lessens their ability to successfully reenter society. Mounting evidence shows that solitary confinement physically and mentally harms and destabilizes inmates in ways that then threatens the very communities—our communities—to which they will later return.

Over a year ago, President Obama asked Attorney General Loretta Lynch to review the overuse of solitary confinement in our Federal prisons. Earlier this year, the Department of Justice released a report recommending reforms, which the Bureau of Prisons is now implementing. Today Senator DURBIN, Senator BOOKER, Senator LEAHY, Senator FRANKEN, and I are introducing a bill, the Solitary Confinement and Reform Act, to codify into law many of the recommendations the Bureau of Prisons is working to put in place and to lay the groundwork for broader reform.

This bill is grounded in two key observations: First, that our prison system has grown in population beyond any reasonable scope. Second, restrictive housing or solitary confinement is employed far too frequently for minor behavioral infractions, not as a sanction of last resort.

This act will establish limits on the use of solitary and require that it be limited to the briefest amount of time and under the least restrictive conditions that make sense in the setting.

The bill requires the Bureau of Prisons to limit the use of solitary confinement for inmates nearing their release date and to establish a transitional process for inmates who must remain housed in solitary confinement up to their release.

Most importantly, the bill mandates that the Federal Bureau of Prisons may not place an inmate in solitary confinement if the inmate is a minor, has a serious mental illness, has intellectual or physical disabilities, is pregnant or in the first eight weeks after delivery, except—in all of those cases, except—under limited and temporary circumstances.

Finally, the bill requires an annual report to Congress from the Bureau of

Prisons about their assessment of their progress in improving solitary confinement practices and regulations.

The time to reform our criminal justice system is now, and this bill would mark an important step forward.

Some might ask why this is a passion of mine. When I was a young man, my father volunteered through our church and prison ministry, and I was a young man exposed to the impact that prison conditions can have on those who are serving time. But, more importantly, few individuals have captured the urgency of this issue as powerfully as a fellow Delawarean and friend, Bryan Stevenson. Bryan Stevenson is the author of a book entitled "Just Mercy" that chronicles his efforts founding and leading the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, AL. Since long before sensible reforms to our criminal justice system seemed possible, Bryan has been fighting to improve this badly broken system. In his book he tells the powerful and painful story of a 13-year-old child, Ian, incarcerated as an adult in an adult prison and who spent 18 years in solitary. As Bryan Stevenson recounts, "Ian's mental health unraveled, and he attempted suicide several times. Each time he hurt himself, his time in solitary was extended."

I remember being brought to tears by a number of passages in Bryan's book, and I profoundly agree with his concluding assessment that "the true measure of our character is how we treat the poor, the disfavored, the accused, the incarcerated, and the condemned." When it comes to fairly distributing justice in America, Congress has long failed this central test of character. With this bill, this Senate has a rare opportunity to right some of the wrongs that have too long plagued every step of our criminal justice system.

We also need to step up and take up and move forward the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act as well, an important and broad bill which would reduce mandatory minimums and give judges more discretion in sentencing. In this effort, we have a broad coalition of Democrats and Republicans and a diverse group of faith and reform and advocacy groups, and in President Obama we have a leader who has acted to end solitary confinement for juveniles in Federal prison and who is ready and willing to sign a broader package of criminal justice reforms into law. Now it is up to Congress.

I would like to transition, if I might, to a man who, from his very first days here in the Senate of the United States, has been a powerful, passionate, and engaged advocate for criminal justice reform broadly and for a change to our solitary confinement practices in particular. Far too many Americans have grown up in a society where they are defined by the worst thing they have ever done. When an in-

mate leaves prison with his sentence complete and time served, with his mind and spirit broken because of solitary, we are all less safe and our world is less just.

I wish to thank Senator DURBIN for his efforts on this bill, but in particular I want to thank Senator BOOKER for his passion, for his engagement, for his effectiveness. He is my colleague who has been most engaged in the changes of solitary confinement from his first days here, and he is the deserving partner of Senator DURBIN's long record going back to the hearings he first held in 2012.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from the great State of New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I wish to thank my Senate colleague from Delaware, Senator COONS, for his extraordinarily eloquent and, frankly, urgently passionate voice on issues of solitary confinement, as well as for all the work he is doing on criminal justice reform as a whole.

This bill that he and Senator DURBIN have worked so hard on and that I am so proud to cosponsor, along with Senators LEAHY and FRANKEN, is a critically important bill when it comes to the overall reforming of our criminal justice system. Please understand, as the Senator from Delaware has said, this is currently a practice in our Federal system as well as in State prisons. It is an archaic, damaging, ineffective, and inefficient practice that actually works against the public interests—not just their financial interests but even the safety and well-being of our communities.

Now, solitary confinement—many people don't know exactly what we are talking about. As Senator COONS said, it is people being kept in a prison cell for 22 to 24 hours a day with little to no outside human interactions. Senator COONS said it is a fact that on any given day, we now have 80,000 to 100,000 incarcerated people in State and Federal prisons who are being held in rooms often no bigger than a parking spot.

We know that inmates placed in solitary confinement can be put there for the most minor of infractions—for literally just filing papers with the court to try to assert their constitutional rights. We also know that solitary confinement is extraordinarily expensive—more expensive than nonsolitary confinement. In fact, on average, it costs about \$75,000 each year for an individual to be housed in solitary confinement. Yet it is increasingly clear that this overuse, especially for low-level offenders—not people who have done violent crime, not people who have assaulted a correctional officer, but people who are there for low-level, non-violent crimes—we know that this is

providing little benefit to no benefit for the public good, but what is extraordinary is it is creating conditions which could harm the public.

Solitary confinement has irreversible effects on the human brain, which may lead inmates to harm themselves or others. It does psychological damage. It can do serious psychological damage, making a person more dangerous.

So here we have a correctional system that doesn't correct but actually is doing more harm and putting people in a position where they can be more dangerous to themselves, to their fellow inmates, and to society as a whole. It makes no sense.

International bodies understand this. Other nations have referred to it as torture. The United Nations considers long-term isolation to be cruel and degrading treatment. Here we are in the United States of America, which I firmly believe is a symbol to the Nation—to the globe—of justice, righteousness, and decency, yet we are engaging in tactics that many of our peer nations consider cruel and degrading.

We know the data. It is clear that isolation actually worsens mental illness and can actually create issues in those who were previously seen as psychologically healthy. Researchers estimate that at least 30 percent of inmates held in solitary confinement already have a mental disorder. So this is how we are treating mental illness. We incarcerate not just the poor, but we incarcerate the addicted and the mentally ill. In prison we should seek to make those populations better, healthier, to deal with their disease or their mental disorder, yet we are using practices that aggravate these conditions.

We know data has shown that holding inmates in isolation not only makes mental illness worse for the individual, but it has truly negative impacts on their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities when they are released.

We know that while confinement for short periods of time may be necessary for safety—and please understand that the security of our correctional officers is critical in prison environments, but to allow these practices to go on actually doesn't make our correctional officers safer; it makes their job more dangerous and puts them at greater risk. This is why correctional officers across the country are speaking out. The very people who have to conduct the work in our prisons are speaking out against solitary confinement. One Texas correctional officer said: "When you cut out social interaction, you are dealing with a person who has nothing to lose, and that is extremely dangerous."

Kevin Kempf, the director of the Idaho Department of Corrections, remarked that reforming the practice of solitary confinement "is not a soft-on-inmates approach; this is a public safety approach." He refers to a time in

2014 when 44 inmates were released directly from isolation in a maximum security prison and out to the public. That means that they were released, as in the case that Senator COONS explained, from solitary confinement—from these conditions of no social interaction, from an environment that researchers deem aggravating to mental illness—and they go right from that solitary confinement environment out into the public. He remarked about this case:

Those 44 inmates, we took belly chains and leg irons off of them and walked into your community. That is irresponsible of me as a director. Frankly our taxpayers should expect more of me, should expect more of our staff, to do things differently.

It should come as no surprise to any of us that the use of solitary confinement has received criticism both from law enforcement folks—folks who have sworn oaths to protect the public—as well as the civil rights community, civil libertarians, the medical community, and the legal community.

Just last year, in a Supreme Court case, *Davis v. Ayala*, Justice Kennedy denounced the widespread use of solitary confinement in prisons. Justice Kennedy cited a litany of the possible side effects from prolonged isolation, including anxiety, panic, withdrawal, hallucinations, and self-mutilation. After examining the evidence, Justice Kennedy concluded that ample “research still confirms what the Court suggested a century ago; years on end of near-total isolation exacts a terrible price . . . [t]he penal system has a solitary confinement regime that will bring you to the edge of madness, perhaps into madness itself.”

This is not a criminal justice system that reflects our highest values. It doesn’t stand for moral rights when we are exacting such cruel punishment that doesn’t just do punitive damage but also puts an inmate in a situation where they can cause more harm and damage to themselves and others.

So the bill that Senator COONS talks about—the bill that we are introducing with Senator DURBIN—would substantially limit the ability of the Bureau of Prisons to use solitary confinement in Federal facilities. The bill would mandate that solitary confinement be limited to the briefest terms under the least restrictive conditions practicable, and it would preclude the BOP from placing vulnerable populations in solitary confinement, like minors—like children—as well as people with serious mental illnesses, physical disabilities, and pregnant women.

Critically, this legislation wants to promote more data collection. The bill would require the BOP to collect data on the use of solitary confinement, and it would create a national resource center on solitary confinement reform under the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This is an issue—the issue of solitary confinement—that has been a priority for me here in the Senate from my beginning months. In fact, over a year ago, in August of 2015, I worked with members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on an oversight hearing to explore current practices at the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I requested this hearing because of the urgent need to shine a spotlight on our broken criminal justice system, including what occurs within the walls of Federal prisons that the general public does not see that is being done in the name of the public. The hearing was a good first start to improve transparency on solitary confinement. At the hearing, we heard testimony from a wide range of stakeholders, including the head of the Bureau of Prisons and advocates. Udi Offer, from the New Jersey ACLU, testified that “our nation has seen a dramatic increase in the use or reliance on solitary confinement over the last couple of decades.”

I also introduced the MERCY Act, a bill that would prohibit the use of solitary confinement of youth adjudicated delinquent in the Federal system unless it is a temporary response to a serious risk of harm to the juvenile or others.

Our justice system must ensure justice in the deepest, richest meaning of that word. That is what we swear an oath to, that we will be a nation of liberty and justice for all—not just some but for all. It means that we need to begin to expose the practices that are happening in our prisons and understand the consequences to all of this—increased financial expenditures, increased risk to our security and our safety, increased risks of recidivism.

Our justice system should not be engaged in practices that people across the spectrum in America—political, medical leaders, and others—really do view as harmful, inefficient, and ineffective.

I am proud to cosponsor the Solitary Confinement Reform Act. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and advance it in the Senate. I thank Senators DURBIN and COONS for their leadership.

This is a time where we need national urgency on this issue. It is unfortunate that what happens in our prisons is seen as something that we as a public wash our hands of—throw them away, throw away the key. That kind of logic doesn’t solve problems, it perpetuates them. It doesn’t make us safe, it makes us less safe. It doesn’t save us money, it costs us more. These kinds of practices undermine the foundation of common sense as well as moral rectitude. We stand for more than this as a country. We should set an example that ultimately as a nation we are not about retribution, we are not about disproportionate punish-

ment, we are about restorative justice. Solitary confinement as a practice being done now is an assault on justice. It is an offense to our moral values as a nation. It calls for reform.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues today to introduce legislation that will begin to take us down that important road to justice for all.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3453. A bill to amend provisions in the securities laws relating to regulation crowdfunding to raise the dollar amount limit and to clarify certain requirements and exclusions for funding portals established by such Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, entrepreneurship is a bedrock of Montana, a relationship well understood by the Small Business Administration, SBA. In fact, the SBA recognizes over 115,000 small businesses in the state, making up 97.4 percent of all businesses. These organizations employ nearly 236,000 Montanans, or 67.4 percent of the state workforce.

While there are many harmful regulations coming out of Washington these days, the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, issued a rule last October to give entrepreneurs an important tool in their belt to get their dreams up and running. This rule was the crowdfunding rule, which allows entrepreneurs to raise up to \$1 million annually without having to incur the costs of expensive SEC registration.

With this rule, entrepreneurs can now raise capital to grow their business and create jobs without incurring expenses ordinarily reserved for established companies able to become publicly traded. In fact, Treasure State Internet & Telegraph is one startup in my home town of Bozeman, Montana that has been able to use this important new rule.

I am pleased today to support Montana’s entrepreneurs by introducing the Crowdfunding Enhancement Act. This bill will make it easier for startups using crowdfunding to grow by creating a “longer runway” for costly filings. In this way, startups won’t be penalized with costly paperwork by growing too fast growth. This bill also makes it easier to attract more capital once it reaches the current crowdfunding limits. With passage, this bill is a win for Montana and all our entrepreneurs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3453

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Crowdfunding Enhancement Act".

SEC. 2. CROWDFUNDING VEHICLES.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—The Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 4A(f)(3), by inserting "by any of paragraphs (1) through (14) of" before "section 3(c)"; and

(2) in section 4(a)(6)(B), by inserting after "any investor" the following: "other than a crowdfunding vehicle (as defined in section 2(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940).";

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.—The Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2(a), by adding at the end the following:

"(55) The term 'crowdfunding vehicle' means a company—

"(A) whose purpose (as set forth in its organizational documents) is limited to acquiring, holding, and disposing securities issued by a single company in one or more transactions and made pursuant to section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933;

"(B) which issues only one class of securities;

"(C) which receives no compensation in connection with such acquisition, holding, or disposition of securities;

"(D) no associated person of which receives any compensation in connection with such acquisition, holding or disposition of securities unless such person is acting as or on behalf of an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 or registered as an investment adviser in the State in which the investment adviser maintains its principal office and place of business;

"(E) the securities of which have been issued in a transaction made pursuant to section 4(a)(6) of the Securities Act of 1933, where both the crowdfunding vehicle and the company whose securities it holds are co-issuers;

"(F) which is current in its ongoing disclosure obligations under Rule 202 of Regulation Crowdfunding (17 CFR 227.202);

"(G) the company whose securities it holds is current in its ongoing disclosure obligations under Rule 202 of Regulation Crowdfunding (17 CFR 227.202); and

"(H) is advised by an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 or registered as an investment adviser in the State in which the investment adviser maintains its principal office and place of business."; and

(2) in section 3(c), by adding at the end the following:

"(15) Any crowdfunding vehicle.".

SEC. 3. CROWDFUNDING EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION.

Section 12(g)(6) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l(g)(6)) is amended—

(1) by striking "The Commission" and inserting the following:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission";

(2) by striking "section 4(6)" and inserting "section 4(a)(6)"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) TREATMENT OF SECURITIES ISSUED BY CERTAIN ISSUERS.—An exemption under subparagraph (A) shall be unconditional for securities offered by an issuer that had a public float of less than \$75,000,000 as of the last business day of the issuer's most recently completed semiannual period, computed by multiplying the aggregate worldwide number

of shares of the issuer's common equity securities held by non-affiliates by the price at which such securities were last sold (or the average bid and asked prices of such securities) in the principal market for such securities or, in the event the result of such public float calculation is zero, had annual revenues of less than \$50,000,000 as of the issuer's most recently completed fiscal year.".

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3458. A bill to establish programs to improve family economic security by breaking the cycle of multigenerational poverty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act, alongside my colleague and friend from Maine, Senator SUSAN COLLINS. We are going to hear from her in a few minutes. I want to say a few words about an issue that is all too familiar to many of our States from coast to coast—those represented by Democrats, those represented by Republicans.

Earlier this month, we saw positive economic data from the Census Bureau that showed that over the last year, American middle-class and low-income families saw the largest growth in their income in generations.

I thank my colleague from Maine for her incredible work on the legislation we are going to be introducing today. There are simply far too many families in my home State of New Mexico and across this Nation who are still struggling to make ends meet, even to put food on the table and certainly to escape multigenerational poverty.

Last year, nearly one in five New Mexicans lived below the federally defined poverty rate. Think about that, one in five. These are mothers, fathers, and grandparents trying to support themselves and their families. They are young adults trying to get ahead and lay the groundwork for the future they have envisioned for themselves, but often the dreams we have of going to school and getting a job are cut short by the reality that these once rites of passage on the way to the American dream are further and further out of reach.

I believe all of us have a responsibility not to accept this status quo. Without critical programs such as Medicaid or the National School Lunch Program, even more families in New Mexico would be struggling to overcome poverty in the wake of the great recession. It is time to recognize that the Federal Government's current approach to poverty is far too disconnected. It is too fragmented and too disjointed to truly address the needs of these working families, and too often it simply ignores the very nature of the family itself.

I will tell you what I mean by that. I grew up on a small farm and ranch

operation. In addition to attending our cattle, both of my parents worked full time, often more than full time. My dad was a utility lineman. My mother worked in a factory inspecting wheels on an assembly line. Like a lot of Americans, I learned the dignity of hard work long before I ever held my first job. I learned it at home.

As a father of two children, I understand the challenges of parenthood today, especially when both parents work. In many cases in New Mexico, that means both parents may work more than one job. Much of our time is centered on our jobs and our children. For many of us, this leaves very little time for ourselves or our own educational pursuits.

If parents are able to find time to attend school and better themselves, they have to fit their class schedule around those times. They have to fit their class schedule around their child's school and their childcare hours. All of this limits parents' access to a full and rigorous class schedule and it extends the number of semesters a parent is in school and it increases their student loan debt. The way the Federal Government tries to help increased opportunities for working families isn't working well enough to address these daily challenges these families face.

When multiple programs exist to help low-income parents and children, they have individual streaming causing silos and fragmentation. Low-income families trying to access these benefits often have trouble navigating the multiple eligibility requirements and the multiple service providers. Families get discouraged and lose out on benefits because each one has its own set of requirements.

Even the local service providers who are trying to help families get ahead are finding this disjointed Federal landscape difficult to navigate. Addressing the needs of children and parents separately and without a comprehensive strategy is leaving too many children and parents behind and diminishing the whole family's chances of reaching economic security.

That is why I have teamed up with my Republican colleague from Maine, Senator SUSAN COLLINS, to introduce the bipartisan Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act. Our legislation will increase opportunities for working families through programs targeting parents and children together with support aimed at increasing economic security, educational success, social, capital, and health and well-being.

By aligning and linking existing systems and funding streams, our legislation will lead to improved outcomes for parents and children while improving the effectiveness of service delivery. Our legislation will make Federal agencies coordinate more effectively

through a new Interagency Council on Multigenerational Poverty. The council will align and link departments that are already working to address poverty in order to reduce the redundancy and the redtape we see and to make sure programs across different agencies are actually working in a complementary fashion.

We are also looking for new ways to incentivize investments in comprehensive two-generation programs. Our bill will encourage Federal, State, tribal, and local governments to test innovative ways to using Federal resources by allowing increased flexibility and blending discretionary grant funds across multiple Federal programs in exchange for a greater accountability. We will create a social impact bond pilot project to encourage private foundations and investors to fund new two-generation programs.

Over the last year, I visited programs in my home State of New Mexico that are already using a two-generation approach. In Albuquerque, I met with participants of the CNM Connect Services Program at Central New Mexico Community College. This program assists students—many of whom are parents or children of parents attending CNM—with academic support, financial coaching, and career services, and it connects families with behavioral health services and childcare. By streamlining and coordinating all of these support services for students and their children, families are able to learn and grow together.

At CNM, I met Maricela Cormona, who was a full-time mother who couldn't focus on her own education until her two children started an Even Start and Head Start early childhood education program. Thanks to a two-generation program that connects parents to childcare and education, she earned her GED, and she started taking courses at CNM to become a social worker. She was working with other parents to help them raise healthy families and receive an education.

In Santa Fe, I toured the United Way Early Learning Center. This hub of early learning and family support can serve as a model for creating a path of opportunity for all hard-working Americans, using a comprehensive two-generation approach. At a state-of-the-art facility, the center offers year-round, full-day services for children and families, including hot meals, a health center, teaching and learning technology, employment and social service assistance for parents, and a home visitation program.

One mother I met there, Brenda Olivas, was connected with United Way when she was 4 months pregnant. The home visitation supported her as she and her husband raised their young son Angel. When I talked to her, Brenda had just started working at the early learning center, helping to care for the

children. Brenda said that she hoped to enroll in classes at Santa Fe Community College and put herself on a path toward a successful career.

I also hosted an outreach session for families, education administrators, and representatives of nonprofit service providers at Dona Ana Head Start. I heard from working parents and service providers about the challenges and obstacles that stand in the way of their educational and career opportunities.

Just last month, I visited La Clinica de Familia's Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Center. The center cares for children while their parents work or further their education at New Mexico State University and Dona Ana Community College. I had a chance to read "Brown Bear, Brown Bear," which is not only one of the children's favorite books, but it is also one of my favorite books. My kids loved that book when they were little.

I think it is time to build on the progress we have seen demonstrated through the data at programs like these. It is time to bring in more stakeholders and start actively changing the trajectory of these families and communities. This is the type of challenge that will have to be fought on the frontlines through public-private partnerships on college campuses and in community centers, on ball fields and in health clinics, and in our towns both large and small. No matter what your ZIP Code is, you should have an opportunity to use already existing Federal resources or attract private investment to implement the two-generation approach in your community because, as the data suggests, it works. That is exactly what the Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act aims to achieve.

I wish once again to thank my colleague Senator COLLINS for her hard work to help create this legislation, and I also thank the great minds at places like Ascend at the Aspen Institute and great advocacy organizations in my home State of New Mexico, such as New Mexico Voices for Children, for working with me and my staff on these real, innovative solutions to create more economic mobility.

As we work to advance this bipartisan bill in the Senate, I hope the rest of my colleagues will see why this is an issue that should not only be bipartisan but should command our urgent attention because the status quo is not something any of us should accept.

It is important to note that our proposal doesn't add any new Federal spending or add to the deficit. Our legislation simply takes existing funding programs that we already have in place and makes sure we are investing more wisely, more efficiently, and more effectively to meet the needs of our children and their families. This is a fiscally responsible way to proceed, and it is a moral imperative.

We all know that all the potential we could ever ask for sits in homes, churches, and classrooms across this great Nation. By helping parents, grandparents, and children overcome poverty and pursue their dreams together, we can put whole families on a path toward economic security and create a greater economic future for all of our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from New Mexico, Senator HEINRICH, in introducing the Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act of 2016. It has been a great pleasure to work together to craft this important legislation, and I commend him for his leadership.

Our bipartisan bill proposes a new approach to fighting poverty, one that focuses on addressing the needs of children and their parents together—two generations—in order to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

More than 50 years after President Lyndon Johnson declared a War on Poverty, poverty remains a troubling reality for millions of Americans who struggle to find the resources they need for the basic necessities of life. In the time since that worthy war was first declared, the Federal Government has spent trillions of dollars—taxpayer dollars—on programs to combat poverty. Yet the truth is that the poverty rate has barely budged. In 1966, the poverty rate was 14.7 percent. Just this month, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that the poverty rate for 2015 was 13.5 percent. I would note that is actually 1 percentage point higher than the year before the start of the 2008 recession. The point is that despite our good intentions and despite the expenditure of trillions of taxpayer dollars, we have made very little progress in lifting families out of poverty.

Every State in our Nation is impacted by poverty. In my State of Maine, the poverty rate stands at 13.4 percent, just slightly below the national rate. Poverty spans rural towns and urban centers, race and ethnicity, men and women, old and young. It diminishes the chances of a bright future for far too many of our children.

Just this weekend, the Maine Sunday Telegram reported a heartwrenching story of a 5-year-old girl named Arianna, who lived in a makeshift tent in the woods outside of Portland. This is a picture of Arianna, a darling little girl only 5 years of age, living outside in a very crude tent. Thanks to the involvement of a State social worker and the Maine Homeless Veterans Alliance, who were committed to keeping the family together, this story, fortunately, has a happy ending. Arianna and her mother now live in an apartment in Auburn, ME, and she has finally just started kindergarten.

We know that the well-being of children like Arianna is tightly linked to the well-being of their parents. Just last week, I chaired a hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation. We examined whether there is a better way to provide housing assistance to vulnerable families and individuals. Both OMB Director Shaun Donovan and HUD Secretary Julian Castro have often pointed out to our subcommittee that the single biggest predictor of a child's opportunities—and even that child's life expectancy—is the ZIP Code of the community where the child grows up.

Federal programs have certainly helped many of those living in poverty to manage the day-to-day hardships they face, but the fact is that these programs have failed to achieve their promise of breaking the cycle of poverty that has trapped too many families. We should not accept such outcomes here in the land of opportunity.

Our bipartisan legislation proposes a fresh approach that is aimed at equipping both parents and their children with the tools they need to succeed and become self-sufficient. It marks an important first step toward reevaluating our approach to poverty-reducing programs, encouraging innovative, more effective uses of tax dollars, and encouraging programs that allow us to tailor them to the needs of specific families—programs that will work.

Too often today our Federal programs address certain issues in silos, overlooking the fact that the needs of families in poverty are almost always interconnected. They shouldn't have to try to navigate the various programs that are available to put together the funding streams they need to lift themselves out of poverty. Our bill would change that. It encourages an integrated, personalized approach.

Let me give an example. Helping a mother secure safe, high-quality child care can have a positive impact not only on her ability to succeed in the workforce but also by improving her child's readiness for school. While that child is receiving care and an education, her mother can be connecting with a skills training program to help her improve her family's income. Connecting these various Federal programs has the potential to lift entire families out of poverty and break that vicious cycle of intergenerational or multigenerational poverty.

The Two-Generation Economic Empowerment Act would create an Interagency Council on Multigenerational Poverty to coordinate efforts across Federal agencies and departments aimed at supporting vulnerable families. The Council would also make recommendations to Congress on ways to improve coordination of anti-poverty programs and to identify best practices. Similarly, our legislation would instruct the Government Account-

ability Office, GAO, to study and report to Congress and the Council on the barriers that prevent grant recipients from collaborating and identify opportunities for improved coordination.

Our bill would also authorize a pilot program to provide additional flexibility for States and local governments to improve the administration of programs using two-generation models. It would authorize five States to participate in two-generation performance partnerships. This would allow, for example, States like Maine and New Mexico to blend together similarly purposed funds across multiple Federal programs in order to help poor families. It aims to reduce duplicative reporting and application requirements. This kind of redtape and bureaucracy often deters local agencies and organizations from making the most effective use of tax dollars to ensure accountability because that is what this is all about. This bill would also require that these pilot programs be targeted at specific programs designed to reduce poverty, and it would measure the outcomes and the effectiveness of these programs.

Finally, our bill would create a pilot program to incentivize public-private partnerships around poverty solutions through social impact bonds. These public-private partnerships harness philanthropic and private sector investments to implement proven social programs. This concept is based on legislation that has been introduced by two of our colleagues, Senator ORRIN HATCH and Senator MICHAEL BENNET. I would note that through these partnerships, government funds are only paid out when the desired outcomes are met.

With this bill, we have the chance to make a permanent difference in the lives of millions of families in this country who are struggling and living in poverty. We have the opportunity to finally break the multigenerational cycle of poverty. We have the chance—after 50 years of pouring trillions of dollars into well-intentioned programs that have had some good benefits but have not produced the kinds of lasting results we need, we have the opportunity to change that.

Just as a child's ZIP Code should not determine his or her future success, so should the bureaucratic, siloed approach to poverty not make it so difficult for families to get the help they need to escape lives of poverty. We don't want more cases where a 5-year-old girl is living in a makeshift tent outside of the largest city in my State.

The Federal Government can be an effective partner in providing funding, in providing opportunities for parents and their children, lifting up families, and, in turn, building stronger communities. State and local governments—the laboratories of experimentation in

this country—can be at the forefront of these efforts. And the increased flexibility proposed by our bill would help reform practices across government. Building public-private partnerships would also help to spur innovative approaches and would help generations to come to take part and be full participants in the American dream.

Again, let me thank my partner Senator HEINRICH for his leadership on this bill. I urge our colleagues to take a look at the fresh, innovative approach we have developed to moving families out of poverty by breaking down the silos in Federal programs, by encouraging local and State and private sector and nonprofit organizations collaboration, and by giving them the tools they need to succeed.

Let's not be here 50 years from now noting that the poverty rate is the same as it was when Lyndon Johnson declared the War on Poverty 50 years ago, which would then be 100 years ago. Let's try a different approach.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 583—AMENDING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO ENSURE THAT THE SENATE VOTES ON WHETHER TO CONFIRM JUDICIAL NOMINEES

Mr. UDALL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 583

Resolved,

SECTION 1. VOTES ON JUDICIAL NOMINEES.

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

“8. (a) Not later than 180 days after the date on which a judicial nomination made by the President is received, the Senate shall vote on—

“(1) whether the Senate will advise and consent to the judicial nomination; or

“(2) a motion to invoke cloture on the judicial nomination.

“(b) Except as provided in subparagraph (c), if the Senate does not vote on whether the Senate will advise and consent to a judicial nomination or a motion to invoke cloture on the judicial nomination during the period described in subparagraph (a), on the first day on which the Senate is in session after the end of the period described in subparagraph (a)—

“(1) if the judicial nomination was referred to a committee and has not been reported, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the judicial nomination and the judicial nomination shall be placed on the calendar without any intervening action or debate;

“(2) the Senate shall proceed to the judicial nomination without any intervening action or debate;

“(3) the Senate shall proceed to the question ‘Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate shall be brought to a close?’ with respect to the judicial nomination, in the same

manner as if a motion to invoke cloture had been made under rule XXII, except that there shall be not more than 4 hours of debate on such question; and

“(4) it shall not be in order to move to proceed to the consideration of any other matter until such question is disposed of.

“(c) Subparagraph (b) shall not apply to a judicial nomination if, before the end of the period described in subparagraph (a), the committee to which the judicial nomination has been referred votes to report the judicial nomination unfavorably.

“(d) In this paragraph, the term ‘judicial nomination’ means the nomination of an individual to serve as a judge or justice appointed to hold office during good behavior.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 584—ACKNOWLEDGING THE PEACEFUL HUNGER STRIKE OF GUILLERMO “EL COCO” FARINAS, A POLITICAL DISSIDENT IN CUBA, APPLAUDING HIS BRAVERY AND COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH HIM AND HIS CAUSE

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 584

Whereas Fidel Castro and Raul Castro have led an oppressive, totalitarian, 1-party Communist state in Cuba for 57 years;

Whereas the Castro regime has unyieldingly violated basic human rights and steadfastly suppressed peaceful dissent in Cuba, despite nonviolent calls for change in Cuba and internationally;

Whereas the unconditional reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba has failed to meaningfully improve the predicament of the people of Cuba;

Whereas Guillermo “El Coco” Fariñas is an internationally renowned Cuban dissident dedicated to advocating for political freedoms and human rights in Cuba;

Whereas the Communist Party of Cuba has viewed political freedoms and human rights as antithetical to the totalitarian agenda, and a threat to the existence, of that party;

Whereas El Coco Fariñas has repeatedly stated his willingness to give up his own life for the cause of freedom and liberty in Cuba;

Whereas El Coco Fariñas held a 7-month hunger strike in 2006 to call attention to the Cuban Government’s practice of Internet censorship in Cuba;

Whereas El Coco Fariñas held another hunger strike in 2010 to protest the Cuban Government’s practices of making politically motivated arrests and maintaining prisoners of conscience;

Whereas the Government of Cuba denied El Coco Fariñas an exit visa in 2010 to travel to Strasbourg, France to receive the European Parliament’s Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, in recognition of the efforts of El Coco Fariñas to peacefully advocate for political freedoms in Cuba;

Whereas at the funeral of fellow activist Oswaldo Payá, who is widely believed to have been murdered by the Castro regime, El Coco Fariñas was among dozens of dissidents who were arbitrarily arrested;

Whereas El Coco Fariñas initiated another hunger strike in the summer of 2016 to call

international attention to the continued brutality committed by the Cuban Government;

Whereas, on September 12, 2016, El Coco Fariñas ended that hunger strike following the release of a fabricated report that the European Union had conditioned relations with Cuba on improvements in the human rights situation in Cuba, which the European Parliament later confirmed was false and the Cuban American National Foundation denounced as a “discrediting campaign to misinform the people of Cuba and the international community”;

Whereas in recognition of his unwavering efforts to peacefully push for reforms for the people of Cuba, El Coco Fariñas has been awarded—

(1) the 2006 Cyber-Freedom Prize by Reporters Without Borders;

(2) the Weimar International Human Rights Award; and

(3) the 2010 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament; and

Whereas recognition of the recent hunger strike of El Coco Fariñas and an expression of solidarity with him and his cause sends a positive signal of the enduring commitment of the people of the United States to the people of Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the courage of Guillermo “El Coco” Fariñas in standing up to the relentless repression of the Government of Cuba;

(2) recognizes El Coco Fariñas for his perseverance in seeking meaningful change for the people of Cuba through peaceful means;

(3) acknowledges that the efforts of the Government of Cuba to undermine the latest hunger strike of El Coco Fariñas, through the release of a fabricated report, failed to diminish the international attention that his hunger strike attracted to the human rights situation in Cuba; and

(4) expresses solidarity and support for El Coco Fariñas, his valiant efforts, and his commitment to basic human freedoms for the people of Cuba.

SENATE RESOLUTION 585—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2016, AS “DAY OF THE DEPLOYED”

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 585

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals serve as members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces rotate each year through deployments to 150 countries in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,700,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel from the total force (the regular components, the National Guard, and the Reserves), who protect the precious heritage of the United States through their declarations and actions;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States; and

Whereas the Senate designated October 26 as “Day of the Deployed” in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 26, 2016, as “Day of the Deployed”;

(2) honors the deployed members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the families of the members;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the Armed Forces, wherever the members serve, past, present, and future; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the Day of the Deployed with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 586—HONORING THE LIFE OF JACOB WETTERLING AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF JACOB WETTERLING’S FAMILY TO FIND ABDUCTED CHILDREN AND SUPPORT THE FAMILIES OF THOSE CHILDREN

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 586

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s parents faced the unimaginable tragedy of having their 11-year-old son, Jacob Wetterling, abducted near their home in Stearns County, Minnesota, on October 22, 1989;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling was taken at gunpoint and his disappearance remained unresolved for nearly 27 years;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s body was not recovered until September of 2016;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s mother bravely turned her grief into action and devoted her life to advocating for missing and exploited children;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s mother has become a nationally recognized educator on child abduction and the sexual exploitation of children;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s mother serves on the Board of Directors of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s parents co-founded the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center to educate communities about child safety issues to prevent child exploitation and abductions;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s mother authored the publication “When Your Child is Missing: A Family Survival Guide”, along with 4 other families;

Whereas Jacob Wetterling’s mother served for more than 7 years as Director of Sexual Violence Prevention for the Minnesota Department of Health;

Whereas the Star Tribune selected Jacob Wetterling’s mother as one of the “100 Most Influential Minnesotans of the Century”;

Whereas the efforts of Jacob Wetterling’s mother led to the passage of the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act (Public Law 103-322; 108 Stat. 2038), a Federal law that requires States to implement a sex offender and crimes against children registry; and

Whereas Jacob Wetterling's memory lives on through the efforts of the Wetterling family: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life of Jacob Wetterling; and
(2) recognizes the efforts of Jacob Wetterling's family to prevent child exploitation and abductions across the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 587—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 587

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within Senate buildings nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or of Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) **EXPIRATION.**—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 114th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 588—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2016 AS "NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH"

Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 588

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have declared the month of October 2016 to be "National Principals Month";

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, disciplinarians, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement a clear mission, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school reform effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals, and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2016 as "National Principals Month"; and

(2) honors the contribution of principals in the elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 589—HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 589

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary was founded in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1966, with the mission of serving the Christian community by preparing Christian leaders through a program of graduate theological education;

Whereas the vision for Reformed Theological Seminary originated in a prayer meeting of the following 5 Mississippi pastors: Sam Patterson, Erskine Jackson, John Reed Miller, James Spencer, and William Stanway;

Whereas the founders of Reformed Theological Seminary were Sam Patterson, Robert Cannada, Erskine Wells, Frank Horton, Bob Kennington, and Frank Tindall, and early board members included Elliott Belcher, Robert Rugeley, Hugh Potts, Emory Folmar, Gettys Guille, H.S. Williford, Sr., Horace Hull, Charles Harmon, and Roy LeCraw, many of whom were prominent Mississippians;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary opened its doors to 14 students from 8 colleges and 3 denominations in 1966, and has educated well over 12,000 students through the years, with over 6,000 graduates serving the Lord and the Christian Church in more than 80 countries around the world;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary is the largest accredited seminary in the State of Mississippi;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary has campuses and extensions in—

- (1) Jackson, Mississippi;
- (2) Orlando, Florida;
- (3) Charlotte, North Carolina;
- (4) Atlanta, Georgia;
- (5) Houston, Texas;
- (6) Memphis, Tennessee;
- (7) McLean, Virginia; and
- (8) New York City, New York;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary has established a global distance education program with online students on every populated continent, and a doctoral program with Mackenzie University in São Paulo, Brazil;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary is one of the largest accredited theological seminaries in North America, having pre-

pared students for service in over 73 denominations, and with graduates who have started no fewer than 23 theological educational institutions around the world;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary has over 40 full-time faculty members instructing over 1,500 current students in 9 different degree programs, readying them to serve the Christian Church and all Christians with a mind for truth, a life for ministry, and a heart for the Lord;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary graduates continue on to vocations not only as pastors, but also as counselors, chaplains, teachers, church planters, missionaries, campus ministers, relief workers, and community leaders, thus contributing greatly to the well-being of their neighbors, communities, and culture, in the United States and around the world;

Whereas Reformed Theological Seminary has been a blessing to the United States and an ambassador for the Lord around the world; and

Whereas, on October 6 and 7, 2016, Reformed Theological Seminary will celebrate its 50th Anniversary: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Reformed Theological Seminary for 50 years of faith-inspired service;

(2) expresses profound respect and deep appreciation for—

(A) the transformational impact Reformed Theological Seminary has had on the United States; and

(B) the beneficent service of Reformed Theological Seminary to humanity around the world; and

(3) expresses heartfelt wishes for continued blessings and achievement in the decades to come.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 52—HONORING VINCENT EDWARD "VIN" SCULLY, THE UNITED STATES BASEBALL BROADCASTER WHO HAS MAGNIFICENTLY SERVED AS THE PLAY-BY-PLAY ANNOUNCER FOR THE BROOKLYN AND LOS ANGELES DODGERS FOR 67 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASONS SINCE 1950

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 52

Whereas Vincent Edward "Vin" Scully was born in the Bronx, New York, on November 29, 1927;

Whereas Vin Scully was raised in the Washington Heights neighborhood of Manhattan, New York;

Whereas when Vin Scully was 8 years old he decided he wanted to become a sports announcer;

Whereas in 1950, at the age of 22, Vin Scully joined the radio and television broadcast team for the Brooklyn Dodgers;

Whereas in 1953, at the age of 25, Vin Scully became the youngest individual to announce the broadcast of a World Series game;

Whereas Vin Scully announced Brooklyn Dodgers' games through 1957, after which he moved with the Dodgers to Los Angeles as the first team in Major League Baseball to play in Southern California;

Whereas Vin Scully is credited with teaching the game of baseball to Los Angeles;

Whereas since 1950, Vin Scully has announced more than 9,000 Major League Baseball games and almost ½ of all Los Angeles Dodgers games ever played;

Whereas Vin Scully has announced numerous iconic moments in baseball history, including—

(1) on September 9, 1965, Vin Scully announced Los Angeles Dodgers' pitcher Sandy Koufax's perfect game against the Chicago Cubs, concluding, "Sandy Koufax, whose name will always remind you of strikeouts, did it with a flourish. He struck out the last 6 consecutive batters. So when he wrote his name in capital letters in the record book, that 'K' stands out more than the 'oufax'.";

(2) on April 8, 1974, Vin Scully called the 715th homerun by Hank Aaron to break Babe Ruth's longstanding homerun record, stating, "What a marvelous moment for baseball, what a marvelous moment for Atlanta and the State of Georgia, what a marvelous moment for the country and the world. A black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol. And it is a great moment for all of us, and particularly for Henry Aaron."; and

(3) on October 15, 1988, during Game 1 of the 1988 World Series at Dodger Stadium, Vin Scully announced a game-winning, pinch hit homerun by injured Los Angeles Dodger Kirk Gibson against Oakland Athletics' reliever Dennis Eckersley, declaring, "High fly ball into right field. She is gone . . . In a year that has been so improbable, the impossible has happened.";

Whereas Vin Scully has described the exploits of some of baseball's all-time greats, including Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Duke Snider, Don Sutton, Fernando Valenzuela, Tommy Lasorda, Orel Hershiser, Mike Piazza, and Clayton Kershaw, among many others;

Whereas Vin Scully has been nicknamed "The Shakespeare of Baseball", "The Voice of the Dodgers", and "The Voice of Summer";

Whereas Vin Scully has been awarded the honors of—

(1) National Sportscaster of the Year from the National Sports Media Association in 1965, 1978, and 1982;

(2) Ford Frick Award from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1982;

(3) induction into the National Sports Media Association Hall of Fame in 1991;

(4) induction into the American Sportscasters Association Hall of Fame in 1992;

(5) Life Achievement Emmy Award for Sportscasting in 1995;

(6) induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1995;

(7) Sportscaster of the Century from the American Sportscasters Association in 2000;

(8) induction into the California Sports Hall of Fame in 2008;

(9) induction into the National Association of Broadcasters Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2009;

(10) Ambassador Award of Excellence from the Los Angeles Sports & Entertainment Commission in 2009;

(11) Top Sportscaster of All-Time from the American Sportscasters Association in 2009;

(12) Baseball Commissioner's Historic Achievement Award in 2014; and

(13) 32-time California Sportscaster of the Year;

Whereas, on September 23, 2016, during a pregame ceremony at Dodgers Stadium to honor Vin Scully for his iconic life and con-

tributions, he was likened to Norman Rockwell and film character George Bailey; and

Whereas Vin Scully will announce his final game on October 2, 2016, when the Los Angeles Dodgers visit the San Francisco Giants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) honors the life and legendary career of Vincent Edward "Vin" Scully, whose character, artistry, and storytelling as an announcer for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers has set the standard for sports announcing; and

(2) wishes Vin Scully a fulfilling retirement as he bids farewell to the broadcast booth following the 2016 Major League Baseball season.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to submit a concurrent resolution to honor the great Vin Scully—a magnificent baseball announcer for the Los Angeles Dodgers for the past 67 Major League Baseball seasons.

Days ago, Scully announced his final game at Dodger Stadium.

It was a game won by the Dodgers on a walk-off homerun, in dramatic fashion, to clinch the division.

It was a fitting end to Scully's storied career calling baseball games in Los Angeles. When the homerun was hit, he exclaimed, "Would you believe a homerun? And the Dodgers have clinched the division, and will celebrate on schedule."

Seconds later, in true Scully-form, he remained silent, letting the roar of Dodgers fans take over the microphone.

Scully's storytelling over the microphone has captured the imagination of not just those who have grown up in Southern California, but all over America.

In fact, so many Americans recall watching Game 1 of the 1988 World Series when Kirk Gibson famously hit a walk-off homerun against Dennis Eckersley.

After Scully called the homerun shot, he paused to proclaim, "In a year that has been so improbable, the impossible has happened."

The call was a harbinger of things to come, because the Dodgers went on to win the series against a heavily favored Oakland Athletics team.

Scully first fell in love with baseball and broadcasting as an 8 year old boy growing up in New York in 1936.

He recounted this beginning in a deeply personal letter he wrote to fans recently, stating, "God has been very generous to that little boy, allowing him to fulfill a dream of becoming a broadcaster and to live it for 67 years . . . You were simply always there for me. I have always felt that I needed you more than you needed me and that holds true this very day."

We too are immensely fortunate to have witnessed Scully's life-long devotion to the game of baseball.

Scully has announced more than 9,000 Major League Baseball games, and almost half of all of the Dodger games ever played.

He is credited with teaching the game of baseball to Los Angeles.

He vividly brought to life the feats of all-time Dodgers greats such as Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, Sandy Koufax, Don Drysdale, Duke Snider, Don Sutton, Fernando Valenzuela, Orel Hershiser, Tommy Lasorda, Mike Piazza, and Clayton Kershaw.

This is why his voice evokes so many memories for so many people.

But even beyond his artistic accomplishments, Vin Scully is about as fine a person as you will meet. Those who know him closely remark of his character and humility. They speak of his desire simply to be a decent man, a good husband, father, and grandfather.

This humility and grace was reflected in his broadcast style. He was never one to rush, and did all he could to enhance the game he loved. Often times, he let the roar of the crowd speak for itself.

I want to thank Senator BOXER for cosponsoring the resolution to honor Scully, as he takes his final curtain call from the broadcast booth next week.

I also want to express my thanks to House Democratic Caucus Chairman XAVIER BECERRA for leading the House effort on this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 53—DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 5325

Mr. COCHRAN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 53

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5325, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction to the title so as to read: "Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.".

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 54—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS AND REAFFIRMING LONGSTANDING UNITED STATES POLICY IN SUPPORT OF A DIRECT BILATERALLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND OPPOSITION TO UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS IMPOSING A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 54

Whereas the United States has long supported a negotiated settlement leading to a

sustainable two-state solution with the democratic, Jewish state of Israel and a democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace and security;

Whereas it is the long-standing policy of the United States Government that a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will only come through direct, bilateral negotiations between the two parties;

Whereas President Barack Obama reiterated this policy at the United Nations General Assembly in 2011, stating, "Peace is hard work. Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the United Nations—if it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now. Ultimately, it is the Israelis and the Palestinians who must live side by side. Ultimately, it is the Israelis and the Palestinians—not us—who must reach agreement on the issues that divide them";

Whereas the Palestinian Authority has failed to end incitement to hatred and violence through Palestinian Authority-directed institutions against Israel and Israelis and to end payments to prisoners and the families of those who have engaged in terrorism or acts of violence against Israelis or the State of Israel;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority has continued to provide payments to prisoners and the families of those who have engaged in terrorism or acts of violence against Israelis or the State of Israel, including reports of approximately \$300,000,000 in 2016;

Whereas efforts to impose a solution or parameters for a solution can make negotiations more difficult and can set back the cause of peace;

Whereas it is long-standing practice of the United States Government to oppose and, if necessary, veto United Nations Security Council resolutions dictating additional binding parameters on the peace process;

Whereas it is also the historic position of the United States Government to oppose and veto, if necessary, one-sided or anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas, for this reason, the United States has vetoed 42 Israel-related resolutions in the United Nations Security Council since 1972;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority must engage in broad, meaningful, and systemic reforms in order to ultimately prepare its institutions and people for statehood and peaceful coexistence with Israel; and

Whereas unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state would bypass negotiations and undermine incentives for the Palestinian Authority to make the changes necessary that are pre-requisites for peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that is it the sense of Congress that—

(1) a durable and sustainable peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians will come only through direct bilateral negotiations between the parties;

(2) any widespread international recognition of a unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood outside of the context of a peace agreement with Israel would cause severe harm to the peace process, and would likely trigger the implementation of penalties under sections 7036 and 7041(j) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114-113; 129 Stat. 2769, 2779);

(3) efforts by outside bodies, including the United Nations Security Council, to impose

an agreement or parameters for an agreement are likely to set back the cause of peace;

(4) the United States Government should continue to oppose and veto United Nations Security Council resolutions that seek to impose solutions to final status issues, or are one-sided and anti-Israel; and

(5) the United States Government should continue to support and facilitate the resumption of negotiations without pre-conditions between Israelis and Palestinians toward a sustainable peace agreement.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5105. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5105. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5082 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL (for Mr. COCHRAN) to the bill H.R. 5325, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . NO BUDGET NO PAY.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the "No Budget, No Pay Act".

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "Member of Congress"—

(1) has the meaning given under section 2106 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) does not include the Vice President.

(c) **TIMELY APPROVAL OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—If both Houses of Congress have not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget as described under section 301 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632) for a fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year and have not passed all the regular appropriations bills for the next fiscal year before October 1 of that fiscal year, the pay of each Member of Congress may not be paid for each day following that October 1 until the date on which both Houses of Congress approve a concurrent resolution on the budget for that fiscal year and all the regular appropriations bills.

(d) **NO PAY WITHOUT CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET AND THE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds may be appropriated or otherwise be made available from the United States Treasury for the pay of any Member of Congress during any period determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e).

(2) **NO RETROACTIVE PAY.**—A Member of Congress may not receive pay for any period

determined by the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate or the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under subsection (e), at any time after the end of that period.

(e) **DETERMINATIONS.**—

(1) **SENATE.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Secretary of the Senate shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Senators may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Senators may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—

(A) **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATIONS.**—On October 1 of each year, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall submit a request to the Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives for certification of determinations made under clause (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) **DETERMINATIONS.**—The Chairpersons of the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives shall—

(i) on October 1 of each year, make a determination of whether Congress is in compliance with subsection (c) and whether Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under that subsection;

(ii) determine the period of days following each October 1 that Members of the House of Representatives may not be paid under subsection (c); and

(iii) provide timely certification of the determinations under clauses (i) and (ii) upon the request of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

(f) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall apply on and after February 1, 2017.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2016, at 12 p.m., in room S-216 of the Capitol.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA, THE PACIFIC, AND INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY POLICY

The Committee on Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The Persistent Threat of North Korea and Developing an Effective U.S. Response."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATIONAL INTEREST

The Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 28, 2016, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Administration's FY 2017 Refugee Resettlement Program."

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Daniel Ball, an FCC detailee with the Commerce Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ian Foss, a detailee on the HELP Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee for Senator MURRAY be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Eric Hanson, a detailee to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, be granted privileges of the floor for the remainder of the second session of the 114th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 954

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 954) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be

read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, September 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RUBIO. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators CARPER and COONS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

REMEMBERING BETTY DEWHIRST RUSSELL

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of a friend, a fellow congregant—Betty Dewhirst Russell—someone I have known for a long time and someone I knew as a member of my home church, First and Central Presbyterian in Wilmington, DE.

Earlier today, Betty passed away. I am so honored to have an opportunity on the floor of the Senate to briefly recognize her for her remarkable service to the United States and for her great and soaring spirit.

Betty was a young midwestern girl when she ventured to St. Louis, MO, in 1940, to begin her schooling as a nurse. Upon graduation, she volunteered for service in the U.S. Army. Betty was posted to Longview, TX, for basic training. While in Longview, she would meet her future husband, Lloyd Byron Russell, known as Russ, of Wilmington, DE.

Betty served her country as a first lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps from April 1943 until January 1946 through the 70th General Hospital. Betty served alongside her uncle, Chief Surgeon Colonel L.D. Cassidy. In something that she recounted to me a number of times once I was elected to this body, Betty, during the Second World War and as part of the 70th General Hospital, cared for hundreds and hundreds of American soldiers, among

them two who returned home to serve in this body as Senators—Bob Dole of Kansas and Daniel Inouye of Hawaii.

Betty received a battle star as the 70th General Hospital was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon. Betty was, understandably, proud of her service, saving so many American lives. One cherished memory that Betty shared with her family was that when she was caring for one particularly badly wounded GI, his last request was to hold close an American flag—a big one, he said. She went to the Red Cross, and they gave her a big American flag. She spread it over his body. He put his arms around it, smiled, and took his last breath.

Betty and Russ were married in Oran, Algeria. Being military and married in a foreign country required cutting through a lot of redtape. They were eventually married twice—once by the French Government and once by the U.S. Army. Betty and Russ returned to live in our hometown of Wilmington, DE, and eventually settled in Hockessin. They were married for 53 years before Russ passed in 1998.

Betty and Russ's four children were born and raised in Delaware. She served her community faithfully, by helping to establish the Hockessin Well Baby Clinic, by serving as a Cub Scouts den mother, as a volunteer at the junior board of Memorial Hospital, at the Wilmington Flower Market for over 50 years, and as a charter member of the Hockessin Community Club. Betty was also a longtime board member of the Lamborn Library and of the Friends of the Hockessin Library in Hockessin and a faithful member of First and Central Presbyterian Church for 70 years.

Betty has lived a full and wonderful life—full of dedicated service to her faith, her family, and her country. She always saw the best in others, and she always had a hopeful attitude about the day that lay ahead. So I am grateful for having had the opportunity to know Betty for just a few years in our wonderful home State. I am so grateful for the career and the life of service that Betty Russell gave as a gift to all of us in Delaware and in this grateful Nation.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with Senator CARPER for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER LEACH AND JERRY FICKES

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that Senator CARPER and I come to the floor this evening to honor Chris Leach and Jerry Fickes,

two brave Wilmington firefighters who lost their lives this past Saturday night. In any State or in any community, the loss of a firefighter or police officer is devastating, but in our small State of neighbors, a close-knit State with an even closer knit first responder community, a community that includes families and multiple generations, it is especially hard.

To those who knew Chris and Jerry, it must be little comfort now that we are here on the floor of the U.S. Senate to pay tribute to their lives, but in the next few minutes, we hope to capture just a fraction of the light they brought to their families and our community with their love and service.

Lieutenant Christopher Leach wasn't supposed to be working on Saturday night, but he filled in for another firefighter, likely thinking it would be a shift like any other shift. He was always willing to step forward and serve.

After getting the call that there was a fire in a Canby Park row house, Chris did what he had been training to do since 1993. Chris did what he told his friends, all the way back to Salesianum High School, he always wanted to do as long as they could remember—fight fires.

Chris grew up in the volunteer fire service. He joined the Tallyville Fire Company in 1993 at the age of 18, rising steadily through the ranks of the volunteer fire service to captain. The more time he spent at the firehouse, the more he loved it. Four years later, at age 22, Chris joined the Claymont Fire Company and served as a full-time firefighter and EMT there.

Chris was a lifelong learner, doing whatever he could to develop new skills to support his crewmates and help save lives.

Chris took classes all over our country, from Virginia to Texas, to California, and his training paid off. In July 2002, at a house fire in Claymont, a firefighter from the ladder company fell through the first floor and into the basement. Chris and two others saved that firefighter's life, earning Chris a series of recognitions, including Fireman of the Year from New Castle County Volunteer Fire Service and the Claymont Fire Company.

Several months later, Chris joined the Wilmington Fire Department, where he was assigned to Engine 4B Platoon. He was only there for a couple of years before being transferred to the Special Operations Command of Engine 1B, where he was quickly recognized for his work, and then Rescue 1B. At the time of his passing, he was serving with Engine 6.

All this time, Chris never stopped learning and improving. He never stopped acting on his passion for firefighting. He researched and applied for and earned a \$200,000 grant for extra training and equipment. He wrote the standard operating procedures for the

Special Operations Command. He trained as an instructor in NIMS, the National Incident Management System, and made sure that every Tallyville volunteer member became certified in the NIMS system. He served on the Newcastle County Task Force Rescue Team and earned a bachelor of science degree in fire service administration from Waldorf University.

Throughout a long and distinguished firefighting career, Chris was constantly achieving and growing, saving lives and building new skills. Described by so many I have spoken to as a "firefighter's firefighter," his commitment to his brothers and sisters at the firehouse was relentless. If he thought the department needed something done, he would go do it himself. If the fire company couldn't afford something, he would find a way to make it happen. That commitment went beyond just his professional leadership. I have heard from so many who said Chris was a good, loyal, and faithful friend. He was a softball teammate and also a practical joker, a lover of Billy Joel and Lynyrd Skynyrd, a so-called Mr. Fix-It, and king of nicknames. He was a big guy with a big heart and a deep voice who couldn't hide when he entered a room. Chris was someone who volunteered at the firehouse on his days off and visited elementary schools to talk about his love of firefighting and to help persuade a young generation to join him.

As his friend Andy Millis described him, Chris "was a lieutenant you wanted to work for." He loved his job, he loved his colleagues, and he loved his responsibility, but there was nothing he loved more than his family. His mother Fran, his sister Katie and Katie's wife Carolee, his fiancée Kate and her boys Landon and Casey. Most of all, Chris loved his beautiful children. He said there was nothing greater than being a father to his kids, Brendon, age 16; Abby, 14; and Megan, 12. He took them camping and fishing, to the beach and Cub Scouts, and always found a way to be there for their every activity. Chris lived for his kids.

Chris lost his own father Michael to cancer in 2004 and always kept his dad's funeral card in his helmet. Chris honored his father by being a great dad himself, just as Michael was to him. We can only hope that in the brief time each of us has here, that we shine brightly and relentlessly for the people we love and the community we serve. Few shine as brightly as Chris Leach did.

With that, I yield the floor to my colleague from Delaware Senator CARPER, who will share some words about another hero we also lost on Saturday, senior firefighter Jerry Fickes.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague CHRIS COONS for allowing me to join him and together offer this tribute to Chris Leach and Jerry Fickes.

Earlier today, the floor was busy with activity—and really joyful activity—as Democrats and Republicans tried to work together to come to an agreement on a spending plan to fund our government past the end of this fiscal year and into the beginning of the coming fiscal year. We worked out some difficult compromises. There was actually a lot of joy here as we said goodbye to one another and headed for our respective States until after the election.

So on the heels of what was really a rather joyous afternoon comes a far more serious one, and that is the opportunity to say goodbye and to say thank you to a couple of Delawareans who were really true public servants who tragically lost their lives this past weekend in trying to save the lives of others—Chris Leach and Jerry Fickes. I am going to talk about Jerry, since Senator COONS has shared with us some wonderful words about Lieutenant Chris Leach.

On Saturday, Jerry Fickes, a 13-year veteran of the Wilmington Fire Department, rushed into a burning home along with his colleague, Chris and others, when a member of the team believed to be Chris became trapped in the blaze.

They were told, I understand from those who were present at the fire, that when the Wilmington Fire Department showed up, they were led to believe that there were people inside the house; the house was on fire, and they needed to be saved. Once inside the building, I think they went into the basement, but the floor above them apparently gave way, and their lives were lost in that fire.

Two other firefighters were critically burned, and, hopefully, they are going to live, but one was burned on 70 percent of her body. Our hopes and prayers are with her and with her fellow colleague who also received very serious burn damage.

Jerry Fickes was a husband, a father, a U.S. Army veteran, and a beloved member of Delaware's firefighter family. That is a strong family, as Senator COONS knows—a strong family and strong bond. We are very proud of them all.

He was born not in Delaware but in Evanston, IL, to his mom Jo Ann who sadly predeceased him, and to his father Jerry after whom Jerry Fickes, Jr., is named.

Jerry grew up in Illinois and later moved to Overland Park, KS, a suburb of Kansas City. Jerry's early life was full of innocent mischief and football games outside with his neighbors and his five brothers and sisters: Karen, Jeri, Kimberly, Steven, and David.

The neighborhood kids played together so much—constantly crossing through each other's yards, I am told, to get to different houses—that the neighbors were unsuccessful at keeping

shrubs along their proper line. It reminds me of growing up in Danville, VA.

When Jerry started his freshman year at Washburn University in Topeka, KS, his grades were less than stellar, but in reality Jerry was just bored. Once he joined the Army ROTC, things turned around. The Army ROTC gave him structure, and he became very driven and goal oriented. By the time he reached his junior year in college, during which he would meet his future wife Laura, while she was working the phone in their dorm's office, Jerry had it all together.

Jerry was a serious student, but he was also known to be a fun-loving guy. He graduated with a degree in computer science and mathematics but also had a lot of gym credits because he made being active a priority. His motto became "Mind, Body, Spirit: If you have all three, then you're sound."

College and the ROTC taught Jerry there is lot more to learning than just memorizing facts, and that is when everything started to click for Jerry. He took actuarial exams before graduating college and started his obligation to the Army with officer training in Fort Benning. He took a test and scored so well that the Army asked him what he would like to do. That doesn't happen every day. Jerry told them he wanted to join the infantry because he wanted to make a difference, and that is where we felt he could best do it.

I think that tells us a lot about the kind of man Jerry Fickes was.

His wife Laura recalls the first time she met Jerry—in a tiny office in his dorm building where she answered the phones. When people would call for him, everyone would say his name differently—Fix, Ficks—and Laura could never find his name in the directory until finally one day she met him in person. She asked him: How do you say your name? He just replied: You can say whatever you want to say, and walked away. Little did she or he know that someday she would take that name, just a few years later, as her own.

Once married, Jerry had the opportunity to become an actuary with Alico in Wilmington, DE, a company with which Senator COONS and I are well familiar, and the newlyweds with their hard-to-pronounce last name came to the East Coast. Jerry worked at Alico for a while and then later became a consultant for Ernst and Young in Philadelphia.

But something always nagged at Jerry. Jerry had the heart of a servant, and when the first gulf war came around, he knew he could use his training in chemical warfare to be an asset to the Army. He called his reserve unit in Kansas to be put on the activation list, but at the time, and much to his wife's relief, he was not called up.

But Jerry wanted to do more, so it didn't surprise Laura one bit when

Jerry decided to join the Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Company in Newark, DE, as a volunteer firefighter. For over a decade, he selflessly juggled his firefighting duties with a full-time career in financial services and a new family that would eventually include two young sons, Ben and Josh. It also didn't surprise Laura when, after 12 years of volunteering, Jerry could no longer ignore his true calling. He gave up his job at financial services to work full-time with the Wilmington fire company.

From day one, Jerry jumped at the chance to take every call that came in on his shift. Because of this, his fellow firefighters called Jerry a dynamo. Sometimes his determination to get the job done right would leave Jerry covered in melted roof shingles or draped in insulation from an attic, while everyone else's gear was nearly clean. Those mischievous days running around the neighborhood in Kansas weren't far off. Around the firehouse, Jerry was known, very much like Chris Leach, as a prolific prankster. His friends recall that he would often pull a prank and then sit back, watching and waiting as everyone tried to figure out who was responsible for this latest joke.

Jerry lived a full life, but perhaps no job was more important to him than helping to raise two sons, Ben and Josh. He was also interested in hearing about his sons and even about their friends, their interests, their goals, and their projects. He was the first to help them research a science project, chaperone big gatherings, or teach Sunday school at Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin.

Even though Jerry didn't care much for running, he knew how much his son Ben did. Jerry was so interested in his son's passion that Jerry did the first few triathlons with Ben, and this past May they both ran a marathon. Imagine that: son and father. And they were both getting excited to run the next race. In fact, just last week Jerry was thrilled to learn that his son had qualified for the Boston Marathon, a huge point of pride for him.

Ben, a Charter School of Wilmington graduate and now a freshman at Northeastern in Boston, and Josh, a junior at Charter, both learned from their dad what is really important in life; that is, to serve others. To shake adults' hands and look them right in the eye, to give up your seat on the subway or the bus or the train for somebody else. That is the way Jerry lived his life, and that is what he passed down to his children.

Jerry was a true public servant. He devoted his entire adult life to others. He was also a man of deep faith. His service, and ultimately his sacrifice, reminds me—and I know Senator COONS—of a passage from the Book of John: "Greater love hath no man than

this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

While no words can ease the suffering of Jerry's family, we seek solace in the memory of a life lived for others and a life given to others by a brave and selfless man.

I pray and will continue to pray for Jerry's wife of 26 years, Laura; their two sons, Ben and Josh; Jerry's dad, Jerry, Sr.; his brothers, Steven and David; his sisters, Karen, Jeri, and Kimberly; and many, many nieces and nephews and his brothers and sisters in the Wilmington fire service.

Words can never express the pride we have in our hearts for our firefighters in Delaware, the City of Wilmington, and throughout our State. How grateful we are for their sacrifice and for that of their families because the work they do every day and the work Jerry did and really gave up his life for is unlike any other. From the moment he and his fellow firefighters put on that uniform every morning, they answered a call that they knew could put their lives at risk in just a moment.

I am reminded of the words of the firefighters' prayer that goes something like this: "When I am called to duty, God, wherever flames may race, give me the strength to save some life, whatever be its age . . . and if, according to our fate, I have to lose my life, please bless with Your protecting hand my children and my wife."

The prayer embodies the selflessness that Jerry Fickes displayed every single day. He took an oath to serve, knowing that one day he might not come home but feeling even more strongly that he had to help others. Now it is my hope that our community of Delaware can be a part of protecting him and looking after Jerry's family, his wife, and children, helping to comfort them in their time of need and looking out for them in the days to come.

To all of Delaware's firefighters who are in mourning, who continue to put on their gear every day to go to work to protect our communities, we salute you. We say thank you. And thank you for your unwavering commitment to lives lived in service to others. You are an inspiration to us all. So was Jerry.

God bless each and every one of you, and may God bless Jerry Fickes.

I yield the floor.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER.

Before we conclude, let us share our deepest gratitude to Ardythe Hope and to Brad Speakman, two Wilmington firefighters who were also badly injured in Saturday's fire. They are still in the hospital, Chester Crozer, recovering, and we pray for a speedy recovery.

We are thankful as well for the safety of John Cawthray and Peter Cramer and Terrance Tate, firefighters who were also injured in the fire and for all of their colleagues.

For Delaware's first responder community, in some ways, tomorrow will be like any other. Our firefighters, our police officers, our EMTs and paramedics will be on call, keeping us safe and secure, and we, the rest of us in our community and State and country, will go on about our lives, many folks really not thinking about them until the moment we need them. But no matter what we are doing and what we are thinking, when their shift starts, they will be on it. They will be on duty ready to run without hesitation, even into situations that would cause the rest of us to run in the opposite direction.

As Christiana Fire Chief Rich Perillo said this past Sunday, "the only thing we ever signed up to do is to protect our neighbors and neighborhoods, and that we will continue to do no matter what comes our way."

We are both so grateful for the dedication, the service, and the love shown by the Delaware fire service to protect neighbors. In that sense, today and tomorrow and the days after will be like any other in that we can continue to rely on our first responders, and we are grateful for that. But in so many other ways—in the ways that truly matter—it just will not be the same.

For Chris's and Jerry's families and friends, for their brothers and sisters at the firehouse, for all the members of our first responder community, and for all the Delawareans who had a chance to work or serve with them and to be protected by them, things will not be the same. That is why we pray for their families. We pray that tomorrow will be just a little easier for them than today and that the next day a little easier than tomorrow, and so on, until the pain is eventually matched by the joy that comes from remembering someone you love and by the gratefulness we all feel for having had the privilege to know someone special.

One of life's unsung joys is the look in a child's face in the presence of one of their heroes. Have you ever seen a young child as a fire truck goes by? Their eyes are wide with amazement. The station door rises, sirens wale, the lights flash, and the bright red truck goes by with an American flag waving off the back. As adults, we notice it. We take notice. We wonder what might have happened, and we go back to our day. Even though a child doesn't know where the truck is going, they know that is what a hero looks like.

As a father, I look at firefighters like Chris and Jerry with the same sense of awe that young children do, not just because of their uniforms or the sirens or the truck but because of their deep and lifelong commitment to do a dangerous job.

They loved their children and their families. They have been there for their friends and neighbors. They have served their communities and their

brothers and sisters and firehouse tirelessly, all while risking their lives every day, leaving for a shift not knowing if they would come home that night or the next morning. That is what a hero looks like.

This week and the weeks to come, I know Senator CARPER and I and our whole community will remember, mourn, pray for, and be grateful for Chris and Jerry. Like a child watching an engine rush by, we will see their lives fly by in our memories and our tributes knowing they went by too quickly, leaving us before we can truly appreciate where they are going or why. But amidst so much we cannot know, we can take solace in knowing that they are going there for a reason far bigger than any one of us.

And as we watch their lives pass by in our memories, we can say to ourselves what the child says when he sees a fire truck go by: That is what a hero looks like.

Let me leave you with the same passage from Scripture shared by Senator CARPER from John 15. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Thank you, Chris and Jerry, for your sacrifice, your service, your love, and for laying down your lives for all of us.

I thank Senator CARPER for joining me tonight.

Mr. CARPER. I thank Senator COONS for those beautiful, heartfelt words.

A few years ago, the Senator who would have joined me and who would have joined Bill Roth before me would have been JOE BIDEN, who served here for six terms. He was someone who loved the fire service in Delaware and is still beloved by them.

I have heard JOE say a number of times—and I know Senator COONS has as well—these words when talking to people who had a serious loss in their life. He would say something such as this: May soon come the day when the memory of the one you have loved and lost brings a smile to your face before it brings a tear to your eye.

That would be my prayer for these families, the Leach family and the Fickes family.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

JANE MARIE DOGGETT, OF MONTANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A

TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE CATHY M. DAVIDSON, TERM EXPIRED.

DIANE SUZETTE HARRIS, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE PAULA BARKER DUFFY, TERM EXPIRED.

VIRGINIA JOHNSON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, VICE AARON PAUL DWORKIN, TERM EXPIRED.

SYLVIA OROZCO, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022, VICE PAUL W. HODES, TERM EXPIRED.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

WILFREDO MARTINEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GLENN FINE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VICE JON T. RYMER, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

BRENT FRANKLIN NELSEN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JEFFREY DELAURENTIS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN E. HASTINGS

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. DIXON R. SMITH

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 28, 2016:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. KENNETH P. EKMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JON T. THOMAS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. ALFRED F. ABRAMSON III
COL. PETER B. ANDRYSIAK, JR.
COL. ROBERT W. BENNETT, JR.
COL. JONATHAN P. BRAGA
COL. JOHN W. BRENNAN, JR.
COL. DAVID E. BRIGHAM
COL. MIGUEL A. CORREA
COL. CLEMENT S. COWARD, JR.
COL. PATRICK J. DONAHUE
COL. CHRISTOPHER T. DONAHUE
COL. ROBERT L. EDMONSON II
COL. SCOTT L. EFFLANDT
COL. DAVID J. FRANCIS
COL. PAUL H. FREDENBURGH
COL. DAVID M. HAMILTON
COL. NEIL S. HERSEY
COL. LONNIE G. HIBBARD
COL. JOHNNIE L. JOHNSON, JR.
COL. OMAR J. JONES IV
COL. MARK H. LANDES
COL. DAVID A. LESPERANCE
COL. STEPHEN J. MARANIAN
COL. DOUGLAS M. MCBRIDE, JR.
COL. MATTHEW W. MCFARLANE

COL. STEPHEN L. MICHAEL
COL. CHRISTOPHER O. MOHAN
COL. LAURA A. POTTER
COL. ANTHONY W. POTTS
COL. ROBERT A. RASCH, JR.
COL. KENNETH T. ROYAR
COL. DOUGLAS A. SIMS II
COL. STEPHEN G. SMITH
COL. JOHN C. ULRICH
COL. ROBERT F. WHITTLE, JR.
COL. DAVID WILSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

GEN. JOHN E. HYTEN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. CHRISTOPHER W. GRADY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN F. THOMPSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. ROBERT D. MCMURRY, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. REYNOLD N. HOOVER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RENA BITTER, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.

SUNG Y. KIM, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-

COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

ANDREW ROBERT YOUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BURKINA FASO.

W. STUART SYMINGTON, OF MISSOURI, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

JOSEPH R. DONOVAN JR., OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA.

UNITED NATIONS

CHRISTOPHER COONS, OF DELAWARE, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

RONALD H. JOHNSON, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF SCOTT E. WILLIAMS, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN D. CINNAMON, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ALFRED G. TRAYLOR II, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARK C. ANARUMO, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF STEVEN C. M. HASSTEDT, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF KARL E. NELL, TO BE COLONEL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF TODD D. WOLFORD, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF LANCE L. JELKS, TO BE MAJOR.
ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW A. LEVINE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DANIEL J. DONOVAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF DONNA A. MCDERMOTT, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF THOMAS M. HEARTY, TO BE COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JORDAN M. ADLER AND ENDING WITH RICHARD C. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN A. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH TIMBERON C. VANZANT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER D. AYALA AND ENDING WITH ANDREW S. WEST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANCIS B. CARNABY AND ENDING WITH REBECCA I. SUMMERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENJAMIN R. ADDISON AND ENDING WITH RUSSELL P. WOLFKIEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA C. ALCAZAR AND ENDING WITH JUI I. YANG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SILAS O. CARPENTER AND ENDING WITH CHRISTOPHER E. WELLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GALO A. CAVALCANTI AND ENDING WITH AUDRA M. VANCE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER T. ABPLANALP AND ENDING WITH RYAN E. ZYVITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEVEN M. ARBOGAST AND ENDING WITH JOSEPH M. STARK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DORIAN R. ACKER AND ENDING WITH JASON YORK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. AMMENDOLA AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL B. ZIMET, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DIANA ISABEL ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH ELISA JOELLE ZOGBI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 13, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNISA PAREDES AND ENDING WITH JAMORAL TWINE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JULY 13, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JORGE A. ABUDEI AND ENDING WITH DEBORAH KAY JONES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN ROBERT ADAMS AND ENDING WITH DAVID M. ZWICK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2016.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, September 28, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ARNOLD PALMER: THE KING OF GOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this week, we lost the greatest golfer ever, the man who brought the sport to the masses, a name synonymous with competition, the king, the legend: Mr. Arnold Palmer.

Arnie was a favorite son and native of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a city where roads, an airport, a drink, a hospital, and so much more are named after him. Latrobe is also the home of Mr. Rogers, the banana split, and summer home to the Pittsburgh Steelers; but Arnold clearly is their favorite. And with good reason.

Some athletes play to make a name for themselves, but Arnie did it to build up the sport. And build it up he did. He made the sport of golf a game for the common man. It is no wonder he was followed by Arnie's Army through the world.

Some athletes won't give autographs unless you pay them, or they will walk by, unmoved when a child asks for one;

but Arnie never refused. He signed his name millions of times, never refusing anyone in his entire lifetime.

I saw him just last month, surrounded by his usual stack of letters, pictures, and paraphernalia piled next to his desk, waiting to be signed by him. He signed every single one with that perfect and unmistakable signature and not with a generic scribble so you have no idea whose name it was. Arnie made sure he made his name legible.

Later in life, he stopped signing golf balls not because he did not want to, but, rather, he thought it was important that whoever he was signing for could read his name clearly.

Some athletes are famous for their family problems, but Arnie was a quiet, dedicated, and loving family man. He loved Winnie and Kit, and their children and grandchildren.

And while some sport players refuse to stand during our national anthem, as a proud veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, Arnie would tear up at the sound of the Star-Spangled Banner with admiration, pride, and love for his Nation. He worked hard to get where he was. It was not handed to him.

Once in the spotlight, some celebrities forget their roots, but Arnie never did. He was proud of his humble beginnings. He helped his father, Deacon Palmer, who worked as a greenskeeper for Latrobe Country Club, by mowing lawns and driving tractors. Arnie was never afraid of getting his hands dirty. In fact, he continued this work all the way up, even selling paint just before he turned pro.

Some feel no sense of loyalty to their team or sport, enamored by their own fame and the big paycheck, but Arnie was fiercely loyal. A contract was a handshake. Your word was a contract based on that handshake, not a piece of paper. His lifetime relationship with his manager was set with that handshake, and Arnie never wavered from it.

Playing golf with Arnie is an unforgettable experience not just as a pro, but for those of us lucky enough to play a round. He made you feel like it was the best part of his day. He never failed to give you his gentle smile or words of encouragement. Even when he teased you in a good-natured way, you cherished every word he said. He made the game fun to play no matter how well or how bad you were playing.

A few years ago, Jim Leland, the legendary manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates and Detroit Tigers, was playing

with Arnie during an all-star break. On what Leland describes as "the greatest day of my life," the two played at Laurel Valley.

After shooting a respectable 41 on the front nine, Jim's game began to fade away on the back nine. Perhaps he hooked or sliced a few, and perhaps he let out a few colorful words in exasperation. But Arnie sensed Jim's game was unraveling and walked over to offer him the best golf advice ever.

I imagine if any of us have had the opportunity to get a golf lesson from the king, we would feel in that moment that the wind would stop, the clouds would part, perhaps a shaft of light would stream down from the sun, the trees might even lean in a little to listen. But in that moment, Arnie put his arm around Jim and said: "Enjoy the day. You're not good enough to get mad."

That is the best golf advice ever. Not just great golf advice, it is great advice for life. Enjoy the days God gives you. Don't waste them on being angry.

And maybe that is one of the reasons we will miss this man. He had a way of telling tens of millions to believe in yourself, to respect others, to face challenges, to demonstrate courage and respect, and to always show dignity in defeat and restraint in victory.

Arnie claimed he did so well not just because he wanted to win, but because he hated to lose. And so it is today with us. We hate to lose you, Arnie. You made us feel we could all be better and that loving the game was the best of all.

We will miss you.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN SAM FARR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night, several hundred people gathered to wish SAM FARR farewell to his congressional career, celebrating a half century of public service.

SAM started in the Peace Corps, volunteering in Colombia in the sixties. He was active as a local government official, and in the California State legislature and finally 23 years in Congress.

He came by his calling honestly. He was born on the Fourth of July.

Son of Fred Farr, a State senator and a Johnson administration official, SAM has been dedicated to the widest range of issues of anybody I have worked

with in my years in Congress. He has worked on issues of livable communities, transportation, land use planning, and healthy agriculture. He took very seriously the fact that he represented California's "salad bowl." He has been a leader in marijuana reform, with the famous Farr-Rohrabacher amendment slapping the Federal Government's hands back from interfering with medical marijuana.

You know, there is a movie from 1983 with Woody Allen. In "Zelig," this kind of nebbish chameleon-like person showed up everywhere in all of these important events in the twenties and thirties. Well, SAM has sort of that characterization. Although, unlike a nebbish or chameleon, SAM was bold, he was infectious, he was warm, but he was everywhere in the course of the last 20 years.

Just this last year alone, we saw the unprecedented oceans protections that were implemented by the Obama administration. SAM FARR's fingerprints are all over that act, working for 20 years on oceans protections as the major oceans advocate in Congress.

SAM was in Cuba with President Obama as we opened up relations with that island after a half century of isolation. He has been on the right side of that issue from the beginning. Luckily, he was able to be there.

He has been honored by the nation of Colombia, where he served as a Peace Corps volunteer. Last weekend, SAM was there with Secretary Kerry, celebrating the peace accords that brought an end to that tortuous conflict.

You know, people complain about Congress being too partisan, too gridlocked. It is true. But for 23 years, SAM FARR has shown that no matter who is in charge or how bad it gets, a smart person with a big heart, a great staff, persistence, and passion can make amazing things happen. He has given many gifts to his constituents and to the Nation, but one gift may be overarching, if people here take seriously, is his example of how to be a Congressman.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OVERTIME RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Some Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

This bipartisan legislation offers a responsible solution to the U.S. Department of Labor's overtime rule that would jeopardize the ability for small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges to maintain current operations and good-paying career jobs.

H.R. 6094, which I have cosponsored, would require a 6-month delay in the

effective date of the DOL overtime rule. No, this isn't the outright repeal of the overtime rule that I, along with many others, have called for, but it is a practical step towards helping those organizations take steps to mitigate the impact of this regulation.

Without passage of H.R. 6094, the overtime rule will take effect in 2 months. This is simply not enough time to allow affected employers and employees an opportunity to adjust and prepare for the adverse economic consequences.

Over 10 million workers, including many in my home State of Pennsylvania, will be impacted. Companies will be forced to shift employees from salary to hourly pay, nonprofits will have to cut back on critical services, employees may lose the opportunity to work remotely, while seeing fewer opportunities for career development.

Our employers need fewer administrative costs and compliance burdens, not more. Employees deserve flexibility and autonomy and the opportunity to build successful careers. However, these regulations, no matter how well intended, would drain our economy and hurt the very people they are attempting to help.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6094.

DON'T PUNISH TAXPAYERS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 954, the CO-OP Consumer Protection Act, which would provide temporary relief from ObamaCare's individual mandate for Americans directly impacted by failed ObamaCare CO-OPs.

At the outset of this law, 23 CO-OPs provided insurance options for enrollees in 25 States. However, nearly 2 years later, we have learned that a majority—17 of them—have failed. The reason for the failure has been painfully obvious. The ACA manipulated insurance markets and created CO-OPs as a means to establish government-managed competition.

The cost of this ill-fated attempt at market manipulation has been borne by the American public. Over \$1 billion of hard-earned taxpayer dollars were sunk into failed CO-OPs. Worse, for American consumers who enrolled in a failed CO-OP, they did not just lose their health coverage, but due to another glitch in the law, these individuals may be forced to pay the IRS a tax penalty for failing to have adequate health coverage under the individual mandate.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals should not be penalized for the failings of the law. That is why I rise to explain my support of H.R. 954. This is a common-sense solution to provide temporary relief to those individuals affected by the failed CO-OPs.

This legislation states simply that if you lose your health coverage midterm due to a failed CO-OP, then you should

not be forced to pay a 2016 tax penalty for lacking health coverage. Put simply, to allow this law to harm those individuals who lost their health coverage at no fault of their own is unacceptable.

I thank my colleagues for their action on this bill.

SUPPORTING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA for short. I supported this legislation in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in May, as it would authorize infrastructure projects important to my district, Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District, as well as across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and, indeed, across the country.

If passed, WRDA would include a review of projects to enhance ecosystem restoration and water supply along the Delaware River Basin, including at the Blue Marsh Lake. Locks and dams in Pennsylvania would also be eligible for reconstruction. Finally, WRDA would authorize an expedited study for a navigation project along the upper Ohio River in Pennsylvania.

Projects included in WRDA support jobs and keep businesses and homes protected by providing critical oversight of our water infrastructure so that our country remains safe, productive, and competitive.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the Hyde amendment, which, for too long, has been denying women their constitutional right to access safe and legal abortion.

Mr. Speaker, restrictions on abortion do not make it go away. They make it less safe. For the last 40 years, the Hyde amendment has created an often insurmountable barrier for women across the country struggling to access affordable health care because it prohibits Medicaid coverage for abortion.

It disproportionately affects low-income women: young women, immigrant women, women of color, women in rural communities. In fact, more than half the women who have their rights restricted by the Hyde amendment are women of color.

It is long past time to do away with this harmful provision, which has been expanded over the years to deny coverage to Federal employees and their dependents, our military servicemembers, Native Americans, and even Peace Corps volunteers.

□ 1015

Restricting Medicaid coverage of abortion means that about one in four

low-income women carry to term an unwanted pregnancy. That is not a decision the government should make for women. There are many things that Congress should be doing, but one thing we should not be doing is interfering with a woman's constitutional right.

So what should we be doing? We should be supporting policies that prevent unwanted pregnancies, like funding Planned Parenthood; and we should also pass the EACH Woman Act to lift the coverage ban that stands in the way of too many women who have the right to make their own decisions about what is best for them and their families.

Two generations of women have been affected by the Hyde amendment over the last four decades. Let's end this policy and let each woman be able to do what is best for herself and her family.

HONORING SPECIALIST JONATHAN R. KEPHART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over this past weekend people in Oil City, Venango County, located in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, joined to honor an American hero.

On April 8, 2004, Specialist Jonathan Kephart was killed in Iraq after his convoy patrol was ambushed outside of Baghdad. Kephart was credited with protecting his fellow soldiers by laying down fire against hundreds of enemy fighters, even after being wounded twice. He was the first soldier from Venango County killed in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Last Saturday, the Petroleum Street Bridge in Oil City was named after Specialist Kephart, and September 24 was declared Jonathan R. Kephart Memorial Day in Oil City.

I want to commend the efforts of everyone who worked to make this a reality, including State Representative Lee James, who authored and led the effort to pass the bill that made this distinction possible, earning unanimous approval in the Pennsylvania State House and Senate.

It is my hope that, because of this memorial to Specialist Kephart, his bravery and his sacrifice will live on in the hearts and the minds of the people in Oil City and Venango County for generations to come.

PROMESA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, there is an important meeting in the Finan-

cial District of New York City, right in the heart of stock traders, the investment banks, and the bond buyers and sellers who trade in the debt of companies, countries, and municipalities. Right there in the nerve center of our financial market, they are holding a meeting.

Is it a meeting about Wells Fargo opening up thousands of accounts without the knowledge or consent of their customers? No, nothing like that. Nor anything related to the financial meltdown that our country is still recovering from that started right there. Nope.

This is the first meeting of the Puerto Rico financial control board, the junta de control, that has supreme power to rule over Puerto Rico.

Now, in case there is any confusion with the geography, New York City has a lot of Puerto Ricans, but it is not, in fact, the capital of Puerto Rico. My staff checked. San Juan is still the capital of Puerto Rico.

No, the meeting of the junta de control that has dominion over all aspects of the Puerto Rican people is not meeting in Puerto Rico. The meeting is taking place pretty close to Wall Street, which, I think, is symbolic of the way the junta de control over Puerto Rico came about.

It is a very bad omen for the future. Let me explain.

There are seven people—not elected, but appointed—who oversee every aspect of Puerto Rico's governance. Four are Republican nominees, there are three Democrats, and there is one non-voting member of the junta.

Several of the members of the Puerto Rico junta de control appear to have deep ties to Wall Street, where you can find many of the bondholders who traded and profited off Puerto Rico's \$72 billion in debt.

Judge Juan R. Torruella, the first Hispanic appointed by Ronald Reagan to the prestigious U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals summed it up pretty well. He said to the Colegio de Abogados, the Puerto Rican Bar Association, that: "The principal purpose of PROMESA is to establish a collection agency for bondholders."

The person who is rumored to be the executive director of the junta de control is a big-time corporate energy lobbyist. He is the former head of the Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, a trade association of energy producers, which makes everyone concerned about Puerto Rico's environment nervous—with good reason.

So holding the first meeting in Lower Manhattan confirms to Puerto Ricans that the junta de control is by, for, and about the bondholders and corporate interests on Wall Street. So I consider the junta meeting on Friday as a home-court game.

The board will elect their chairman on Friday. Yeah, they are going to

elect a chairman. Kind of ironic because they are electing the chairman to an unelected board because, well, democracy is good for some people—just not the people of Puerto Rico.

We have been told that members of the control board met secretly in Washington last week at the Treasury offices. Whether this is actually the first meeting of the control board is in great doubt.

And all of this raises the bigger problem of transparency. There isn't any. Under the law, this group can meet in secret anywhere in the world, and their proceedings can be conducted in executive session.

The board members can receive unlimited and unreported gifts, meals, even tickets to Hamilton and anything else, and we will never know. The scandal is coming. They are under no obligation to translate anything into Spanish, which, in case you forgot, is the language of the people that they are to control.

I will say, to their credit, that, after I wrote to each member of the control board and asked for a public commitment to transparency, a few of them wrote back. None of them made a public commitment to transparency, but a few acknowledged that keeping Puerto Ricans informed, making the meetings publicly accessible, and translating materials in the language of the people being governed were good principles.

It remains to be seen whether anyone on the junta de control really fights to inform the people of Puerto Rico, really sets up to be a champion for the schoolteachers and the doctors and the moms and the dads who are struggling, and the firemen, and the policemen who serve the people of Puerto Rico and are heroes.

And it is unclear that this control board will step up on behalf of the Puerto Rican people and make creating jobs, creating more jobs and creating more jobs the number one priority of the junta. That is the way we create a tax base for Puerto Rico. That is the way we give puertoriquenos a viable option to live and work in Puerto Rico rather than moving to Florida or some other State.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we leave Washington this week and head home for the great exercise in American democracy in November, I want all of us to keep in mind that the island of Puerto Rico, our colony in the Caribbean Sea, is a place that now, more than ever, only dreams of true democracy.

COMMENDING EDEN DETENTION CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with concerns about a recently issued memo from the Department of

Justice to the Acting Director of the Bureau of Prisons directing the non-renewal or reduction of contracts with private detention facilities. I strongly disagree with this policy change, as private prisons play a critical role in our current Federal Bureau of Prisons system.

One facility in particular, the Eden Detention Center, located in Texas' 11th District, is an excellent example of a private prison operating in an efficient, effective, secure, and safe manner for both the community and those incarcerated.

Let me take a moment to brag about these constituents.

The American Correctional Association has awarded the Eden Detention facility a 100 percent score on their mandatory requirements, and a 99.08 percent score on nonmandatory requirements. These are undoubtedly phenomenal rankings by any measure, and the Eden facility meets these high standards at considerably lower costs than similar Federal facilities.

Eden is more than a detention facility; it is a rehabilitation center. The Bureau of Prisons has long placed significance on rehabilitating those incarcerated, directing facilities to invest in the lives of their inmates. The goal—to turn individuals from a life of crime to contributing members of society—is at the center of the Eden facility's mission.

It is this responsibility for one's fellow man that the people of Eden understand and put into practice daily, providing inmates with extensive training, educational services, and recreation, all for the purpose of improving life after incarceration.

The Eden facility has partnered with many civic and charitable organizations in the surrounding community to support this goal. As a result, the center is able to provide many vocational, computer, and life skills training opportunities, as well as educational opportunities for basic adult education, English language training, GED, a full library, a law library, and much more.

The Bureau of Prisons takes extreme pride—and rightfully so—in a strong value system that includes, but is not limited to, respect, integrity, service, safety for all parties, successful rehabilitation, and exceptional staff and operations. I am proud to report that Eden and the greater community not only meet these core values, but they share them as well.

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Americans everywhere are tired of reading headlines about mass shootings. What happened in Orlando in

June broke all our hearts, and we have felt similar outrage about the shooting in Houston this week. But while incidents like this command headlines, we forget just how frequent shootings have become.

In New York City, already this year, there have been 897 shooting victims. According to Gun Violence Archive, which tracks shootings daily across the United States, there have been 10,717 gun-related deaths this year and more than 22,000 injuries, and it is only September.

There are steps this Congress could take to help stem this violence. Will any one solution stop gun violence completely? Of course not. There are anywhere from 270 million to 310 million guns in the United States, close to one firearm for every man, woman and child. So we will not solve this problem overnight. But there are some steps we could take, steps that Republicans continue blocking.

First, it makes no sense that if you cannot legally get on an airplane, you can still purchase a firearm. If you are prohibited from flying, you shouldn't be buying a gun. That is just common sense.

Now, some on the other side of the aisle like to drag up an incident or two where someone was incorrectly placed on the no-fly list. If that is the case, I will say, let's also fix the no-fly list. But we cannot use this as an excuse to do nothing. That is what the NRA and the gun manufacturing lobby want Congress to do—nothing.

Second, for 10 years, this Nation used to have an assault weapon ban. President Bush let that law expire. We need to reinstate it.

Third, we need a universal system of background checks, something that 87 percent of the American public supports.

Mr. Speaker, there are other, tougher steps I would like to see implemented. I have legislation that will invest in community organizations that combat gun violence. My bill will also help stop the flow of stolen guns into New York City and hold accountable gun owners who lose their guns and irresponsibly do not report them missing.

For now, there are three basic steps we should take immediately to help reduce this epidemic. Yet Republicans can barely fund the government, let alone take on difficult problems like these.

Let me make one last observation, Mr. Speaker. The American people are watching on this issue. If Republicans are in such a hurry to get back to your districts, I promise, you will hear from your constituents on this issue.

We are all tired of tragedies like Orlando and what happened in Houston this week, and we are also outraged by the daily shootings that do not make national news but still shatter families.

The American people are watching. They are telling the Republican leadership: "Do your job. Do your job with funding to address Zika. Do your job with money for Flint. And do your job to address the tragedy of gun violence."

ICANN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, it was recently revealed that 500 million Yahoo email accounts were hacked in 2014, making it the largest data breach in U.S. history. Even more troubling is the fact that the perpetrators have been reported to be state-sponsored actors, with China and Russia among the likely suspects.

Yet, in the face of such vulnerabilities, President Obama wants to give the Chinese and Russian Governments more control over how the Internet operates. The President has even promised to shut down the Federal Government budget so that he can meet his goal of giving away a portion of America's control over the Internet to these foreign governments by October 1, 2016.

□ 1030

Rushing headlong to meet an arbitrary date to hand over our Internet control is incredibly foolish. In fact, it is stupid. No one rewards a criminal for their criminal acts, but that is exactly what the President's policy does.

Sadly, it is yet another example of how this administration has sacrificed U.S. leadership and values across the world to advance a reckless agenda. The policies from this administration have only led to America losing standing and influence across the globe on a wide range of fronts—and it must end.

Our adversaries have become bolder, taking advantage of the vacuum of leadership created by the pulling back of U.S. leadership. The forces of extremism, violence, totalitarianism, and criminal enterprises have filled the void, and the American people are suffering as a result.

The disastrous nuclear deal with Iran is a very good example. It has not only failed to curtail the Iranian regime's plans to develop nuclear weapons, it has also resulted in a ransom payment of \$1.7 billion for four Americans who were being held illegally by Iran.

This display of weakness has only emboldened the largest state sponsor of international terrorism. It has provided Iran with over \$1 billion to fund terrorism, enhance its illegal ballistic missile development programs, and ramp up its aggression against U.S. military forces.

President Reagan warned us: "Weakness, after all, is a temptation—it tempts the pugnacious to assert themselves—but strength is a declaration

that cannot be misunderstood. Strength is a condition that declares actions have consequences. Strength is a prudent warning to the belligerent that aggression need not go unanswered."

Whenever this administration pulls back, the belligerent have happily stepped in to fill the void. That is why we must reject this latest effort to relinquish U.S. leadership over the Internet.

The excessive hacking encouraged by the Governments of Russia, China, and others should not be rewarded. We must stand up to these dangerous actors and put the safety, security, and interests of the United States first. Simply put, Russia and China cannot be trusted with a larger role in the operation of the Internet. We have a duty to block the President's foolish and reckless Internet giveaway before it goes into effect October 1, 2016.

It will further cede more control to our adversaries and weaken America's influence on the international stage. Stopping this giveaway must be included in this year's spending bill. It is absolutely critical that Congress takes action.

SAN JACINTO RIVER WASTE PITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker and Members, I rise to announce that later today the Environmental Protection Agency will issue its final plan to clean up the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, a Superfund site in eastern Harris County, Texas.

The communities of eastern Harris County, especially Channelview and Highlands, have fought for a decade to ensure that toxic waste that was dumped alongside the San Jacinto River 50 years ago will be fully removed and permanently protect our children and our children's children from the dangers found at the site.

I thank the EPA and Region 6 for its hard work and diligence on this very important issue for our community. I would also like to thank the community members and local officials who have fought to clean up the site and ensure our community is made whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to EPA's announcement today.

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituents to express my outrage about the White House's ransom payment to Iran.

On January 17, 2016, the Obama administration announced that it would give the Islamic Republic of Iran a

total of \$1.7 billion to settle a 1979 arms deal. However, they failed to announce that, the day before, the administration had delivered an advance payment in cash of \$400 million in unmarked bills to Iran in exchange for four American hostages. In fact, the American people did not learn that the White House had made this secret ransom payment at all until this past August.

The Obama administration's decision to violate our Nation's own historic policy against ransom payments has established a frightening precedent for the future. The President's willingness to bend to Iran's demands and use unmarked bills demonstrates to the world a fundamental weakness that emboldens our enemies while ceding to the demands of state sponsors of terrorism.

American soldiers, diplomats, and citizens living and traveling abroad are less safe this year than they were last year. And global beliefs and perceptions of American leadership and intentions—among our allies and, more disastrously, among the bad actors in the world—have been forever altered.

Indeed, Iran is already celebrating its leverage over the United States. One commander of an Iranian Revolutionary Guard militia exulted that "taking this much money back was in return for the release of the American spies."

Since the January ransom payment, Iran has, unsurprisingly, arrested additional Americans. The American people deserve answers about why the President felt it was acceptable to give nearly \$2 billion to radical extremists supporting terrorism across the Middle East and beyond.

That is why this month I interrogated officials at a Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations hearing. My colleagues and I questioned the timing of the secret payment, the White House's insidious and foolish decision to use unmarked bills, and implications on terrorism in the region. But the administration refused to answer my simple questions that would give Americans the answers they deserve. Instead, officials said they could only share information behind closed doors.

I took them up on that offer, and I and my colleagues had that 2-hour-long, closed-door, classified meeting. After that briefing, I am now more certain than ever, Mr. Speaker, that the Obama administration paid an irresponsible and dangerous ransom to Iran. Why is the Obama administration so desperate to cover up the details of its ransom payment from the American people?

The White House has made a reckless national security decision to bend entirely to the demands of Iran without assurances that Iran would not use this money for its military.

Keep in mind that the Iranian military blatantly funds Hezbollah and

other terrorist organizations. Shockingly, the administration told me publicly that, even if they had received assurances from Iran, they wouldn't have trusted the country to keep its promises.

Why, then, would we have given \$400 million in unmarked bills to the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism? Why would the Obama administration accommodate and fund a foreign military that funds terrorism around the world?

Why didn't the White House write legally binding restrictions on the use of the money into the settlement agreement? Why did we agree to the settlement with a state sponsor of terrorism in the first place?

The entire \$1.7 billion was reportedly transferred to the Iranian military to fund a 90 percent increase in Iran's military budget. This is public information, and the Obama administration dismissively pretends that no one can use the Internet.

The Obama administration's gift to the Iranian military is a disgrace to America's allies in the Middle East, especially to Israel. It is a degradation of America's counterterrorism efforts and geopolitical leadership. It is a failure to protect Americans abroad and the new prisoners who have been detained in Iran.

As a member of this free Nation's assembly of the people, I will hold our President accountable for his deception and negligence and will work to reverse this dangerous precedent that this administration has made for the future of our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to engage in personalities toward the President.

MACADAMIA TREE HEALTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, when most people think of Hawaii, my home State, they immediately think of our beautiful beaches, mountains, vistas, and wonderful people and culture, and they dream about when they might come and visit our home State. This contributes, no doubt, to our tourism industry being the major driver of our economy in Hawaii.

But, along with our beautiful year-round climate comes a great opportunity for our agriculture industry. In fact, most people are not aware that agriculture is the third largest industry in our State, accounting for over \$2.9 billion of our annual economy and at least 42,000 jobs, according to our State Department of Agriculture. So, like States all across the country, we are working within government and the private sector to diversify and strengthen our economy, specifically our agriculture sector.

However, one of the greatest threats that we are seeing in Hawaii and across the country to agriculture are invasive species. The macadamia felted coccid is one of more than 4,300 invasive species that threaten our agriculture industry. In Hawaii alone, the invasive species costs our local farmers, landowners, and ag industry millions of dollars every year and puts hundreds of our local small farms and thousands of local workers and the future of one of our most important crops at risk.

Just last month, I had the chance to visit multiple farms on Hawaii island in my district, an island that produces 80 percent of Hawaii's world-renowned macadamia nuts that are shipped and sold all around the world. I heard one story after another from our farmers about how this tiny, invasive insect is destroying farms and threatening livelihoods that really bring many of our communities together. At just one of these more than 620 macadamia growing farms in Hawaii, this insect destroyed 500,000 pounds of macadamia nuts in just 1 year.

Like most things, you can't fix a problem that you don't fully understand. Very little is known about this invasive pest—from its lifecycle to its seasonal pattern to its basic vulnerabilities—that directly impacts our ability to fight back. That is why I have introduced the macadamia tree health initiative today.

My bill would authorize much-needed research and development to combat the macadamia felted coccid and establish an area-wide integrated pest management plan in areas badly affected by this invasive pest. For years, these pest management plans have helped farmers across the country manage invasive pests in a sustainable, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective way.

My bill would build off this pattern of success by bringing together local stakeholders, researchers, and other key players as we search for comprehensive solutions to keep the macadamia felted coccid and other invasive species from destroying our local farms and this important part of our domestic agriculture industry.

In Hawaii, our macadamia nut industry employs thousands of people and is the economic lifeblood to many of our rural communities. Their jobs, their livelihood, and the vitality of our agriculture industry are at stake if we fail to act.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and empower our Nation's agriculture industry to fight back against these invasive harmful pests.

PERMANENT, FOREVER WARS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. WAGNER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I am now the only Republican remaining in Congress who voted against going to war in Iraq. For about 3 or 4 years, that was probably the most unpopular vote I ever cast. But slowly, slowly it became so that now probably it is the most popular vote I ever cast, because the American people do not want forever, permanent wars.

So, Madam Speaker, you can understand why I was very interested in two very recent columns that I read.

Adam Walinsky wrote in the September 21 Politico Magazine that he was a lifelong Democrat, former aid to John Kennedy, and former speechwriter for Robert Kennedy. He wrote, though, that he will be voting Republican in the Presidential race this year.

He said: "But today's Democrats have become the Party of War: a home for arms merchants, mercenaries, academic war planners, lobbyists for every foreign intervention, promoters of color revolutions, failed generals . . ."

□ 1045

He added that "Our first answer to trouble or opposition of any kind seems always to be a military movement or action."

He wrote that Secretary Clinton, unlike the Kennedy brothers, has not sought peace, but "instead she has pushed America into successive invasions, successive efforts at 'regime change.'"

Perhaps worst of all, according to Walinsky, "Her shadow War Cabinet brims with the architects of war and disaster for the past decades, the neocons who led us to our present pass, in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Yemen, in Ukraine, unrepentant of all past errors, ready to resume it all with fresh trillions and fresh blood."

Also, in yesterday's Washington Times, Jed Babbin, a former Deputy Secretary of Defense in the administration of the first George Bush, said the second George Bush made a terrible mistake allowing the neocons to lead him into nation building in the Middle East after he had spoken so strongly against such nation building when he was running for President. Secretary Babbin wrote that Islam is incompatible with democracy, and Iraq and Afghanistan—and I suppose these other countries where we are still sending troops—will go back the way they always have been when we leave, whether we stay 6 more months or 60 more years.

George Will wrote that the neocons were magnificently misnamed and really were the most radical people in Washington. These neocons have caused many thousands of young Americans to be killed or maimed for life. They should be ashamed, but they seem to have no shame.

The American people, Madam Speaker, I repeat, do not want permanent,

forever wars. They want to do whatever it takes to win wars, get them over with, and go back to days of peace and prosperity.

REMEMBERING BATTALION CHIEF MICHAEL FAHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, yesterday there was an explosion in my district and yesterday New York City lost one of its bravest: FDNY Battalion Chief Michael Fahy, a 17-year veteran of the department and a father of three. He was a resident of Yonkers, New York, in my district, and a constituent of mine as well.

Fahy was responding to a house fire when the building exploded, taking Battalion Chief Fahy's life and wounding nine others, including another firefighter, seven NYPD officers, and one electrical worker. Thanks to these brave first responders, nobody else was hurt.

Every New Yorker mourns this loss today. Battalion Chief Fahy was a second-generation firefighter. His family's example is a reminder of the courage and dedication that the FDNY exemplifies.

We honor Battalion Chief Fahy and his family for their service and their sacrifice. I want to send along my personal prayers, thoughts, and condolences to his wife, his children, and the rest of his family. He may be gone, but he will never be forgotten. Today and forever more, we will mourn his loss.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANCIS D. FAULCONER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a decorated World War II Army liaison, an accomplished radio and television broadcaster, and my beloved great uncle, retired Lieutenant Colonel Francis D. Faulconer.

Soon after graduating from Lafayette High School in Lexington, Kentucky, Frank Faulconer enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and was deployed to Europe in the Liaison G3 section of the first United States Army. In this capacity, he traveled with Combat Command A of the 3rd Army Spearhead Division from Meaux, France, to Rottgen, Germany.

He earned five Bronze Stars for his service in Normandy, northern France; Rhineland, Central Europe; and the Ardennes. He additionally was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for helping to escort the reserve elements of the Combat Command, at night, from the rear to the forward elements of the battle line.

In 1946, Faulconer enrolled at the University of Kentucky under the GI Bill and earned a degree in oratory. He got his first start in broadcasting after he accepted a part-time job at radio station WKLY, where he became the station's official announcer to broadcast the Big Bands from 1948 to 1949 from Joyland Dance Casino.

In 1950, Faulconer joined the Officers' Reserve Corps, where he eventually retired from the Army Reserve in 1974 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Faulconer continued his broadcasting career by joining the WKYT Channel 27 news team in Lexington, where he became the station's first weatherman. He later transferred to Channel 36, where his career soared as a TV and weather broadcaster until 1986. There, he developed a reputation for having a melodious baritone voice with a colorful and entertaining style in delivering the daily weather forecast.

Faulconer then became radio station WKQQ's first weatherman, where he became known as Fearless Frank Faulconer, and known for his Fearless Frank's Five Day Forecasts until he retired in 2001.

During Faulconer's long and illustrious career, he received various awards both nationally and locally for his unique approach to weather broadcasting.

This year, on his 93rd birthday, June 16 was declared Frank Faulconer Day by the city of Lexington, Kentucky, honoring his years of service on radio, television, and as a World War II veteran.

I am proud of Lieutenant Colonel Faulconer's service to this country and for the many years of weather broadcasting. He has truly helped keep millions of Americans safe both at home and abroad. We recognize his service to our country, this true patriot and inspiration to us all.

END SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first, I rise to acknowledge the brave Houstonians' law enforcement from many different jurisdictions who came to the aid of nine individuals who were shot randomly by a shooter in the last couple of days in Houston in a southwest shopping center, a place where many go for groceries, visit small businesses, and do their daily business, where many people are at work. Out of nowhere came a shooter whose home was ultimately investigated, where many items of military apparel and a load of guns were there to provide fear, I guess, in his decision to go on a shooting rampage after having a calm dinner with his family the night before.

This was an attorney, and our law enforcement are still investigating. My

appreciation to the work and the detailed work that they are doing, and as well my appreciation and applause for the resiliency of Houstonians who came to the aid of their neighbors. Then those who are recovering, I express my concern. But we will draw together and find a way to end this senseless violence and to begin to heal this Nation.

RUSSIA IS IMPACTING AND ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE THE FABRIC OF DEMOCRACY

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as well to make it very clear that we do not have to speculate as we begin to see unfolding the Russian hacking of a number of governmental entities and, yes, the Democratic National Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and many others.

There is no doubt that Russia is impacting and attempting to undermine the very fabric of democracy in this country. Now, I believe that we should engage with all nations the values of this Nation of democracy. The rights of freedom, a Declaration of Independence that guarantees unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are wonderful values, and we should not be afraid to engage with despotic regimes who disagree with us—Russia being one.

We should be alert and realize that, as we go into this election process, every well-informed citizen should be able to see something and say something. All of our law enforcement and intelligence community should be sensitive to the possible destruction and undermining of our democratic process.

Today it has been announced and determined that Russia did have something to do with the downing of that flight over Ukraine. How sad for those families and how hurting for the people of Ukraine to be able to know that they, as a sovereign nation, in a time that one would be advocating for peace and living harmoniously with their neighbors—that their very large neighbor, in addition to taking Crimea, would also be threatening their skies and their people. This is serious.

The electoral political system that we have come to depend upon requires us to be diligent without ceasing that every vote of every American is counted. However they vote, there should be no aftermath of a foreign entity having hacked into any process that would deny America her precious right to vote and the decision on those who will serve them and certainly the Presidency of the United States. Let no candidate be so close to the Russian apparatus that we do not follow the trail and investigate wherever it is necessary to ensure the sanctity of that process.

Let me also say that it is important, as this Congress begins to deal with the confusion of the continuing resolution, that it be noted that we have not ad-

dressed the question of gun violence, ending gun violence, closing the loophole that is so important in a background check that allows people to get guns because they get it without the background check being completed; or in the issue of terrorism, that those who are on the terrorist watch list have random access to buying guns.

Simple legislation that could be passed. I think it is crucial in America that we do so because the violence has many roots—housing, health care, poverty—but certainly it has the tool, and that is guns. That is automatic weapons like AK-47s and others more sophisticated.

America has a right to the Second Amendment, but the people of America have a right to safety and the prevention of gun violence in their community.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me also talk about Houston, Texas, and the tax day floods. It is important that the CR covers the floods of Houston and covers Baton Rouge, as well as the water crisis in Flint. Let us do what the American people ask us to come here for: to be an umbrella on a rainy day, helping people, coming to their aid, clean water in Flint, providing for the people in Greenspoint, the reimbursement of the city of Houston, and helping the people of Baton Rouge get on their feet. Let us help America as we should.

OBAMACARE IS FALLING APART

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this has been an interesting week for many of my constituents in Tennessee. Over 100,000 Tennesseans were forced—100,000 Tennesseans were forced off their healthcare plan. They did nothing wrong. It is not their fault.

What has happened is another of the Affordable Care Act's—or ObamaCare, as we call it—providers has said: Guess what. This is too expensive to offer a product.

And they have exited the marketplace.

Now, what we are seeing is exactly what we in Tennessee told you would happen with ObamaCare.

Why?

Because in Tennessee, we were the test case back in the midnineties for Hillary Clinton's grand healthcare experiment. HillaryCare became TennCare in Tennessee.

We knew that a product that was too expensive to afford was not going to be utilized and that eventually providers would drop out of the marketplace, eventually the networks would narrow, and eventually individuals would have a very difficult time accessing health care.

□ 1100

So, through no fault of their own, 100,000 Tennesseans who are in the Nashville, Memphis, and Knoxville areas are going to find that they have fewer choices in health care. They didn't get to keep the doctors whom they wanted or liked or had. They didn't get to keep the healthcare plans that they wanted or liked or had. Certainly, they were not saving \$2,500 per family on their health insurance. Quite the opposite has happened.

What we have before us now are thousands of Tennesseans who are going to have to scramble to find health insurance because a product isn't offered. The costs continue to go up. The choices have begun to be eliminated and narrowed. The networks—the physicians you can go to for care—are fewer in number. The hospitals that you have the ability to go into to seek that care are fewer in number.

Why is that?

It is because the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare, as we call it, is too expensive to afford, too expensive to have, too expensive to use, and—yes, indeed—too expensive for the insurance companies that are offering a product.

It is time for us—yes, indeed—repeal this—to admit that it was a mistake, to admit, like Tennessee did years ago, that it is too expensive, that it does not work, and to replace it with components, items, and ideas—many ideas that we have had in this Chamber for years, Mr. Speaker—such as portability with the across-State-line purchase of health insurance, liability reforms, and making certain that individuals can choose an insurance product and then be able to go see physicians where they live. Affordability and access—that is what we need in the marketplace. We continue to push those ideas forward.

To our Tennessee neighbors who are finding themselves without a health insurance option, we understand the plight that exists; and we, again, say it is time to repeal and replace ObamaCare.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Gene Hemrick, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Lord of Mercy, since the beginning of time You have sustained us with Your heartfelt love and care, a love and care that bonds us in friendship with You, with each other and the world.

Lord, may You bless Congress with a loving heart, which, more than anything else, has power to touch and move humankind and renew friendly unity that is the crux of America's strength.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, my community in south Florida will be dressing in pink and hosting a myriad of activities to support the millions of women and men who have been afflicted by this terrible disease.

With our combined efforts to educate and encourage early detection, we can save lives.

A celebration of survivorship, Strides of Miami-Dade, put together by the American Cancer Society, is working toward groundbreaking research and patient services. This wonderful event will be taking place at the Miami Marlins Park on October 8.

The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation will also be hosting its annual Kick Event for Breast Cancer on October 13, and that will help advance breast cancer treatment and lab research.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone in south Florida to participate in these events around our community to support those who are fighting this disease, to honor victims, and to reminisce about those whom we have lost to breast cancer.

Let us make sure that we can redouble our efforts to defeat this terrible disease and continue at full force in order to do it.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this chart shows that the ratio of unemployed workers to job openings is at the lowest level since 2001. It shows that, in 2007, before the Great Recession, the ratio was 1.4 unemployed workers for every job opening.

Then, during the prior administration, it peaked at a staggering 6.6 unemployed workers to every job opening under former President Bush. Then a whole wave of Democratic policy initiatives took effect, and the ratio began to drop and drop and drop and drop. In our most recent data, which is as of July 2016, the ratio was 1.3 unemployed workers to every job opening.

I think we can sum up the recovery in 4 words: Thank you, President Obama.

REMEMBERING KYLER AUSTYN WILLIAMS

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, as I speak, the city of Springdale, Arkansas, is remembering the life of 17-year-old Kyler Austyn Williams, a promising young student athlete from Springdale High School who died this past Saturday in a vehicle accident.

He was an accomplished athlete, the star on his football team. The night before he died, Kyler caught 10 passes for 268 yards and three touchdowns against a conference opponent. But, Mr. Speaker, he was also a terrific young man, outstanding student, spiritual leader, role model.

Our hearts are broken over his loss, and the entire Third District of Arkansas mourns with his parents, Tysha and Rodney Williams; his stepmother, Kimmy; his sisters, Makenzy, Kayden, and Lily; and his brothers, Bralen, Hudson, and Parker.

Kyler's death leaves us all with an empty feeling and struggling to cope with such a tragic outcome. And when Springdale High lines up against its crosstown rival, Springdale Har-Ber, on Friday night, number 3 in red won't be on the field, but he will be on the hearts and minds of those who knew and loved him.

May God bless those he leaves behind.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIMON PERES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Israel in mourning the loss of Shimon Peres, a statesman, a lover of his country, but a lover of people around the world, one who, in 1976, won a Nobel Peace Prize for laying out one of the unique and important although, unfortunately, short-lived framework for peace. He was one who believed in a two-state solution, respected by Israel and its people, but also the leaders and people around the world.

I had the privilege of meeting him on a number of occasions, and I might say that his calm voice was a welcome intrusion in, sometimes, a world of discord.

Although he stood by his nation in time of war, and may, in times of analysis, have many thoughts about his leadership as President and Prime Minister, several times, and many other positions, one can say that clearly he loved his country, but he loved the people of the world and he loved peace.

I give my deepest sympathy, again, to the people of Israel, his family and friends. We in the world and, of course, this Nation have lost a dear and beloved friend who truly believed in peace.

NEW BOMBSHELLS OF THE CLINTON INVESTIGATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on late Friday afternoon, to avoid the American media, the FBI released over 180 pages concerning the 46 interviews of investigation into Hillary Clinton's emails. The Daily Caller has provided "12 Biggest Bombshells in FBI's Clinton Investigation Notes." A few of the most notable include:

Obama's top negotiator for the dangerous Iranian Nuclear Deal may have

had her private email hacked. She also admitted to using her private email to conduct government business.

Secretary Clinton's lawyer asked about a computer technician to wipe out computer data in 2013.

President Obama emailed Ms. Clinton at least 18 times while claiming he did not know she had an email server, which are now kept secret.

The State Department computer technician was against housing Clinton's server in her basement.

These are just four of the revelations of the investigation. It is clear that Secretary Clinton's actions displayed a lack of judgment, putting American families at risk of attack.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

ENDING HYDE AMENDMENT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, for over 40 years the Hyde amendment has been the flagship in the assault on a woman's constitutional right to an abortion. Because of Hyde, a low-income woman is able to use her Medicaid for her healthcare needs, but not in one area—abortion.

In effect, a woman on Medicaid who faces this tough decision may be forced to forgo groceries, her utility bills, or her rent just to pay for the procedure. Even worse, she could be driven to a dangerous, back-alley abortion or seek an unlicensed practitioner. And if she cannot find the funds for the procedure and goes on to give birth, she is at greater risk of sliding deeper into poverty.

That is why I am a cosponsor of the EACH Woman Act, which would ensure that every woman has access to abortion coverage, regardless of how much she earns. We must ensure that every American woman can access her constitutional right to an abortion. We must end the Hyde amendment.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT MATTHEW THOMPSON

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Staff Sergeant Matthew Thompson of Irvine, who was tragically killed on August 23 while on patrol in Afghanistan.

He enlisted in the Army in March of 2011, and though this was his first deployment to Afghanistan, he had also been deployed to Iraq to combat the Islamic State. He was awarded over a dozen medals in his military career and

was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Staff Sergeant Thompson was just 28 years old, and he leaves behind his wife of 5 years, Rachel. Our prayers remain with her, his family, friends, and fellow soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Thompson gave everything to protect our freedom. It is because of him, because of his service, because of his sacrifice, that we live in the most free nation on Earth. We will always remember this, and we will remain forever grateful for his selfless sacrifice.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIMON PERES

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep sadness on the passing of former Israeli President and Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Shimon Peres was devoted to the cause of the Jewish state and worked tirelessly to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East.

He was the founding father of the State of Israel and remained, throughout his life, one of its greatest champions. He was the central architect of the Oslo Accords and was respected around the world for his strong leadership as Prime Minister and President of Israel. His example should be an inspiration to us all, as he fought so long for peace.

My thoughts are with his family and friends as well as the people of Israel, who have lost a beloved leader.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AUSTIN CURRY

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of a local hero in my district, Mr. Austin Curry, who passed away on September 18 at the age of 86.

Friends remember him as a "young soul who spent days in prayer or sharing his sunny demeanor and faith in prolific Facebook posts."

With a full life devoted to God and service to his country, Mr. Curry was an Air Force veteran who served in the Korean war.

As a passionate advocate in the elderly community, Mr. Curry served in leadership roles for the Florida Silver-Haired Legislature, the Hillsborough County Hospital Association, and the Health Council of West Central Florida. He also served as a delegate to the White House's 2005 Conference on Aging.

His accomplishments and the lives he touched will remain in our memories.

IT IS TIME FOR ACTION TO END BREAST CANCER

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and it is estimated that, this year, almost a quarter of a million women will be diagnosed with the disease, including, already, a close friend of mine. Thousands of those women live in my home State of Iowa.

It is time for action, and passage of the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act is a great next step. This bipartisan bill, which has over 270 cosponsors, would establish a commission aimed at ending breast cancer by January 1, 2020. That commission would look for gaps in the public and private sector where investment is needed and then recommend initiatives and strategies to work toward finding a cure for breast cancer, discovering the cause, and identifying preventative measures. It is an important bill in the fight against breast cancer, and I am proud to support it.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the volunteers of Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 for continuing to advocate for these critical issues.

□ 1215

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. YOUNG of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the month of October is quickly approaching. As you know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to shed light on a battle many women and men in this Nation have to endure.

According to the American Cancer Society, almost 250,000 new cases of invasive breast cancer will have been diagnosed in the United States among women this year.

Mr. Speaker, this statistic is heart-breaking. There are very few people who have not been affected by this horrific disease. We have already lost too many family members, neighbors, folks in our communities, and friends to the painful fight, the reality that is this disease.

In Congress, we must stand by our brave women and men tirelessly fighting. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have joined over 270 of my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act. This critical, bipartisan bill would establish a commission to help end breast cancer by 2020.

Through facilitating public-private partnerships, encouraging advancements in promising research, and coordinating research activities, this commission would help to get us closer to a cure and give patients and families hope.

I am here today to honor those who have fought this fight and won, and I am humbled and saddened to remember those who have lost it. Those affected and recovering from breast cancer deserve to know their elected Representatives stand with them.

Actions speak louder than words. It is time to make real progress on the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act and finally get the supporting bill signed into law.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF SHIMON PERES

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the world in mourning the loss of Shimon Peres, former prime minister and president of Israel and one of the country's last surviving founding fathers.

Peres dedicated his life to the difficult challenge of establishing a lasting peace for Israel and its neighbors. He negotiated the landmark Oslo Accords and, in 1994, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his work and commitment to ending ongoing violence.

Near the end of his presidency, I had the honor of sitting down with President Peres at the Peres Center for Peace on a trip to Israel. I was struck by his vision for the future and his commitment to peace no matter what the obstacles.

For seven decades, Shimon Peres has been a trusted partner to the United States and helped to forge the unbreakable alliance between our two countries.

Two years ago, we held a ceremony here in the Capitol to award him with the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian award Congress can bestow and the first to go to a sitting president of Israel.

As the world mourns the death of this visionary leader, let us ensure that his legacy lives on and recommit ourselves to a lasting peace for Israel and our entire world.

OBAMACARE'S CO-OPS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week the House took action to provide relief to hundreds of thousands of Americans who lost their insurance

due to yet another flawed piece of the President's healthcare law.

Despite spending over \$2 billion in startup taxpayer money, 17 of ObamaCare's 23 CO-OPs have collapsed, leaving half a million individuals without coverage.

This is a double blow for many Americans who were already forced to purchase insurance through these CO-OPs after losing their own plans and now are left with two options: either quickly find adequate coverage and face paying their deductible twice, or pay a steep penalty at the end of the year—all due to the law's own failure.

Meanwhile, these CO-OPs, sold as a public option feature in ObamaCare, showed warning signs of insolvency since their inception, plagued with flawed business models and inept management.

The bill we passed, H.R. 954, simply shields individuals who lost their insurance as a result of one of these failed CO-OPs from being penalized under the individual mandate through the end of the year.

On top of higher premiums, rising costs, and difficulty accessing care, Americans should not be penalized for the outright failure of a program that is preventing compliance.

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 25th anniversary of the opening of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. The National Civil Rights Museum is located at the former Lorraine Motel, the site of the tragic assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From that horrific incident rose from the ashes a phoenix in a wonderful story of the efforts and the achievements of many—both Black and White—to achieve a more perfect union in the civil rights for people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everybody who has a chance to go to Memphis and tour the civil rights museum and pay tribute to the civil rights soldiers who made America more what it was intended to be and make it a more perfect union.

CONGRATULATING OMAK AND EPHRATA FFA CHAPTERS

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to two central Washington FFA chapters that recently received national awards

for their creativity, leadership, and commitment to community.

FFA expects their members to be leaders on campus and foster school community. In this respect, the Omak High School FFA has been honored as a finalist for the National Model of Innovation Award for development of their officer mascot social media challenge. Through this campaign, the Omak FFA helped to raise chapter morale and school awareness of FFA.

Not to be outdone, the Ephrata High School FFA is a finalist for the National Model of Innovation Award for community development. By partnering with the local rotary, Ephrata FFA raised crop signs next to fields throughout the region so passing drivers could take interest and learn what was growing in the fields.

As an FFA alumnus myself, I am proud to see the good work that these young men and women are doing and wish them the best of luck at the FFA national convention in October.

BELLAMY COMMONS REVITALIZES COMMUNITY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, the Bellamy Commons will emerge as a new community fixture on Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo, New York. Upon opening, the Bellamy Commons will become home for many, with all 30 affordable apartments already filled. This space will also serve as the new home for the Buffalo Black Achievers Museum to share success stories of Buffalo African Americans.

This project was a collaboration of Federal, State, local, and private investment along with the aid of over \$4 million in Federal low-income housing tax credits. These credits encourage development and construction in communities that are often neglected and increase affordable housing options.

Developments like the Bellamy Commons have the power to create, encourage, and empower more residential and commercially integrated neighborhoods. A full community effort is something we are no stranger to in western New York. Over the years, it has been a key in revitalizing our region.

It is time that we begin to see the same development and much-needed investment in Buffalo's east side neighborhood.

NATIONAL HUNGER ACTION MONTH

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hunger

Action Month. Throughout September, families and advocates, volunteers and experts, and community leaders and elected officials have worked together to highlight the problem of hunger in this country.

This summer, I had the privilege of seeing some of the great work being done on the front lines in Indiana's Second District, and I brought their insights back to Congress.

This month, the Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, which I chair, held its 17th hearing of the 114th Congress examining the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. We looked at innovative approaches States are taking to help those who fall into the safety net find good jobs and lift themselves out of poverty. These hearings have laid the groundwork for real reform.

Mr. Speaker, no one in this Nation should go hungry, and that is why House Republicans have a plan—a better way—to fight poverty. Our plan puts new ideas to the test so we can stop the cycle of poverty and end hunger in America.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, here we are a few short weeks before national elections, so it is a good time to take account of the outlandish flood of money pouring into the Presidential campaign. The American people don't want this out-of-control spending anymore.

Why should it cost 16 times more to conduct an election in 2016 than it did in 1980 in inflation-adjusted dollars? The last time I looked, we still have just one President, 100 Senators, and 435 Congressional Districts. So why the outlandish increase in campaign spending?

The public gets sick and tired of the TV campaign ads. It costs a fortune. All the while, the public is becoming more disillusioned and distrustful of our very instruments of government.

We need campaign finance reform. It is far too much that candidates have to raise today. Actually, in 1980, it cost \$107 million for President Carter and President Reagan to conduct that Presidential campaign. Already this year, \$1.6 billion has been spent—16 times as much as 1980.

It is no surprise that, of the largest givers of the financial industry, not one of them has gone to jail after the financial crash of 2008.

My constitutional amendment, H.J. Res. 38, grants Congress and our States the power to set limits on the amounts of contributions and expenditures with respect to candidates in Federal, State, and local elections.

So when the Presidential candidates pass through your town, ask them ex-

actly what they intend to do about out-of-control campaign spending and when they intend to do it. How about making campaign finance reform the first bill they send up to Congress in 2017 as H.R. 1.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. CASTOR of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, with Breast Cancer Awareness Month right around the corner, the time is now to show American families that we are working to end breast cancer. In fact, we have a bill, H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act, which has 273 bipartisan cosponsors.

It should be brought to the floor immediately for debate and a vote. Why? Because even with so much advancement in medical research, a woman's chance of developing breast cancer has increased from one in eleven in 1975 to one in eight today. This year, over 40,000 women and over 400 men will die of breast cancer in this country alone.

H.R. 1197 will focus on identifying strategies for the primary prevention of breast cancer and identifying methods to prevent breast cancer metastasis, thereby saving lives. With such broad bipartisan support, there is no reason why the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act should not be brought up for a vote as quickly as possible.

I want to thank the large majority of my colleagues for cosponsoring the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act, and I encourage the Republican leadership to bring H.R. 1197 to the floor right away.

CONGRATULATING U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the United States Olympic Team, some of whom are visiting Capitol Hill today.

This year's team won 121 medals overall to lead the world for the sixth straight games and win the most medals in U.S. history. They won 46 gold, 37 silver, and 38 bronze. Notably, 61 of the medals were brought home by American women.

Overall, 210 American athletes contributed to the medal count, including 32 multiple medalists and 13 who won multiple Gold Medals. Of the 27 sports in which U.S. athletes competed, the U.S. brought home hardware in 20, including Overland Park's own Jack

Sock taking home the gold in mixed doubles in tennis with his partner, Bethanie Mattek-Sands.

Mr. Speaker, this is the most decorated team in U.S. history. I want to congratulate all of the athletes for their amazing performances on behalf of our Nation and thank them for making all of us proud here at home in the United States of America.

□ 1230

VETERANS OWED A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, our Nation owes our veterans a debt of gratitude for putting their lives on the line, but too often, all we do is pay lip service to our military heroes.

This past weekend, I hosted a veterans housing symposium, where I connected veterans with housing professionals and experts to answer questions about their housing benefits, mortgage options, and tax exemptions, and displacement assistance. Our veterans have earned our Nation's gratitude, and I urge this Congress to do more to serve our military families.

In mentioning gratitude and service, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge an outstanding and brilliant servant, Mimi Mesirow, who is moving on after 20 years of service to the Second Congressional District of Illinois.

Mimi was an original hire of the Honorable Jesse Jackson, Jr., and was kind enough to stay on and help me launch my grant operation when I came to Congress. Mimi secured millions of dollars in funding for the Second District and left her mark in making it a better place to live.

On behalf of Second District families and a grateful Congress, thank you, Mimi, for a job well done.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 897 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 897

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the

House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes. No further amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute referred to in the first section of House Resolution 892 shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment pursuant to this resolution the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from September 29, 2016, through November 11, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 5. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 6. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall not constitute a legislative day for purposes of clause 7 of rule XIII.

SEC. 7. Each day during the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution shall

not constitute a calendar or legislative day for purposes of clause 7(c)(1) of rule XXII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I told you yesterday that I would be back down here today with part 2 of the Water Resources Development Act bill.

This structured rule in House Resolution 897 provides for further consideration of H.R. 5303. This rule today will make an additional 19 amendments in order. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, yesterday we gathered here and passed a rule that made 25 amendments in order to this legislation. To put that in perspective, this was a bill that passed unanimously out of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, on which I serve; and the Rules Committee gathered, and in its wisdom has now made 44 additional adjustments and improvements in order that have been recommended by Members of this Chamber.

This rule also provides, Mr. Speaker, for closed consideration of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. That is a bill that requires a 6-month delay in the effective date of the Department of Labor's new overtime rules. It moves the current effective date of December 1, 2016, out to June 1, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I know you have heard about this issue from your constituents, as every Member in this Chamber has. The Department of Labor, in its wisdom, sought to raise the maximum wage at which overtime rules would apply, and effectively doubled that wage rate. That is all going to go into effect on December 1.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is a single Member of this Chamber that doesn't believe those numbers should be adjusted, but to double them overnight with virtually no warning to the small business community, the education community, or the nonprofit community is not the right way to govern. This is going to impact not just the hardworking Americans who run these institutions, it is going to impact the hardworking Americans who are

dependent on these jobs and are currently doing the heavy lifting that feeds the Nation's economic engine.

Delaying this rule for 6 months to give us an opportunity to either come together as a body and make changes or to allow small businesses and non-profits and educational institutions to begin to adjust is just the right thing to do. You will hear more about that, Mr. Speaker, from one of my colleagues on the Rules Committee, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who doesn't just serve on the Rules Committee, she also serves on the Education and the Workforce Committee that has jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, again, if we pass this rule, we will have an opportunity to not just complete work on the WRDA bill with the 19 additional amendments, but also to move forward to protect small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofits.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, last night in the Rules Committee, after a year of Democratic calls to address the terrible water crisis in Flint, Michigan, House Republicans finally moved forward an amendment offered by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), to provide assistance to the families of Flint.

It was a year ago this month that we learned of the man-made drinking water crisis in Flint, which exposed thousands of our fellow Americans to contaminated water. These are real people, Mr. Speaker. Families with children—9,000 children under the age of 6—that have been drinking and bathing in poisonous water for over 2½ years. And even today, these families still do not have access to clean water from their taps.

The fact that it has taken a year for Congress to stand up and do the right thing, to finally allow us to have a vote for the families of Flint, is astonishing. America is supposed to be a place where we look out for one another and lift our neighbors up when they are in need. Those are the values that define our country. As the people's representatives here in Congress, we need to honor those values. Whenever an American community is hit by a disaster, we come together. This should include not just hurricanes and earthquakes, but also man-made disasters, like the one that Flint continues to face today.

I thank the leadership, especially our leadership, our Leader PELOSI, and the persistence of my friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE). I am pleased that we are finally set to consider a measure to authorize the \$170 million for the repair and replace-

ment of infrastructure in Flint. I hope that all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will enthusiastically support Mr. KILDEE.

But this is just a first step, Mr. Speaker. While the amendment we are set to consider today, if adopted, authorizes these funds, it is important that we come together to ensure that the much-needed funding actually reaches Flint as soon as possible.

The Senate's Water Resources Development Act, which passed that Chamber earlier this month by an overwhelming vote of 95-3, includes \$220 million in relief for Flint. As we advance our water bill this week and set up a conference on the two measures, it is imperative that we keep funding for Flint a top priority.

So while I am pleased that we were able to reach a bipartisan agreement on a vote for Flint, I am disappointed, however, that the House Republican leadership is still advancing a terrible, misguided bill this week to, once again, undermine regulations put forward by the administration to help working families.

With all of the work left to be done on the most pressing issues facing our communities, I cannot, for the life of me, understand why my friends on the other side of the aisle are so intent on denying long overdue compensation to millions of their constituents in payment for their hard work and long hours.

This rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 6094, legislation designed to delay the Department of Labor's new overtime rule, which increases the overtime salary threshold from \$23,660 a year to \$47,476 a year. With the Department of Labor's update to the Fair Labor Standards Act, an additional 4.2 million salaried workers are eligible for overtime pay, and 262,000 working people in my home State of Massachusetts will benefit.

American workers have waited long enough to get their fair day's pay for a long day's work that they deserve. This Republican bill will take \$600 million out of the pockets of 4.2 million American workers who would have gained overtime protections on December 1. This is \$600 million that they will never see if we delay these important updates for another 6 months. That means, for example, the workers will have less money to spend on holiday presents for their families and less time to help their kids with their schoolwork and extracurricular activities.

The simple truth is that this Republican bill is a cynical ploy to, once again, try to stop the rule from ever going into effect. My Republican friends like to lecture families in poverty about what they are doing wrong. We hear it all the time on this floor. They tell them that they need to work harder to get ahead. These families are

already working hard, very often working overtime, but they are not receiving the pay that they deserve for putting in the extra time.

□ 1245

Republicans like to say that they think hard work should be rewarded. This is it. This overtime protection is a way for us to reward the hard work of millions of Americans who are doing all of the right things. This is a way for us to ensure that every American who puts in a hard day's work is able to earn the fair pay that he deserves. Only in this place would that be considered a radical idea.

How can Members of Congress lecture millions of hardworking American families who are struggling to escape poverty when they won't even support a measure that rewards them for the hard work that they are putting in every day to help their own families get ahead?

Speaker RYAN has a lot to say about fixing poverty—rolling out a whole agenda to convince us that, somehow, he is serious about making progress in helping families. So why on Earth would Speaker RYAN and the House Republicans stand in the way of hardworking families receiving the fair pay that they deserve? That doesn't sound like a party that truly cares about helping every family succeed.

America's working families are the ones who lay the foundation that makes our economy strong. It is simply shameful that denying hardworking families the overtime protections they deserve is something that Republicans think should be a top priority of this Congress—so pressing, in fact, that the House Republicans considered this bill in the Rules Committee as an "emergency measure."

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the right thing and defeat this bill. It is an antiworker, antifamily bill, and it would only make it harder for America's hardworking families to get ahead. Our economy only works when hard work is rewarded, and it is time for Congress to stand up for those values and to support working families.

It is time for us to do our jobs, Mr. Speaker. We need to be providing funds to fight the terrible Zika virus and the opioid crisis. We should be addressing the gun violence that is plaguing our communities. We ought to be finalizing a continuing resolution to ensure that our government remains open come Saturday, and I hope that the Senate will vote on that soon so that we can consider it.

We need to get much-needed assistance to the families of Flint. Again, I think it is a stain on this Congress' reputation that this leadership has dragged its feet for so long on this issue of providing funds to the residents of Flint. This is the United

States of America. People ought to know, when they get water out of their faucets, that they are not poisoning themselves or their kids. These are emergencies, Mr. Speaker, and not what this bill is all about that my friends are bringing to the floor.

What they are trying to do is to actually score some points with some in the business community who don't want to reward the work of the people who work in their companies, and I think that that is unfortunate. We ought to stand up for working families. They are the ones who need help. What this bill would do is make that less likely.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), the vice chair of the Rules Committee and a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Ms. FOXX. I thank my colleague from Georgia for his leadership on this rule.

Mr. Speaker, all too often, the executive branch enacts policies that sound wonderful but impose unintended consequences and burdens that make the lives of hardworking Americans more difficult. The issue underlying H.R. 6094 is another tragic example of that pattern.

The Department of Labor acted in May to revise overtime regulations covering millions of American workers. This regulation will require companies to reclassify a significant portion of their workforce, eliminating flexibility in work times, bonus compensation, and opportunities to advance. It will also impose significant compliance costs that will only serve to further bury job creators under red tape.

While members of both political parties want to see all Americans earn more, we cannot ignore the financial consequences of this rule. By dramatically increasing the number of employees who do not qualify for an exemption under the regulation, the Department is significantly increasing the cost of delivering services and is making it more difficult to maintain existing staffing levels.

In plain English, this regulation could cost hardworking Americans hours at work or even their jobs. Entire sectors could be less profitable with a predictable result for the employees who are doing that work. These impacts do not fall solely on frequently and unfairly demonized big business. They affect nonprofits and schools as well as local and State governments. This will raise the cost of operation for nearly every organization and company in the country.

I have heard from small-business owners, nonprofits, and universities across North Carolina that are deeply concerned about this rule. For example, an independent supermarket owner

said that this rule would "effectively put him out of business. Most of our managers make less than \$40,000 a year. When you make only one penny on the dollar net profits, this would force us to raise prices and make us uncompetitive against Walmart and other national chains."

For many employees, the biggest impact this legislation will have on them is the loss of prized flexibility and advancement opportunities. No longer will they be able to work flexible hours to cover children's doctors' appointments or other family needs. They will be forced to clock in and out, lose aspects of their positions that provide positive morale, and be reclassified into positions that do not provide the same satisfaction.

It is fair to say that our Nation's overtime rules need to be modernized, but the Department of Labor's extreme and partisan approach will lead to damaging consequences that the American people simply cannot afford. That is why I cosponsored H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act, which would provide a 6-month delay in the implementation of this rule in order to allow the small businesses, nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, and corporations confronting it with desperately needed time to prepare and make changes to accommodate the needs of their employees.

The rule before us today will provide for the consideration of this important legislation, and I commend both of them to my colleagues for their support.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to point out for my colleagues that, while many of my colleagues who support this legislation argue that the new overtime rule would overburden nonprofits or educational institutions, I think we need to point out a few facts here—most importantly, that that is just not the case. The overtime rule provides exemptions for nonprofit charitable organizations without sizable commercial activities. The overtime rule also provides educational institutions exemptions for teachers, coaches, graduate and undergraduate students, and administrative personnel.

I just want to repeat one thing that I said in my opening. I am really amazed when my Republican colleagues routinely come to the floor and lecture poor people and people who are struggling in poverty. They regularly come to the floor and demonize people in this country who are on benefits, like SNAP—putting food on the table. You always hear, "You ought to work." "You ought to work harder." Of the people on SNAP, for example, who are able to work, the majority of them work, but work doesn't pay enough to get them out of poverty. All that is

being suggested by this rule from the Department of Labor is that people ought to get paid what they deserve. They ought to be able to earn enough to be able to have a decent life and to get out of poverty.

I know what my friends are trying to do. They are saying it is only a 6-month delay. They are hoping that their candidate for President—God forbid—would win the Presidency and would, basically, null and void any modernization of the overtime rules. We ought to be concerned more about people in this country who are working hard and who are not able to make ends meet. I think my colleagues ought to know there are exemptions in this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Americans have waited long enough to update our Nation's overtime pay rules. After years of debate and regulatory review, proposed rules and final rules, it is time to ensure that Americans are paid for the hours they work.

When I go home to my district, I hear how hard it is for working women and men to meet their families' basic needs. Americans need a raise. The Republican majority has blocked any vote to raise the minimum wage, and they have blocked bills to provide women with equal pay for equal work. Did you know that working single mothers are paid about 57 cents on the dollar that men are paid right now? Today's bill will take \$600 million in earned overtime pay from 4.2 million working men and women. Half a century ago, 60 percent of salaried employees qualified for overtime pay; today, only 7 percent do. This is because we did not update overtime rules until this administration stepped forward.

We have heard the arguments for inaction and delay—that it is too hard for businesses, the false argument about nonprofits; "this is happening too fast" is another argument. They don't hold up. It has been 12 years since the overtime rule was changed, nearly 3 years since President Obama asked for action, and more than a year since the proposed rule was issued. The Department of Labor reviewed more than 270,000 comments, and it changed its proposal as a result of those comments. It has provided flexibility for businesses, and it has lowered the salary threshold. The Department of Labor has been responsive to concerns, and now it is time for the House of Representatives to be responsive to the concerns and the needs of working families.

In my home State of Illinois, nearly 194,000 working men and women and their families would be helped by overtime protections. They shouldn't have

to wait any longer. Extra work should mean extra pay. It is a simple matter of fairness. Workers who are hired full time should not be paid the same salary whether they work 40 hours a week or 60 hours a week. They should either be paid for the hours they work or be able to spend those extra hours with their families.

Many Americans are balancing their jobs with caring for children and aging parents. Delaying the Department of Labor's update to overtime protections is unfair to those workers and their families.

It is really time now to get on with it, to move forward. I urge my colleagues to reject today's rule and vote against this bill. Let these long-overdue overtime rules—overtime pay—for Americans take effect.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), a member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice today in support of this rule and the underlying legislation, H.R. 6094, which is the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

In recent months, I have heard—and, I am sure, the Speaker has as well—from a growing number of constituents who are gravely concerned about the impact that the Department of Labor's new one-size-fits-all overtime rule would have on their jobs, would have on their businesses, as well as would have on nonprofit organizations.

When the rule goes into effect on December 1, it will impose enormous new costs on businesses, lifting the cap of workers who are eligible for overtime pay from \$23,600 to \$47,476. I admit, on its face, this sounds like a real benefit for workers; however, the impacts, likely, will be devastating. Small businesses and nonprofits that are confronted with this new burden will be faced with some very difficult choices: having to pay thousands of dollars in additional labor costs, they end up having to limit their employees' hours; moving salaried workers to hourly positions; or, even worse, laying off workers.

□ 1300

Worse than that, the Department of Labor has made no attempt to make this rule workable for small business. There is no phase-in. On December 1, it will hit every business, every school, and every nonprofit in America full force, just like a freight train.

The rule was not curtailed to geography either. It will take effect in the Seattle metropolitan area, where the annual mean wage is around \$61,000, the same way it will impact the Yakima area, where that annual mean wage is just over \$41,000.

The way the Department of Labor went about issuing this very flawed one-size-fits-all rule just isn't right. H.R. 6094—which I was proud to cosponsor, and I thank Congressman WALBERG for introducing—would simply delay the rule for 6 months so that we can work with the Department of Labor as well as stakeholders to address this issue in a responsible, workable way.

Sadly, to not adopt this delay will result in job losses for the very people the rule was intended to help: your constituents and mine.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just make a comment for the benefit of my colleagues before I yield to the next speaker, and that is about this rule.

This is a closed rule. Again, this is another pattern that my Republican friends seem to have developed since they have taken over the House; and that is, basically shutting down debate and shutting down the opportunity for Members to have an opportunity to express themselves.

This bill was noticed in the Rules Committee, I think on Monday, and we did the rule yesterday. Members didn't even know this was coming up. So to bring a bill like this to the floor under a closed process I think is unfortunate. It denies Members on both sides of the aisle an opportunity to offer different points of view and to have a vigorous debate.

Many of us believe that this Congress ought to do more to help strengthen opportunities and benefits for those in the middle class. We believe that more people ought to have the opportunity to get into the middle class. That is why we are fighting for a livable wage, yet we can't even bring that to the floor. The only things that seem to get to the floor are tax breaks for big businesses or repeals of the Affordable Care Act or bills like this that would basically take the pay that has been earned by workers away from them.

Again, I think this kind of illustrates where the priorities of this Republican Congress really are. I mean, they are not with working people. They are with those who are privileged and those at the very top. And my hope is that maybe after this election, we can get some changes made where we can get back to doing the people's business, not just the rich people's business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM).

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with deep disappointment that the Rules Committee didn't make in order any of my amendments to improve the management and health of the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint Rivers.

Floridians are incredibly frustrated that the Apalachicola River is dying because of mismanagement and over-

use upstream. Just this year, it was named one of the country's most endangered rivers.

Two years ago, in a rare show of collaboration and bipartisanship on this very issue, Members from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, agreed to language that actually acknowledged the mismanagement and encouraged the States to stop the arguing and work together to find a solution. What a novel concept, but even that tiny compromise is being stricken in this bill. We have an egregious problem that my amendment would have fixed, and this Congress won't even allow it to be discussed.

I am well aware that other States involved in this issue have a lot at stake. It is infuriating that other States won't recognize what is at risk in Florida. There are people all over the country, even some of you in this Congress, who spend time in the region and enjoy the Apalachicola's beauty and resources. It is shameful and shortsighted that we are letting it die because of politics and dysfunction in this House.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would tell my friend from Massachusetts that I do not have any further speakers remaining, and I am prepared to close when he is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question; and if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up legislation that would allow those with outstanding student debt to refinance their existing high interest rate loans to lower interest rates. Mr. Speaker, this legislation gives us an opportunity to provide immediate relief to those struggling with student loan debt.

You know, when interest rates go down, people can refinance their home mortgages. Why can't we extend that same ability to people with high student loan rates?

Everybody says that we want to make sure that everybody who wants a college education ought to be able to get one, yet we make it very difficult for people to be able to afford one. The debt that is accumulated—and especially the interest on that debt that is accumulated—is very, very difficult for people to absorb when they get out of school.

So that is why Democrats have been asking time and time again for us to address issues like that, college affordability. How do we ease the burden on our young people who are trying to get a college education?

So rather than bringing up legislation that basically will not increase the overtime salary threshold, thereby denying people who are working the ability to have a little bit of extra cash

in their pockets when they work overtime—that is what this is all about, and we are actually punishing working people—maybe we ought to do something to actually help working families.

If you vote “no” on the previous question, we will be able to have a debate and a vote on this. I hope that not just Democrats, but Republicans as well will see that it is important for us to address this issue of college affordability. I, again, urge my colleagues to vote “no” on the previous question.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to vote “no” on the previous question.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I was just with a group for lunch, and I was talking about all of the amazing things that we are able to do in here together. It really is amazing. I think back on what has become known as the Bush tax cuts.

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, we had President Bush; he had a Republican Senate; he had a Republican House; and he was trying to provide tax relief for the American people. But because of the way the rules work around here and it takes a lot of votes to get work done, he was not able to make that tax policy permanent. He didn't have enough votes. Republicans were running the entire show, but he couldn't get enough agreement on tax relief for Americans to make that tax policy permanent.

You, me, Mr. MCGOVERN, and President Obama, we got together and we made that tax policy permanent for 99 percent of Americans. We did together what Republicans couldn't do alone.

My friends from the other side of the aisle often talk about infrastructure and how important it is to America, and they are right every single time they do it, Mr. Speaker. But when they passed a trillion-dollar stimulus bill that I opposed with every fiber of my being, we didn't see infrastructure grow in this country; we saw dollars get squandered. They controlled the White House, the U.S. House, the U.S. Senate. They controlled every single branch of government, and they were not able to succeed at creating the kind of infrastructure improvements that every American knows that we need.

But you know who did, Mr. Speaker?

You, me, Mr. MCGOVERN with President Obama in this divided Congress

and divided government, we got together and passed the longest surface transportation funding bill this country has seen since the 1990s. We did that together. I could go down the list: education, water resources, taxes, regulation. The list goes on and on and on of things, when we sat down and when we talked to one another, we were able to get passed.

You may remember, Mr. Speaker, we were down here yesterday on the House floor. We were talking about the situation in Flint. We were talking about amendments that were not made in order. And word came down that the only reason they weren't made in order is because we are just a bunch of racists here in the House of Representatives. The only reason that they weren't made in order was because Republicans have no conscience, is what we heard from the other side of the aisle.

I will ask anyone in this Chamber: Who thinks that gets us closer to a solution? Who thinks it does?

It pushes us further apart not just as an institution here, but as a Nation of citizens who care about one another.

So what happened after that, Mr. Speaker?

We went back to the drawing board together. We worked together, and we are back here today together with an amendment to address the situation in Flint.

How?

Not with a nongermane amendment, as it was yesterday. Not with an amendment that tries to deal with another committee's jurisdiction, as it did yesterday. But with an amendment that is squarely within the jurisdiction of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on which I serve and from which this bill comes today.

I know it is an election year, and I know that as much as constituents say they don't like negative ads, they show up and vote based on them every single time. So I know that it would be easy for my colleagues to conclude that the best thing to do running up to an election is to come down here to the House floor and denigrate absolutely everyone who doesn't agree with them. It is not that we have policy disagreements, Mr. Speaker; it is that you must be a scoundrel, they would say. It is not that we have policy disagreements; it is that you must not have a conscience, they will say. It is not that we have policy disagreements; it is that you don't care.

It makes me sad because, as I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of this body on a personal level, and I know every single one of them cares. We are down here today doing something that matters, and I don't know why folks aren't taking a victory lap for our successes together. I don't know why they want to continue to tear at the fabric that makes

this Nation great. Caring about each other is what we do. It is a legitimate disagreement about how to care.

My friend from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) just talked about student loans. I have this conversation with every single high school class I visit with, Mr. Speaker: How do we love you best from Washington, D.C.? Do we give you all the money you can possibly borrow so you can go anywhere in the country you want to go to get that bachelor's degree with which you may not be able to find a job and you now have a mortgage-sized debt? Or do we not lend you that money? Do we create work-study programs? Do we create co-op programs? Do we put you to work in contact with employers so that when you leave school, you have no debt and real skills and real experience?

It is a fair disagreement. Some folks may think you love people more by giving them all the free money they can handle and the mortgage debt that goes with it. Other folks think you love folks by giving them real-world experience, real-world skills, and a real employer to talk to.

I don't think that you hate children if you make that wrong decision. I think that we are having a discussion about how to love on those children.

Mr. Speaker, what we are down here doing today is not about stepping on low-income Americans. We could have a better debate about this issue if that wasn't what folks would come down and perpetuate. It is undeniable—and every single Member of this institution has seen it back home. It is undeniable that real working families are showing up on our doorstep, saying: Congressman, there is a problem; I need you to fix it.

The administration just moved forward and doubled—doubled—the wage for which you now qualify for overtime. Now, in my part of the world—we are not New York City; we are not Los Angeles, California; we are not San Francisco. \$45,000 a year in my part of the world is what a manager makes. It is what a manager is going to make—a manager.

What the Department of Labor has said is: You know what? Overtime—which is what is paid to workers, not management. Salary is paid to management; hourly pay to workers. What the Department of Labor has said is: You know what? We are going to have a one-size-fits-all solution because, clearly, people living in small town Georgia should be regulated by the same rules as people living in downtown New York City. Surely, if we are going to fight poverty, what works in downtown New York City is the exact same thing we are going to need in small town Georgia.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, you know that is nonsense. It is not true in your area; it is

not true in my friend from Massachusetts' area; and it is certainly not true in my hometown.

My friends will come to the floor and tell you it is because Republicans just don't like working people. This bill exempts three categories of people and three categories only: educational institutions, small businesses, and non-profits.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America are headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. They wrote to the Department of Labor when the Department of Labor released this regulation. They said they opposed it. They said the regulation in its current form was going to undermine their ability to serve young people. They are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, those concerns are real, and if my friends on the other side of the aisle would sit down and talk to us about them, I know that they care about these issues like I care about these issues. We can all work to change what that limit is, but we don't have to throw families out of jobs. As a result, we don't have to punish small-business owners trying to make it work. As a result, we don't have to punish non-profits who have one goal and one goal only, and that is to make a difference in people's lives. As a result, I don't believe, when I disagree with my colleagues on the House floor, it is because they are bad people. I think they are good people with bad ideas.

If we can sit and talk together, a group of good people around the table with differing ideas, I know that we can come to a conclusion, which is what we have done with the second bill in this rule, Mr. Speaker, the WRDA bill.

My friend from Massachusetts mentioned a terrible habit of closed rules. There were 44 amendments made available to this bill, Mr. Speaker—44. That is a bill that passed unanimously with unlimited debate and unlimited amendments coming out of committee. We made 44 more amendments in order on this House floor.

I am constantly amazed at the improvements that come from right here, colleagues who may not be on the committee who don't have an opportunity to make a difference. They bring an amendment to the Committee on Rules, we come together and we make it in order. We bring it to the House floor. It makes a difference.

Mr. Speaker, the WRDA bill is going to affect something in every single district we have in this Chamber—every single district—whether it is direct, as it will be in the Port of Savannah or the Port of Charleston; whether it is indirect, as it will be for all the inland ports in the country; whether it is indirect because of all the job growth that happens around the country as a result. Ninety-nine percent of all of the imports and exports coming through this country, moving through our ports system, we did that together.

I sat through those long committee hearings, Mr. Speaker. I don't remember anyone being called a scoundrel. I don't remember anyone being accused of not having a conscience. I don't remember anyone being called a racist. And I distinctly remember the bill coming out of committee on a voice vote, unanimous support.

Mr. Speaker, the American people will believe us if we tell them how incapable we are; the American people will believe us if we tell them how broken self-government is; and the American people will believe us if we tell them that nobody else has anything to bring to the table except their Member of Congress. But those things will not be true.

We are not just moving a bill to protect nonprofits and educational institutions and small business, Mr. Speaker. We are not just moving a bill that is going to do more to protect inland waterways and the economy than what we have seen in previous years, Mr. Speaker; we put together a package that I believe is going to start the logs rolling for all of the other priorities that we have in this Chamber. But we can't get to them unless we pass this rule.

This rule came out of the Committee on Rules last night about 11:30, Mr. Speaker. The Committee on Rules was working late on your behalf last night. They say nothing good happens after midnight. That is why we finished up at 11:30. We have got a good rule for you. It is worthy of the support of this Chamber.

I ask all of my friends to support the rule, to support the underlying legislation, and to allow us to continue to be about the business of the American people.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 897 OFFERED BY
MR. MCGOVERN

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 7. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1434) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage with-

out intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 8. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 1434.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous

question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3283) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3283

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC IN PUEBLO, COLORADO.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the community-based outpatient clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and add extraneous materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3283 to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Pueblo, Colorado, the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

I am grateful to this bill's sponsor, Senator CORY GARDNER, for his efforts introducing this legislation. I am also grateful to my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), for his work championing this bill in the House and ensuring that Private First Class Dunn is honored for his service.

PFC Dunn was a Colorado native and a long-time resident of the city of Pueblo. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1942, when he was just 22 years old.

While serving in the Solomon Islands in the Pacific theater later that year, PFC Dunn and 12 of his fellow marines were separated from the rest of their patrol and pinned down by hostile fire. After the commanding officer and the second in command were severely wounded, PFC Dunn—on his own initiative and with complete disregard for his own safety—assumed command.

In the face of fierce mortar and machine-gun fire, he successfully led his men to cover and eventually to safety. In recognition of his bravery and leadership throughout that incident, he was awarded the Navy Cross.

S. 3283 satisfies the committee's naming criteria and is supported by the entire Colorado congressional delegation as well as by veterans service organizations, including the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of S. 3283, a bill to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the PFC James Dunn VA Clinic.

Marine Reservist PFC James Dunn, Jr., was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroism in Guadalcanal in 1943. His award is the second highest award for valor that the Navy has. I am often told this about heroes: ordinary men do extraordinary things.

Later in life, Jim Dunn was asked why he joined the Marines, and he simply responded: "Uncle Sam needed me."

Let me highlight from his citation for the Navy Cross:

When the combat patrol with which he was serving came under heavy machine-gun shelling, Private First Class Dunn, along with 11 marines and their command officer, became separated from the remainder of the patrol and were pinned down by hostile fire. After the commanding officer and the second in command had been severely wounded, Private First Class Dunn, on his own initiative and with complete disregard for personal safety, promptly assumed command and led the men to jungle cover in the face of fierce mortar and machine-gun fire. Again trapped by Japanese, he reconnoitered and finally succeeded in leading his group, including the wounded, to their own lines.

As you can see by this citation, PFC James Dunn put the safety of his colleagues above his own. For his courage in the face of grave danger, he was decorated with the Navy Cross.

Following the war, James Dunn returned home to Pueblo, Colorado, where he lived with his family before passing away in 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I salute this brave marine and support the passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), my friend and colleague from the Third Congressional District. I serve with Representative TIPTON, and his district includes Pueblo. Many times we have discussed what is good for the people of Colorado and what we can do to help, where the Federal role is appropriate; and I have to tell you, Representative TIPTON is a strong fighter and tireless in serving his district, and especially Pueblo itself.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the bipartisan support on this legislation, and I want to extend my sincere thanks to Congressman LAMBORN for all of his hard work on behalf of our VA and the healthcare issues for our veterans who are so in need of making sure those promises are fulfilled for them.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of naming one small part of that healthcare system after a true American hero, Private First Class James Dunn. James Dunn was born in Stratton, Colorado, and found work in Pueblo, Colorado, at the steel mill after he graduated from high school.

While walking down the street one day in June of 1942, he saw what we now consider a classic poster of Uncle Sam pointing straight at him saying, "I want you." Fascinated, he entered the recruiting station and noticed that the line to enlist in the Marines was empty compared to the line for the Navy. That made his choice easy. When asked later why he joined, his reply was simple: "Uncle Sam needed me."

PFC Dunn was initially placed with a group of marines that were being reorganized as L-3-6 at Camp Elliott, California, before they were shipped to New Zealand to train and maneuver in the mountainous terrain that could be found there.

□ 1330

Then, in early January 1943, PFC Dunn's group of Marines was sent to relieve the original force that invaded Guadalcanal.

On January 20, 1943, Dunn's platoon was split into three squads and were conducting a scouting mission when they came under heavy enemy fire. The citation describing his actions that day states, in part, "After the commanding officer and the second in command had been severely wounded, Private First Class Dunn, on his own initiative and with complete disregard of personal safety, promptly assumed command and led the men to jungle cover in the face of fierce mortar and machine-gun fire."

Dunn was later awarded the Navy Cross for his action that day and was credited by many of the surviving members of his platoon for saving their lives.

PFC Dunn went on to serve in the campaigns on Tinian and Okinawa. All told, when he was discharged, Dunn had spent all but 6 months of his 3½ years in the Marines overseas. When he returned to Pueblo, he married the love of his life Mary Knez and they had two sons, Mike and Jeff. In his civilian life, he became a Mason, enjoyed reading, and, for many years, delivered meals to shut-ins, continuing his service to others. After 54 years of marriage, James passed away in Pueblo on July 5, 2000.

PFC James Dunn embodies the proud military traditions and rugged spirit of the city and the county of Pueblo, Colorado, and I am happy to support the naming of this outpatient clinic in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to be able to tour that clinic and to be able to visit with veterans. He would be honored and pleased to see that PFC James Dunn is now going to be affixed to that facility. Pueblo is known as the home of heroes, and rightly so. PFC James Dunn certainly fits that category.

I would like to thank the Pueblo VA Naming Committee for all of their efforts to support the renaming of this clinic, the support of the United Veterans Council of Colorado, and the many veterans service organizations that it counts as members.

I would also like to thank all of my colleagues in the Colorado delegation for their support and the staff and leadership of the Committee on Veterans Affairs for working with my office to accomplish this important task.

I would like to encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I

thank the Dunn family for their heroic father and husband and for his service to our country.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I simply just want to say that I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the House to support this. I think this is one of those opportunities where, with strong bipartisan support, we can pass this legislation and honor the memory of a true American hero, as Representative TIPTON and the ranking member of the subcommittee have both talked about.

This is appropriate for Pueblo, I agree. Pueblo is the home of heroes. They got that name because there were so many people from Pueblo who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. I don't know if there is something in the water or what, but it is touching to see that kind of patriotism coming out of the people of Pueblo. That really warms my heart.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3283.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 2040) "An Act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.", returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 110-315, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, announces the re-appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM ACT—VETO MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the Senate:

The Senate having proceeded to reconsider the bill (S. 2040) entitled "An Act to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, and for other purposes.", returned by the President of the United States with his objections, to the Senate, in which it originated, it was

Resolved, That the said bill pass, two-thirds of the Senators present having voted in the affirmative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following veto message from the President of the United States:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" (JASTA), which would, among other things, remove sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated state sponsors of terrorism.

I have deep sympathy for the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (9/11), who have suffered grievously. I also have a deep appreciation of these families' desire to pursue justice and am strongly committed to assisting them in their efforts.

Consistent with this commitment, over the past 8 years, I have directed my Administration to pursue relentlessly al-Qa'ida, the terrorist group that planned the 9/11 attacks. The heroic efforts of our military and counterterrorism professionals have decimated al-Qa'ida's leadership and killed Osama bin Laden. My Administration also strongly supported, and I signed into law, legislation which ensured that those who bravely responded on that terrible day and other survivors of the attacks will be able to receive treatment for any injuries resulting from the attacks. And my Administration also directed the Intelligence Community to perform a declassification review of "Part Four of the Joint Congressional Inquiry into Intelligence Community Activities Before and After the Terrorist Attacks of September 11," so that the families of 9/11 victims and broader public can better understand the information investigators gathered following that dark day of our history.

Notwithstanding these significant efforts, I recognize that there is nothing that could ever erase the grief the 9/11 families have endured. My Administration therefore remains resolute in its commitment to assist these families in their pursuit of justice and do whatever we can to prevent another attack in the United States. Enacting JASTA into law, however, would neither protect Americans from terrorist attacks

nor improve the effectiveness of our response to such attacks. As drafted, JASTA would allow private litigation against foreign governments in U.S. courts based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil. This legislation would permit litigation against countries that have neither been designated by the executive branch as state sponsors of terrorism nor taken direct actions in the United States to carry out an attack here. The JASTA would be detrimental to U.S. national interests more broadly, which is why I am returning it without my approval.

First, JASTA threatens to reduce the effectiveness of our response to indications that a foreign government has taken steps outside our borders to provide support for terrorism, by taking such matters out of the hands of national security and foreign policy professionals and placing them in the hands of private litigants and courts.

Any indication that a foreign government played a role in a terrorist attack on U.S. soil is a matter of deep concern and merits a forceful, unified Federal Government response that considers the wide range of important and effective tools available. One of these tools is designating the foreign government in question as a state sponsor of terrorism, which carries with it a litany of repercussions, including the foreign government being stripped of its sovereign immunity before U.S. courts in certain terrorism-related cases and subjected to a range of sanctions. Given these serious consequences, state sponsor of terrorism designations are made only after national security, foreign policy, and intelligence professionals carefully review all available information to determine whether a country meets the criteria that the Congress established.

In contrast, JASTA departs from longstanding standards and practice under our Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and threatens to strip all foreign governments of immunity from judicial process in the United States based solely upon allegations by private litigants that a foreign government's overseas conduct had some role or connection to a group or person that carried out a terrorist attack inside the United States. This would invite consequential decisions to be made based upon incomplete information and risk having different courts reaching different conclusions about the culpability of individual foreign governments and their role in terrorist activities directed against the United States—which is neither an effective nor a coordinated way for us to respond to indications that a foreign government might have been behind a terrorist attack.

Second, JASTA would upset longstanding international principles re-

garding sovereign immunity, putting in place rules that, if applied globally, could have serious implications for U.S. national interests. The United States has a larger international presence, by far, than any other country, and sovereign immunity principles protect our Nation and its Armed Forces, officials, and assistance professionals, from foreign court proceedings. These principles also protect U.S. Government assets from attempted seizure by private litigants abroad. Removing sovereign immunity in U.S. courts from foreign governments that are not designated as state sponsors of terrorism, based solely on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad had a connection to terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil, threatens to undermine these longstanding principles that protect the United States, our forces, and our personnel.

Indeed, reciprocity plays a substantial role in foreign relations, and numerous other countries already have laws that allow for the adjustment of a foreign state's immunities based on the treatment their governments receive in the courts of the other state. Enactment of JASTA could encourage foreign governments to act reciprocally and allow their domestic courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials—including our men and women in uniform—for allegedly causing injuries overseas via U.S. support to third parties. This could lead to suits against the United States or U.S. officials for actions taken by members of an armed group that received U.S. assistance, misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces, or abuses committed by police units that received U.S. training, even if the allegations at issue ultimately would be without merit. And if any of these litigants were to win judgments—based on foreign domestic laws as applied by foreign courts—they would begin to look to the assets of the U.S. Government held abroad to satisfy those judgments, with potentially serious financial consequences for the United States.

Third, JASTA threatens to create complications in our relationships with even our closest partners. If JASTA were enacted, courts could potentially consider even minimal allegations accusing U.S. allies or partners of complicity in a particular terrorist attack in the United States to be sufficient to open the door to litigation and wide-ranging discovery against a foreign country—for example, the country where an individual who later committed a terrorist act traveled from or became radicalized. A number of our allies and partners have already contacted us with serious concerns about the bill. By exposing these allies and partners to this sort of litigation in U.S. courts, JASTA threatens to limit their cooperation on key national secu-

rity issues, including counterterrorism initiatives, at a crucial time when we are trying to build coalitions, not create divisions.

The 9/11 attacks were the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil, and they were met with an unprecedented U.S. Government response. The United States has taken robust and wide-ranging actions to provide justice for the victims of the 9/11 attacks and keep Americans safe, from providing financial compensation for victims and their families to conducting worldwide counterterrorism programs to bringing criminal charges against culpable individuals. I have continued and expanded upon these efforts, both to help victims of terrorism gain justice for the loss and suffering of their loved ones and to protect the United States from future attacks. The JASTA, however, does not contribute to these goals, does not enhance the safety of Americans from terrorist attacks, and undermines core U.S. interests.

For these reasons, I must veto the bill.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 23, 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objections of the President will be spread at large upon the Journal.

The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) is recognized for 1 hour.

□ 1345

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on S. 2040, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the Senate voted 97-1 to override the President's veto on the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. I rise to urge my colleagues to follow the Senate's action and vote to override this veto so that Americans may seek judicial redress against any foreign government that chooses to sponsor a terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

The question that this veto override vote poses is whether we should allow those who harm our citizens to hide behind legal barriers that are required by neither the Constitution nor international law, or whether we should permit U.S. victims to hold those who

sponsor terrorism in our country fully accountable in our courts. I think that the answer to this question is clear, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in overwhelmingly overriding the President's veto of JASTA.

The changes JASTA makes to existing law are not dramatic, nor are they sweeping.

JASTA amends the Anti-Terrorism Act to make clear that any person who aids, abets, or conspires with a State Department designated foreign terrorist organization is subject to civil liability for injury to a U.S. person.

In addition, the legislation amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to add an exception to foreign sovereign immunity for acts of international terrorism sponsored by a foreign government that cause physical harm within the United States.

The President objects to this change to the law on the grounds that it upsets principles of foreign sovereign immunity and that, by so doing, our national interests will be threatened by reciprocal treatment from abroad. The President's objections, however, have no basis under U.S. or international law.

The Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act already has nine exceptions to sovereign immunity, including the territorial tort exception. This exception provides that a foreign country is not immune from the jurisdiction of our courts for injuries that it causes that occur entirely within the United States.

Consistent with customary international law, JASTA, for terrorism cases, removes the current requirement that the entire tort occur within the United States and replaces it with a rule that only the physical injury or death must occur on U.S. soil. JASTA makes this change because, under current law, a foreign nation can provide financing and other substantial assistance for a terrorist attack in our country and escape liability so long as the support is provided overseas.

For example, under current law, if the intelligence agency of a foreign government handed a terrorist a bag of money in New York City to support an attack on U.S. soil, the country would be liable under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act's tort exception right now. However, if we change the fact pattern slightly so that rather than giving a terrorist money in New York City the money is provided in Paris, the foreign state will not be subject to liability in U.S. courts. This is a troubling loophole in our antiterrorism laws.

When Congress enacted the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act in 1976, it put in place a broad set of exceptions to sovereign immunity, including an exception for tort claims involving injuries occurring in the United States. However, the courts have not consist-

ently interpreted those exceptions in such a manner that they cover the sponsoring of a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. JASTA addresses this inconsistency with a concrete rule that is consistent with the nine longstanding exceptions to foreign sovereign immunity already provided for under U.S. law.

JASTA ensures that those, including foreign governments, who sponsor terrorist attacks on U.S. soil are held fully accountable for their actions. We can no longer allow those who injure and kill Americans to hide behind legal loopholes denying justice to the victims of terrorism.

I urge my colleagues to vote to override the President's veto.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States constituted the deadliest foreign attack on American soil in our Nation's history. Their impact has been immeasurable, as evidenced by the fact that we are still grappling with their cultural and policy implications.

Fifteen years later, their powerful emotional effect on Americans remains as strong as ever. Those who lost loved ones or were injured as a result of this horrific attack deserve our deepest sympathy and our help.

It is in this vein that we consider whether to override the President's veto of S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, which, among other things, amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 to create a new exception to the act's general grant of foreign sovereign immunity.

The bill's supporters present compelling and sympathetic arguments in favor of ensuring that the 9/11 families have access to a well-deserved day in court.

In his veto message, however, the President raised a number of serious substantive concerns about the potential unintended consequences of this legislation.

First, the President stated that S. 2040 could undermine the effectiveness of our Nation's national security and counterterrorism efforts. For instance, other nations may become more reluctant to share sensitive intelligence in light of the greater risk that such information may be revealed in litigation.

Moreover, the President raised the concern that this legislation would effectively allow nonexpert private litigants and courts, rather than national security and foreign policy experts, to determine key foreign and national security policy questions like which states are sponsors of terrorism.

Second, the President's assertion that enactment of S. 2040 may lead to retaliation by other countries against

the United States given the breadth of our interests and the expansive reach of our global activities.

So while it seems likely at this juncture that S. 2040 will be enacted over the President's veto, I remain hopeful that we can continue to work toward the enactment of subsequent legislation to address the President's concerns.

I understand the moral imperative of enacting legislation in this matter, but I am sensitive to the seriousness of the concerns that the President raised.

I had expressed the hope, during floor debate on this bill, that Congress and the President could work together to find a better balance that would still enable 9/11 victims to seek justice while tempering the President's concerns.

There is no doubt as to the passion that the bill's supporters bring to advocating for the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, a passion that I share.

As legislators, however, we must be driven not only by understandable emotions but by thoughtful consideration of the long-term interests of our country. And for this reason, the expected outcome of today's vote should not be the end of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for yielding. Let me, at the outset, thank him for the outstanding work that he has done in bringing this bill, this legislation, to this historic moment where I certainly hope and urge the House of Representatives to override—to join the Senate in overriding the President's veto of JASTA.

I take very seriously the objections the President has raised, but this bill wasn't drawn in a vacuum, and it hasn't reached this stage in a vacuum.

Primarily led by people like Chairman GOODLATTE, Congressman NADLER, who is the chief cosponsor of the bill, and also by the leading sponsors in the Senate, all of the President's objections, I believe, were addressed. Changes were made.

This bill is not going to put American soldiers at risk. It is not going to put American diplomats at risk. What it is going to do is finally allow the 9/11 families to have their day in court to seek the justice they have long been denied. And if the Government of Saudi Arabia has no involvement, if there is no liability, they have nothing to worry about.

But the fact is, those of us who live in New York, who live in New Jersey, and all Americans, no matter where you happen to live, those of us who

were alive on that day know how much this affected all of us. But just think about how it affected those families, those who lost their husbands and wives and children and grandchildren and mothers and fathers.

So it is really essential that this House today stand on the side of those who seek justice, realizing that we are doing nothing in any way at all to put any American lives at risk. What we want to do is seek justice against those who did cause Americans to die.

Again, I thank the Senate for their override vote today. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his outstanding work. I thank my good colleague, JERRY NADLER. DAN DONOVAN has done so much since he has come to the Congress.

I urge the House of Representatives to join with the Senate in overriding the veto of the President of the United States.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking PETER KING and BOB GOODLATTE for their role in bringing this bill to the floor as the sponsor and committee chairman.

I rise in strong support of overriding the President's veto of JASTA. JASTA is a carefully crafted, narrow bill that would hold accountable foreign governments that knowingly provide substantial assistance to a designated foreign terrorist organization that launches an attack in the United States.

Despite the overblown rhetoric of some critics of this bill, JASTA will not pose a threat to American military personnel or diplomats. They would be absolutely protected if another country passed legislation mirroring this bill because JASTA applies only to governments.

To the extent that a foreign government might pass broader legislation that would make American personnel subject to liability, that country would not be reciprocating. It would be engaging in a transparent and unjustifiable act of aggression.

The economic, diplomatic, and military strength of the United States makes such action unlikely, and any rogue state inclined to target U.S. interests can already do so. We must not hold justice for the 9/11 families hostage to imagined fears.

Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, on September 11, we suffered the most deadly terrorist attack on our soil in this Nation's history. My district in New York was the epicenter of this attack, but its effects were felt across the country, including, of course, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. We all have an interest in ensuring that the 9/11 victims and their families can bring to justice anyone who was responsible for this vicious attack.

JASTA simply reinstates what was understood to be the law for 30 years; that foreign states, not individuals, not soldiers, foreign states, may be brought to justice for aiding and abetting acts of international terrorism that occur on American soil, whether or not the conduct that facilitated the attack occurred in the United States.

Some courts have recently held that if a foreign government agent hands over a check to al Qaeda in a cafe in New York to fund a terrorist attack in the United States, that government can be sued in an American court. But if that same foreign agent funds the same attack by handing over the same check in a cafe in Geneva, the government is immune from suit.

That makes no sense, and it flies in the face of what had been settled law for many years. Longstanding U.S. law, under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, provides jurisdiction to sue foreign states that cause a tortious injury on American soil. That is current law.

□ 1400

This is the international norm, and it has never prompted retaliatory conduct by other nations. This bill simply clarifies that if a foreign state murders thousands of Americans on American soil or provides substantial assistance to a designated terrorist group that murders thousands of Americans on American soil, that government cannot hide from justice merely because its actions occurred abroad.

This bill does not target any particular country or prejudice the merits of any particular case. Any government brought before a U.S. court will have every defense available to it, as well as extensive protections and government privileges during discovery to protect against disclosure of its sensitive information. What it will not be able to do is hide behind erroneous court decisions and jurisdictional loopholes to avoid the legal process altogether.

We have heard a parade of horrors stemming from a hypothetical fear that other nations would use JASTA as an excuse to target American citizens. Again, if a foreign government passes legislation that mirrors JASTA, American citizens would still be absolutely protected because JASTA applies only to governments. A foreign government is highly unlikely to pass legislation that goes beyond JASTA. If a rogue state does, in fact, authorize suits against American personnel abroad, we have a well-established process for defending such actions. According to the Office of Foreign Litigation at the Department of Justice, "at any given time, foreign lawyers under the direct supervision, represent the United States in approximately 1,000 lawsuits pending in the courts of over 100 countries." This is not a new issue for the

United States, and we are well equipped to deal with any consequences.

We are warned that Saudi Arabia will be very angry if we approve this bill, that the Saudis may retaliate against the United States, may perhaps withdraw some investments. History shows that the Saudis will do what is in their interests. They need American support and American arms in the volatile Middle East where they fear and fight Iran and its proxies. They are not going to prefer their emotions to their interests and act against the United States.

If the Saudi Government was not complicit in the attack on 9/11, the plaintiffs will fail to prove such complicity in an American court. Justice will have been served, and the Saudis will be vindicated after years of suspicion. But if it is proven in an American court that the Saudi Government was complicit in the attacks on 9/11, justice will have been served and we—not the Saudis—will have justification to be very angry.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was carefully negotiated over more than 6 years. It passed the House and Senate unanimously, and earlier today, the Senate voted 97-1 to override the President's veto. All that stands in the way of justice for the 9/11 victims and their families is a vote in this House. I urge my colleagues to stand with them and to override the veto.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank the gentleman from Virginia for yielding, and, secondly, commend him for his work to try to tailor this measure in as narrow a way as possible.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) for his strong, persistent advocacy for the families of the victims of 9/11. All of us share in their grief. The country has not gotten over that horrible incident, and all of us have contempt for those who carry out terrorist attacks and those who support them.

My concern for this legislation, however, is more related to the unintended consequences that it may have because one of the key protections that the military, diplomats, and intelligence community of the United States has around the world is this doctrine of sovereign immunity. Once that doctrine gets eroded, then there is less protection, and we, the United States, has more at stake in having our people protected than any other country because we have more people around the world than anyone else.

So, in this Congress, we can control the laws of the United States, and we can write them narrowly in a fine-tuned way to just achieve our objective. But then other countries respond.

They may not have their laws narrowly defined in such a fine-tuned way. They may make them broader. Their practice may not have the protections that ours do. So the concern is that this starts a series of unintended consequences that will increase the risk to U.S. military personnel around the world, U.S. intelligence community personnel around the world, and diplomats around the world. That is the reason you have widespread concern that has been voiced in each of those communities for this legislation.

Let me just read briefly from a letter from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that has been available to all Members. It says: "Any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. Servicemembers to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity."

That is the concern, that we lower the protections that our people have around the world. Remember, when we send our military out, they have to follow orders. They are implementing U.S. policy. They have no choice. If they are called before a foreign court, if they are required to give testimony in a foreign court, even if they are not the defendant, then they are jeopardized, as is sensitive information from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, so my point is that I understand totally the sympathies for the victims as well as the desires many people have to override this veto, but we also should keep in mind the longer term consequences for our military who serve our Nation all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Secretary of Defense and a letter from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on this issue.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,

Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2016, regarding the President's veto of S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA). I support the President's position. We appreciate the opportunity to provide views on this important issue.

As I stated in my testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee on September 22, 2016, I agree with the intent of the bill, which is to honor the families of 9/11 victims. While we are sympathetic to the intent of JASTA, its potential second- and third-order consequences could be devastating to the Department and its Service members and could undermine our important counterterrorism efforts abroad.

In general terms, JASTA would allow lawsuits in U.S. Federal Courts against foreign states for actions taken abroad that are alleged to have contributed to acts of terrorism in the United States, notwithstanding long-standing principles of sovereign immunity. Under existing law, similar lawsuits are available for actions taken abroad only by designated state sponsors of

terrorism. JASTA extends the stripping of immunity to states that are not designated sponsors of terrorism, potentially subjecting many of the United States' allies and partner nations to litigation in U.S. courts.

JASTA has potentially harmful consequences for the Department of Defense and its personnel. Adoption of JASTA might result in reciprocal treatment of the United States and other countries could create exceptions to immunity that do not directly mirror those created by JASTA. This is likely to increase our country's vulnerability to lawsuits overseas and to encourage foreign governments or their courts to exercise jurisdiction over the United States or U.S. officials in situations in which we believe the United States is entitled of sovereign immunity. U.S. Service members stationed here and overseas, and especially those supporting our counterterrorism efforts, would be vulnerable to private individuals' accusations that their activities contributed to acts alleged to violate a foreign state's law. Such lawsuits could relate to actions taken by members of armed groups that received U.S. assistance or training, or misuse of U.S. military equipment by foreign forces.

First, whether the United States or our Service members have in fact provided support for terrorist acts or aided organizations that later commit such acts in violation of foreign laws is irrelevant to whether we would be forced to defend against lawsuits by private litigants in foreign courts. Instead, the mere allegation of their involvement could subject them to a foreign court's jurisdiction and the accompanying litigation and intrusive discovery process that goes along with defending against such lawsuits. This could result in significant consequences even if the United States or our personnel were ultimately found not to be responsible for the alleged acts.

Second, there would be a risk of sizeable monetary damage awards in such cases, which could lead to efforts to attach U.S. Government property to satisfy those awards. Given the broad range of U.S. activities and robust presence around the world, including our Department's foreign bases and facilities abroad, we would have numerous assets vulnerable to such attempts.

Third, it is likely that litigants will seek sensitive government information in order to establish their case against either a foreign state under JASTA in U.S. courts or against the United States in a foreign court. This could include classified intelligence data and analysis, as well as sensitive operational information. While in the United States classified information could potentially be withheld in certain narrow circumstances in civil lawsuits brought by private litigants against our allies and partners, no legislation specifically protects classified information in civil actions (unlike protections afforded in criminal prosecutions) or under JASTA. Furthermore, if the United States were to be sued in foreign courts, such information would likely be sought by foreign plaintiffs, and it would be up to the foreign court whether classified or sensitive U.S. Government information sought by the litigants would be protected from disclosure. Moreover, the classified information could well be vital for our defense against the accusations. Disclosure could put the United States in the difficult position of choosing between disclosing classified or otherwise sensitive information or suffering adverse rulings and potentially large damage awards for our refusal to do so.

Relatedly, foreign lawsuits will divert resources from mission crucial tasks; they

could subject our Service members and civilians, as well as contractor personnel, to depositions, subpoenas for trial testimony, and other compulsory processes both here and abroad. Indeed, such personnel might be held in civil or even criminal contempt if they refused to appear or to divulge classified or other sensitive information at the direction of a foreign court.

Finally, allowing our partners and allies—not just designated state sponsors of terrorism—to be subject to lawsuits inside the United States will inevitably undermine the trust and cooperation our forces need to accomplish their important missions. By damaging our close and effective cooperation with other countries, this could ultimately have a chilling effect on our own counterterrorism efforts.

Please let me know if there is any additional information the Department can provide.

Sincerely,

ASH CARTER.

CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF,
Washington, DC.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your 23 September 2016 letter regarding the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. I have read Secretary Carter's response, and share his concerns on the potential second- and third-order consequences of such legislation. As you deliberate, I would ask that you consider the following issues that affect the Joint Force.

Any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. Service members to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity. For example, U.S. Service members, especially those supporting counterterrorism operations, could be subjected to a foreign court's jurisdiction if it is alleged that they took actions that violated a foreign state's law. Whether the allegations are ultimately proven to be without merit is not an adequate guide, as the service members will have already been subjected to the foreign court's litigation process.

In those cases where a foreign government decides to exercise jurisdiction over a U.S. Service member, the Service member could be held in civil, or criminal, contempt should they refuse to appear or otherwise comply with the foreign court's orders. This concern would extend to cases where the United States would be at risk of substantial monetary damages, which could lead to attempts to seize U.S. military property overseas in order to satisfy any monetary awards.

If a U.S. Service member were to be sued in a foreign court, it would be up to the foreign court to decide whether classified or sensitive U.S. Government information would be required as part of the litigation process. This could put the United States in the position of choosing between the disclosure of classified or sensitive information, and subjecting a U.S. Service member to an adverse foreign court ruling.

Finally, regardless of the specific legislation being considered, any legislation that effects the long-standing principles of sovereignty should carefully consider any risks to the close security cooperation relationships between the United States and our allies and partners.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH F. DUNFORD, JR.
General, U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT). Mr. SCOTT is a former member of the Judiciary Committee. He is now the ranking member on the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks perpetrated against our Nation 15 years ago killed nearly 3,000 people. No one can fully fathom the grief still felt by families to lose their loved ones in such a horrific way. We understand the need to continue to seek justice against those who may have aided and abetted the individuals that orchestrated these attacks. However, this legislation is not the right way to go about achieving that justice.

JASTA abrogates a core principle in international law—foreign sovereign immunity. There are already several exceptions to this immunity recognized by our Nation and others, but JASTA goes much further than any present exception or recognized practice of any national law. Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Texas just suggested, one fundamental indication of fairness of legislation is not how it would work to our benefit, but what we would think if it were used against us.

If the United States decides to allow our citizens to haul foreign nations into American courts, what would we think of other nations enacting legislation allowing their citizens to do the same thing to us?

Obviously, we would not want to put our diplomats, military, and private companies at that risk.

Consider our Nation's actions in Iraq. While there may be questions about Saudi Arabia's indirect involvement in 9/11, there is no question about who the state-sponsored actor was in 2003 when we bombed Baghdad and killed and injured hundreds of thousands of people with little or no evidence that Iraq was any immediate threat to the United States or our allies.

What would we think if Iraq enacted legislation similar to JASTA, allowing their citizens to sue the United States for acts perpetrated during the Iraqi war?

American soldiers and contractors living and working in Iraq today could be hauled in to Iraqi court, tried by an Iraqi judge, held responsible by an Iraqi jury that would assess the amount of money owed to each and every Iraqi citizen killed or maimed.

Furthermore, if they adopted similar legislation to this, other nations could sue the United States and our citizens for sponsoring organizations they deem as terrorist organizations. Unfortunately, these discussions are already taking place in capitals around the world because of this legislation.

JASTA does not make clear how the evidence would be gathered to help

build a credible case against a foreign nation.

Would the plaintiffs be able to subpoena foreign officials? Or would the U.S. Department of State officials have to testify? Would we be required to expose sensitive materials in order to help American citizens prove their case? Again, how would we feel about foreign judges and juries deciding whether or not the United States sponsored terrorism?

There are also questions about how the judgment under JASTA would be enforced. The legislation does not address how a court would enforce the judgment.

Could foreign assets be attached? How would this process work if other countries enacted similar legislation? Would U.S. assets all over the world be subject to attachment to satisfy the foreign jury verdicts?

Mr. Speaker, there are many other more responsible mechanisms that this body could enact to hold foreign actors accountable for their involvement in international terrorism without exposing the United States or our citizens to lawsuits all over the world.

We should do the responsible thing, Mr. Speaker, and sustain the President's veto of this legislation.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to respond to the gentleman from Texas and the gentleman from Virginia.

First of all, with regard to some of the examples given by the gentleman from Texas, I want to make clear that this is the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act that is being amended—foreign sovereign, not individuals. So if another country were to flip this and take action under their laws to do something in their courts, it would only apply to governments, not to individuals.

So with regard to the assertions made by the gentleman from Virginia, many countries have already done what we are proposing to do here today. The whole tort rule that is utilized in the United States which says, just as an example, if you provided a bag of money to a terrorist in the United States, you can sue that foreign government in our country right now, in our courts right now. It would change so that if they provided the bag of money in Paris, you could do it there.

Right now it is a loophole. Guess what? Any foreign government that wants to sponsor terrorism in the United States, what is the first thing they are going to do right now under current law?

They are going to make sure that the money is transferred outside the United States so they are not subject to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts.

Customary international law does not seem to require the entire tort limitation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and Their Properties would apply the territorial tort exception if the act or omission occurred in whole or in part in the territory of the state exercising jurisdiction.

Most nations that have codified the exception appear to require some act or omission in their territories, but it is not clear that these nations have done so from a sense of international legal obligation rather than from comity. Even if customary international law were properly read to preclude a nation from applying the territorial tort exception solely on the basis of death and damage within its territory, the application of JASTA to the 9/11 cases, as an example, would still not violate international law since the 9/11 attacks clearly involved tortious acts in the United States.

JASTA requires that the physical harm occur in the United States. But to have an exception that says that if people aid and abet from outside the United States, their government—the government—aids and abets from outside the United States, that government can evade the courts of the United States. That is wrong.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds to point out one additional thing. Under JASTA, the President or his representative, the Secretary of State, can appear in the court where a lawsuit is brought and delay the proceedings for a period of time, but not forever.

Then, if that time expires and whatever effort the United States has made to resolve this with a foreign government does not change the circumstances, they can still go back to the court and they can ask the court to delay further. But then it is up to the court to make that decision.

Again, I urge my colleagues to override the President's veto.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

□ 1415

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of overriding the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

This is our constitutional prerogative. We in Congress can override the veto of a President, and in this case a strong bipartisan majority disagrees with the President. Earlier today, the Senate of the United States voted 97-1 in favor of an override.

It is right and just that the victims of the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, be able to pursue full justice in our courts of law. I am a lawyer, and I have worked with constitutional and statutory issues. I also represent a congressional district in New Jersey that lost 81 people on 9/11.

Opposing views fear repercussions against the United States if this legislation becomes law, but the United States does not support, finance, or condone international terrorism. We are the Nation that historically has helped rid the world of evil, and we have nothing to fear from truth and justice. Nations around the world should recognize the fundamental justice in legal remedies against a terrorist network that killed nearly 3,000 Americans.

It is our duty to provide the victims of 9/11 this legislative remedy by which they can seek the facts, and the Federal Government should be as transparent as possible with the evidence and the intelligence. The still grieving families of 9/11 deserve their day in court—they have waited long enough—and this narrowly tailored legislation will give them recourse for full justice and compensation.

Mr. Speaker, any override of a Presidential veto is a serious and sober matter. I do not advocate an override lightly. I deeply respect the Office of the President of the United States. This President has never been overridden by the Congress. I believe, however, that an override is the better public policy in this momentous situation.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), who serves both on the Homeland Security Committee and Judiciary Committee with great skill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member.

I think it is important to state on the floor of the House that President Obama has been an outstanding Commander in Chief.

I have served on the Judiciary Committee proudly for the tenure I have had in the United States Congress and on the Homeland Security Committee since the tragedy of 9/11. I am committed to engaging in efforts to develop policies that anticipate and respond to new and emerging challenges to the security of our Nation and to the peace and safety of the world.

However, I will never forget September 11. 2,977 men, women, and children were murdered by 19 hijackers who took commercial aircraft and used them as missiles. I stood on the front steps of the Capitol and sang with Members of this Congress "God Bless America." I visited the World Trade Center in the months and weeks after this heinous tragedy and grieved continuously each year as we commemorate, sadly, 9/11.

9/11 will always be remembered, and the loss of these families will always be painful and piercing. Just recently, the Judiciary Committee had a hearing on the bill the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act. The supporters of the bill offered powerful and compelling testimony in favor of ensuring that 9/11 families have access to their day in court against the parties directly and vicariously liable for the injuries that they suffer.

Now, I also take into consideration the concerns of the administration, which deal with undermining sovereign immunity and opening up U.S. diplomats and military servicemembers to legal action overseas if foreign countries pass reciprocal laws. In addition, the President has said that JASTA would upset longstanding international principles regarding sovereign immunity, putting in place rules that, if applied globally, could have serious implications.

However, 9/11 families may sue a country designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, such as Iran today. The only thing that this bill would allow is that U.S. citizens be able to sue countries without that designation.

Let me suggest to our friends that, under the facts that we know, 19 of these attackers on 9/11 were Saudi citizens. They did not represent the government. This is not giving permission to sue the government under its government actions as much as it is to recognize that these were citizens who operated outside of that realm and to allow these citizens of the United States to have relief. You cannot deny the citizenship of these individuals. I would also suggest that these individuals are common criminals, and why should individuals who have been harmed be prevented from addressing the common criminality because they are from a different country?

I would make the argument that we are not finished with this at this point. I hope there will be further discussions. I do believe that if countries decided to take up and sue legitimate actions of the United States in defense of their nation, they would have the full power and force of law of the United States to be defended. I don't believe that will happen.

I do believe that we should continue further discussion on this very important topic. But as well, having been a senior member, again, on the Homeland Security Committee during the many meetings that we had with the 9/11 families and ultimately passing the 9/11 legislation as I chaired the Transportation Security Subcommittee, I believe that listening over and over again to the devastation and the need to ensure there are laws to protect this Nation, that this measure provides the extra opportunity to address the common criminality of individuals whose citizenship lies in one place or another.

We should stand, however, in protecting U.S. diplomats, military service, and intelligence community members, and I believe this country has the power to do so. I believe, at this point, the matter of the 9/11 families should be addressed, and we should address it today.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN).

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for yielding.

Foreign threats should never dictate American policy, but that is, unfortunately, what happened with President Obama's veto of this legislation.

That a foreign government can hide behind sovereign immunity after slaughtering Americans in our own homeland is an outrage, so it is no wonder that this bill was passed by Congress unanimously. Terror victims can already sue individuals for complicity in an attack. A foreign government shouldn't be immune from justice simply because it is a government.

For those of my colleagues who may be reluctant about voting for an override of this veto, I think Chairman GOODLATTE's explanation of the bill should give them peace. There are already nine exemptions to the sovereign immunity law, and JASTA will not create a tenth. It modifies one of those nine.

JASTA is about 9/11 victims who have waited more than 15 years to have their day in court. It is about the families of over 300 people killed that day who lived in my congressional district. It is about my friend, Lori Mascali, whose husband, firefighter Joseph Mascali, died that day saving other people's lives.

I urge my colleagues to put American victims of terror first by voting to override the President's veto.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CONYERS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for overriding the President's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

I understand and give weight to the President's concerns, but I believe that this bill is focused on and applies to only those attacks that are committed on U.S. soil that harm U.S. nationals. The attacks of 9/11 were singular acts of appalling cruelty. They were targeted knowingly and specifically at civilian noncombatants. They were barbaric crimes that violated all norms of civilized conduct and all of the international conventions of armed conflict.

Though the hijackers of those planes died that day, it is virtually indisputable that there are people who conspired with them in the planning, preparation, execution, and financing of

those horrific acts who walk the streets freely in foreign capitals today. They walk comfortably, securely, smugly, believing that because of a peculiar interpretation of international law, they are safe from the long arm of justice, immune to any consequences.

JASTA, as it is called, is needed to correct some shortcomings in previous legislation and lower court decisions. The bill is needed to make it possible for the survivors and for the families of the victims of savage acts of international terrorism to seek a measure of justice through the civil courts.

This bill is needed because both Congress and the executive branch have affirmed that civil litigation against terror sponsors, including foreign governments, can have an important deterrent effect.

The attacks of 9/11 were roundly condemned by people and governments around the world. So this bill is needed not just by the families of those who died in New York and at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania; it is needed to send a message to people all around the world, a message that the long arm of American justice will not be deterred, will never tire, and will never falter.

As we have done in the past, we will pursue the perpetrators of such savage acts of inhumanity, as we saw on 9/11, to their very graves. There is no loophole and there will be no escape.

Yes, it may be true that there are risks in passing a bill like this that may have some unintended consequences, but compare that to the risks of doing nothing and the risks that are very real that are all too present.

I urge my colleagues to not forget and to overturn the President's veto. It is in America's interest, and it is a deterrent to future crimes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend, Mr. GOODLATTE, for yielding; and I want to thank Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. KING for their extraordinary leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the President of the United States, the central argument in this veto message accompanying the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, reciprocity is weak, unsupported, and egregiously flawed.

The White House drafters of the veto message either didn't read the carefully crafted bipartisan bill or are seeking to conflate the plain legislative text since JASTA only permits access to U.S. courts by waiving immunity from foreign governments, not foreign government officials or employees, and corrects conflicting case law, except in the cases where someone knowingly aids, abets, or conspires with a State Department-designated foreign terrorist organization.

Thus, the President is wrong to assert that, under the hallowed principle of reciprocity, U.S. officials and military personnel could be subjected to lawsuits. It is worth noting that nothing precludes that now or ever, but as an argument for veto, it simply doesn't pass muster.

While sovereign immunity has its place in the conduct of responsible diplomacy, it is not absolute, as even the 1976 Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act contains nine exceptions.

In 2008, Mr. Speaker, as you know, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit dismissed legal action against Saudi Arabia and other defendants, holding U.S. courts lacked jurisdiction. Other actions by the courts have thwarted the full accountability Americans expect and deserve.

JASTA corrects that.

The victims of 9/11 and their grieving families deserve what JASTA empowers: a judicial process to discover the unfettered and ugly truth that, to this day, remains cloaked, concealed, and covered up. JASTA provides a way to hold perpetrators and enablers of terrorism to account.

Anyone who has read the recently declassified 28 pages of findings from the House-Senate Intelligence Committee's joint inquiry in 2002, despite the heavy redactions, knows the provocative evidence of Saudi complicity in 9/11, and that remains unexamined. The 28 pages are filled with names and suspected associations with the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Speaker, I have worked with and befriended many of the 9/11 surviving family members—many who died on 9/11 were from my district—and I can state unequivocally that there would have been no 9/11 Commission and other historic policy initiatives without the 9/11 family members. They have been extraordinary, tenacious, committed, and courageous.

On September 20, many family members gathered outside the White House to appeal to the President to sign JASTA. Two of the remarkable widows from New Jersey, Lorie and Mindy, carried this sign to my left, your right, with a picture of President Obama and Saudi King Salman from the front page of the New York Daily News.

□ 1430

The headline read: "Don't choose them over us"—the U.S., the United States.

The President chose the king, and he vetoed the bill. We can correct that today. Vote to override.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There is no doubt that there is so much passion involved in this with the bill's supporters; but, as legislators, I would like to urge that one carefully and thoughtfully consider the long-term interests of our country.

For the foregoing reasons, I am pleased to indicate that the scholars and others who will be voting to sustain the President's veto are Michael Mukasey, the former Attorney General under George W. Bush; Stephen Hadley, the former National Security Adviser for that President; Richard Clarke, the former White House counterterrorism adviser for Bill Clinton and George W. Bush; and Thomas Pickering, the former United States Ambassador to the United Nations. They all agree that we must be considerate of the long-term interests of our own country.

For the foregoing reasons and those stated by the national security experts, the international law scholars, and the President of the United States, I find that I must vote to sustain the President's veto.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to override the President's veto. It is the right thing to do. Justice is the right thing—to let American citizens have access to their courts for torts for terrorist attacks that occur on American soil. This bill is a modest amendment to already existing exemptions to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. It is the right thing to do. I urge my colleagues to join me in overriding the President's veto.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns with S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. The President, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the CIA Director, and the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee have all issued statements against this legislation, and after having spoken with local veterans in Pinellas County who have retired from the armed services, I have come to the decision to support the President's veto.

'Terrorism' at the hands of a foreign government is simply another term for an act of war, and we should respond to these acts with every ounce of resolve our nation can muster. We have done so for generations, relying on military, diplomatic and political leadership to respond appropriately and deploy our men and women in uniform to defeat our enemies. Countless men and women have sacrificed their last full measure for the cause of our freedom and security.

But we don't litigate acts of war in civil courtrooms. We litigate them on battlefields, with valor and with overwhelming force.

By authorizing courtroom litigation of acts of war, we empower other nations to do the same. And we imperil the security of our military and diplomatic personnel, as well as our assets in regions around the globe.

Consider the number of times our nation intervenes for the cause of freedom and security around the globe. Now consider if our personnel and assets on the ground were subject to civil liability in those nations. It compromises our mission, and it compromises the

security of our men and women in uniform and those in our diplomatic corps.

Mr. Speaker, when the President vetoed this legislation, he stated that the United States already has means to act against nations who would wish to commit acts of terrorism against the United States by designating them as State Sponsors of Terrorism. When this designation is made, all sovereign immunity protections for individuals are removed, subjecting the violating country to a multitude of sanctions.

Likewise, on Monday Defense Secretary Ash Carter sent a letter to the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee stating that, while he “agrees with the intent of the bill, which is to honor 9/11 victims,” the potential second- and third-order consequences of the legislation “could be devastating to the Department and its service members.” Secretary Carter shared concerns that other nations might enact reciprocal policies, threatening the sovereign immunity of our service members based on justifications that are far less stringent.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also stated that “any legislation that risks reciprocal treatment by foreign governments would increase the vulnerability of U.S. service members to foreign legal action while acting in an official capacity,” and that any court proceedings could “put the United States in the position of choosing between the disclosure of classified or sensitive information, and subjecting a U.S. service member to an adverse foreign court ruling.” Today, CIA Director Brennan added his concerns, that he believes this action “will have grave implications for the national security of the United States. The most damaging consequence would be for those U.S. Government officials who dutifully work overseas on behalf of our country.”

These concerns are affirmed by many national security experts who penned an open letter asking for the veto to be upheld. The letter was signed by many prominent former members of the executive branch, including Stephen Hadley, Richard Clarke, and Thomas Pickering.

Nothing can heal the wounds of the surviving families of September 11, 2001. Nothing can heal the wounds of a nation whose heart breaks for those innocent lives lost at the hands of our enemies. We can honor their legacies by making the world more secure—by exerting our national security leadership, our military force, around the globe to contain the threat of terror. I believe JASTA would ultimately undermine our ability to secure freedom and to secure our homeland.

We will never forget the tragedy and loss of that day. We will never forget the heartbreak. And let us never weaken our resolve to defeat the forces of terror, so that we may ensure that we as a nation, and our brothers and sisters who suffered such loss, never face such a tragedy again.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to uphold President Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (S. 2040).

All Americans were deeply affected by the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, none more so than the families who lost loved ones on that terrible day. President Obama has been unyielding in his pursuit of those who

perpetrated the attacks. Since day one of his Administration, President Obama has made the destruction of Al-Qaeda a top national security priority. He has delivered on this promise, systematically devastating Al-Qaeda's leadership and killing Osama bin Laden.

I am profoundly sympathetic to the families of victims who were lost on September 11, 2001 and while I understand the intent behind S. 2040, I remain concerned that this legislation would be damaging to our national security. Not only would it not prevent future terrorist attacks against the United States, it would expose U.S. personnel serving overseas to lawsuits in the civil and criminal courts of foreign countries. For these reasons, I vote to uphold President Obama's veto of S. 2040.

The United States government has an array of legal tools that it uses to deal with nations that sponsor terrorism. This includes listing the offending nation as a state sponsor of terrorism, imposing sanctions, and the forfeiture of that nation's right to sovereign immunity in U.S. courts. However, these measures are intended as an extreme consequence for nations that act outside of international norms. S. 2040 would allow terrorism related lawsuits in U.S. courts against any nation, not only those designated as a sponsor of terrorism by our government, which is alleged to have contributed to an act of terrorism in the United States. This would begin an erosion of the principle of sovereign immunity for every nation, including U.S. allies, and expose their government and personnel to lawsuits in U.S. courts.

The reciprocal effect that this erosion of sovereign immunity could have on U.S. personnel overseas, including our men and women in uniform, is deeply concerning. Were S. 2040 to become law, it would set an international precedent for other nations to follow. U.S. personnel serving in foreign countries could be subjected to civil and criminal lawsuits in foreign courts, putting them at risk and potentially exposing sensitive national security information in the process. These are the people we depend upon in our fight against terrorist organizations like ISIL, and we must ensure that proper legal safeguards are in place to protect them.

As a Member of Congress, it is my duty to ensure that our service members and diplomatic personnel overseas are afforded the proper legal protections that allow them to do their jobs and protect this nation. S. 2040 unfortunately fails to ensure these protections and subsequently I will vote to sustain President Obama's veto.

I am attaching an editorial from the New York Times on this issue.

[Sept. 28, 2016]

THE RISKS OF SUING THE SAUDIS FOR 9/11

The Senate and the House are expected to vote this week on whether to override President Obama's veto of a bill that would allow families of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks to sue Saudi Arabia for any role it had in the terrorist operations. The lawmakers should let the veto stand.

The legislation, called the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, would expand an exception to sovereign immunity, the legal principle that protects foreign countries and their diplomats from lawsuits in the American legal system. While the aim—to give

the families their day in court—is compassionate, the bill complicates the United States' relationship with Saudi Arabia and could expose the American government, citizens and corporations to lawsuits abroad. Moreover, legal experts like Stephen Vladeck of the University of Texas School of Law and Jack Goldsmith of Harvard Law School doubt that the legislation would actually achieve its goal.

Co-sponsored by Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York, and Senator John Cornyn, Republican of Texas, the measure is intended to overcome a series of court rulings that have blocked all lawsuits filed by the 9/11 families against the Saudi government. The Senate passed the bill unanimously in May, and the House gave its approval this month.

The legislation would, among other things, amend a 1976 law that grants other countries broad immunity from American lawsuits—unless the country is on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism (Iran, Sudan and Syria) or is alleged to have committed a terrorist attack that killed Americans on United States soil. The new bill would clarify that foreign governments can be held liable for aiding terrorist groups, even if that conduct occurred overseas.

Advocates say the measure is narrowly drawn, but administration officials argue that it would apply much more broadly and result in retaliatory actions by other nations. The European Union has warned that if the bill becomes law, other countries could adopt similar legislation defining their own exemptions to sovereign immunity. Because no country is more engaged in the world than the United States—with military bases, drone operations, intelligence missions and training programs—the Obama administration fears that Americans could be subject to legal actions abroad.

The legislation is motivated by a belief among the 9/11 families that Saudi Arabia played a role in the attacks, because 15 of the 19 hijackers, who were members of Al Qaeda, were Saudis. But the independent American commission that investigated the attacks found no evidence that the Saudi government or senior Saudi officials financed the terrorists.

Proponents of the legislation cite two assassination cases in which legal claims were allowed against Chile and Taiwan. Administration officials, however, say that those cases alleged the direct involvement of foreign government agents operating in the United States.

The current debate is complicated by the fact that Saudi Arabia is a difficult ally, at odds with the United States over the Iran nuclear deal, a Saudi-led war in Yemen and the war in Syria. It is home of the fundamentalist strand of Islam known as Wahhabism, which has inspired many of the extremists the United States is trying to defeat. But it is also a partner in combating terrorism. The legislation could damage this fraught relationship. Riyadh has already threatened to withdraw billions of dollars in American-based assets to protect them from court action.

The desire to assist the Sept. 11 families is understandable, and the bill is expected to become law. The question is, at what cost?

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my opposition to the veto override vote that occurred earlier today in the U.S. Senate on S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, and that will take place shortly in the U.S.

House. While 9/11 will continue to haunt Americans and loved ones will always mourn those lost during the terrorist attacks on that day, this legislation is not the solution. I am deeply concerned for the future implications of this measure.

JASTA would allow U.S. nationals to sue foreign governments in federal court even if that country is not on the Department of State's list of state sponsors of terrorism. Lawsuits must involve death, injury, or property damage and must be caused by an act of international terrorism in the U.S. The bill also allows civil claims to be brought against foreign states or officials that are state sponsors of terrorism if their conduct contributes to an attack that kills an American outside of the United States.

This legislation would not protect Americans from future attacks nor would it improve national security. This bill would remove reciprocal agreements that now protect not only other allies, but also the U.S., from such lawsuits in other countries. The long-term impact on our country's national security is at stake. This bill would place not only our close security cooperation relationships at risk, but also U.S. service members abroad.

Families are looking for accountability in the ability to sue foreign governments, specifically Saudi Arabia. I have deep sympathy for these families who have suffered so much. However, I do not believe that this is the most viable path to justice. This bill could unfortunately backfire and cause more concern to the counterterrorism community. While we still have the chance, I urge my House colleagues to listen to our experts who have given us many warnings about the implications of this legislation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I fully sympathize with the families of 9/11 victims and understand their desire to hold people accountable for that horrific, senseless, cruel attack.

This sympathy, understandably, prompted many of my colleagues to approve S. 2040 when it was first before Congress. Yet, I am convinced that the Presidential veto of this legislation should be upheld. Everyone should read his veto message on S. 2040 to understand the complications and the risks.

We already have a mechanism to deal with state-sponsored terrorism—a mechanism to pursue it. When it is designated, we have very strong sanctions that we can employ.

The purpose of such a mechanism is to ensure those sanctions and other steps are brought to bear only after there has been a careful review that establishes state-sponsored terrorism. In the case of this legislation, the authority is transferred, not just to the attorneys of the 9/11 families, but to any individual who wants to file a lawsuit. This opens the United States up to a wide range of repercussions that could have negative consequences for Americans.

Not only would it potentially compromise our security efforts and our diplomatic relationships, but it also invites retaliation by other countries. Millions of Americans travel overseas every year and hundreds of thousands of Americans work overseas including soldiers and diplomats, all of whom could now be subjected to harsher activities by other govern-

ments without the due process afforded by the United States government. It's not just that we could have foreign action against American assets, but foreign action against Americans.

I think the President's veto decision is wise, and I support it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the House now has before it the President's Veto Message accompanying S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," which would authorize private litigation against foreign governments in the federal courts of the United States based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries sustained on U.S. soil.

I have stated on numerous times that I believe that President Barack Obama is one of the best and most consequential presidents in American history; his stewardship of American foreign and national security has kept our nation safe and restored its reputation as the most respected nation in the world.

President Obama has been an outstanding Commander-in-Chief exhibiting exceptional judgment, judgment marked by vision and purposeful, conduct that has been steady and restrained.

Mr. Speaker, I take seriously the decision whether to override a presidential veto, particularly one relating to national security and foreign policy but, as it is a duty imposed on the Congress by the Constitution, I do not shrink from the responsibility.

I have not voted to override a veto during his tenure.

Mr. Speaker, seventeen days ago, we observed the 15th anniversary of the day our nation faced the greatest loss of life on U.S. soil from a terrorist attack.

The years that have passed since that day have not dimmed my memory or diminished my resolve to see an end to terrorism not only in the United States, but around the world.

As a Member of Congress and a senior Member of the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary, both of which deal with national security issues, I have long been committed and engaged in efforts to develop policies that anticipate and respond to new and emerging challenges to the security of our nation and the peace and safety of the world.

I will never forget September 11, 2001 when 2,977 men, women and children were murdered by 19 hijackers who took commercial aircraft and used them as missiles.

I stood on the East Front steps of the Capitol on September 11, 2001, along with 150 members of the House of Representatives and sang "God Bless America."

I visited the site of the World Trade Center Towers in the aftermath of the attacks and grieved over the deaths of so many of our men, women, and children.

I want to thank and commend the work of our first responder community on that day and every day since September 11 for their efforts to protect their communities and our nation from acts of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, September 11, 2001 will always be remembered as a day of tragedy and heroism, heartbreak and courage, and shared loss.

But the loss remains especially painful to those whose loved ones died or were injured

by the criminal acts of terrorists on that fateful day.

On numerous occasions in the months and years after September 11, I met with family members of 9/11 victims and witnessed their devotion to our nation and empathized with their pain, loss, hurt, and desire to obtain justice for their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, after many years of tireless struggle, Congress passed H.R. 1, the landmark "Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007," the first bill passed by the Democratic-led 110th Congress after regaining the majority. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I worked very hard in getting this bill passed.

H.R. 1 was signed into law on August 3, 2007 and implemented the 33 recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, a body comprised of ten of the most distinguished citizens in this country. Many of the families fought hard for this bill.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security, and Chair of its Transportation Security Subcommittee, I worked closely with my colleagues across the aisle and in the Senate to strengthen the provisions in H.R. 1 designed to improve transportation security planning, information sharing, and to prevent terrorist from travelling to our country.

After passage of H.R. 1, several 9/11 families brought suit if U.S. courts seeking relief for injuries alleged to have been caused by perpetrators of the September 11 attacks and allegedly sponsored by certain nation-states.

Each of their law suits were dismissed by the courts for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction since under current law such actions were barred by the doctrine of sovereign immunity except those brought against nation-states listed by the U.S. Department of State as "state sponsors of terrorism."

This is what led to the introduction of the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," which would allow private litigation against foreign governments in U.S. courts based on allegations that such foreign governments' actions abroad made them responsible for terrorism-related injuries on U.S. soil.

Thus, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 to create a limited new exception to the Act's general grant of foreign sovereign immunity.

Mr. Speaker, this past July the Judiciary Committee, upon which I sit, held a hearing on S. 2040, the "Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act," at which the bill's supporters offered powerful and compelling testimony in favor of insuring that 9/11 families have access to their day in U.S. courts against the parties directly and vicariously liable for the injuries they suffered.

As the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigation, I am committed to doing all that I can to ensure that they receive their day in court.

I am sensitive, however, to the concerns raised by the Administration regarding unintended consequences that may result if the bill is passed in its current form.

In particular, the Administration, allied nations, and others point out that enactment of S. 2040 in its current form may lead to retaliation by other countries against the United States.

Additionally, the Administration raises the legitimate concern that if enacted in its current form, S. 2040 may hamper cooperation from other nations because they may become more reluctant to share sensitive intelligence out of fear that such information may be disclosed in litigation.

I am hopeful, however, that after this vote, these legitimate concerns can be addressed and resolved no matter the outcome and I look forward to continuing to work with the Administration, the bill's sponsors and supporters, and representatives of the 9/11 families to ensure that the 9/11 victims receive justice without substantial harm to our national security interests.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I will vote to override the President's veto of S. 2040.

I thank the House and Senate sponsors of this important legislation, my colleagues Congressmen PETER KING and JERROLD NADLER of New York, and Senators JOHN CORNYN of Texas and CHARLES SCHUMER of New York, for their tireless efforts on behalf of fairness and justice for the 9/11 families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House, on reconsideration, pass the bill, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?

Under the Constitution, the vote must be by the yeas and nays.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on passing S. 2040, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding, will be followed by 5-minute votes on ordering the previous question on House Resolution 897; adopting House Resolution 897, if ordered; and suspending the rules and passing S. 3283.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 348, nays 77, answered “present” 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 564]

YEAS—348

Abraham	Brooks (AL)	Comstock
Adams	Brooks (IN)	Connolly
Aderholt	Brown (FL)	Cook
Aguilar	Brownley (CA)	Costa
Allen	Buchanan	Costello (PA)
Amash	Bucshon	Courtney
Amodei	Burgess	Cramer
Ashford	Bustos	Crawford
Babin	Butterfield	Crenshaw
Barletta	Byrne	Crowley
Barr	Calvert	Cuellar
Barton	Capuano	Culberson
Beatty	Cárdenas	Curbelo (FL)
Becerra	Carney	Davidson
Bera	Carter (GA)	Davis, Rodney
Bilirakis	Carter (TX)	DeFazio
Bishop (GA)	Cartwright	Delaney
Bishop (MI)	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	DeBene
Blackburn	Chu, Judy	Denham
Blum	Cicilline	Dent
Bost	Clark (MA)	DeSantis
Boustany	Clarke (NY)	Deutch
Boyle, Brendan	Claawson (FL)	Diaz-Balart
F.	Cleaver	Dingell
Brady (PA)	Coffman	Doggett
Brady (TX)	Cole	Dold
Brat	Collins (GA)	Donovan
Bridenstine	Collins (NY)	

Doyle, Michael	LaHood	Reed	Clay	Issa	Richmond
F.	LaMalfa	Reichert	Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Duckworth	Lamborn	Renacci	Cohen	Johnson, E. B.	Schakowsky
Duffy	Lance	Rice (NY)	Conaway	Jolly	Schiff
Duncan (SC)	Langevin	Rice (SC)	Conyers	Kaptur	Scott (VA)
Duncan (TN)	Larson (CT)	Rigell	Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Sessions
Ellmers (NC)	Latta	Roby	Cummings	Kind	Sherman
Emmer (MN)	Lawrence	Roe (TN)	Davis (CA)	King (IA)	Smith (WA)
Engel	Levin	Rogers (AL)	Davis, Danny	Klaine	Speier
Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Rogers (KY)	DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Stewart
Esty	Lipinski	Rohrabacher	DeSaulnier	Lee	Takano
Farenthold	LoBiondo	Rokita	DesJarlais	Lewis	Thompson (CA)
Fincher	Loebsack	Rooney (FL)	Edwards	Matsui	Thornberry
Fitzpatrick	Lofgren	Ros-Lehtinen	Ellison	McCollum	Turner
Fleischmann	Long	Roskam	Farr	McDermott	Vargas
Fleming	Loudermilk	Ross	Frankel (FL)	McGovern	Veasey
Flores	Love	Rothfus	Garamendi	Moore	Visclosky
Forbes	Lowenthal	Rouzer	Grayson	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Fortenberry	Lowey	Roybal-Allard	Grijalva	Nunes	Welch
Foster	Lucas	Royce	Grothman	O'Rourke	Wilson (FL)
Fox	Luetkemeyer	Ruiz	Hartzler	Perlmutter	Yarmuth
Franks (AZ)	Lujan Grisham	Russell	Heck (WA)	Quigley	Young (AK)
Frelinghuysen	(NM)	Ryan (OH)	Hinojosa	Ribble	
Fudge	Luján, Ben Ray	Salmon			
Gabbard	(NM)	Sánchez, Linda			
Gallo	Lummis	T.			
Gallego	Lynch	Sanford			
Garrett	MacArthur	Sarbanes			
Gibbs	Maloney,	Scalise			
Gibson	Carolyn	Schrader			
Gohmert	Maloney, Sean	Schweikert			
Goodlatte	Marchant	Scott, Austin			
Gosar	Marino	Scott, David			
Gowdy	Massie	Sensenbrenner			
Graham	McCarthy	Serrano			
Granger	McCaul	Sewell (AL)			
Graves (GA)	McClintock	Shimkus			
Graves (LA)	McHenry	Shuster			
Graves (MO)	McKinley	Simpson			
Green, Al	McMorris	Sinema			
Green, Gene	Rodgers	Sires			
Griffith	McNerney	Slaughter			
Guinta	McSally	Smith (MO)			
Guthrie	Meadows	Smith (NE)			
Gutiérrez	Meehan	Smith (NJ)			
Hahn	Meeks	Smith (TX)			
Hanna	Meng	Stefanik			
Hardy	Messer	Stivers			
Harper	Mica	Stutzman			
Harris	Miller (FL)	Swalwell (CA)			
Hastings	Miller (MI)	Thompson (MS)			
Heck (NV)	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)			
Hensarling	Mooney (WV)	Tiberi			
Herrera Beutler	Mullin	Tipton			
Hice, Jody B.	Mulvaney	Titus			
Higgins	Murphy (FL)	Tonko			
Hill	Murphy (PA)	Torres			
Himes	Nadler	Trott			
Holding	Napolitano	Tsongas			
Honda	Neal	Upton			
Hoyer	Neugebauer	Valadao			
Hudson	Newhouse	Van Hollen			
Huelskamp	Huffman	Vela			
Huelskamp	Nolan	Velázquez			
Huffman	Norcross	Wagner			
Huizenga (MI)	Nugent	Walberg			
Hultgren	Olson	Walden			
Hunter	Palazzo	Walker			
Hurd (TX)	Pallone	Walorski			
Hurt (VA)	Palmer	Walters, Mimi			
Israel	Pascarell	Walz			
Jackson Lee	Paulsen	Wasserman			
Jeffries	Payne	Schultz			
Jenkins (KS)	Pearce	Watson Coleman			
Jenkins (WV)	Pelosi	Weber (TX)			
Johnson (OH)	Perry	Webster (FL)			
Johnson, Sam	Peters	Wenstrup			
Jones	Peterson	Westerman			
Jordan	Pingree	Westmoreland			
Joyce	Pittenger	Williams			
Katko	Pitts	Wilson (SC)			
Keating	Pocan	Wittman			
Kelly (MS)	Poliquin	Womack			
Kelly (PA)	Polis	Woodall			
Kennedy	Pompeo	Yoder			
Kildee	Posey	Yoho			
Kilmer	Price (NC)	Young (IA)			
King (NY)	Price, Tom	Young (IN)			
Kinzinger (IL)	Rangel	Zeldin			
Knight	Ratcliffe	Zinke			
Kuster					
Labrador					

NAYS—77

Bass	Blumenauer	Capps
Benishke	Bonamici	Carson (IN)
Beyer	Buck	Chaffetz

Clay	Issa	Richmond
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Cohen	Johnson, E. B.	Schakowsky
Conaway	Jolly	Schiff
Conyers	Kaptur	Scott (VA)
Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Sessions
Cummings	Kind	Sherman
Davis (CA)	King (IA)	Smith (WA)
Davis, Danny	Klaine	Speier
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Stewart
DeSaulnier	Lee	Takano
DesJarlais	Lewis	Thompson (CA)
Edwards	Matsui	Thornberry
Ellison	McCollum	Turner
Farr	McDermott	Vargas
Frankel (FL)	McGovern	Veasey
Garamendi	Moore	Visclosky
Grayson	Moulton	Waters, Maxine
Grijalva	Nunes	Welch
Grothman	O'Rourke	Wilson (FL)
Hartzler	Perlmutter	Yarmuth
Heck (WA)	Quigley	Young (AK)
Hinojosa	Ribble	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Castor (FL)

NOT VOTING—5

Black	Poe (TX)	Sanchez, Loretta
Kirkpatrick	Rush	

□ 1501

Messrs. RICHMOND, DESJARLAIS, CARSON of Indiana, GROTHMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. COURTNEY, McNERNEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Messrs. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, HIGGINS, and KELLY of Mississippi changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So, two-thirds having voted in favor thereof, the bill was passed, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will notify the Senate of the action of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5303, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6094, REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 11, 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 897) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to

the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees; and providing for proceedings during the period from September 29, 2016, through November 11, 2016, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 183, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 565]

YEAS—242

Abraham	Farenthold	Knight
Aderholt	Fincher	Labrador
Allen	Fitzpatrick	LaHood
Amash	Fleischmann	LaMalfa
Amodei	Fleming	Lamborn
Babin	Flores	Lance
Barletta	Forbes	Latta
Barr	Fortenberry	LoBiondo
Barton	Foxx	Long
Benishek	Franks (AZ)	Loudermilk
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	Love
Bishop (MI)	Garrett	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Gibbs	Luetkemeyer
Blackburn	Gibson	Lummis
Blum	Gohmert	MacArthur
Bost	Goodlatte	Marchant
Boustany	Gosar	Marino
Brady (TX)	Gowdy	Massie
Brat	Granger	McCarthy
Bridenstine	Graves (GA)	McCaul
Brooks (AL)	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Brooks (IN)	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Buchanan	Griffith	McKinley
Buck	Grothman	McMorris
Bucshon	Guinta	Rodgers
Burgess	Guthrie	McSally
Byrne	Hanna	Meadows
Calvert	Hardy	Meehan
Carter (GA)	Harper	Messer
Carter (TX)	Harris	Mica
Chabot	Hartzler	Miller (FL)
Chaffetz	Heck (NV)	Miller (MI)
Clawson (FL)	Hensarling	Moolenaar
Coffman	Herrera Beutler	Mooney (WV)
Cole	Hice, Jody B.	Mullin
Collins (GA)	Hill	Mulvaney
Collins (NY)	Holding	Murphy (PA)
Comstock	Hudson	Neugebauer
Conaway	Huelskamp	Newhouse
Cook	Huizenga (MI)	Noem
Costello (PA)	Hultgren	Nugent
Cramer	Hunter	Nunes
Crawford	Hurd (TX)	Olson
Crenshaw	Hurt (VA)	Palazzo
Culberson	Issa	Palmer
Curbelo (FL)	Jenkins (KS)	Paulsen
Davidson	Jenkins (WV)	Pearce
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Denham	Johnson, Sam	Pittenger
Dent	Jolly	Pitts
DeSantis	Jones	Poliquin
DesJarlais	Jordan	Posey
Diaz-Balart	Joyce	Price, Tom
Dold	Katko	Ratcliffe
Donovan	Kelly (MS)	Reed
Duffy	Kelly (PA)	Reichert
Duncan (SC)	King (IA)	Renacci
Duncan (TN)	King (NY)	Ribble
Ellmers (NC)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rice (SC)
Emmer (MN)	Kline	Rigell

Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions

Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg

Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1508

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 234, noes 191, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 566]

AYES—234

Abraham	Forbes	MacArthur
Aderholt	Fortenberry	Marchant
Allen	Foxx	Marino
Amodei	Franks (AZ)	McCarthy
Babin	Frelinghuysen	McCaul
Barletta	Garrett	McClintock
Barr	Gibbs	McHenry
Barton	Gibson	McKinley
Benishek	Gohmert	McMorris
Bilirakis	Goodlatte	Rodgers
Bishop (MI)	Gowdy	McSally
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Meadows
Blackburn	Graves (GA)	Meehan
Blum	Graves (LA)	Messer
Bost	Graves (MO)	Mica
Boustany	Griffith	Miller (FL)
Brady (TX)	Grothman	Miller (MI)
Brat	Guinta	Moolenaar
Bridenstine	Guthrie	Mooney (WV)
Brooks (IN)	Hanna	Mullin
Buchanan	Hardy	Mulvaney
Buck	Harper	Murphy (PA)
Bucshon	Harris	Neugebauer
Burgess	Hartzler	Newhouse
Byrne	Heck (NV)	Noem
Calvert	Hensarling	Nugent
Carter (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Nunes
Carter (TX)	Hice, Jody B.	Olson
Chabot	Hill	Palazzo
Chaffetz	Holding	Palmer
Clawson (FL)	Hudson	Paulsen
Coffman	Huizenga (MI)	Pearce
Cole	Hultgren	Perry
Collins (GA)	Hunter	Pittenger
Collins (NY)	Hurd (TX)	Pitts
Comstock	Hurt (VA)	Poliquin
Conaway	Issa	Posey
Cook	Jenkins (KS)	Price, Tom
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (WV)	Ratcliffe
Cramer	Johnson (OH)	Reed
Crawford	Johnson, Sam	Reichert
Crenshaw	Jolly	Renacci
Culberson	Joyce	Ribble
Curbelo (FL)	Katko	Rice (SC)
Davidson	Kelly (MS)	Rigell
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (PA)	Roby
Denham	King (IA)	Roe (TN)
Dent	King (NY)	Rogers (AL)
DeSantis	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (KY)
DesJarlais	Kline	Rohrabacher
Diaz-Balart	Knight	Rokita
Dold	LaHood	Rooney (FL)
Donovan	LaMalfa	Ros-Lehtinen
Duffy	Lamborn	Roskam
Duncan (SC)	Lance	Ross
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Rothfus
Ellmers (NC)	LoBiondo	Rouzer
Emmer (MN)	Farenthold	Royce
Fletcher	Fincher	Russell
Flores	Fitzpatrick	Salmon
	Fleischmann	Sanford
	Fleming	Scalise
	Flores	Schweikert

NAYS—183

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Cárney
Jeffries
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutsch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Black
Kirkpatrick
Poe (TX)
Pompeo
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)

Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup

Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

□ 1520

So the resolution was agreed to.
The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

PFC JAMES DUNN VA CLINIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 3283) to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the “PFC James Dunn VA Clinic”, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 423, nays 0, answered “present” 1, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 567]

YEAS—423

Adams
Aguilar
Amash
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster

NOT VOTING—6

Black
Kirkpatrick

Poe (TX)
Pompeo

Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishke
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)

Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan

Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Galleo
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna

Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean

Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascarella
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Rice (SC)

Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Perlmutter
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Pittenger
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

NOT VOTING—7

Black Poe (TX) Sanchez, Loretta
Carter (GA) Pompeo
Kirkpatrick Rush

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1527

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidable detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 567.

WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 892 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5303.

Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) kindly take the chair.

□ 1528

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Tuesday, September 27, 2016, amendment No. 25 printed in House Report 114-790 offered by the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF
LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 233, not voting 8, as follows:—

[Roll No. 568]

AYES—190

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davidson
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)

Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzer
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
King (IA)
Kline
Knight
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McClintock
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moonen
Moore (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nugent
Nunes
Olson

Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reichert
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Wagner
Walberg
Walder
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (IA)
Young (IN)

NOES—233

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Barletta
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bustos
Butterfield

Capps
Capuano
Cardenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Buchanan
Costello (PA)
Courtney

Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael
F.

Duckworth
Duffy
Edwards
Ellison
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gibson
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Hultgren
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
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King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kuster
LaHood
Lance
Langevin

Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Miller (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Renacci
Rice (NY)

Richmond
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tiberi
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Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Upton
Neal
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Black McCaul
Cleaver Poe (TX)
Kirkpatrick Pompeo

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1533

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chair, on rollcall No. 568, my vote was recorded as an “aye”; it should have been recorded as a “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chair, on rollcall Nos. 565–568, I was unable to cast my vote in person due to a previously scheduled engagement. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 897 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5303.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1535

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 114-790 offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) had been disposed of.

Pursuant to House Resolution 897, no further amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute referred to in House Resolution 892 shall be in order except those printed in House Report 114-794.

Each such further amendment shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BYRNE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ GULF COAST OYSTER BED RECOVERY ASSESSMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GULF STATES.—The term “Gulf States” means each of the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers.

(b) GULF COAST OYSTER BED RECOVERY ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Gulf States, shall conduct an assessment relating to the recovery of oyster beds on the coast of Gulf States that were damaged by events including—

- (1) Hurricane Katrina in 2005;
- (2) the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010; and
- (3) floods in 2011 and 2016.

(c) INCLUSION.—The assessment conducted under subsection (b) shall address the beneficial use of dredged material in providing substrate for oyster bed development.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the assessment conducted under subsection (b).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, my straightforward amendment calls for the Army Corps of Engineers to perform a gulf coast oyster bed recovery assessment.

Over the last 20 years, the oyster industry on the Gulf Coast has faced some serious challenges. Hurricane Katrina destroyed so many of our oyster reefs. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill blanketed many oyster growing areas and resulted in substantial harvest reductions.

More recently, flooding in 2011 and earlier this year produced increased freshwater discharges into many parts of the Gulf and threw off the mix of fresh- and saltwater that oysters need to thrive.

In 2001, oyster landings in the Gulf totaled 25.5 million pounds; in 2014, which is the most recent data available, oyster landings in the Gulf were down to 19.9 million. This is a dangerous decline that really impacts our oystermen and the overall coastal economies.

This industry is especially important to the Gulf Coast. The oyster industry generated nearly \$100 million in oyster landings by fishermen in the Gulf States in 2014.

And we aren't just talking about the oystermen themselves. Having a successful oyster industry also benefits processors, restaurants, transportation, tourism, wholesalers, and retailers.

Mr. Chairman, I have visited with our local oystermen, and they are really struggling. It is heartbreaking to hear their stories. This is their livelihood, but also a way of life for these Americans. We can and we must do more to support their industry.

My amendment would pave the way for a partnership between the Army

Corps of Engineers and the Gulf States to explore ways to improve future prospects for oysters. The assessment will address the beneficial use of dredged material and provide substrate for oyster bed development. Similar work has been done with the oyster industry in the Chesapeake Bay, and it has been a great success.

I also want to point out that improving the oyster beds on the Gulf will also benefit the ecosystem and environment as a whole. As filter feeders, oysters provide significant water quality benefits and, as an important prey species, they support finfish, such as redfish and other species, further up the food chain.

States have already been working to improve conditions for the oyster industry through the use of BP settlement money, but further partnerships with the Army Corps of Engineers will go a long way.

I appreciate Chairman SHUSTER and his staff for working with me on this amendment and for all his work on the underlying bill.

Ultimately, I urge my colleagues to stand up for our Gulf Coast oystermen and support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman's amendment has great merit, and I urge Members to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Chairman, I would ask everyone to support this very important amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION.

(a) PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE.—Section 5026(6) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3905(6)) is amended by striking “or a water recycling project” and inserting “a water recycling project, or a project of the Corps of Engineers to provide alternative water supplies to reduce aquifer depletion”.

(b) CREDIT.—Section 5029(b) of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3908(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) CREDIT.—With respect to a project of the Corps of Engineers to provide alternative water supplies to reduce aquifer depletion, any eligible project costs incurred and the value of any integral in-kind contributions made before receipt of assistance under this subtitle shall be credited toward the 51 percent of project costs to be provided by sources of funding other than a secured loan under this subtitle (as described in paragraph (2)(A)).”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, first, let me applaud the chairman's efforts and dedication to moving this reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act. Continued investment in water infrastructure projects is critical to my constituents and communities all over the country who rely on water infrastructure to protect our communities and to strengthen the competitiveness of private enterprise.

The amendment I am offering today builds upon past successes of the chairman and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It seeks to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act, or WIFIA, so that it will better address the problem of groundwater depletion, an issue that is becoming more and more widespread throughout communities all over the United States.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, groundwater is the source of drinking water for about half of the total U.S. population and nearly all of the rural population. USGS also estimates that groundwater provides over 50 billion gallons per day for agricultural needs. In order to ensure adequate water availability for our communities and our farmers, it is vital to advance infrastructure projects that produce pressure on aquifers that supply groundwater.

In many parts of the country, water availability is at risk due to rates of groundwater pumping that outpace the ability of regional aquifers to recharge. The problem has only grown worse with the recent onslaught of widespread drought.

WIFIA was passed in the 2014 WRDA bill, and is an important tool that will accelerate water infrastructure investment in many important water projects. However, the program does not provide support for alternative water delivery projects aimed at reducing aquifer depletion. My amendment to WRDA clarifies the law to ensure that these types of groundwater conservation projects qualify for WIFIA financing.

Secondly, it makes a technical modification to ensure that WIFIA financ-

ing arrangements consider the total cost of the project, which will help advance projects already under construction.

Aquifer depletion threatens our communities and industries that rely on a constant supply of groundwater, so it is critical to support investment in projects that aim to address this serious problem. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I think the gentleman has identified a real and continuing issue, and I suggest that Members support his amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the ranking member and express my appreciation to the chairman for his support of the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. CULBERSON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. FLOOD MITIGATION AND RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall expedite carrying out the project for flood risk management, Brays Bayou, Texas, authorized by item 6 in section 211(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, this simple amendment that I am offering today with my colleague and good friend, Congressman AL GREEN of Houston, would direct the Secretary to expedite a project that we both share in Houston, the Brays Bayou flood mitigation project.

□ 1545

It was authorized back in 1996. We have experienced massive flooding in southeast Texas, and tremendous damage to homes and businesses throughout the area that Congressman GREEN and I represent.

It is vital that this project be completed as soon as possible. Expediting this project will remove 29,000 homes and businesses from a 100-year flood plain. The project is essential to reduce the devastation and suffering the people of Houston and Harris County have experienced in recent years.

I am proud to offer the amendment today with my colleague, Mr. AL GREEN of Houston. I want to thank the Rules Committee for making the amendment in order. I especially want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and his very capable committee staff for their assistance with this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairperson of the committee, as well as the ranking member. I am so honored to be associated with this amendment.

In Houston, Texas, we have floods that total \$1 billion in damages, and it is not unusual for this to occur within a 1-year period of time. We had the tax day flood and the Memorial Day flood.

I also would call to your attention that we have lost a total of 17 lives in the last two floods. So this amendment is going to go a long way toward preventing flooding. It won't end it all, but it will help us greatly, and it may save some lives.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is very straightforward. We are simply expediting the funding that has already been appropriated, already been authorized, and already set aside for this project to ensure that the Corps gives the Brays Bayou project the same priority and the same urgency that it has, for example, with other projects in the area like Buffalo.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to work with my colleague, Congressman AL GREEN. I move passage of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I congratulate the two gentlemen on a very sensitive and positive bipartisan amendment which expedites a critical authorized and appropriated project.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I neglected to thank Mr. CULBERSON.

It really has been a pleasure working with Congressman CULBERSON on this project. This has been something, as

the gentleman knows, that our constituents have demanded that we pay some attention to. I hope that this will help to satisfy some of the concerns that have been raised that the gentleman and I have tried to address. So I thank the gentleman.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY
MR. FARENTHOLD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . INITIATING WORK ON SEPARABLE ELEMENTS.

With respect to a water resources development project that has received construction funds in the previous 6-year period, for purposes of initiating work on a separable element of the project—

(1) no new start or new investment decision shall be required; and

(2) the work shall be treated as ongoing work.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Chairman, the Office of Management and Budget has imposed the need for a new start or a new investment determination for projects that have been previously fully authorized and have actually begun work despite a lack of written policy or standards.

Many of these critical projects, like one in the district I represent, the Port of Corpus Christi Channel Improvement Project, which was fully authorized in WRDA 2007 and reauthorized in WRRDA 2014, have been halted even though parts of the project have been completed.

The purpose of my amendment simply states that separate elements of a previously authorized project do not constitute a new start but are, in fact, a continuation and ongoing work. The new start determination and advancing separable elements of the entire project slows things down as we have to get a new start finding on every element. Slowing it down deprives the communities of much-needed improvements and actually raises the entire cost of the project. This amendment considers separable elements to be continuations of the fully authorized project.

The approach taken by the OMB, with respect to considering separable elements as a new start, is counterproductive to the work we have been doing on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in streamlining the review process, improving project delivery efforts, facilitating accelerated funding of projects, and reestablishing the Nation's trade and economic prowess with major port infrastructure projects like the Port of Corpus Christi.

Mr. Chairman, I urge Members to support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. SAM
JOHNSON OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 153. LOWER BOIS D'ARC CREEK RESERVOIR PROJECT, FANNIN COUNTY, TEXAS.

(a) FINALIZATION REQUIRED.—Not later than September 30, 2017, the Secretary shall finalize all permit decisions and publish all decision documents related to the construction of, impoundment of water in, and operation of, the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir Project, including any associated water transmission facilities, by the North Texas Municipal Water District in Fannin County, Texas.

(b) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2017, the Secretary shall report to Congress on the status of the permit decisions and related documents described in subsection (a) and whether or not the Secretary anticipates being able to meet the deadline established in such subsection, including, if applicable, a justification of why the Secretary may fail to meet such deadline.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today, along with my fellow Texans, PETE SESSIONS, JOHN RATCLIFFE, and EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, with an amendment that is absolutely vital for north Texas.

Mr. Chairman, north Texas is no stranger to drought. And with our area booming, the need for water is as great as ever. That is why for years the North Texas Municipal Water District has been working hard to get State and Federal approval to construct the Lower Bois d'Arc Creek Reservoir in Fannin County. In fact, they have been working at it for 10 years.

The good news is that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has already issued the State permit for this locally funded project. But here is the bad news: Federal bureaucrats have been holding up the permit for the project, specifically the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers.

There is no end in sight to the delay which will lead to a manmade water crisis. The bottom line is there won't be enough water to meet demand in north Texas without this new reservoir in as few as 4 years.

This isn't simply water for our lawns. It is about having the water to support our fast growing regional economy. Earlier this summer, The Dallas Morning News ran an editorial with the title: "EPA's delay of Fannin County reservoir could threaten North Texas economy," which I include in the RECORD.

[The Dallas Morning News, June 10, 2016]

**EPA'S DELAY OF FANNIN COUNTY RESERVOIR
COULD THREATEN NORTH TEXAS ECONOMY**

For nearly a decade, the North Texas Municipal Water District has tried to build the Lower Bois d'Arc Reservoir in Fannin County to support the rapid growth in cities like Frisco, Plano and other municipalities north and east of Dallas.

The project was moving forward until last year, when the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency abruptly shifted course at the last minute to require a more detailed analysis of the environmental impact to forested wetlands near the proposed reservoir. Completion of the \$1 billion, 16,526-acre project has been delayed from 2020 to possibly 2022.

Federal environmental reviews are complicated matters, but what makes this particularly disturbing is that the EPA appears to be changing the rules in the middle of the process without much regard to real-world consequences for North Texas. The project received its state water rights approval last summer and had expected to secure the necessary federal permits by the end of last year. Those permits would have kept the project on schedule, allowing the reservoir to open in 2020 with enough capacity to provide the region with water through at least 2040.

EPA and Army Corp officials say they are only following the law, but they're also making a high-stakes gamble with the region's economic well-being. Even with normal North Texas temperatures and rainfall, Collin County is on pace to face water supply issues by 2020 unless this reservoir is constructed. A major drought would be even more problematic.

Rest assured, this issue is more serious than brown lawns and restrictive watering schedules. Water rates would soar. Construction would slow, and there could be tense moments for sanitation and fire fighting, too. Emergency water supplies would be difficult to obtain. Dallas and other neighboring water districts would have their own challenges, and water from outside Texas couldn't be tapped without more regulatory battles and technical complications that would make supplies prohibitively expensive.

Dozens of mayors and members of Congress have pressed for faster action only to be told the review will be completed on the regulators' schedule. Frustrated, U.S. Rep. Sam Johnson recently introduced a bill to exempt the project from the Federal Water Pollution

Control Act and speed up construction. We don't back this bill, but, like the congressman and various other elected officials, we agree that it is time for this project to move forward at a faster pace.

North Texas' population is expected to mushroom in the next quarter-century. The Army Corps and EPA need to find a way to allow this vital water project to be completed without further delay.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. That is why I am offering this amendment which would require the EPA and Army Corps to issue a final permit for the construction of the reservoir no later than September 30, 2017.

North Texans want, need, and deserve this reservoir, a reservoir already approved by the State. I am absolutely committed to getting this done, and I ask all the Members to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my strong support for this bipartisan amendment which would help the north Texas region meet its future water needs.

The North Texas Municipal Water District has long endeavored to develop a reservoir project in Fannin County, Texas. This project would help address the growing population within the water district which is expected to double to 3.7 million residents within the next 50 years. The project would also support millions of dollars in regional economic growth while helping us to meet the projected north Texas water supply needs through 2040 and beyond.

To date, the North Texas Municipal Water District has faced tremendous obstacles during the permitting process, which has hindered progress on this crucial project. This amendment would simply compel the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a final permit for the construction of the reservoir no later than September 30 of next year.

The Texas delegation has a long history of coming together and reaching across the aisle to accomplish great things for our State. The process behind this amendment was no different, and I am proud to work with my colleagues to offer this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Texas, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. She and I have been friends forever.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), my good friend.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, I want to stand before this body and thank the gentleman, SAM JOHNSON, and the gentlewoman, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for their support in this important effort.

Mr. Chairman, what we are doing here today is most important. We are trying to prepare for future generations of people who will be living in Texas who want and need to make sure that we have water reservoirs that are available and prepared for that growth that will occur. This is not a partisan issue, and it is not a political issue. It is a regional issue. It is something that we have worked on very diligently.

Congressman SAM JOHNSON and Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON have gathered together, and we have worked to make sure that as we talk about this project we have worked with the EPA, we have worked with the Corps of Engineers, we have worked with the North Texas Municipal Water District, and we have made sure that during this process that we have all stuck to our word.

This opportunity that we have today is to make sure that we stick to our word, that all of the organizations who have worked with us know that we have set a date by which this must be done. There are lots of ways for people to slip out, find problems, and ignore the things which are team oriented.

I think that what SAM JOHNSON is doing here today makes real sense, and that is why last night at the Rules Committee I made sure that we not only made this in order today, but that we can do this together.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Dallas, Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), and the gentleman from Plano, Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), for the work that they have done. I thank the gentleman for the time that he has yielded me.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have no further comments. I just wish to request support for this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank both of you all and all our Dallas delegation, the Texas delegation really, for this interest.

My commonsense amendment is intended to prevent a real water crisis—which we are getting close to—by getting the Federal Government to finally issue the needed permit for this vital local reservoir project. I ask all my colleagues to support this amendment. Please pass this amendment. Let's get the water north Texas needs.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. RIBBLE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. CONSIDERATION OF USE OF NATURAL AND NATURE-BASED FEATURE.

In carrying out the design, construction, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of development projects, including flood risk reduction, coastal resiliency, and ecosystem restoration projects, the Secretary shall ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the use of natural and nature-based features.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment is very simple. It is a 40-word technical correction from my perspective. This amendment simply states that the Secretary of the U.S. Corps of Engineers needs to consider—it doesn't mandate anything—it just says they should consider the use of natural and nature-based products when they are looking at various scopes of work.

Let me give you an example, Mr. Chairman. I serve the Eighth Congressional District of Wisconsin and Green Bay is in my district. The waters of Green Bay have been affected by overflows of phosphorus and various nutrients. In this case, as part of the mitigation of trying to retain that phosphorus on the ground rather than in the bay, the Corps of Engineers could use natural berms. They could use weeds and grasses and different landscaping methods that are both aesthetically and technically better in this case.

So my amendment simply says that in this case the Secretary should allow consideration of these products. Not recommend them, not push them, not advocate for them, but simply have them in their consideration as they carry out the design, construction, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of water resources in this country.

This amendment is supported by the American Council of Engineering Companies, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and about ten others or so.

Mr. Chairman, that is the scope of the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulate the gentleman on his persistence. This is a very commonsense amendment and it could have tremendous benefits nationwide. It is great policy. I congratulate him for his persistence because this amendment was rejected in committee, but things seem different on the floor, and that is great.

I urge our colleagues to support this fully.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Chairman, I also thank the ranking member for his words. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER as well for recognizing that this amendment has merit.

I recommend that my colleagues support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) assumed the chair.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5325. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY
MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ RECREATIONAL ACCESS.

Section 1035 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-121; 128 Stat. 1234) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) RECREATIONAL ACCESS.—The Secretary shall allow the use of a floating cabin on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in the Cumberland River basin if—

“(1) the floating cabin—

“(A) is in compliance with, and maintained by the owner to satisfy the requirements of, regulations for recreational vessels, including health and safety standards, issued under chapter 43 of title 46, United States Code, and section 312 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1322); and

“(B) is located at a marina leased by the Corps of Engineers; and

“(2) the Secretary has authorized the use of recreational vessels on such waters.”; and (2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the Secretary to impose requirements on a floating cabin or on any facility that serves a floating cabin, including marinas or docks located on waters under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in the Cumberland River basin, that are different or more stringent than the requirements imposed on all recreational vessels authorized to use such waters.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions apply:

“(A) VESSEL.—The term ‘vessel’ has the meaning given that term in section 3 of title 1, United States Code.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—The term ‘requirement’ includes a requirement imposed through the utilization of guidance.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, this small legislative clarification will go a long way to promote tourism and economic opportunity on Corps lakes.

Beautiful Lake Cumberland, in my Congressional District, is the largest man-made lake east of the Mississippi. Located within a day's drive of 87 million Americans and with over 1,200 miles of pristine coastline, it is the ideal location for families to enjoy a week or a weekend on a houseboat.

Indeed, Lake Cumberland was once the houseboat capital of America, but that all abruptly changed when a major Corps rehabilitation project on the dam coincided with a downturn of the U.S. economy in 2007. The Corps had to lower the lake by some 43 feet to repair damage to Wolf Creek Dam, and the houseboat business was all but decimated.

It took 7 years to complete this project and restore lake levels, but I am proud to say, Mr. Chairman, that Lake Cumberland is now open for business. Unfortunately, the Corps has not been as eager as others to bring back the vibrant houseboat industry that once flourished in this region, or to support the emerging floating cabin industry that promises to make lake life accessible to more and more vacationers and families.

With Chairman SHUSTER's support, we added bipartisan language to the last WRDA bill to ensure that floating cabins, once garnering safety approval by the U.S. Coast Guard, would be permitted on Corps lakes. However, the Corps has since found new and creative ways to continue banning floating cabins from their lakes, particularly through the promulgation of overly burdensome guidance with requirements far more stringent than those health and safety standards expected by the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard has successfully safeguarded our maritime system since its creation in 1790, and it is, therefore, the Coast Guard that should be the lead Federal agency in regulating the vessels that navigate our Federal waterways. Today's amendment simply reinforces congressional intent to ensure that there is one standard for these floating cabins, and that standard would be set by the U.S. Coast Guard. Safety should always remain our highest priority, and I am confident these cabins will create exciting new opportunities at Lake Cumberland and other Corps lakes.

I urge support of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. YODER). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. ROUZER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ NO WAKE ZONES FOR VESSELS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall work with State and local officials to establish a no wake zone for vessels in a covered navigation channel if—

(1) State or local law enforcement officers have documented that there exist safety hazards that are a direct result of excessive wakes in the channel;

(2) a State law has been enacted to establish a no wake zone for the channel or waters adjacent to the channel; and

(3) the no wake zone complies with any recommendation made by the Commandant of the Coast Guard to ensure the safety of vessels operating in the zone and the safety of the passengers and crew aboard such vessels.

(b) EXCEPTION.—A no wake zone established pursuant to this section shall not apply to the operation of a towing vessel, as defined in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(c) COVERED NAVIGATION CHANNEL.—In this section, the term “covered navigation channel” means a navigation channel that—

(1) is federally marked or maintained;

(2) is part of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway; and

(3) is adjacent to a marina.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I have come here to the floor this afternoon because there is a specific and, I would argue, unique public safety concern that I have in my district right along the Intracoastal Waterway. Specifically, it is right there at Southport Marina.

Let me give you a visual description of what is taking place there. When you are traveling up the Intracoastal Waterway, particularly from the south, you can't see the Southport Marina at all. There is not a no-wake zone there. Because you can't see the Southport Marina, these boats, particularly the recreational users, fly right on through there.

This is a high traffic area, particularly during the spring and summer months when you have a lot of recreational boaters on the water. This is a growing area. In fact, this has been a public safety concern for some time; so much of a public safety concern, that the State of North Carolina passed a law requiring that this area adjacent to the Southport Marina be a no-wake zone. The problem is the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard won't recognize it.

So let me give you this mental picture again. You have got the Intracoastal Waterway, you have a marina that most boaters, particularly those speeding up from the south, can't see on the left-hand side. They are flying through there. You have all kinds of boats coming in and out, recreational boats coming in and out of the marina. This is a major accident waiting to happen.

The local sheriff's office is quite concerned about this. The local government and county commissioners, town, and all of the local citizens are quite concerned about this. Again, I want to stress that there has been so much concern about this that the State of North Carolina passed a law requiring this area to be a no-wake zone.

So this is not an amendment in any way, shape, or form to require or attempt to persuade the Corps of Engineers or Coast Guard to get in the business of no-wake zones. However, it is designed to encourage the Corps and the Coast Guard to work with the locals and the State to address this significant public safety issue.

The amendment is narrowly crafted so as to avoid creating any other speed bump, for example, up and down the Intracoastal Waterway. And there is an exception made for tugboat operators, because I certainly recognize that they have to maintain a certain speed in

order to get the cargo through the waterway.

I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I would ask the author—I am a bit puzzled, and we have been unable to get an answer expeditiously from the Coast Guard—you are saying the Coast Guard will not recognize the no-wake zone, but the enforcement would fall to the local harbor patrol or the local authorities. So there is a no-wake zone that the local officials can fine or penalize people who violate it, can they not?

Mr. ROUZER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER. Here is the situation. There is not a no-wake zone there because the Army Corps and the Coast Guard do not recognize it. The State passed a law requiring that there be a no-wake zone, but there is not one because Federal law, obviously, supersedes State law.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I think we have got an issue here that doesn't require legislation. I am not going to object to this going forward, but I think we can get the attention of the Coast Guard and figure out what is going on here because I am not aware—and I live on a boat in D.C. and I have spent a lot of time on the water and I have been on the Intracoastal Waterway. I am not aware that the Coast Guard has any authority over locally declared no-wake zones to preempt them, and I am puzzled as to why they would do that in this particular case.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I think the problem specifically is that it is Federal water. I would add, again to paint a mental picture here, you have State and local officials that want to have a no-wake zone; and the only reason why there is not a no-wake zone there is because the Army Corps of Engineers and the Coast Guard do not recognize it. Again, I would suspect that is specifically because it is Federal water.

This amendment is narrowly tailored to address this specific public safety issue. Again, I would encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROUZER. I yield to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I am puzzled because, again, I have been on segments of the Intracoastal Water-

way, which I guess he is saying are all declared to be Federal waters where there are no-wake zones. So I don't know what the issue is. I would be happy to work with the gentleman on this, and I am not going to object to the amendment at this point.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the comments of the ranking member. And to be quite candid, I don't understand why they won't follow it either, which is why I am here.

I greatly appreciate the ranking member and his support, and I look forward to working to get this resolved.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1615

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 114-794.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____. ICE JAM PREVENTION AND MITIGATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out projects under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s), including planning, design, construction, and monitoring of structural and nonstructural technologies and measures for preventing and mitigating flood damages associated with ice jams.

(b) INCLUSION.—The projects described in subsection (a) may include the development and demonstration of cost-effective technologies and designs developed in consultation with—

(1) the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory of the Corps of Engineers;

(2) universities;

(3) Federal, State, and local agencies; and

(4) private organizations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, first, I thank my partner in offering this amendment, Representative ELISE STEFANIK. Our bipartisan amendment is simple. It is identical to language in the Senate-passed WRDA that allows the Army Corps of Engineers to pursue projects and technologies that prevent and mitigate flood damage that is associated with ice jams.

Every year, flooding that results from the piling up of frozen ice in rivers across the United States costs our

economy millions of dollars. When free-floating ice catches on obstructions, such as bridge pilings, rocks, or logs, flooding can result upstream from the blockage and, again, downstream when the ice finally releases.

During my time in the New York State Assembly, I can remember hearing horrible stories from my colleagues in upstate New York and wondering what more could be done to prepare for these events. I know that my friend Representative STEFANIK's district has been directly impacted by such floods in the recent past, and I am glad that we could come together today to offer this amendment.

Currently, research is ongoing regarding the best practices in planning, design, and construction of Army Corps projects that would help alleviate future ice jam flooding. I support those efforts and look forward to new technologies and designs that are being developed by local universities, State and local agencies, and even private industry. Together, I know that we can do more to combat the hardships that are created in American communities every year by ice jam flooding, and I appreciate the time today to highlight this terrible problem.

I urge the Army Corps to continue its efforts at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I congratulate the gentlewoman on being sensitive to the needs of her district, which has a very real problem, and this is fully within the authority of the Corps. I wish they had more money with which to do more projects around the country. I tried that yesterday, and it didn't work, but I will certainly be happy to support this.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 114-794.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. _____. TRIBAL CONSULTATION.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin a review of the policies, regulations, and guidance related to conducting meaningful consultation with Indian tribes regarding Corps of Engineers flood control, environmental restoration, and other projects or requiring the Corps of Engineers to approve a permit that may have an impact on tribal cultural or natural resources.

(b) CONTENTS.—The review required under subsection (a) shall examine and assess the following:

(1) How tribal consultation rules apply to the permitting process, especially for projects not on tribal lands but which may still be contiguous to such lands or affect tribal cultural and natural resources.

(2) How the Corps of Engineers defines meaningful consultation.

(3) Whether the current process adequately considers tribal interests including environmental, social, health and well-being of tribal members.

(4) How the Corps of Engineers informs tribes that it will not consider concerns or alternatives raised during the consultation process.

(5) How the Corps of Engineers determines a project's impact on tribal communities including the Corps ability to protect cultural and natural resources such as water.

(6) The specific situations by which tribes have access to high level Corps of Engineers officials such as the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and the Chief of Engineers to dispute or otherwise direct concerns about pending Corps of Engineers projects or permits, including examples of instances in which the Corps of Engineers provided such access as part of its consultation with a tribe regarding a particular project.

(7) The role of headquarters in overseeing tribal consultation being done at the District and Division levels.

(8) The effectiveness of the dispute resolution process that has been developed to elevate tribal concerns to higher levels of Corps of Engineers oversight and review.

(9) Whether the Corps should undertake a rulemaking process related to its tribal consultation policies and procedures.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In completing the review required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for public and private meetings with Indian tribes and other stakeholders.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after beginning the review under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress, and publish in the Federal Register, a report on—

(1) the results of the review;

(2) any proposed changes to the tribal consultation policies determined necessary as a result of the review; and

(3) if the Secretary determines that no changes to the tribal consultation policies are necessary, the justification for such determination.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief.

We are all aware of the latest controversy surrounding the failure of the

Federal Government to consult with Native American tribes. Wisely, the Obama administration has postponed work on the Dakota Access pipeline while it meets to hear tribes' concerns about the inadequacy of the consulting process in that case and, more broadly, across the Federal Government. In the bill before us, Mr. Chairman, we are authorizing billions of dollars in Army Corps of Engineers projects and providing direction for work it is doing in almost every community throughout our great country.

There is no question that the Corps' responsibility to undertake this work and the indigenous people's desire and ability to protect their cultural and natural resources will continue to clash, and we know that tribes continue to be frustrated by how Federal agencies, including the Army Corps, do their so-called consulting with them. I share this frustration.

I would love to go much further with this amendment, but my amendment, Mr. Chairman, simply requires the Army Corps to work with tribes to review its current consultation policies. Let me just read a little bit, Mr. Chairman, because it sounds good on paper.

"All federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments and will be treated with respect. . . . The trust responsibility will be honored and fulfilled. . . . The Federal Government has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribal governments that recognizes self-government and self-determination," et cetera.

I include in the RECORD this policy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,

Washington, DC, November 1, 2012.

Memorandum for Commanders, Directors and Chiefs of Separate Offices, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Subject: Tribal Consultation Policy

1. This memorandum affirms and formalizes current tribal consultation procedures for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

2. The interaction between the federal government and federally recognized Indian Tribes (including Alaska Natives) has its origins in the U.S. Constitution and has been upheld and defined through Treaties, U.S. Supreme Court cases, various statutes and regulations, presidential documents and policies, including the Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, and the USACE Tribal Policy Principles, recently reissued on 10 May 2010.

3. The Policy provides an outline of our responsibilities to federally recognized Tribes as well as a framework for consulting with them. It is purposefully general in nature because each of the 565 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes are distinct and separate governments, requiring a consultation process that may be completely unique to them.

4. USACE recognizes the sovereign status of Tribal governments and our obligation for pre-decisional government-to-government consultation. USACE also recognizes the unique role Tribes play as partners in water resources projects and seeks to develop relationships with all Tribes who may need our

assistance in their capacity building and self-determination.

5. USACE has an excellent tribal program coordinated by a tribal liaison at Headquarters and a point of contact or liaison in each District and Division office. These experts are ready to support you and answer any questions you have regarding tribal policies.

6. An accountable process to interact with Tribes is mandated in Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, 06 Nov 2000, and Presidential Memorandum, Tribal Consultation, 05 Nov 2009. Please ensure that your staff is aware of and abides by our Consultation Policy to ensure effective and mutually beneficial relationships with tribal partners.

THOMAS P. BOSTICK,

Lieutenant General, U.S. Army Commanding.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

TRIBAL CONSULTATION POLICY

1. References.

a. U.S. Constitution, Articles I, Section 8; Article VI.

b. National Historic Preservation Act.

c. American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

d. Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

e. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

f. Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

g. Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites, 24 May 1996.

h. Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, 20 Oct 1998.

i. Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, 06 Nov 2000.

j. Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100, Planners Guidance Notebook, 22 Apr 2000.

k. Department of Defense Instruction Number 4710.02: DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes, 14 Sep 2006.

l. Army Regulation 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, 13 Dec 2007.

m. Engineer Regulation 1130-2-540, Project Operations—Environmental Stewardship Operations and Maintenance Guidelines and Procedures, 11 Aug 2008.

n. Presidential Memorandum, Tribal Consultation, 5 Nov 2009.

o. USACE Tribal Policy Principles, 18 Feb 1998 and 10 May 2010.

p. Announcement of Presidential support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Public Papers of the President, December 16, 2010.

2. Purpose. On November 5, 2009, President Barack Obama issued a Memorandum to the heads of all federal agencies entitled Tribal Consultation (74 Fed Reg 57881) reaffirming Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (65 Fed Reg 67249) signed by President William J. Clinton on November 6, 2000. E.O. 13175 requires all federal agencies to formulate “an accountable process to ensure meaningful and timely input by tribal officials in the development of regulatory policies that have tribal implications.” This document affirms the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) commitment to engage in consultation with federally recognized Tribes.

3. Background. There are responsibilities to Tribes resulting from the Federal Trust Doctrine, as well as from Treaties, statutes, regulations, Executive Orders and agreements between the United States government and tribal governments. Department of Defense American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, Department of Defense Instruction number 4710.02: DoD Interactions with Feder-

ally Recognized Tribes, and US Army Corps of Engineers Tribal Policy Principles (Attachment 1) provide guidance.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are applied:

a. Tribe: Indian Tribes as defined in E.O. 13175, “an Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 USC 479a.”

b. Consultation: Open, timely, meaningful, collaborative and effective deliberative communication process that emphasizes trust, respect and shared responsibility. To the extent practicable and permitted by law, consultation works toward mutual consensus and begins at the earliest planning stages, before decisions are made and actions are taken; an active and respectful dialogue concerning actions taken by the USACE that may significantly affect tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) or Indian lands.

4. Applicability. This regulation applies to all HQUSACE elements, Major Subordinate Commands, District Commands, the Institute for Water Resources, the Humphreys Engineering Center Support Activity, and the Engineer Research and Development Center.

5. General Policy. The Tribal Policy Principles.

a. All federally recognized Tribes are sovereign governments and will be treated with respect.

(1) Sovereignty is the foundation of tribal governments.

(2) Tribes are responsible for their own governance and management.

b. The Trust responsibility will be honored and fulfilled.

(1) The federal government has a unique legal and political relationship with Tribal governments that recognizes self-government and self-determination.

(2) USACE is committed to supporting projects and programs beneficial to Tribes through partnership with them.

(3) USACE will ensure that it addresses Tribal concerns regarding protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands.

(4) USACE will protect and allow access to protected tribal resources under USACE jurisdiction to the extent practicable, and will work to develop and implement access policies as needed.

(5) USACE will share information that is not otherwise controlled or classified information.

c. USACE will maintain a government-to-government relationship with Tribes.

(1) Tribes have a unique and distinctive political and legal relationship with the United States.

(2) A Tribe may have access to the Chief of Engineers, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and other high level individuals if the need arises.

(3) While most interaction will be staff to staff, decision making will be leader to leader (the head of the Tribe and the district commander), with the assistance of the local subject matter expert (typically, the Tribal Liaison).

d. Consultation will be an integral, invaluable process of USACE planning and implementation.

(1) When appropriate, potentially affected Tribes, as determined by the Corps, including Tribes whose aboriginal territories extend to the lands where an activity would

occur, will be contacted by letter, telephone or e-mail sufficiently early to allow a timely review of the proposed action. If contacted Tribes notify USACE that other Tribes are potentially affected, USACE has the responsibility to notify those Tribes as well.

(2) Any activity that has the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands—individual projects, programs, permit applications, real estate actions, promulgation of regulations and policies—regardless of land status, will be reviewed at the district level by an individual who effectively interacts with Tribes, usually the Tribal Liaison.

(3) Consultation will be conducted at the district or division level under the guidance of an individual who effectively interacts with Tribes, usually the Tribal Liaison, unless there is a request for HQUSACE (and/or OASA (CW) in the case of Civil Works) input, or if HQUSACE determines input is necessary.

(4) Commands will ensure that all Tribes with an interest in a particular activity that has the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands are contacted and their comments taken into consideration.

(5) Consultation procedures for individual projects or programs may be developed at the local level to meet the needs of particular Tribe(s).

(6) In recognition of the varied organizations and customs of different Tribes, written protocols for consultation procedures may be considered and implemented at the local level with a specific Tribe.

(7) A dispute resolution process will be developed during the consultation process, including a provision to elevate the consultation to higher USACE and/or Tribal levels.

(8) Requests for consultation by a Tribe to USACE will be honored.

e. USACE will support Tribal self-determination, self reliance and capacity building by:

(1) Partnering with Tribes on studies, projects, programs and permitting procedures will be supported and promoted to the extent permitted by law and policy.

(2) To the extent permitted by law and policy, provide information on opportunities to compete for requests for proposals or other potential contracts with USACE.

(3) Sharing appropriate information on USACE programs, policies and procedures, and public documents.

(4) Utilizing Tribal knowledge for planning purposes and to inform operational activities.

(5) Supporting Tribal efforts to lease and operate water resource projects and lands, where appropriate.

(6) Identifying and implementing, within existing authority, other capacity-building opportunities as they occur.

f. Protection of natural and cultural resources.

(1) USACE recognizes the importance of strict compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and other statutes concerning cultural and natural resources.

(2) USACE acknowledges that compliance with the above statutes may not comprise the full range of consultation, nor of cultural property and resource protection.

(3) To the extent allowed by law, USACE will protect the location of historic properties, properties of religious and cultural

significance, and archaeological resources, in consultation with and when requested by the affected Tribe(s).

6. Responsibilities of Commanders and other USACE officials interacting with federally recognized Tribes.

a. Build relationships with Tribes soon after each change of command by face-to-face interaction at the local headquarters or at tribal offices when at all possible.

b. Identify and remove procedural impediments to working with Tribes whenever possible.

c. Share appropriate Corps procedures, regulations and organizational information with Tribes.

d. Maintain open lines of communication through consultation with Tribes during the decision making process for those matters that have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights (including treaty rights) and Indian lands.

e. Provide Tribes with points of contact on project-related issues, and issues in general.

f. Encourage partnerships on projects with Tribes wherever possible.

g. Encourage collaborative partnerships by other federal and state agencies with Tribes to further their goals and projects.

7. Education. To develop a proactive well-informed workforce, in-house training, workshops, and an annual meeting of USACE tribal liaisons have been developed and should be attended by Corps employees who interact with Tribes-liaisons, project managers, program managers, real estate professionals, regulators, leaders, contracting specialists, etc.

8. Accountability. To assess the effectiveness of USACE Tribal consultation, professionals who interact with Tribes will keep records of consultation meetings and other tribal interactions. These records will be accessible and can be made available for purposes of reporting to OMB through DoD as per the reporting requirement in the Presidential Proclamation of 5 Nov 2009. The report will be synthesized at HQUSACE and transmitted to DoD (OSD) on a yearly basis. A copy of this report will be distributed to federally recognized Tribes upon request.

9. Implementation. USACE will incorporate the six Tribal policy principles, including pre-decisional consultation, into its planning, management, budgetary, operational, and legislative initiatives, management accountability system and ongoing policy and regulation development processes.

10. General Provision: This policy does not establish new requirements, but reaffirms procedures and policies already in place, clarifies responsibilities and establishes clear measures of implementation success.

Ms. MOORE. Let me be clear. We may need a formal rulemaking process, but this amendment today doesn't block any pending project or permit process. I do think it is appropriate, when questions are raised about inadequate consultation, that we do something here. It is my hope that this report will guide Congress within a year, when we consider the next WRDA bill, so that the chairman, the ranking member, and the underlying bill, itself, will make clear that their support for taking up WRDA bills on a regular 2-year cycle will include tribal consultation. Again, these consultations look good on paper, but my amendment wants to formalize the consultation process and get a report.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I congratulate my good friend, the gentlewoman from Wisconsin, for bringing forward this important amendment.

I think the key thing is what she said at the end, which is that the process may look good on paper but that that is not good enough when we are dealing with sovereign nations.

I have restored a tribe in my district and have worked a lot on tribal issues in my 28 years on the Natural Resources Committee. I have put an amendment into the FAST Act to allow tribal governance to take control of their Federal transportation funds so that the State isn't nicking money off the top and so that they actually can exert their sovereignty, and we have done that in some other areas for the tribes. This is, really, a critical amendment.

There is a real issue here. The tribes say, in the case of this pipeline, that they were not adequately consulted with. The Corps says, well, the box is checked. Thanks to the President, we are going to have a review of what really happened here. Obviously, this is not the only instance, and we need a broader review. We need to be sure that the Corps is fully cognizant of and recognizes the sovereignty of tribal nations so that they have in place a real and full consultation process for anything that may affect any tribe or reservation in the United States.

I think this is a great amendment and very timely, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member, and I thank the committee for being sensitive to the needs of native peoples to be included and involved in things that concern their sovereignty and self-governance.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. PETERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . STRUCTURAL HEALTH MONITORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall design and develop a structural health monitoring program to assess and improve the condition of infrastructure constructed and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, including research, design, and development of systems and frameworks for—

(1) response to flood and earthquake events;

(2) pre-disaster mitigation measures;

(3) lengthening the useful life of the infrastructure; and

(4) identifying risks due to sea level rise.

(b) CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION.—In developing the program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with academic and other experts; and

(2) consider models for maintenance and repair information, the development of degradation models for real-time measurements and environmental inputs, and research on qualitative inspection data as surrogate sensors.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would enable the Army Corps of Engineers to use the best technology available to ensure our infrastructure is structurally sound and avoid the loss of property, money, and lives. Specifically, it directs the Secretary of the Army to use structural health monitoring to evaluate its construction projects and current infrastructure to mitigate damage from floods, earthquakes, sea level rise, and other disasters both before and after a major event.

The increased frequency and magnitude of the extreme weather events have high recovery costs for the Federal Government. In 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused an estimated \$50 billion in damages and forced more than 775,000 people to flee their homes. The Federal Government provided \$136 billion in assistance, amounting to \$1,160 per taxpayer. These costs can be prevented. Research has shown that every \$1 spent on preparedness saves \$4 in disaster recovery costs. How we prepare before disaster strikes determines how much we spend and, more importantly, how many lives we save.

Successful planning and preparation require consultation with experts and access to the best available data with structural health monitoring sensors that can detect in near realtime the existence, location, and severity of the damage to infrastructure. Data from these sensors can provide essential information on the condition of infrastructure, ranging from bridges to skyscrapers, following a natural disaster like an earthquake; but effective management of these structures is not one size fits all. Access to realtime-specific data through structural health monitoring technology will enable the Army

Corps to prioritize buildings and structures that need immediate maintenance. By working proactively rather than reactively, we can avoid further damage and higher costs.

Data show we will only be more likely to see more extreme weather, sea level rise, and floods that can significantly damage our buildings and bridges in the future. Those disasters are not only costly but dangerous. We need to provide the groups responsible for maintaining our Nation's infrastructure the tools they need to do so.

I thank the chairman, the ranking member, and the committee for considering this amendment. I ask my colleagues to support this smart, commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I congratulate the gentleman from California on a very thoughtful amendment. Actually, I am having a personal experience with this right now. Since we have discovered we have a major fault off of southern Oregon, the Corps has decided that they need to come back in and bore and reevaluate the dams on my Willamette River system. This should be, I would think, a pretty routine thing for the Corps.

I asked: Why do you have to do that?

They said: Back when we built those dams, we didn't know about it, and we aren't really quite sure of their seismic stability.

I think there are probably many, many, many other Corps projects in California, Oregon, and elsewhere that need that kind of scrutiny; so what the gentleman is doing is shining a light on a problem. As I mentioned earlier, the Corps has a \$2.5 billion backlog on O&M. This will come out of the O&M budget. I am happy to send this mandate to the Corps.

In revisiting my objections to the bill yesterday, which is going to cause me to vote against the bill, underspending the tax which is levied on all imported goods—paid for by all Americans who buy imported goods—and diverting that money to other programs when the Corps has critical needs like this is stupid. I really regret, again, that my harbor maintenance trust fund amendment was pulled out of the bill, but this just underlines the need for the Corps to have more resources.

I urge a positive vote on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. QUIGLEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF AUTHORIZED PROJECT FOR FLOOD CONTROL.

The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the project for flood control, Chicagoland Underflow Plan, Illinois, phase 2, as authorized by section 3(a)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-676; 102 Stat. 4013) and modified by section 319 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-303; 110 Stat. 3715) and section 501 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law 106-53; 113 Stat. 334).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, residents and businesses in the Chicagoland area are vulnerable to significant urban flooding that has the potential to cost millions of dollars and to endanger the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people.

To address this problem, Congress authorized the Chicagoland Underflow Plan as a flood risk management project in the Water Resources Development Act of 1988. A key component of the plan is the construction of the McCook Reservoir, which is a major flood damage reduction reservoir. This benefits the city of Chicago and 36 suburbs by aiding flood mitigation. It also helps to protect thousands of structures and millions of people.

According to the Army Corps' 2015 fact sheet to Congress, the reservoir is already 65 percent complete and would offer significant benefits to Chicago residents and businessowners. It is also among the Army Corps' most economical projects, boasting a 3 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio. The second phase of the construction in McCook has a 9 to 1 benefit-to-cost ratio.

Since its authorization in the late 1980s, the congressional intent of this project has been clear: it is for flood risk management, and it is constructed to help alleviate flooding problems in the metropolitan area of Chicago.

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However, the Army Corps omitted funding for the critical second stage of this project in their FY17 budget due to the mistaken belief that stage two is related to water pollution control which is not handled by the Corps. It

is, in fact, for flood control and is fully authorized and documented in the Corps' system as such. That is why my amendment would ensure that the Army Corps continues to do McCook as flood damage reduction system, consistent with legislative intent, and expedites the completion of this vital public work.

After many years of strong support for one of the Corps' most competitive flood protection projects, now is not the time to abandon funding for McCook. The livelihood of too many families and businesses are at stake.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulate the gentleman for shining a spotlight on this. This is something that is critical to his district and region, and it was authorized in WRDA in 1988. It is past time that this received positive consideration and moved forward, and I think his amendment will help in that effort with that. I urge Members to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER for his support. I want to thank the ranking member for his comments. And I want to thank all who have worked on this project for so long. We are getting close.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. VELA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS.

(a) RELEASE.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall execute and file in the appropriate office a deed of release, amended deed, or other appropriate instrument effectuating the release of the interests of the United States in certain tracts of land located in Cameron County, Texas, as described in subsection (e).

(b) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that any release under this section be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The Brownsville Navigation District shall be responsible

for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with the releases.

(d) DESCRIPTION.—The Secretary shall release all or portions of the interests in the following tracts as determined by a survey to be paid for by the Brownsville Navigation District, that is satisfactory to the Secretary:

(1) Tract No. 1: Being approximately 1,277.80 acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States by instrument dated September 22, 1932, and recorded at volume 238, pages 578 through 580, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except the approximately 347.40 acres.

(2) Tract No. 2: Being approximately 842.28 acres as condemned by the United States by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 6, 1938, and recorded at volume 281, pages 486 through 488, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 158.14 acres comprised of an approximately 500 ft. wide strip centered on the centerline of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

(3) Tract No. 3: Being approximately 362.00 acres as conveyed by the Manufacturing and Distributing University to the United States by instrument dated March 3, 1936, and recorded at volume "R", page 123, in the Miscellaneous Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety.

(4) Tract No. 5: Being approximately 10.91 acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, by instrument dated March 6, 1939, and recorded at volume 293, pages 113 through 115, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 10.91 acres are identified in said instrument as the "Third Tract"), to be partially released as to the land portion of the tract.

(5) Tract No. 9: Being approximately 552.82 acres as condemned by the United States by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 6, 1938, and recorded at volume 281, pages 483 through 486, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 88.04 acres comprised of an approximately 450 ft. wide strip along the new centerline of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

(6) Tract No. 10: Being approximately 325.02 acres as condemned by the United States by the Final Report of Commissioners dated May 7, 1935, and recorded at volume 281, pages 476 through 483, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas, to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except approximately 61.58 acres comprised of an approximately 500 ft. wide strip centered on the new centerline of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

(7) Tract No. 11: Being approximately 8.85 acres as conveyed by the Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, Texas, to the United States by instrument dated January 23, 1939, and recorded at volume 293, pages 115 through 118, in the Deed Records of Cameron County, Texas (said 8.85 acres are identified in said instrument as the "First Tract"), to be released and abandoned in its entirety, save and except a narrow area along the channel.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman

from Texas (Mr. VELA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which is cosponsored by Representative FARENTHOLD and provides for the release of Army Corps easements on certain tracts of land that are located at the Port of Brownsville in Cameron County, Texas. This amendment was written in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, and they have signed off on this language. The purpose of this release of land is to allow for economic growth at the Port of Brownsville. These tracts of land are the property of the port and have been under easement to the Army Corps for decades.

These easements were originally granted to the Army Corps in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, but have never been used. Returning control of the property to the Port of Brownsville will not hinder Army Corps projects at the port.

Under my amendment, parts of seven tracts would be released subject to the conditions that the Secretary considers appropriate and necessary to protect the interests of the United States.

The Port of Brownsville is responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, making the amendment budget-neutral.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, again, I want to congratulate the gentleman on his amendment. I can confirm that the Corps of Engineers has said they have no objection to this. I guess just somehow, they couldn't get through the bureaucracy to release the land until the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA) brought this amendment to the floor. So the gentleman is doing a public service for his constituents and I believe the Nation, holding onto property unnecessarily. I recommend our colleagues support this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. VELA. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman, ranking member, Representative FARENTHOLD, the Army Corps, and the committee staff for their work on this amendment. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA
OF MICHIGAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ GREAT LAKES NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

Section 210(d)(1)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(d)(1)(B)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking "For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2024" and inserting "For each fiscal year".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I am offering this amendment because Great Lakes ports and harbors are facing a crisis. I want to thank the chairman of the committee for his willingness to work on this situation, not just in this bill but in previous bills as well.

The Great Lakes navigation system is a critical international waterway that extends from the western end of Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence Seaway on the Atlantic Ocean, a distance of over 2,400 miles. The U.S. portion of the system includes 140 harbors and over 600 miles of maintained navigation channels. This system can handle 200 million tons of cargo that generate and sustain around 130,000 good-paying jobs and an \$18 billion support to our economy in the eight Great Lakes States and around the country.

However, 16 million cubic yards of sediment clogged these ports and waterways in the Great Lakes. It is estimated that it would cost nearly \$200 million to make them fully functional.

In addition, the critical Soo Locks, joining Lake Superior and Lake Huron, require \$115 million to complete maintenance rehabilitation while Great Lakes breakwaters and jetties need \$250 million for repairs. We must act before the crisis in the Great Lakes grows even worse.

Just 2 years ago, the House overwhelmingly passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act 412-4, and it was later signed into law. WRRDA 2014 included a provision that temporarily set aside 10 percent of Army Corps priority funding for the Great Lakes navigation system.

Consistent with the spirit of WRRDA 2014, my amendment provides the 140 federally maintained commercial and recreational Great Lakes ports and harbors with access to dependable funding by ensuring that the set-aside

does not expire. These Federal harbor channels, like Pentwater, White Lake, Ludington, Muskegon, Holland, and Grand Haven in my district, are the lifeblood of these communities.

The Federal Government must meet its obligation to communities across the Great Lakes region. These ports and harbors are engines of economic growth that create jobs for American workers, farmers, and manufacturers.

As the chairman knows, it would be my preference to ensure that ports and harbors across our Nation are properly maintained by using the harbor maintenance trust fund for its intended purpose: harbor maintenance.

By working together since 2011, we have made significant progress. In fiscal year 2011, only 47 percent of the harbor maintenance tax that was paid into the HMTF was used to dredge and maintain our harbors because this trust fund was raided, frankly, to pay for unrelated projects.

Because of the progress we have made, the harbor maintenance trust fund will retain 76 percent of the revenues that are intended for water infrastructure improvements and harbor dredging under this year's Appropriations Committee-passed funding bill. This is a huge win for coastal communities in all of these different States and, frankly, for our entire Nation.

I look forward to building on the success in the future and would like to thank the chairman for working with us.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am definitively not in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, I want to congratulate the gentleman on this, creating a permanent set-aside for this critical harbor maintenance in the Great Lakes.

I have a similar amendment targeted toward small ports in the base bill. But, as the gentleman mentioned, what this points to is the fact that the Corps is stretched too thin. They have a \$2.5 million backlog on operations and maintenance, yet there is \$9.8 billion in the nonexistent harbor maintenance trust fund. That is, there is \$9.8 billion in taxes that has been paid by shippers and passed on to consumers that hasn't been spent on harbor maintenance.

Were we to create a harbor maintenance trust fund next year and, say, it was to be fully obligated, we would have an additional \$500 million in current revenues to invest in operations and maintenance, let alone the \$9.8 billion that harbor maintenance and construction is owed from past collections.

So I think this is an excellent amendment. I recommend it to my colleagues. The Great Lakes need this

sort of attention, but we have got to get to the underlying problem which is insufficient funds.

I thank the gentleman for his support also on that issue.

I urge a positive vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, may I inquire of the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Michigan, and I rise to support his amendment which establishes a permanent use of priority funds for the Great Lakes navigation system.

Mr. Chairman, the 2014 WRRDA bill included a temporary provision to set aside these funds for the Great Lakes to address the maintenance backlog. The Huizenga amendment continues this effort and ensures the 140 federally maintained ports and harbors on the Great Lakes, including the Port of Monroe in my district, have dependable funding as they continue to move over 200 million tons of cargo each year, and, I would add, Mr. Chairman, without producing any potholes, needing no guardrails or bridges.

They sustain good jobs and drive economic growth in Michigan and across the country. I urge support of this amendment and the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the work that both the chairman and the ranking member put into this particular issue that is so important to those of us that border the Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to pass this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ . GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

Section 118(c)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

“(B) **FOCUS AREAS.**—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall prioritize programs and projects, to be carried out in coordination with non-Federal partners, that address the priority areas described in the Initiative Action Plan, including—

“(i) the remediation of toxic substances and areas of concern;

“(ii) the prevention and control of invasive species and the impacts of invasive species;

“(iii) the protection and restoration of nearshore health and the prevention and mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;

“(iv) habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, including wetlands restoration and preservation; and

“(v) accountability, monitoring, evaluation, communication, and partnership activities.

“(C) **PROJECTS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the Initiative, the Administrator shall collaborate with other Federal partners, including the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force established by Executive Order No. 13340 (69 Fed. Reg. 29043), to select the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration using appropriate principles and criteria, including whether a program or project provides—

“(I) the ability to achieve strategic and measurable environmental outcomes that implement the Initiative Action Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement;

“(II) the feasibility of—

“(aa) prompt implementation;

“(bb) timely achievement of results; and

“(cc) resource leveraging; and

“(III) the opportunity to improve inter-agency, intergovernmental, and inter-organizational coordination and collaboration to reduce duplication and streamline efforts.

“(ii) **OUTREACH.**—In selecting the best combination of programs and projects for Great Lakes protection and restoration under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

“(iii) **HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM COORDINATOR.**—The Administrator shall designate a point person from an appropriate Federal partner to coordinate, with Federal partners and Great Lakes States, Indian tribes, and other non-Federal stakeholders, projects and activities under the Initiative involving harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes.”;

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (J)(ii), funds made available to carry out the Initiative shall be used to strategically implement—

“(I) Federal projects;

“(II) projects carried out in coordination with States, Indian tribes, municipalities, institutions of higher education, and other organizations; and

“(III) operations and activities of the Program Office, including remediation of sediment contamination in areas of concern.”;

(B) in clause (ii)(I), by striking “(G)(i)” and inserting “(J)(i)”;

(C) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

“(iii) **AGREEMENTS WITH NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator, or the head of any other Federal department or agency receiving funds under clause (ii)(I), may make a grant to, or otherwise enter into an agreement with, a qualified non-Federal entity, as determined by the Administrator or the applicable head of the other Federal department or agency receiving funds, for planning, research, monitoring, outreach, or implementation of a project selected under subparagraph (C), to support the Initiative Action Plan or the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.

“(II) QUALIFIED NON-FEDERAL ENTITY.—For purposes of this clause, a qualified non-Federal entity may include a governmental entity, nonprofit organization, institution, or individual.”; and

(3) by striking subparagraphs (E) through (G) and inserting the following:

“(E) SCOPE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Projects may be carried out under the Initiative on multiple levels, including—

“(I) locally;

“(II) Great Lakes-wide; or

“(III) Great Lakes basin-wide.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—No funds made available to carry out the Initiative may be used for any water infrastructure activity (other than a green infrastructure project that improves habitat and other ecosystem functions in the Great Lakes) for which financial assistance is received—

“(I) from a State water pollution control revolving fund established under title VI;

“(II) from a State drinking water revolving loan fund established under section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12); or

“(III) pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.).

“(F) ACTIVITIES BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each relevant Federal department or agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(i) maintain the base level of funding for the Great Lakes activities of that department or agency without regard to funding under the Initiative; and

“(ii) identify new activities and projects to support the environmental goals of the Initiative.

“(G) REVISION OF INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not less often than once every 5 years, the Administrator, in conjunction with the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, shall review, and revise as appropriate, the Initiative Action Plan to guide the activities of the Initiative in addressing the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes system.

“(ii) OUTREACH.—In reviewing and revising the Initiative Action Plan under clause (i), the Administrator shall consult with the Great Lakes States and Indian tribes and solicit input from other non-Federal stakeholders.

“(H) MONITORING AND REPORTING.—The Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and maintain a process for monitoring and periodically reporting to the public on the progress made in implementing the Initiative Action Plan;

“(ii) make information about each project carried out under the Initiative Action Plan available on a public website; and

“(iii) provide to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works a yearly detailed description of the progress of the Initiative and amounts transferred to participating Federal departments and agencies under subparagraph (D)(ii).

“(I) INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘Initiative Action Plan’ means the comprehensive, multi-year action plan for the restoration of the Great Lakes, first developed pursuant to the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Report accompanying the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-88).

“(J) FUNDING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph

\$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021.

“(ii) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this paragraph creates, expands, or amends the authority of the Administrator to implement programs or projects under—

“(I) this section;

“(II) the Initiative Action Plan; or

“(III) the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment. I would like to start today by thanking Chairman SHUSTER, subcommittee Chairman GIBBS, and the rest of the members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for the committee's thorough review of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; here and after, GLRI. The GLRI ensures we work together as a country to protect and preserve one of our most important national treasures and economic assets, the Great Lakes.

According to recent estimates, if the Great Lakes region were a country its GDP would be the third largest in the world. The Great Lakes currently generate 1.5 million jobs and \$60 billion in wages annually and provides the foundation for a \$30 billion tourism economy. Whether it is manufacturing, mining, engineering, agriculture, or fishing, the Great Lakes support a wide variety of jobs and industries, but the Lakes' importance doesn't stop there.

The Great Lakes does not just provide jobs; it provides a resource. You see, the Great Lakes holds 6 quadrillion gallons of fresh water. They contain 95 percent of the surface freshwater in the United States and more than 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater. It provides drinking water to 46 million people.

The text of this amendment is the same as the text of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016, which just passed this House unanimously on April 26, 2016.

I offer my amendment today in hopes that it will finally pass in the Senate, which overwhelmingly passed a similar provision in their WRDA bill. The difference between the House and Senate versions are small but they are important. This amendment includes important changes to current law that reflect feedback from the Government Accountability Office and key stakeholders.

My amendment enhances the non-Federal stakeholder outreach the EPA is required to conduct to ensure regular consultation with States and tribes and better communication with NGOs.

This amendment also includes a coordinator to address harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie which reduces du-

plication and increases transparency. It requires more robust, adaptive management by the EPA and the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to update the GLRI action plan every 5 years.

None of these changes were included in the Senate bill. Adding them to the House WRDA bill will make sure these thoughtful provisions, which enhance transparency, accountability, and local planning, are maintained as we fight to get this bill passed.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, but I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, this is a good amendment that I support. It authorizes, as my colleague explained, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Mr. JOYCE has championed this bill and worked very hard, as has Ms. KAPTUR, on this important issue.

In fact, the GLRI bill passed through the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and passed the House by a voice vote, so I firmly stand behind Mr. JOYCE's amendment. I support it and would urge all my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who has also been very active in this campaign.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman JOYCE for yielding, and I urge strong support of his amendment. I thank him for his vigilant and necessary championing of our Great Lakes, the largest body of freshwater on the face of the Earth. I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member DEFAZIO, and Subcommittee Chairman GIBBS for helping us to elevate to national importance and to large numbers of our citizenry the sheer magnitude of what these freshwater seas actually represent for our country and the world.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been very effective in beginning to address the severe and unique concerns confronting our Great Lakes. During the first 5 years of GLRI, Federal agencies and their partners removed 42 beneficial-use-impairment listings in 17 areas of concern, quadrupling the number of beneficial use impairments removed in the preceding 22 years. For example, this year the Environmental Protection Agency made an important designation at the Black River area of concern near Lorain, Ohio. It is the largest EPA GLRI investment, and it will bring that area

of concern to completion, an area so critically damaged by decades of industrial waste that drains directly into Lake Erie, our life source.

Programs like the GLRI, which have proven effective, deserve our praise and support. As such, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Mr. JOYCE's amendment to protect one of our greatest national and global treasures, the Great Lakes, which represent and contain 20 percent of the world's freshwater. Just to put it on the record, God isn't making any more freshwater. This equals 20% of all that exists. We have to take care of it and shepherd it into the future.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 4½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank Mr. JOYCE for his leadership on this amendment and his bipartisan efforts to ensure resources to protect and restore the Great Lakes ecosystem. In April, the House joined together to unanimously pass Mr. JOYCE's amendment to formally authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program, the same goal as his amendment today.

The Great Lakes are a vast, strategic resource, and a source of pride for the State of Michigan and all surrounding States, and our country, as well, as a whole, with this massive, very special resource. I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment and help protect and preserve the Great Lakes for the benefit of our environment and the economy for generations to come.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I will say my piece if I could. It is with a heavy heart that I come to the House floor today. My mother passed away early this morning, Pat Shuster—Patricia Shuster. I want to thank all my colleagues for their condolences and kind words.

Some may wonder why am I here today. Well, it is what my mother would have wanted. In fact, she would have insisted that I do my job and finish my work. So I know my mother is smiling down on me today.

Mom, my work is almost done. I love you and will miss you forever.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Chairman, when it comes to the Great Lakes, I know I can sound like a broken record. In fact, some have recently called me here the Great Lakes guy. I am proud of that, and I am proud to support this amendment, proud to stand up for one of our country's greatest natural resources

and economic powerhouses. I hope you all join me in support to protect and preserve our national treasure, the Great Lakes.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. BRIDENSTINE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 72, strike lines 19 through 21.

At the end of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2. —. TULSA AND WEST TULSA, ARKANSAS RIVER, OKLAHOMA.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of modifying the projects for flood risk management, Tulsa and West Tulsa, Oklahoma, authorized by section 3 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (55 Stat. 645; chapter 377).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the study under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall address project deficiencies, uncertainties, and significant data gaps, including material, construction, and subsurface, which render the project at risk of overtopping, breaching, or system failure.

(B) ADDRESSING DEFICIENCIES.—In addressing deficiencies under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall incorporate current design standards and efficiency improvements, including the replacement of mechanical and electrical components at pumping stations, if the incorporation does not significantly change the scope, function, or purpose of the project.

(3) PRIORITIZATION TO ADDRESS SIGNIFICANT RISKS.—In any case in which a levee or levee system (as defined in section 9002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3301)) is classified as a Class I or II under the levee safety action classification tool developed by the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary shall expedite the project for budget consideration.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRIDENSTINE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

While the current version of the bill includes language for a feasibility

study on the Tulsa-West Tulsa levees, this amendment simply strengthens the language by aligning the House version of the bill with the already Senate-passed bill. It requires the Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize funding for construction if the study finds the levees are at a high risk for failure. In order to get priority, the Corps feasibility study must conclude that the Tulsa levees are category 1 or 2, the highest safety risk.

The current infrastructure that encompasses the 20 miles of levees in the Tulsa system was constructed over 70 years ago, rendering the levees woefully outdated. In fact, the Corps has assessed that the levees are among the most high-risk levees in the country. These levees protect billions of dollars' worth of infrastructure, including homes and businesses and even energy production facilities. The potential loss of life and destruction of property in the event of a breach would be absolutely devastating to my district.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply aligns the House bill with the Senate bill and helps protect life and property. I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRIDENSTINE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. COURTNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. —. STONINGTON HARBOR, CONNECTICUT.

The portion of the project for navigation, Stonington Harbor, Connecticut, authorized by the Act of May 23, 1828 (4 Stat. 288; chapter 73) that consists of the inner stone breakwater that begins at coordinates N. 682,146.42, E. 1231,378.69, running north 83.587 degrees west 166.79' to a point N. 682,165.05, E. 1,231,212.94, running north 69.209 degrees west 380.89' to a point N. 682,300.25, E. 1,230,856.86, is no longer authorized as a Federal project beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This is a simple amendment that adds to the list of projects deauthorized through WRDA a stone breakwater

in Stonington Harbor in Stonington, Connecticut.

If the amendment passes, it will return the breakwater to the town of Stonington. I can report confidently that all the stakeholders in that region, the town of Stonington, and the State of Connecticut strongly support this amendment.

It is a breakwater that was built in 1827, operated for a number of years; but in the mid-20th century, the Army Corps abandoned the wharf, and it has really deteriorated since as a result of storms, Hurricanes Donna and Gloria and Superstorm Sandy. The town created an Old Stonington Harbor Wharf/Breakwater Task Force, which, again, has put together a reconstruction plan. It has received funding from the State of Connecticut. All of this is on standby, subject to deauthorization, which the Army Corps tells us is necessary for legal title to switch.

Again, it is a simple amendment. I want to, again, salute the hard work of the task force, which was headed by Peter Tacy; the First Selectman of Stonington, Rob Simmons, who was my predecessor in the Second Congressional District seat; and also to State senator Andy Maynard, who worked hard on this project and is retiring from the Connecticut General Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, but I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I support Mr. COURTNEY's amendment and urge adoption of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging Chairman SHUSTER in a colloquy with respect to the Kildee-Moolenaar amendment that the House will consider shortly. First, I thank him for his efforts, and for the efforts of Ranking Member DEFAZIO, as well as Speaker RYAN, Leader PELOSI, and Mr. HOYER, who late in the evening yesterday worked to reach an agreement on this amendment.

The amendment authorizes \$170 million for the Corps of Engineers to replace public and private infrastructure in communities such as my hometown of Flint that have received an emergency declaration due to lead contamination in their drinking water. My constituents have been waiting for the help they need for more than a year since they were told their drinking water was poisoned. This is a very important step toward getting them the

help they deserve and putting this aid on the President's desk.

As the chairman knows, the Senate has passed \$220 million to assist communities like Flint with lead issues in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 95-3. That package includes funding for water infrastructure replacement and for programs to help address the impacts of lead exposure on children and pregnant women nationwide. It also creates a Federal advisory committee to study the effects of lead exposure on communities, and it suggests ways to reduce it.

To my friend, Mr. SHUSTER, do I have your commitment to bridge the gap between my amendment and the Senate package so that the final bill we send to the President provides the much-needed relief to my constituents and the families of Flint?

Mr. SHUSTER. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. I thank the gentleman and recognize that this is an important issue to him and his constituents back home in Michigan. In 2016, no one, no one should be afraid to drink the water that comes out of their tap. That is something I think we all can agree on. It is in that spirit that I have committed to working together as we bridge the differences between the two Chambers that these bills will ensure a mutually agreeable solution. I am committed to getting this vital infrastructure bill to the President's desk. I look forward to working with the gentleman and those on the other side of the aisle to move this forward.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman. I look forward to working with the chairman on this and working to successfully get this bill out of the House today so that we can work on it with the Senate.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Chairman, again, I want to thank the ranking member's support for my amendment and also the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for his support. I want to express my deepest condolences for his loss.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. ____ KENNEWICK MAN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLAIMANT TRIBES.—The term “claimant tribes” means the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation, and the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

(3) HUMAN REMAINS.—The term “human remains” means the human remains that—

(A) are known as Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, which includes the projectile point lodged in the right ilium bone, as well as any residue from previous sampling and studies; and

(B) are part of archaeological collection number 45BN495.

(b) TRANSFER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, including the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), or law of the State of Washington, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall transfer the human remains to the Department, on the condition that the Department, acting through the State Historic Preservation Officer, disposes of the remains and repatriates the remains to claimant tribes.

(c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The transfer shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

(1) The release of the human remains to the claimant tribes is contingent upon the claimant tribes entering into agreement with the Department.

(2) The claimant tribes are in agreement as to the final burial place of the human remains.

(3) The claimant tribes are in agreement that the human remains will be buried in the State of Washington.

(4) The claimant tribes are in agreement that the Department will take custody of the human remains upon the transfer by the Secretary.

(d) COST.—The Corps of Engineers shall be responsible for any costs associated with the transfer.

(e) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The transfer shall be limited solely to the human remains portion of the archaeological collection.

(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall have no further responsibility for the human remains transferred pursuant to subsection (b) after the date of the transfer.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer this bipartisan amendment that is based on the text of H.R. 4131, the Bring the Ancient One Home Act of 2015, which was bipartisan legislation introduced by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK), my friend and colleague. I was very proud to co-sponsor this bill, and I am honored to lead this amendment with my Pacific Northwest colleagues: Representatives

HECK, KILMER, and WALDEN. I appreciate their commitment to this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, 20 years ago the skeletal remains of a human being determined to be roughly 9,000 years old were found on Federal land near the Columbia River in my central Washington district. These remains are often referred to as the Kennewick Man, but the tribes prefer the more respectful name of The Ancient One, which is how I will refer to him.

Because The Ancient One was found on lands managed by the Army Corps of Engineers, the nearly fully intact skeleton was turned over to the Corps.

□ 1700

The tribes involved—the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla and the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids—have, for two decades, worked to repatriate the Ancient One and return him for proper burial that would follow practices used by these Columbia Basin tribes for thousands of years; or, as they say, for time immemorial. The tribes believe that the spirit of the Ancient One cannot rest until he is reburied, and I think it is important that we respect that belief.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, was enacted into law in 1990 to address the treatment of Native American cultural items, including human remains, with the goal of returning these items to tribes. In other words, NAGPRA was enacted to facilitate the return of skeletal remains such as the Ancient One.

In January of 2000, both the Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department determined the Ancient One was indeed of Indian descent and should be returned for proper burial. In June of 2015, University of Copenhagen geneticists released findings that clearly tied the DNA of the Ancient One to modern Native Americans, and a subsequent study by the University of Chicago reached similar conclusions.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would simply return the Ancient One back to the Columbia Basin tribes, who are in total agreement that he should be reburied. I urge my colleagues to support the enactment of this commonsense amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Chairman, initially, I would like to invoke an expression from Indian Country in the Northwest. I raise my hands in re-

spect first to the chair of the standing committee, Mr. SHUSTER, who has my deepest condolences, and to my friends, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WALDEN, and my roommate, Mr. KILMER.

The story of the Ancient One, or Kennewick Man, as he is known, is very familiar to those of us who live in the Northwest. As the gentleman from Washington indicated, two college students stumbled upon a skull of the Ancient One on the waters of the Columbia River 20 years ago. That accident unearthed one of the most important archeological discoveries in North American history. Think about it: a skeleton virtually fully intact that is 9,000 years old. Since that time, as has been indicated, the five tribes of the region have struggled for two decades for their right to properly honor, as is their cultural way, and rebury their ancestor.

But there is another story here that I think is important to tell. For generations, American archeologists and collectors raced across the West to collect native artifacts that they shipped back to museums or, more sadly, sold for a profit. Those museums were filled for years with Indian remains from graves, burial platforms, and battlefields that were desecrated, desecrated simply because the nonnative people did not understand the heritage and culture of native people. This era of looting and desecration is, in fact, a stain on our Nation's history.

Thankfully, that wasn't the case with the remains of the Ancient One. This is, in part, because in 1990, in its wisdom, this institution passed a law to protect Indian remains and cultural items from desecration.

In the last 26 years since its enactment, that law has allowed the Federal Government to return thousands of remains and artifacts to native tribes, and that is exactly what this amendment will do. It would enforce our existing laws and return the Ancient One to the five tribes in the Columbia River Basin, which they have fought for for two decades. They fought against a group of scientists that seek to study these remains in order to learn more about how humans first populated North America.

I don't mean to impugn the motives of these scientists. We all want to support greater scientific discovery; but, frankly, these efforts to prevent the reburial of the Ancient One ignore these tribes' sovereign rights, traditions, and, in fact, their most sacred beliefs.

Throughout American history, the Federal Government and the American people have not always—if we are honest with one another—upheld our vital responsibility to respect the treaty rights of the peoples who have been here since time immemorial. It is something we continue to struggle with—I get that—but we can't let it happen here again.

As my friend from Washington said, the science is settled. The Ancient One is in fact an ancestor of the native peoples of the Columbia River Basin, and he belongs with them. We need to do everything in our power to ensure he is returned as quickly as possible. That is why I was honored to introduce the Bring the Ancient One Home Act, along with my colleagues here. That is why I am so proud to work closely with Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. KILMER on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, it has been 20 years, and that is 20 years too long. It is vital that we act now to properly honor the Ancient One. For that reason, I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friends, Representative NEWHOUSE and Representative HECK, for taking the lead on this effort.

I rise today in support of this amendment because the Ancient One has been separated from his family for far too long. It is time he return home.

For 20 years, as you heard my colleague point out, the Ancient One has been stuck in limbo while the scientists and lawyers have debated what the Native American community knew to be true: that he is their ancestor. Now that three independent DNA analyses have confirmed his ancestry to the native people of the Columbia Plateau, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must expedite his repatriation so that his descendants may honor his life.

This legislation will help speed up the process and ensure that the Ancient One's descendants have the opportunity to lay his remains to rest in their ancestral burial grounds. Only then will the Ancient One's story finally be complete and will his spirit be able to rest. That is why I support the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I would urge all of my colleagues to accept this amendment. It is very important to the native people of central Washington.

I, again, want to extend my thanks to Representative HECK, Representative WALDEN, and Representative KILMER. I would like to extend a word of condolence to Chairman SHUSTER. We are all part of an extended family, and I want to make sure that he understands that we share with him his loss.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in House Report 114-794.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 1. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-580; 106 Stat. 4835) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—Notwithstanding any limitation on project purposes identified in subsections (c) or (f), or limitation on authorization, the Secretary may provide additional assistance under subsection (a), and assistance for construction, to any community identified in subsection (c) or (f), in any State for which the President has declared an emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), as a result of the presence of chemical, physical, or biological constituents, including lead or other contaminants in the eligible system, for the repair or replacement of public and private infrastructure.

“(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For the purposes under paragraph (g), there is authorized to be appropriated \$170,000,000 to remain available until expended.”

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is something, obviously, I have been working on for some time. It would bring urgently needed aid to my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

For over a year, the Flint water crisis has been public, and we have not yet been able to act here in Congress. It has been even longer since the residents of Flint have been drinking or using water that is basically poisoned with lead—2 full years.

To be clear, what happened in Flint was a failure of government at every level of government. Through this amendment, Congress can take its rightful place in fulfilling its obligation and its responsibility to help my hometown recover.

The amendment would authorize \$170 million to restore the safety of water infrastructure in communities like my hometown of Flint that have lead in their water. More importantly, it would create a concrete commitment from both bodies of Congress to get aid for my hometown to the President's desk.

The Senate passed similar legislation by a vote of 95–3. This amendment would ensure that the House also supports communities like Flint that are suffering with this terrible problem.

We have just waited an awful long time for this. We have worked very hard to get this amendment in a bipartisan fashion to the floor. I want to thank all my friends, but particularly

Mr. MOOLENAAR, who cosponsors this amendment with me.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

First, I also want to congratulate and express my appreciation to my colleague, friend, and neighbor from Flint, Mr. KILDEE, for his work on this and for his advocacy of his hometown.

I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, the crisis in Flint was caused by failures of government at all levels. The Federal Government played a significant role in causing this crisis, and Congress has held multiple hearings to investigate. Members on both sides of the aisle have found fault with the Federal Government's actions in Flint.

Today, the House has the opportunity to acknowledge those failures and do right by the people of Flint. While the Federal Government failed, the pipes in Flint were damaged beyond repair and residents were poisoned with lead. That is why fixing the water infrastructure in Flint is a proper role for the Federal Government and a step forward for the city and its residents.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, may I ask how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, listen, we all know what happened in Flint was a tragic failure at every level, and folks there are rightly tired of the finger pointing. They want answers.

Is it asking too much for the EPA to tell folks when lead levels are too high? I say no. This is why this very body passed the Kildee-Upton bill earlier this year, 416–2, that would force the EPA to alert families when lead levels are too high.

Is it asking too much for us to tackle this problem in a fiscally responsible manner? I say no. That is why we have a responsible solution right in front of us. This provision will be fully paid for when conferenced with the Senate.

Is it asking too much for our kids to have access to safe drinking water? I

say no. I was just in Flint with my friend, Mr. KILDEE. We ought to be focused on working together to get the job done.

Folks in Flint have been asking these questions for more than 2 years now. And you know what? They deserve answers, action, and results. It is time to stand up and deliver.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I am so thankful that Congress is stepping up finally to do the right thing by providing assistance to the people of Flint.

Flint has suffered a manmade disaster because of the failure of government at every level of government: the local level, the county level, the State level, and, certainly, the Federal level. Certainly, the State of Michigan has acknowledged their responsibility and has been taking some corrective action, but this disaster is beyond the ability of the city, county, and State to deal with. It requires the Federal Government to accept culpability as well and to buck up, and it is entirely appropriate and necessary that we do so.

Helping the people of Flint, Mr. Chairman, especially the children—these are American children, these are American babies, not from some other foreign country where we give plenty of foreign aid—speaks to who we are as a people.

□ 1715

And we are Americans, compassionate, never turning our back on our own when they need help; and certainly our fellow American citizens of Flint need our country's—this country's—help right now.

So I will be very proud to vote “yes,” and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA), my friend and member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, this is going to be from the heart. My family is originally from Flint, on my mom's side. I have had very many fond memories growing up as a child going and visiting aunts and uncles and cousins. I have recently visited those who have been affected, and it is tragic.

Mr. Chairman, the simple fact is that if these were folks that had been affected by the breach of a dam or by a nuclear plant meltdown, we would not be turning our backs on them; we would be taking care of them. We should be doing the exact same thing with the folks in Flint.

These folks have experienced failure of government at all levels for decades: local, State, and the Federal Government. That has been well acknowledged. But what we have not talked about is how we are going to then care for those citizens.

Let's fix the management issues, but, more importantly, let's care for our fellow citizens and make sure that those children, especially, are going to have the same opportunity as every other child in Michigan and the United States.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chairman, just in closing, I want to compliment everyone who has been involved in this bipartisan solution. It is an example of Congress working together to solve a problem.

This is something that those of us—and many of us have traveled to Flint—have listened to the stories of the families of children who have been poisoned. It is a tragedy on the national level. Presidential candidates have been there.

This is something concrete that Congress can do to move the ball forward and help Flint with its healing and making a huge difference in the lives of residents in Michigan.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say how much I appreciate the efforts on behalf of my home community by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. As you have heard, Congressman MOOLENAAR, my neighbor, has been there right along.

Congresswoman MILLER stepped up immediately after this crisis became known and articulated a need for Federal intervention very early in the process. Mr. HUIZENGA obviously has been there, with roots in Flint, and has come to my community.

There is not much more I can say about what Mr. UPTON has been willing to do, working with me initially on legislation to reform the EPA's obligations regarding notification and now, of course, working with us to get this amendment before the House of Representatives.

It broke my heart when this whole episode began, to see my own hometown, the place that has given me virtually everything that I have, go through the worst crisis that it could ever even imagine, a crisis that was a threat to its very existence. So I am grateful for the help of Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding, and I am happy to support this amendment.

The people of Flint have gone over 2 years without clean drinking water in

their homes. They are still being exposed, still being harmed. I think it is a disgrace that we are still fighting about providing them with essential Federal aid.

I want to commend my colleague Mr. KILDEE and Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate who kept attention on the plight of this community and worked tirelessly for the opportunity to offer this amendment.

I hope to see this amendment pass shortly, but our work will not be done. We will have to work to go to conference with the House and the Senate WRDA bills and ensure that the people of Flint receive the funds that they need.

Safe drinking water is essential to every person in this country, and provisions to ensure safe drinking water should not be a partisan issue. So I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on this amendment.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, again, I thank my colleagues. I hope and pray that I have strong bipartisan support for this effort. It has surely been demonstrated by my friends who have spoken.

This is one of those issues that should and ought to transcend some of the divisions that often occupy this House. It is a matter simply of doing what is right for the people of my hometown and the people of this country, and it means a lot to me that so many have stood with me in this time. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016.

Across the country, my colleagues and I hear from communities and businesses about the need to invest in infrastructure. The federal investment in infrastructure has fallen to a paltry level, and our communities are feeling the consequences of this every day. Not only does investing in infrastructure put people to work, it also allows for the efficient movement of people and goods, an essential aspect of commerce, economic growth, and public safety. The lack of robust investment threatens our global competitiveness and the safety and quality of life of our constituents.

The original Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill included language that would set a schedule to direct all of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues to be used for the maintenance of U.S. harbors instead of the current process of transferring a portion to the Treasury to cover unrelated debts. Our nation's harbors, ports, and waterways have a backlog of important projects that are key to our country's competitiveness. By moving HMTF funding off-budget, it would have provided much-needed funding for these projects. As the Senate and House negotiate the final legislation, I support directing all Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund revenues to be used for harbor maintenance.

I applaud Ranking Member DEFAZIO for securing a set-aside of at least 10 percent of the

revenues from the HMTF to be used for small ports. This provision will benefit many communities in Oregon that rely on small ports to get goods to market, which will help local economies thrive. These small ports can't compete for Harbor Maintenance funding alongside the large, deep-draft ports, so a set-aside is vital to their survival.

Additionally the Willamette Falls at the end of the Oregon Trail and the Willamette Locks were an important element of American settlement of the West. Repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks is an essential part of the future economic and cultural heritage of the area. A final disposition study of the Locks is underway by the Army Corps of Engineers. It is important that this study fully consider all economic, recreational, historic, and cultural significance of the locks at the national, state, or local level.

The Columbia River is a powerful economic force in Oregon. It helps carry goods to market and provides food to tribal populations and others. We must reduce pollution and contamination of this critical resource. I joined my colleagues Reps. BLUMENAUER and DEFAZIO in introducing H.R. 2469, the Columbia River Basin Restoration Act of 2015, which includes grants for projects that help preserve and protect the waterway. As the Senate and House negotiate the final legislation, I support the inclusion of the Columbia River Restoration Act in the final bill.

I share the frustration of so many families in Oregon and across the nation whose children have been exposed to lead in their school drinking water and their neighborhoods. Families shouldn't have to worry about whether the drinking water in their homes or schools poses serious risks to their children's health. The Flint, Michigan crisis continues, and children and families desperately need aid to restore quality drinking water. I supported Rep. KILDEE's amendment to bring aid needed to communities suffering from water contamination emergencies.

Invasive mussels have destroyed infrastructure in Western States and are costly to eradicate once they've multiplied. Accordingly, prevention is important. Watercraft inspection stations help protect the Columbia River basin from being permeated by zebra and quagga mussels. I am pleased that Rep. HERRERA BEUTLER's amendment was adopted to allow funds to be used for watercraft inspection stations in Northwestern states.

I am supporting this bill today and will continue working with my colleagues to dedicate HMTF revenue for its intended purpose.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Kildee Amendment to H.R. 5303, the "Water Resources Development Act," which authorizes variety of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water resources development projects, feasibility studies, and relationships with nonfederal project sponsors.

Specifically, I would like to congratulate my colleague Representative DAN KILDEE who represents Michigan's 5th District on his amendment, which bring much needed relief to the people of Flint Michigan who have gone without safe potable water for over 2 years.

The Kildee Amendment provides \$170,000,000 in funding to repair and replace the damaged water pipes that are the source

of the toxic lead and chemical laced water flowing to Flint, Michigan homes.

For the past two years, Flint, Michigan has lived in a state of fear of the water flowing from the faucets in their homes.

It is beyond shocking and unacceptable that tens of thousands of citizens have been exposed to toxic levels of lead in their drinking water.

The trust and ability to protect our citizens' basic right to clean water has been shaken nationally by the severity and length of time this disaster has been allowed to fester without Congressional action.

Each of us in this body has a duty to ensure justice and protection of our citizens.

This was not a disaster in hiding, it was in plain sight for 2 years, but Congress refused to act until forced to do so by a deadline that they could not control.

We must not let the plight of Flint and the provision of relief let us forget that we must: address the harms caused;

get an accounting of what happened; understand how the water was poisoned; make the lives of people damaged by this tragedy whole;

find justice for those lives that may have been lost; and

determine and provide for the long-term health needs of those impacted.

Flint, Michigan like so many communities across the nation really felt the brunt of the financial crisis created by the abuse of new home lending practices and deceptive investment schemes that hid the weaknesses in the economy until the great recession spread across the nation beginning in late 2008.

The financial damage done to communities like Flint in the form of steep declines in property values, which caused significant declines in property tax income.

This was not just Flint's problem, but a national reality—for financially strapped cities, towns, school boards, and municipal governments.

This shared economic crisis resulted in new leadership being sent to Congress and to governors' mansions across the nation.

Michigan was one state that turned to new leadership to solve problems and restore fiscal health to the state and local economies.

Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan was sworn into office in 2011 to solve problems and restore fiscal health to his state.

On December 1, 2010, Michael Brown took office as Flint's state-appointed emergency manager.

One of the first acts of the newly elected leaders in the state of Michigan was to drastically change the powers that could be exercised under the state's emergency manager law to include special provisions regarding the declaration of a local government financial emergency.

Over the 22 years the original emergency management law had been in place only 7 jurisdictions had been under emergency management, but following the 2011 changes to that law 10 jurisdictions were placed under emergency management.

On Election Day in 2011 the state declared that an emergency financial manager should assume control over the city of Flint.

The conditions in Flint are a cautionary tale on what happens when money has more

value than people in the minds of those charged under public oath to serve, defend and protect Constitutional Rights.

On April 25, 2014, the city of Flint switches water supply from Lake Huron, which cost the city about \$1 million each month to the Flint River to save money.

The Flint River had long been known by residents to be contaminated by industrial pollution.

The water out of the Flint River was not safe, but it could have been treated to prevent the erosion of lead pipes that contaminated the water, the introduction bacteria and other toxins into the homes, schools, workplaces, and churches of the community, but that would have cost money.

Shortly after the switch citizens began to complain about the color, taste, odor, and reported rashes.

In August and September 2014, city officials issued boil water directives to citizens after a coliform bacterium was found in the water.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections if exposed to water born bacteria.

Several deaths are under investigation because they may be linked to the polluted water sent to Flint residents' homes.

In October 2014 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality blames cold weather, aging pipes, and a population decline for the poor water quality.

In January 2015, the Detroit water systems offers to reconnect Flint, and would waive the \$4 million connection fee, but 3 weeks later the state appointed emergency manager declined the offer.

In February 2015, a memo from Governor Snyder's office plays down the problem and states that the water is not an imminent "threat to public health."

In February 2015—the same month the governor's office declared that the water was safe tests revealed that it contained 104 parts per billion of lead in drinking water drawn from taps in the home of Lee Anne Walters one of today's witnesses.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires action when levels reach 15 parts per billion of lead contamination, but scientist state there is no safe level of lead contamination.

On February 27, Miguel Del Toral an EPA expert reported that the state was testing water in a manner that would profoundly underestimate lead levels.

On March 12, 2015, Veolia a consultant group hired by Flint reports that the city's water meets state and federal standards, but fails to report on lead levels.

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population.

While the state declared the water safe to drink and the EPA received assurances that

testing was being performed and the results showed no worries, behind the scenes something very different was happening in state offices located in Flint Michigan.

On January 9, 2015, e-mails among Flint government employees at the Department of Technology, Management and Budget, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance.

The emails revealed that employees at government departments in the city of Flint were concerned about Flint's water quality and in response the state paid for water coolers to be placed in government offices located in the city of Flint on each occupied floor, and positioned near the water fountain, so state workers could choose which water to drink.

The core concern of the emails was the levels of a group of chemical compounds called "TTHM" or "total tri-halomethanes, that were identified in the Flint drinking water.

TTHM are produced when organic matter in natural water reacts chemically with chlorine disinfectants.

Chlorine disinfectants are added to drinking water to destroy the microbial pathogens that could make consumers sick or even kill them.

Disinfection byproducts TTHM can be minimized in drinking water by reducing organic matter in water before chlorination—in other words through treating the water.

While the people of Flint Michigan continue to complain about the taste and smell of the water—which ranged from a dull grey grime to rust color in appearance government officials provided themselves with access to bottled water at the taxpayers' expense.

The amount of chlorination added to the water in excess of what should have been created another problem—people were now consuming and bathing in water contaminated with TTHM.

The amount of chlorination added to the water in excess of what should have been created another problem—people were now.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver announced that her goal would be to replace 13,000 lead pipes at a cost of \$2–3,000 for each pipe for a total of about \$42 million.

No one knows the reality of undertaking a massive effort such as what will be needed, so the cost could easily be much higher than estimates.

Flint cannot be another Katrina where the poor, people of color and marginalized are shutout of jobs as well as the political and decision making processes regarding their homes, neighborhoods or city.

Replacing the lead pipes of Flint must include the cost of repairing homes that will be damaged to access the pipes; repaving driveways, or re-sodding lawns that are dug up to get to pipes, and restoring sidewalks that are damaged to access pipe.

The repair and restitution of potable water to residents of Flint will not be the end of the story.

We must recognize and acknowledge that there will be long term health consequences for every person exposed to the toxic water for 2 years.

There are health impacts for children, their parents, and grandparents that cannot and should not be ignored.

Our next step must be a public fund to compensate those who have long term health impacts or diminished ability to be productive over the full course of their work careers.

We will continue to work to help the people of Flint, Michigan in order to restore them to health and eliminate their fear.

In closing, let me again express my appreciation and thanks to Congressman KILDEE for his steadfastness in advocating his amendment and to Energy and Commerce Chair UPTON, Congressman CONYERS, and Congresswoman BRENDA LAWRENCE for their tireless efforts to ameliorate the suffering of the people of Flint Michigan.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 114-794 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 15 by Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

Amendment No. 19 by Mr. KILDEE of Michigan.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 407, noes 18, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 569]

AYES—407

Abraham	Becerra	Bost
Adams	Benishkek	Boustany
Aderholt	Bera	Boyle, Brendan
Aguilar	Beyer	F.
Allen	Bilirakis	Brady (PA)
Amodei	Bishop (GA)	Brady (TX)
Ashford	Bishop (MI)	Bridenstine
Babin	Bishop (UT)	Brooks (IN)
Barletta	Black	Brown (FL)
Barr	Blackburn	Brownley (CA)
Barton	Blum	Buchanan
Bass	Blumenauer	Buck
Beatty	Bonamici	Bucshon

Burgess	Gohmert	Luetkemeyer
Bustos	Goodlatte	Lujan Grisham
Butterfield	Gowdy	(NM)
Byrne	Graham	Lujan, Ben Ray
Calvert	Granger	(NM)
Capps	Graves (GA)	Lynch
Capuano	Graves (LA)	MacArthur
Cárdenas	Graves (MO)	Maloney,
Carney	Grayson	Carolyn
Carson (IN)	Green, Al	Maloney, Sean
Carter (GA)	Green, Gene	Marchant
Carter (TX)	Griffith	Marino
Cartwright	Grijalva	Matsui
Castor (FL)	Grothman	McCarthy
Castro (TX)	Guinta	McCaul
Chabot	Guthrie	McCollum
Chaffetz	Gutiérrez	McDermott
Chu, Judy	Hahn	McGovern
Cicilline	Hanna	McHenry
Clark (MA)	Hardy	McKinley
Clarke (NY)	Harper	McMorris
Clawson (FL)	Harris	Rodgers
Clay	Hartzer	McNerney
Cleaver	Hastings	McSally
Clyburn	Heck (NV)	Meadows
Coffman	Heck (WA)	Meehan
Cohen	Hensarling	Meeks
Cole	Herrera Beutler	Meng
Collins (NY)	Higgins	Messer
Comstock	Hill	Mica
Conaway	Himes	Miller (FL)
Connolly	Hinojosa	Miller (MI)
Conyers	Holding	Moolenaar
Cook	Honda	Mooney (WV)
Cooper	Hoyer	Moore
Costa	Hudson	Moulton
Costello (PA)	Huelskamp	Mullin
Courtney	Huffman	Murphy (FL)
Cramer	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)
Crawford	Hultgren	Nadler
Crenshaw	Hunter	Napolitano
Crowley	Hurd (TX)	Neal
Cuellar	Hurt (VA)	Neugebauer
Culberson	Israel	Newhouse
Cummings	Issa	Noem
Curbelo (FL)	Jackson Lee	Nolan
Davidson	Jeffries	Norcross
Davis (CA)	Jenkins (KS)	Nugent
Davis, Danny	Jenkins (WV)	Nunes
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
DeFazio	Johnson (OH)	Olson
DeGette	Johnson, E. B.	Palazzo
Delaney	Johnson, Sam	Pallone
DeLauro	Jolly	Pascarell
DelBene	Jordan	Paulsen
Dent	Joyce	Payne
DeSantis	Kaptur	Pearce
DeSaulnier	Katko	Pelosi
DesJarlais	Keating	Perlmutter
Deutch	Kelly (IL)	Perry
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Peters
Dingell	Kelly (PA)	Peterson
Doggett	Kennedy	Pingree
Dold	Kildee	Pittenger
Donovan	Kilmer	Pitts
Doyle, Michael	Kind	Pocan
F.	King (IA)	Poliquin
Duckworth	King (NY)	Polis
Duffy	Kinzinger (IL)	Pompeo
Edwards	Kline	Posey
Ellison	Knight	Price (NC)
Ellmers (NC)	Kuster	Price, Tom
Emmer (MN)	Labrador	Quigley
Engel	LaHood	Rangel
Eshoo	LaMalfa	Ratcliffe
Esty	Lamborn	Reed
Farenthold	Lance	Reichert
Farr	Langevin	Renacci
Fincher	Larsen (WA)	Rice (NY)
Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)	Rice (SC)
Fleischmann	Latta	Richmond
Fleming	Lawrence	Rigell
Flores	Lee	Roby
Forbes	Levin	Roe (TN)
Fortenberry	Lewis	Rogers (AL)
Foster	Lieu, Ted	Rogers (KY)
Fox	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Frankel (FL)	LoBiondo	Rokita
Frelinghuysen	Loeb	Rooney (FL)
Fudge	Loftgren	Ros-Lehtinen
Gabbard	Long	Roskam
Gallego	Loudermilk	Ross
Garamendi	Love	Rothfus
Garrett	Lowenthal	Rouzer
Gibbs	Lowe	Roybal-Allard
Gibson	Lucas	Royce

Ruiz	Smith (TX)	Walberg
Ruppersberger	Smith (WA)	Walden
Russell	Speler	Walker
Ryan (OH)	Stefanik	Walorski
Salmon	Stewart	Walters, Mimi
Sánchez, Linda	Stivers	Walz
T.	Stutzman	Wasserman
Sarbanes	Swalwell (CA)	Schultz
Scalise	Takano	Waters, Maxine
Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)	Watson Coleman
Schiff	Thompson (MS)	Webster (FL)
Schrader	Thompson (PA)	Welch
Schweikert	Thornberry	Wenstrup
Scott (VA)	Tiberi	Westerman
Scott, Austin	Tipton	Westmoreland
Scott, David	Titus	Williams
Sensenbrenner	Tonko	Wilson (FL)
Serrano	Torres	Wilson (SC)
Sessions	Trott	Wittman
Sewell (AL)	Tsongas	Womack
Sherman	Turner	Yarmuth
Shimkus	Upton	Yoder
Shuster	Valadao	Yoho
Simpson	Van Hollen	Young (AK)
Sinema	Vargas	Young (IA)
Sires	Veasey	Young (IN)
Slaughter	Vela	Zeldin
Smith (MO)	Velázquez	Zinke
Smith (NE)	Visclosky	
Smith (NJ)	Wagner	

NOES—18

Amash	Franks (AZ)	McClintock
Brat	Gosar	Mulvaney
Brooks (AL)	Hice, Jody B.	Palmer
Collins (GA)	Jones	Sanford
Duncan (SC)	Lummis	Weber (TX)
Duncan (TN)	Massie	Woodall

NOT VOTING—6

Denham	Poe (TX)	Rush
Kirkpatrick	Ribble	Sanchez, Loretta

□ 1744

Messrs. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. WEBER of Texas changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 284, noes 141, answered “present” 1, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 570]

AYES—284

Abraham	Beatty	Blumenauer
Adams	Becerra	Bonamici
Aderholt	Benishkek	Bost
Aguilar	Bera	Boustany
Amodei	Beyer	Boyle, Brendan
Ashford	Bilirakis	F.
Barletta	Bishop (GA)	Brady (PA)
Bass	Bishop (MI)	Brooks (IN)

Brown (FL) Hardy
Brownley (CA) Hastings
Buchanan Heck (NV)
Bucshon Heck (WA)
Bustos Herrera Beutler
Butterfield Higgins
Calvert Himes
Capps Hinojosa
Capuano Honda
Cárdenas Hoyer
Carney Huffman
Carson (IN) Huizenga (MI)
Cartwright Hurd (TX)
Castor (FL) Israel
Castro (TX) Issa
Chu, Judy Jackson Lee
Cicilline Jeffries
Clark (MA) Jenkins (KS)
Clarke (NY) Jenkins (WV)
Clay Johnson (GA)
Cleaver Johnson, E. B.
Clyburn Jolly
Cohen Joyce
Cole Kaptur
Comstock Katko
Connolly Keating
Conyers Kelly (IL)
Cook Kennedy
Cooper Kildee
Costa Kilmer
Costello (PA) Kind
Courtney King (NY)
Cramer Kinzinger (IL)
Crawford Kline
Crowley Kuster
Cuellar Lance
Culbertson Langevin
Cummings Larsen (WA)
Curbelo (FL) Larson (CT)
Davis (CA) Lawrence
Davis, Danny Lee
Davis, Rodney Levin
DeFazio Lewis
DeGette Lieu, Ted
Delaney Lipinski
DeLauro LoBiondo
DelBene Loeback
Denham Lofgren
Dent Love
DeSaulnier Lowenthal
Deutch Lowey
Diaz-Balart Lujan Grisham
Dingell (NM)
Doggett Luján, Ben Ray
Dold (NM)
Donovan Lynch
Doyle, Michael MacArthur
F. Maloney
Duckworth Carolyn
Duffy Maloney, Sean
Edwards Marino
Ellison Matsui
Engel McCarthy
Eshoo McCollum
Esty McDermott
Farr McGovern
Fitzpatrick McHenry
Fleischmann McNeerney
Fleming Meehan
Fortenberry Meeks
Foster Meng
Frankel (FL) Miller (MI)
Frelinghuysen Moolenaar
Fudge Moore
Gabbard Moulton
Gallego Murphy (FL)
Garamendi Murphy (PA)
Gibson Nadler
Graham Napolitano
Granger Neal
Graves (LA) Nolan
Grayson Norcross
Green, Al Nugent
Green, Gene Nunes
Grijalva O'Rourke
Guinta Pallone
Gutiérrez Pascarell
Hahn Paulsen
Hanna Payne

NOES—141

Allen Bishop (UT)
Babin Black
Barr Blackburn
Barton Blum

Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zinke

Buck
Burgess
Byrne
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Davidson
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Flores
Forbes
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Garrett
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding

Amash

Kirkpatrick Ribble
Poe (TX) Rush

NOT VOTING—5

□ 1755

Mr. ROTHFUS changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. JOYCE changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. EMMER of Minnesota). The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) having assumed the chair, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5303) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 897, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roe (TN)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rothfus
Rouzer
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Stewart
Stutzman
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Walker
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Zeldin

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DEFAZIO. I am opposed to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DeFazio moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5303 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. ____ NO CORPS FUNDING FOR SOCCER FIELDS, BASEBALL FIELDS, BASKETBALL COURTS, OR SPLASH PARKS.

Notwithstanding item 1 of the table in section 401(a)(8), the Secretary may not carry out the project for the Upper Trinity River, Modified Central City, Fort Worth, Texas—

(1) if the Secretary determines that any portion of the project is for the construction of a soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, or splash park using Federal funds provided through the Corps of Engineers; or

(2) notwithstanding section 116 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108-447; 118 Stat. 2944), until the Secretary has determined that the project is economically justified.

Mr. SHUSTER (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1800

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard over 2 days, the Corps' budget is tight—a \$2.4 billion backlog in operations and maintenance and, after today, a \$74 billion backlog in authorized projects. Now, deep in this bill is a line item that provides an authorization for an \$810 million lavish waterfront development project in Fort Worth, Texas. My amendment simply guarantees fiscal discipline and regular order in two parts.

First, it guarantees that no Corps of Engineers funds will be used to build soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, or splash parks as part of the project. Second, it requires the Secretary of the Army to determine that

the project is economically justified. That is it. That is all this does.

The proponents of this will say there are no funds that are going to be used for soccer fields, baseball fields, basketball courts, or splash parks. However, this has been extracted from the Web site of the developer of the project. This is the official Web site. These are all included.

They say: We are going to use local funds.

There is a little gimmick here. Corps projects that have been authorized and have been found to be economically beneficial have to have local cost sharing. In this case, big parts of the local cost share are these things which are not qualified for a Corps project.

They say: Those aren't going to be Federal funds.

This is going to reduce the burden on the local people to match, and it is going to increase the burden on the taxpayers. In fact, if this does not authorize these things, all the Secretary has to do is to say they are not going to be constructed with Federal funds. If Members don't want to take my word for it, listen to the Taxpayers for Common Sense and National Taxpayers Union.

"The legislation authorizes funding for a project in Fort Worth, Texas, costing more than \$800 million. The Upper Trinity River project is portrayed as a flood damage reduction effort, but is really a massive economic development initiative that would divert precious Corps resources to construct soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a splash park. Money spent on a splash park in Fort Worth is money that cannot be spent to further the Corps' core mission areas. At the least, we urge you to remove or limit the funds. . . ." If I am wrong and the National Taxpayers Union is wrong, the Secretary only has to confirm that.

Secondly, we are going to require the Secretary to determine the project as economically justified. Why would Congress insist on economically justifying a \$510 million Federal project? A better question might be: Why wouldn't you insist on this?

Every other chief's report in this bill had to go through an economic analysis by the Corps of Engineers and be found to be a net benefit to the taxpayers of the United States. This project did not. Yes, there was a private analysis done that said this is a great project, but there was no study done by the chief's office, and it has not been economically justified.

This project started out as an earmark in 2004 at a cost of \$220 million. In this bill, it is a renewed earmark at \$810 million, and the Federal share has gone from \$110 million to \$527 million. Anybody out there who has a need for a port or a harbor or anything else, think about that as you are in a very

long line, and \$527 million is going to get ahead of you with an earmarked project which includes these sorts of features.

I urge Members to observe regular order, not to do an earmark by any other name, and require this project to be economically justified and not to construct sports facilities.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: While less expensive and problematic than the Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act (S. 2848), we urge you to oppose H.R. 5303, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016." Instead of much needed reform, this legislation piles billions of dollars in additional water projects on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plate. The legislation also makes policy changes that will be costly to taxpayers.

The largest challenge facing the Corps of Engineers water resources program is the lack of a prioritization system for allocating the limited available tax dollars. The legislation directs the executive branch to better explain its budgeting decisions, but this should not serve as an abdication of congressional authority. Congress should develop the criteria and metrics to prioritize Corps projects in the three primary mission areas (navigation, flood/storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration). The executive branch should be required to allocate funds in the budget request in a transparent manner through merit, competitive, or formula systems developed by Congress. Lawmakers could then conduct oversight, hold the administration accountable, and adjust the systems, criteria, and metrics as needed.

H.R. 5303 fails to include such a prioritization system. It does many other things, however. Between committee consideration and the floor, the bill grew by over \$6 billion. A provision from the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 dedicating maintenance dredging funds to emerging ports is made permanent. It doesn't make sense to invest in a port that is continually "emerging." It also extends set-asides for "donor" and "energy" ports without reforming the massive cross-subsidies in the existing maintenance dredging program. The legislation authorizes funding for a project in Fort Worth, Texas, costing more than \$800 million. The Upper Trinity River project is portrayed as a flood damage reduction effort, but is really a massive economic development initiative that would divert precious Corps resources to construct soccer and baseball fields, basketball courts, and even a splash park. Money spent on a splash park in Fort Worth is money that cannot be spent to further the Corps' core mission areas. At the least, we urge you to remove or limit the funds for this project.

Again, we urge you to oppose H.R. 5303 the "Water Resources Development Act of 2016."

Sincerely,

RYAN ALEXANDER,
Taxpayers for Common Sense.

PETE SEPP,
National Taxpayers Union.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. We are going to stand up and say that the Corps of Engineers and the non-Federal sponsor have made it clear that it is not responsible for constructing baseball fields, basketball courts, and soccer fields. Not only has the Corps said to us that it is not included in this—they have confirmed, and they have reconfirmed—but, in fact, an independent board did a cost-benefit analysis on this. An independent board did one. This motion simply stops the forward motion of this bill.

When I became chairman, I committed to making sure that, in every Congress, we would pass a WRDA bill and get back to regular order like we used to do, but there was a 7-year gap; so here, today, we have a bill. It is not perfect by any means, but it is a good bill.

I look around this Chamber, and there are Members here who have projects in this that are important to their districts and that are important to their States. Most importantly, it is important to the Nation that we move this bill forward. If we delay on this bill, we are going to delay these jobs. This is a critical bill for us. It does some very, very good things. There are good benefits in here.

First, it reasserts congressional authority by restoring the 2-year cycle to WRDA. It restores congressional authority. That means we in this House and in the Senate—in Congress—get to tell the administration what they are going to do. We are not going to sit here and have them direct us and say this is what we will do. We don't know who those faceless, nameless bureaucrats are, and I am tired of that. I will not let that happen on my watch. There is a return to regular order. As I said, there are unelected bureaucrats making those decisions for us.

Secondly, it is fiscally responsible. We authorize over \$9 billion in projects, but we de-authorize. We have taken it, and we have balanced it out so it is fiscally responsible.

Finally, it keeps American jobs in America by strengthening our competitiveness—not Republican and Democratic jobs, American jobs. In each Member's district and in each Member's State, this bill is going to help America be competitive so that our goods and products can go out of these ports efficiently to world markets and so they can come in and get on our store shelves efficiently and save Americans money.

This is an important economic development bill for this Nation. Let's get this bill done. Let's get into conversations with the Senate, and let's get this on the President's desk. Let's help strengthen America.

I urge a "no" vote on this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 243, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 571]

AYES—181

Adams	Fudge	Napolitano
Aguilar	Gabbard	Neal
Ashford	Gallego	Nolan
Bass	Garamendi	Norcross
Beatty	Graham	O'Rourke
Becerra	Grayson	Pallone
Bera	Green, Al	Pascarell
Beyer	Green, Gene	Payne
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Gutiérrez	Perlmutter
Bonamici	Hahn	Peters
Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Peterson
F.	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pocan
Brooks (AL)	Himes	Polis
Brown (FL)	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Brownley (CA)	Honda	Quigley
Bustos	Hoyer	Rangel
Butterfield	Huffman	Rice (NY)
Capps	Israel	Richmond
Capuano	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Cárdenas	Jeffries	Ruiz
Carney	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Ryan (OH)
Cartwright	Jones	Sánchez, Linda
Castor (FL)	Kaptur	T.
Castro (TX)	Keating	Sarbanes
Chu, Judy	Kelly (IL)	Schakowsky
Cicilline	Kennedy	Schiff
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Schrader
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Scott (VA)
Clay	Kind	Scott, David
Cleaver	Kuster	Serrano
Clyburn	Langevin	Sewell (AL)
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Sinema
Conyers	Lawrence	Sires
Cooper	Lee	Slaughter
Costa	Levin	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Lewis	Speier
Crowley	Lieu, Ted	Swalwell (CA)
Cuellar	Lipinski	Takano
Cummings	Loeb sack	Talbot
Davis (CA)	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
DeFazio	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeGette	(NM)	Tonko
Delaney	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
DeLauro	(NM)	Tsongas
DelBene	Lynch	Van Hollen
DeSaulnier	Maloney,	Vargas
Deutch	Carolyn	Vela
Dingell	Maloney, Sean	Velázquez
Doggett	Matsui	Visclosky
Duckworth	McCollum	Walz
Edwards	McGovern	Wasserman
Ellison	McNerney	Schultz
Engel	Meeks	Waters, Maxine
Eshoo	Meng	Watson Coleman
Esty	Moore	Welch
Farr	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Foster	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth
Frankel (FL)	Nadler	

NOES—243

Abraham	Griffith	Paulsen
Aderholt	Grothman	Pearce
Allen	Guinta	Perry
Amash	Guthrie	Pittenger
Amodei	Hanna	Pitts
Babin	Hardy	Poliquin
Barletta	Harper	Pompeo
Barr	Harris	Posey
Barton	Hartzler	Price, Tom
Benishke	Heck (NV)	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Hensarling	Reed
Bishop (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Renacci
Black	Hill	Ribble
Blackburn	Holding	Rice (SC)
Blum	Hudson	Rigell
Bost	Huelskamp	Roby
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Rogers (AL)
Brat	Hunter	Rogers (KY)
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Hurt (VA)	Rokita
Buchanan	Issa	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Jenkins (KS)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bucshon	Jenkins (WV)	Roskam
Burgess	Johnson (OH)	Ross
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Rothfus
Calvert	Jolly	Rouzer
Carter (GA)	Jordan	Royce
Carter (TX)	Joyce	Russell
Chabot	Katko	Salmon
Chaffetz	Kelly (MS)	Sanford
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Coffman	King (IA)	Schweikert
Cole	King (NY)	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Kinzinger (IL)	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Kline	Sessions
Comstock	Knight	Shimkus
Conaway	Labrador	Shuster
Cook	LaHood	Simpson
Costello (PA)	LaMalfa	Smith (MO)
Cramer	Lamborn	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Lance	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Latta	Smith (TX)
Culberson	LoBiondo	Stefanik
Curbelo (FL)	Long	Stewart
Davidson	Loudermilk	Stivers
Davis, Rodney	Love	Stutzman
Denham	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Dent	Luetkemeyer	Thornberry
DeSantis	Lummis	Tiberi
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Trott
Dold	Marino	Turner
Donovan	Massie	Upton
Duffy	McCarthy	Valadao
Duncan (SC)	McCauley	Veasey
Duncan (TN)	McClintock	Wagner
Ellmers (NC)	McHenry	Walberg
Emmer (MN)	McKinley	Walden
Farenthold	McMorris	Walker
Fincher	Rodgers	Walorski
Fitzpatrick	McSally	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	Meadows	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Meehan	Webster (FL)
Flores	Messer	Wenstrup
Forbes	Mica	Westerman
Fortenberry	Miller (FL)	Westmoreland
Fox	Miller (MI)	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Mooleenaar	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Mooney (WV)	Wittman
Garrett	Mullin	Womack
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Woodall
Gibson	Murphy (PA)	Yoder
Gohmert	Neugebauer	Yoho
Goodlatte	Newhouse	Young (AK)
Gosar	Noem	Young (IA)
Gowdy	Nugent	Young (IN)
Granger	Nunes	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	Olson	Zinke
Graves (LA)	Palazzo	
Graves (MO)	Palmer	

NOT VOTING—7

Doyle, Michael	Lowey	Rush
F.	McDermott	Sanchez, Loretta
Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)	

□ 1812

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 399, noes 25, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 572]

AYES—399

Abraham	Costello (PA)	Guthrie
Adams	Courtney	Gutiérrez
Aguilar	Cramer	Hahn
Allen	Crawford	Hanna
Amodei	Crenshaw	Hardy
Ashford	Crowley	Harper
Babin	Cuellar	Harris
Barletta	Culberson	Hartzler
Barr	Cummings	Hastings
Barton	Curbelo (FL)	Heck (NV)
Bass	Davidson	Heck (WA)
Beatty	Davis (CA)	Hensarling
Becerra	Davis, Danny	Herrera Beutler
Benishke	Davis, Rodney	Hice, Jody B.
Bera	DeGette	Higgins
Beyer	Delaney	Hill
Bilirakis	DeLauro	Himes
Bishop (GA)	DelBene	Hinojosa
Bishop (MI)	Denham	Holding
Bishop (UT)	Dent	Honda
Black	DeSantis	Hoyer
Blackburn	DeSaulnier	Hudson
Blum	DesJarlais	Huffman
Blumenauer	Deutch	Huizenga (MI)
Bonamici	Diaz-Balart	Hultgren
Bost	Dingell	Hunter
Boustany	Doggett	Hurd (TX)
Brady (PA)	Dold	Hurt (VA)
Brady (TX)	Donovan	Israel
Brat	Doyle, Michael	Issa
Bridenstine	F.	Jackson Lee
Brooks (IN)	Duckworth	Jeffries
Brown (FL)	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Brownley (CA)	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Buchanan	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (GA)
Buck	Edwards	Johnson (OH)
Bucshon	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Burgess	Emmer (MN)	Johnson, Sam
Bustos	Engel	Jolly
Butterfield	Eshoo	Joyce
Byrne	Esty	Kaptur
Calvert	Farenthold	Katko
Capps	Farr	Keating
Capuano	Fincher	Kelly (IL)
Cárdenas	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Carney	Fleischmann	Kelly (PA)
Carson (IN)	Fleming	Kennedy
Carter (GA)	Flores	Kildee
Carter (TX)	Forbes	Kilmer
Cartwright	Fortenberry	Kind
Castor (FL)	Foster	King (IA)
Castro (TX)	Fox	King (NY)
Chabot	Frankel (FL)	Kinzinger (IL)
Chaffetz	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Chu, Judy	Fudge	Knight
Cicilline	Gabbard	Kuster
Clark (MA)	Gallego	LaHood
Clarke (NY)	Garamendi	LaMalfa
Clawson (FL)	Garrett	Lamborn
Clay	Gibbs	Lance
Cleaver	Gibson	Langevin
Clyburn	Goodlatte	Larsen (WA)
Coffman	Gowdy	Larson (CT)
Cohen	Graham	Latta
Cole	Granger	Lawrence
Collins (GA)	Graves (GA)	Lee
Collins (NY)	Graves (LA)	Levin
Comstock	Graves (MO)	Lewis
Conaway	Grayson	Lieu, Ted
Connolly	Green, Al	Lipinski
Conyers	Griffith	LoBiondo
Cook	Grijalva	Loeb sack
Cooper	Grothman	Lofgren
Costa	Guinta	Long

Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Lujan, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce

Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pittenger
Pocan
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOES—25

Aderholt
Amash
Brooks (AL)
DeFazio
Ellmers (NC)
Franks (AZ)
Gohmert
Gosar
Green, Gene

Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
Labrador
McKinley
Miller (FL)
Neugebauer
Palmer
Perry

Pitts
Polis
Roby
Rogers (AL)
Salmon
Sensenbrenner
Sewell (AL)

NOT VOTING—7

Boyle, Brendan
F.
Kirkpatrick

McDermott
Pingree
Poe (TX)

Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1820

Mr. GOHMERT changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DAVID SNEDDON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 891, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Young of Iowa). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 891

Whereas David Louis Sneddon is a United States citizen who disappeared while touring the Yunnan Province in the People's Republic of China as a university student on August 14, 2004, at the age of 24;

Whereas David had last reported to family members prior to his disappearance that he intended to hike the Tiger Leaping Gorge in the Yunnan Province before returning to the United States and had placed a downpayment on student housing for the upcoming academic year, planned business meetings, and scheduled law school entrance examinations in the United States for the fall;

Whereas People's Republic of China officials have reported to the Department of State and the family of David that he most likely died by falling into the Jinsha River while hiking the Tiger Leaping Gorge, although no physical evidence or eyewitness testimony exists to support this conclusion;

Whereas there is evidence indicating that David did not fall into the river when he traveled through the gorge, including eyewitness testimonies from people who saw David alive and spoke to him in person after his hike, as recorded by members of David's family and by embassy officials from the Department of State in the months after his disappearance;

Whereas family members searching for David shortly after he went missing obtained eyewitness accounts that David stayed overnight in several guesthouses during and after his safe hike through the gorge, and these guesthouse locations suggest that David disappeared after passing through the gorge, but the guest registers recording the names and passport numbers of foreign overnight guests could not be accessed;

Whereas Chinese officials have reported that evidence does not exist that David was a victim of violent crime, or a resident in a local hospital, prison, or mental institution at the time of his disappearance, and no attempt has been made to use David's passport since the time of his disappearance, nor has any money been withdrawn from his bank account since that time;

Whereas David Sneddon is the only United States citizen to disappear without explanation in the People's Republic of China since the normalization of relations between the United States and China during the administration of President Richard Nixon;

Whereas investigative reporters and non-governmental organizations with expertise in the Asia-Pacific region, and in some cases particular expertise in the Asian Under-

ground Railroad and North Korea's program, documented historically, to kidnap citizens of foreign nations for espionage purposes, have repeatedly raised the possibility that the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was involved in David's disappearance; and

Whereas investigative reporters and non-governmental organizations who have reviewed David's case believe it is possible that the Government of North Korea was involved in David's disappearance because—

(1) the Yunnan Province is regarded by regional experts as an area frequently trafficked by North Korean refugees and their support networks, and the Government of the People's Republic of China allows North Korean agents to operate throughout the region to repatriate refugees, such as prominent North Korean defector Kang Byong-sop and members of his family who were captured near the China-Laos border just weeks prior to David's disappearance;

(2) in 2002, North Korean officials acknowledged that the Government of North Korea has carried out a policy since the 1970s of abducting foreign citizens and holding them captive in North Korea for the purpose of training its intelligence and military personnel in critical language and culture skills to infiltrate foreign nations;

(3) Charles Robert Jenkins, a United States soldier who deserted his unit in South Korea in 1965 and was held captive in North Korea for nearly 40 years, left North Korea in July 2004 (one month before David disappeared in China) and Jenkins reported that he was forced to teach English to North Korean intelligence and military personnel while in captivity;

(4) David Sneddon is fluent in the Korean language and was learning Mandarin, skills that could have been appealing to the Government of North Korea;

(5) tensions between the United States and North Korea were heightened during the summer of 2004 due to recent approval of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333) that increased United States aid to refugees fleeing North Korea, prompting the Government of North Korea to issue a press release warning the United States to “drop its hostile policy”;

(6) David Sneddon's disappearance fits a known historical pattern often seen in the abduction of foreigners by the Government of North Korea;

(7) a well-reputed Japanese nonprofit specializing in North Korean abductions shared with the United States its expert analysis in 2012 about information it stated was received “from a reliable source” that a United States university student largely matching David Sneddon's description was taken from China by North Korean agents in August 2004; and

(8) commentary published in the Wall Street Journal in 2013 cited experts looking at the Sneddon case who concluded that “it is most probable that a U.S. national has been abducted to North Korea,” and “there is a strong possibility that North Korea kidnapped the American”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its ongoing concern about the disappearance of David Louis Sneddon in Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in August, 2004;

(2) encourages the Department of State and the intelligence community to jointly continue investigations and to consider all plausible explanations for David's disappearance, including the possibility of abduction

by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(3) urges the Department of State and the intelligence community to coordinate investigations with the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Japan, and South Korea and solicit information from appropriate regional affairs and law enforcement experts on plausible explanations for David's disappearance;

(4) encourages the Department of State to work with foreign governments known to have diplomatic influence with the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(5) encourages the intelligence community to assess the possibility of the involvement of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in David Sneddon's disappearance and to possibly seek his recovery; and

(6) requests that the Department of State and the intelligence community continue to work with and inform Congress and the family of David Sneddon on efforts to possibly recover David and to resolve his disappearance.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the attached letters between myself and the Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence regarding House Concurrent Resolution 891, expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,

Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: On September 26, 2016, H. Res. 891, "Expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes," was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition, to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

In order to expedite the House's consideration of the resolution, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will forego consideration of the measure. This courtesy is, however, conditioned on our mutual understanding and agreement that it will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Permanent Select Committee with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matter contained in the resolution or any similar measure.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would request that you include a copy of this letter in any committee report for the resolution and in the Congressional Record during its floor consideration. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

Hon. DEVIN NUNES,
Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H. Res. 891, a resolution expressing concern over the disappearance of David Sneddon, and for other purposes, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that resolution.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your Committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 891 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to submit statements or extraneous materials for the RECORD on House Resolution 891.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 897, I call up the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6094

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding the effective date set forth in the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to exemptions regarding the rates of pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees (81 Fed. Reg. 32552 (May 23, 2016)), such rule shall not take effect until June 1, 2017.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to provide authority for the rule described in subsection (a), nor any part thereof, that is not otherwise provided by law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Com-

mittee on Education and the Workforce.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6094.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. I am proud to introduce this legislation to provide small businesses, colleges, universities, and nonprofit organizations much needed relief from a fundamentally flawed rule that will do more harm than good. It is unfortunate this legislation is necessary in the first place.

For over 2 years, Republicans have urged the Department to update our Nation's overtime rules responsibly. These rules serve as important protections for American workers, but the existing regulatory structure is extremely outdated and complex. The Department should have used this opportunity to modernize overtime rules for the 21st century workforce.

They should have listened to the countless small-business owners, heads of nonprofit organizations, State and local leaders, and college and university administrators who warned that an extreme and partisan rule would lead to harmful consequences. But the Department failed to take a balanced approach and refused to listen. Instead, they stuck by a Washington-knows-best mentality and finalized a rule that was exactly what so many hardworking men and women had feared.

The rule doubles the salary threshold for overtime eligibility and requires further automatic increases every 3 years. And then, to make matters worse, the Department even kept in place the same old regulatory maze that has existed for decades.

As the administration pats itself on the back and rushes to implement a rule in just a few short months, those who will face the real world consequences are scrambling to meet the unrealistic December 1 deadline.

Ernie Macewen, a South Rockwood small-business owner in my district, said he already opted to hire one less employee this year in anticipation of the rule. He said he has heard from other small-business owners who don't even know the rule exists.

Karen Richard, who owns Culver's restaurants in Ann Arbor and Jackson,

is worried the rule will limit opportunities for the young people she employs.

Adrian College is trying to make tough decisions that could impact tuition and services for students, and the time crunch is making the process even more challenging.

Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids is concerned the rule will undermine support for children in need.

These stories aren't unique to Michigan. These are the types of stories that are unfolding across the country, yet the administration continues to quickly move toward the December 1 implementation date in total disregard for the challenges facing the small businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations serving our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the administration should abandon this rule before it limits opportunities for workers, hurts young people striving for an affordable education, burdens hardworking small-business owners, and jeopardizes vital services for vulnerable Americans.

It is time to go back to the drawing board and work toward the balanced, responsible approach we have been fighting for from the start.

Time is running out. The administration and Members of Congress should do the right thing and provide more time to those struggling to implement this rule before an arbitrary and unrealistic deadline. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation and to help deliver the relief small businesses, schools, and nonprofits in each and every one of our districts so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in opposition to H.R. 6094, the inappropriately named Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

First of all, it is not limited to those. It is for all employers. It would delay the implementation of the overtime rule for 6 months. The rule is currently slated to go into effect on December 1, and working families can't wait another 6 months for a long-overdue adjustment in the overtime rule.

We ought to talk a little bit about what we are talking about. If today you are earning \$10 an hour, if you work more than 40 hours a week, you get time-and-a-half for every hour worked over 40. And if they change that to the same amount, instead of \$10 an hour, \$20,000 a year, you still get time-and-a-half for overtime after 40 hours because your salary is under the approximately \$23,000 threshold.

□ 1830

If you make \$15 an hour, you get time-and-a-half for over 40 hours; but if they change that and call it \$30,000 a

year, the hours you work over 40 you not only don't get time-and-a-half, you don't get paid at all. You just worked extra hours because you are over the threshold.

Now, when the threshold was established many years ago, 60 percent of salaried workers were covered by the overtime rule. They were under the threshold and got overtime. But because it wasn't adjusted for inflation, it is now only about 7 percent of salaried workers who get overtime protection. The Department of Labor overtime rule will increase that threshold up to about \$47,000, and this would cover about only 35 percent of salaried workers, but this would still enable millions of Americans to be compensated for work over 40 hours.

Mr. Speaker, the 40-hour workweek used to be the standard workweek, but with this new rule, more workers will benefit from the overtime rule and be able to get time-and-a-half for hours worked over 40 hours. We have heard this is too quick. When the last adjustment was made, under a Republican President, only 4 months were provided to adjust. This rule allowed 6 months. Furthermore, the administration has been working on this for 2 years, so employers have known it was coming.

Now, we will hear exaggerated reports about the impact on universities. Studies have shown that only a few people will be actually affected by the rule, and of those, only a few people will actually routinely work overtime. So the total of those affected and routinely work overtime is about 1 percent of the university employees. Their salary may go up a little bit or they may be only worked 40 hours, in which case there is no adjustment needed. Either way, you are only talking about a small portion of the salary of 1 percent. That is not going to bankrupt universities.

The nonprofits, the same thing, about 1 percent of the employees both routinely work overtime and are affected. Their salary may or may not go up, depending on how you respond because a lot of times you will just make sure that people don't work more than 40 hours a week. They can go home to their families rather than be worked hour after hour after hour.

We have also heard an exaggeration about how it will affect jobs, people will have to lay people off. Actually, one study showed that you will actually create jobs, about 100,000 jobs over the economy, because if an employer has 120 hours that need to be worked, and he is working two people 60 hours a week without paying for the extra hours, with this rule, he may be paying them time-and-a-half, and it may make more sense to hire a third person; so three people work 40 hours a week. That would create, as I said, about 100,000 jobs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would unnecessarily delay fair pay to millions of

workers. The President, thankfully, has said that if this bill ever sees his desk, he will veto it. We can remove that uncertainty just by defeating the bill here and now.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, a man who we will all miss next year, the wisdom, the leadership, the success that he has brought to this committee, a man who understands that we work together, but sometimes we press forward to do the right thing.

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his tremendous leadership on this issue and so many more.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6094.

In 2014, the Department of Labor began an effort to update Federal overtime rules. There would have been strong bipartisan support for that effort if the Department had pursued a responsible approach. In fact, we have spent years engaging in this issue because we believe Federal overtime rules need to be modernized, both to strengthen protections for workers and to provide more clarity and certainty for employers.

Unfortunately, the Department took a different approach and finalized an extreme rule that will hurt those it is supposed to help. As we have heard from witnesses at hearings and constituents back home, the rule will leave individuals with less flexibility at work and fewer opportunities to further their careers or pursue jobs they want or truly need. We have also learned that the rule will make college less affordable and make it more difficult for charitable organizations to serve people in need.

The purpose of the legislation we are considering today is to provide some relief—even if temporary—to those who will be harmed the most: men and women working hard to grow their own businesses and employees trying to provide a better life for their families, students pursuing the dream of a higher education, and countless Americans relying on nonprofits for help and support.

It took the Obama administration more than 2 years—27 months—to complete this rule, but they have given the American people just 6 months to make the difficult choices necessary to implement it. According to one report, almost half—49 percent—of small businesses aren't even aware the new rule exists. Imagine how many schools and nonprofits are in the same position.

This legislation will give these men and women more time to implement the rule and help mitigate its impact on students, workers, and vulnerable individuals. But the clock is ticking.

Important decisions about payroll and staffing have to be made and quickly. If we fail to act now, it may be too late.

I want to thank Mr. WALBERG for introducing this important legislation and for his continued leadership in championing efforts to responsibly—responsibly—update Federal overtime rules. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to acknowledge the retirement of the Chair. I have only been ranking member for this Congress, but we have been able to work together constructively for elementary and secondary education, juvenile justice, career and technical education, Older Americans Act, several higher education bills, all working constructively together. I want to thank the gentleman for his cooperative spirit. We agree on a lot and we are able to work forward. We disagree, as we are on this bill, but we are able to do that in a dignified way and still be able to accomplish a great deal during this Congress. I want to congratulate him on a great career.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WILSON), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT.

As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I rise to voice my strong opposition to H.R. 6094, which would delay the overtime rule. It is not fair that the men and women teetering on the brink of poverty, people making \$23,660 a year, are asked to work 50, 60, or 70 hours a week with no promise of extra pay. It is not fair that millions of mothers and fathers who are forced to work long hours each week find it almost impossible to give their children the time and attention they deserve, yet they are still deprived of the overtime pay that could lead to the economic security of their families.

The Department's overtime rule will extend long-awaited wage protections to nearly 4.2 million Americans, including 331,000 Floridians. I applaud the Department and the administration for their continued commitment to combating the wage stagnation that has left far too many Floridians working more hours for less pay. My hardworking constituents and Americans across this country deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

This overtime rule makes us one step closer to this goal. Small-business owners, nonprofits, and higher education institutions have options for complying with this rule, which would not impose any additional cost. Let's make that clear. H.R. 6094 will take \$600 million out of the pockets of 4.2 million

American workers who would have gained overtime protections on December 1. This is \$600 million they will never see. That means, for example, that workers will have less money to spend on their families and their futures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we are required to serve the will of the people, and millions of working class people want and need this rule now. Polls show that 76 percent of voters say they support the rule. We must do what is best for the American people by ensuring that all Americans are paid a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. I remain steadfast in my commitment to strengthening the wage and hour protections that Americans deserve. It is critical that the overtime rule goes into effect without any changes on December 1, 2016.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, and my good friend.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act, a much-needed piece of legislation that will delay the Department of Labor's misguided proposed overtime rule.

The annual wage in my home State of Tennessee is \$41,300. In my district, the median household income is even lower, \$39,000. The Department's proposed threshold for overtime is \$47,000. That means that well over half the households in my district could be impacted by this ruling.

My question to the Department of Labor is: If over half the workers in an area will be affected by a regulation, where will the money come from?

The government might be able to print money, but if a local mom-and-pop business back home in my district started doing that, it is a felony, and the Secret Service won't be stopping by just to say hello.

The answer is fairly obvious to anyone who has run a business or had to meet a payroll. To comply with the regulation, fewer full-time employees will be hired, and workers will be strictly limited in their hours. While the regulation may give a few employees a pay raise, for many other employees it will result in fewer opportunities and unemployment.

We all want to see wages go up and the economy recover like it has in the past, but that happens by decreasing the number of oppressive regulations to stimulate job creation and business

growth, not by adding yet another layer of regulation that could put small companies and nonprofits across my district out of business or cause them to cut back workers' hours and change salaried employees to hourly.

Additionally, if this rule is finalized, the colleges in my district will be affected to the tune of between \$1 million and \$9 million annually, which will only end up raising the price of education, which is already too high.

I want to say in closing that I am an Eagle Scout and very proud to be one. As you may know, the motto of the Scouts is: Be Prepared.

Unfortunately, for groups like the Boy Scouts of America that rely on donations, there is no way that they could be prepared to pay all their employees \$47,476 or more and continue operating. This proposed rule will do nothing but hurt an already ailing economy and force groups like the Boy Scouts to cut back on their operation that helps kids, rich and poor, come together and learn skills they need to be a productive member of society when they grow up.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and a hardworking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Virginia, the ranking member, Mr. SCOTT, for his leadership on this issue.

I am here to express my strong opposition to H.R. 6094. Prior to the Department of Labor taking action this year, the rules governing overtime were woefully out of date. In 1975, 60 percent of salaried workers had access to overtime protections. Four decades later, that number was just 8 percent. The result is that millions of American workers were denied a fair day's pay for a fair day's work for far too long.

On numerous occasions, my colleagues across the aisle have conceded that the threshold should be increased, but they say that this increase is too much too soon.

Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, an incremental change would have been appropriate three decades ago. Now we need bold action to restore overtime protections for middle class workers.

□ 1845

I find it ironic that this bill is called the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. After decades of long hours and low pay, it is working families that need relief. This bill takes money out of the pockets of middle class Americans right before the holiday season. In reality, this bill should be called the Grinch Act.

The overtime rule will ensure that 4.2 million Americans will have access to overtime protections. An additional 8.9 million workers will see their overtime protections strengthened. These middle class workers will either get an increase in pay or more time to spend with their families or both. This is plainly one of the most significant steps we can take to support the middle class.

I am not blind to the concerns of the business communities. I have heard from small businesses, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations in my own district who are worried about the impact this rule will have on their bottom lines; but the truth is, while this rule is a big deal for workers, it will not have a significant consequence for businesses. The Department of Labor estimates that the total cost of the rule will amount to less than one-tenth of 1 percent of total U.S. payroll costs. I repeat that: less than one-tenth of 1 percent of total U.S. payroll costs.

Among workers affected by the rule, only one in five regularly work overtime. At universities and colleges, employees whose primary duties are teaching, lecturing, or instructing are exempt from overtime coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act. Only 3.4 percent of all employees in colleges, universities, and junior colleges will be affected by this rule. Only 0.5 percent of those workers usually work overtime.

And who are these workers? They are the people peeling potatoes in the dining hall, they are the landscapers cutting grass in the quad, and they are the sporting equipment managers who work in multimillion-dollar athletic facilities, but can barely afford to support their families. They deserve to be paid for the hours they work.

Employers have inexpensive options for complying with this rule. For example, they can work with their teams to ensure that their employees are only working 40 hours a week, preventing overwork, as the Fair Labor Standards Act intended.

Yes, we have heard concerns about the overtime rule from the business community, but we have also heard their support. Ranking Member SCOTT and Chairman KLINE received a letter from the American Sustainable Business Council urging Congress to support a full implementation deadline of December 1, 2016. These businesses believe that any delay would be unduly burdensome, as businesses have been preparing for the rule to go into effect this year.

We have also received support from the nonprofits. I will include in the RECORD two letters to the Department of Labor offering support for the rule during the rulemaking process: one with nearly two dozen nonprofits, and another letter with roughly 140 organizations supporting the final rule.

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015.

Re Comments in Support of DOL's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Defining and Limiting the Exemptions for Executive, Administrative, Professional, Outside Sales and Computer Employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act, RIN 1235-AA11.

MARY ZIEGLER,

Director, Division of Regulations, Legislation and Interpretation, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. ZIEGLER: The undersigned are all non-profit organizations that provide direct services to low-income, marginalized, under-represented, or otherwise disadvantaged communities of people. We all labor under tight budgets as well as a demand for our services that far outstrips what we could ever hope to provide.

We are writing in full support of DOL's efforts to update the Executive, Administrative and Professional (EAP) exemptions to overtime coverage. These are rules which will greatly benefit the vulnerable communities we all strive to serve. Once they are in effect, our clients will see one of three results, all of which are overwhelmingly positive: (1) many will work fewer hours for no less pay, either affording them more time with their families and children, or freeing them up to find a second paying job, so that they can better make ends meet; (2) others will receive more compensation in their current jobs, in the form of overtime pay; and (3) the many unemployed and under-employed people we serve will have new opportunities for jobs or extra hours at their current jobs once the extra hours now worked for free, are spread out among other workers.

While we recognize that our organizations may well have to reclassify some of our own workforce, we welcome the challenge. Just as we do not want our clients to labor under abusive situations, so too must we consider how to best and most humanely use our own human resources. Our management teams welcome the opportunity this will provide to examine the work we are doing, how we are doing it, and look for efficiencies where we can, prioritize our work better, and ensure that our own staff have the same overtime protections that we want for our clients. The justice we seek for our clients in the world must also exist within our own organizations.

The proposed updates to the EAP exemptions are long over-due and we applaud the Department of Labor for taking the necessary steps to make the overtime laws of this country meaningful again.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

CASA
The Arc of Northern Virginia
Casa Latina
Center for Worker Justice
Community Service Society
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Employment Justice Center
First Shift Justice Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Maryland Legal Aid
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH)
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Arkansas Workers' Justice Center
Public Justice Center
Restaurant Opportunities Centers United
Root & Rebound: Reentry Advocates

Rubicon Programs
Safer Foundation
Urban Justice Center
Worker Justice Center of New York
YWCA USA.

ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S NEW OVERTIME
REGULATIONS

We, the undersigned nonprofit organizations, write in support of the Department of Labor's new overtime regulations. The updated overtime rule is a great victory for working people across the United States.

In its recently announced final regulation, the Department of Labor raised the salary threshold below which most workers are eligible for overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$47,476. This change will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, extend overtime protections to millions of workers, reduce excessive hours of unpaid work by underpaid employees, and increase salaries for employees earning near the new threshold. In particular, this rule represents an important step toward fairer pay for women and people of color, who are overrepresented in lower-paying jobs and are often required to work additional hours without compensation.

We recognize that many nonprofit organizations will have to think through and solve interesting problems and will face challenges as we make the changes needed to comply with the new regulations. These important changes will not necessarily be easy. Nonetheless, we embrace this opportunity to restore the overtime pay that lower-paid workers toiling more than 40 hours a week are entitled to.

For many nonprofits, including those of us that provide human services or advocate for workers' rights, poverty reduction, or economic and social justice, this is a critical opportunity to improve the working conditions and the economic lives of the people we serve. At the same time, our own workers and the families they support also deserve fair compensation and greater economic security.

As nonprofit organizations more broadly, we are dedicated to improving the public good. It is time to revisit the idea that working for the public good should somehow mean requiring the lowest-paid among us to support these efforts by working long hours, many of which are unpaid.

All of the undersigned nonprofit organizations are committed to complying with the new overtime regulations. We commend the Department of Labor for this significant reform, which will create better jobs and working conditions for millions of working people throughout the country. We support this historic social justice reform.

Signed,

21st Century School Fund; 9to5, National Association of Working Women; 9to5 California; 9to5 Colorado; 9to5 Georgia; 9to5 Wisconsin; A Better Balance; ActBlue; Advocates for Youth; African American Ministers In Action; Agenda Project Action Fund; Alaska People's Action; American Association of University Women; American Family Voices; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers; Americans for Democratic Action (ADA); Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey.

Ariva; Asian Counseling and Referral Service; Atlanta Women for Equality; Avodah; The Battle of Homestead Foundation; Benedictine Sisters of Baltimore; Bend the Arc

Jewish Action; Black Children's Institute of Tennessee; Brevard NOW; Bus Federation; Campaign for America's Future; CASA; Catalyst Miami; Center for American Progress; Center for Community Change; Center for Economic and Policy Research; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for Popular Democracy; Center for Women Policy Studies; Center for WorkLife Law; Center on Policy Initiatives.

The Century Foundation; Children's Law Center (District of Columbia); Class Action; Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE); Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians); ClimateTruth.org; Coalition on Human Needs; Colorado Fiscal Institute; Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR); Community, Faith and Labor Coalition; Community Forum for Economic Justice; Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG); Courage Campaign; Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement; Democratic Socialists of America; Democratic Women's Club of Florida; Democracy for America; Demos.

Economic Opportunity Institute; Economic Policy Institute; Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless; Emerge Colorado; End Hunger CT; Fair Budget Coalition; Fair World Project; Family Values @ Work; First Shift Justice Project; FRESC: Good Jobs, Strong Communities; Generation Progress; God's Will In Action; Gospel Justice Committee; Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition; Greater Orlando NOW; HEAL; Human Services Council of New York; Illinois Economic Policy Institute.

Indiana Community Action Association; Indiana Institute for Working Families; Innovation Ohio Education Fund; Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc; Interfaith Worker Justice; Interfaith Center for Worker Justice of San Diego County; Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice; International Brotherhood of Teamsters; Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Jobs With Justice; Keystone Research Center; Latino Commission on AIDS; Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Legal Aid Service of Broward County; Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia; Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE); Medical Mission Sisters; MomsRising; MoveOn.org.

NAACP; NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado; National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity; National Association of Social Workers; National Black Justice Coalition; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Center for Transgender Equality; National Council of La Raza (NCLR); National Employment Law Project (NELP); National Employment Lawyers Association; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National Partnership for Women & Families; National Resource Center on Domestic Violence; National Women's Law Center; NETWORK LOBBY; New Jersey Policy Perspective; New Jersey Work Environment Council; Noorvik Boys & Girls Club Alaska; North Carolina Justice Center; One Wisconsin Now; Organize Now; PathStone Corporation; PathWays PA.

People's Action; Pennsylvania Council of Churches; Princeton Community Housing; ProgressOhio; Progressive Change Campaign Committee; Public Health Advocates; Public Justice Center; Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); Sierra Club; Sisters of the Presentation; Social Security Works; South Carolina Community Loan Fund; Southeast Ministry DC; Teens, Training, & Taxes; Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition; The Union of Concerned Scientists; UltraViolet.

United Auto Workers (UAW); United States Student Association; United Steelworkers; URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity; Voices for Progress; Washington Community Action Network; Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Westland Ecumenical Community Food Pantry; West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy; Wisconsin Council on Children & Families; Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice Workers' Dignity Project; Women AdvANce; Women Employed; Women's Law Project; Working America; Working Partnerships USA; YWCA USA.

Mr. TAKANO. Finally, I want to raise objection to the way that this legislation is being considered. H.R. 6094 was brought to the floor as an emergency measure, bypassing regular order.

Mr. Speaker, an emergency is the epidemic of gun violence that kills 91 Americans every day. An emergency is averting a damaging shutdown and funding the Federal Government. Taking \$600 million out of the pockets of hardworking Americans and preventing them from spending time with their families is not an emergency, and that is what H.R. 6094 would do.

This legislation and the way it is being considered is a message to middle class families that they are not a priority for this Congress. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just respond to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California, that I appreciate the passion that he displays. None of us want to be grinch. My concern, however, is that at Christmastime it won't be the fact that they would get more money as a result of this. The fact is many will lose their jobs. There could be nothing worse at Christmastime than to lose jobs that they have had.

I would also suggest that the reports that were listed are similar reports and probably from similar researchers that told us if we liked our insurance, we could keep it; if we liked our doctor, we could keep him or her.

We are talking about an issue here that relates to people who are salaried. Most of the references that were made of employees by my colleague are people that aren't salaried. We are not talking about them. We are talking about people that are building a resume, an opportunity for flexibility, to meet the needs of their families, to have continued opportunity to grow in their work relationships and responsibilities. Some, as we heard in committee, come to us having started on the grill, went to assistant manager, and ended up owning corporations and leading them.

So I think we need to watch those studies, as well, and what they purport and where they come from.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), a good friend and a gentleman

who understands it from another perspective.

Mr. BOUSTANY. I thank the chairman for yielding time, and I stand in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, south Louisiana recently experienced historic flooding that damaged 12,000 businesses, leaving them struggling to survive. Recuperation is one thing, but survival is at stake right now for these businesses.

The Department of Labor's overtime rule would effectively force a choice for these flood-affected employers: either delay the much-needed recovery efforts or rapidly deplete limited funds they have available for recovering, paying for higher labor costs, as dictated by this new rule.

The consequences of this rule are real. They are having a real impact, a detrimental impact. That is why just last week, my home State of Louisiana joined 20 other States in filing a lawsuit challenging this rule.

This rule will force many businesses to unfairly and substantially increase their employment costs. This rule will lead to higher unemployment, in many instances. Small businesses will be really affected in a big way by this, at a time when labor participation is at an all-time low in the workforce—at least, something we haven't seen since the seventies.

We should be encouraging growth. I don't know why our colleagues don't understand the need for economic growth and pro-growth policies. We should be encouraging growth of small business and development in the workplace. This rule, instead, would hinder opportunities for employees to move up the career ladder.

That is why I support this bill, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. This is really important legislation that will delay the implementation of this ill-conceived, disastrous rule.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), a member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 6094.

There has been a lot of talk about what small businesses think about this law. We put it in the name of the bill. Well, let me give you a perspective of a small-business owner for 29 years.

I am, this week—maybe not right now; they might have left—paying overtime to one of my employees. They are working extra hours because we are extra busy at this time of year.

You know what that means when I pay them extra money? That means I am making more money because we have got more hours that we are billing out. All I am doing is sharing it with the employees who, otherwise, are

spending less time with their families. That is why we pay overtime pay. It is a pretty basic concept.

The problem is, if you delay this rule for 6 months, you will deny Americans \$600 million in pay during that time. There will be 4.2 million Americans newly eligible for overtime pay, under the proposed rule. Another 8.9 million working Americans will have their overtime protections strengthened under this rule.

Let's make sure people really understand what it is really about. The current level that is in place for overtime is \$23,400. The Federal poverty line for a family of four, Mr. Speaker, is \$24,300. We are asking people to work overtime—extra hours—for free who are living below the Federal poverty line at the current level. That makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. As an employer, I would feel terrible that I have an employee putting 60 hours a week in and living below the Federal poverty line.

So the problem is there are some employers and some business models that simply aren't sufficient because they are taking advantage of the current overtime rule because it is so antiquated—it is from 2004—and that is simply why we have to have it increased.

Only 7 percent of the full-time salary workforce right now is under that rule. If you go back to 1975, that was at 60 percent. Even with this rule, we are only bringing that up to a third of full-time salaried workers. It is long overdue.

So what does this bill do? This would delay it for 6 months. Let's be honest. This isn't about delaying it for 6 months. This is about trying to kill the bill outright.

This is about trying not to have an increase in overtime pay. It was very clear from the hearings that a lot of these businesses make money off of their current model. We have seen that in the economy. Wages have generally been flat; although, recently, we have seen a little uptick. Corporate profits have soared. CEO profits have soared. The stock market has soared. The only thing left behind are wages.

This is one of those things to deal with it for someone who could be living on the Federal poverty line, giving free hours to an employer who, I would argue, needs a better business model.

What will happen if this rule goes into effect? One of three things:

First, you will see people working fewer hours for no less pay and able to spend more time with their family or time to get a second job if they need additional money to support their family;

Second, they will receive more compensation in their current jobs in the form of overtime pay;

Third, many unemployed or underemployed people will see new opportu-

nities for jobs or extra hours at their current jobs once those extra hours are no longer worked for free and, instead, spread out among workers.

It is a scare tactic to say that people are going to be fired and lose work before the holidays. I am an employer. I am happy. I make money this week because I am paying someone overtime. I know I am making even more money for my business.

I learned this once when I talked to a very successful businessowner in Wisconsin about taxes. He said, I don't mind paying taxes. If I am making money, I pay taxes. If I am not making money, I am not paying.

That is the way it should be. That is how I look at this. I want to share it with my employees because, if they are making the sacrifice away from their families, that is why we have overtime pay in place. That is why we have this rule in place.

This delay is a bad idea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Wisconsin an additional 10 seconds.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from organization that support the overtime rule.

AFSCME,

Washington, DC, September 26, 2016.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I want to express our strong support for the Department of Labor's (DOL) new overtime rule set for implementation on December 1, and urge you to oppose any efforts to overturn, weaken or delay it. In particular, we are strongly opposed to the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act (H.R. 6094), and we urge you to vote no when this bill comes to the House floor for a vote.

This new rule is an overdue and historic update that would raise the salary threshold below which most workers are eligible for overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$47,486. It's a recognition of our country's forward-moving economy and is supported by the overwhelming majority of Americans who believe that too many workers are working too many hours for too little pay—a major step in addressing stagnant incomes and wage inequality. It will benefit 12.5 million people—including 4.2 million parents who together have 7.3 million children under the age of 18.

H.R. 6094 would hurt many hardworking Americans that the updated rule is intended to help, and needlessly delay implementation of the overtime rule. The stated reason for the delay is to lessen the impact on small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities. However, opposition to the overtime rule as it applies to nonprofits and universities is vastly overstated. Many employees of nonprofits who perform charitable operations are not engaged in "commercial sales" or "business transactions" that lead to "enterprise" coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). For universities, the majority of their workers are already exempt from FLSA overtime coverage, including professors, instructors, coaches, counselors, and most teaching assistants. Also, before the DOL's overtime rule was

made final, many businesses, including small businesses, had forced low-level salaried employees to work long hours for no extra compensation. Employees who work in small businesses deserve the same protection as those who work for medium-sized and large businesses. The updated salary level is meant to do one thing—prevent employers from denying a 40-hour workweek and overtime pay to workers.

Americans who are employed in these sectors should not be exploited by employers and work excessive hours, or be denied time with their families. They are no less deserving of protections from working long hours with no pay than any other workers. Experts insist this rule is a critical opportunity to create better jobs and improve the economic lives of low-wage working people.

Updating the FLSA rules requiring overtime pay will provide one of the best economic boosts for working families in many years. H.R. 6094 is a direct attack on American families and workers, which would hinder job creation, weaken protections for millions of workers, and deny millions of workers a fair day's pay for a hard day's work.

AFSCME urges you to support the DOL's new overtime rule, and to oppose H.R. 6094 and other efforts to delay, weaken or repeal the rule.

Sincerely,

SCOTT FREY,

Director of Federal Government Affairs.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, September 27, 2016.

OPPOSE H.R. 6094: THE REGULATORY RELIEF
FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NON-
PROFITS ACT

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 organizations to promote and protect the rights of all persons in the United States, we urge you to oppose H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. This bill would delay the implementation of the Department of Labor's new overtime protections by six months, forcing millions of workers and their families to wait another half year before they become eligible for overtime pay.

The Leadership Conference strongly supports the new overtime rules, which are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2016. Following a lengthy comment period, the final rule, released in May, was preceded by months of careful consideration by the Department of Labor, which incorporated extensive economic analysis and the feedback from 270,000 letters of comment.

The rule raises the overtime salary threshold from \$23,660 to \$47,486, meaning that more employees putting in long hours will finally get the pay they deserve for their hard work. The Department of Labor estimates that 4.2 million workers currently considered exempt will gain the right to overtime pay, and the Economic Policy Institute projects that 12.5 million workers in total will benefit from the new overtime protections. Women and people of color will benefit significantly as more women, African American and Hispanic salaried managerial and professional workers fall at the lower end of the salary scale.

This month, data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed a substantial increase in income for American households, breaking a long-running pattern of stagnation. It is critical

that we build on the progress made in the economic recovery by ensuring that middle-class and working families get a raise, as planned, on December 1 when the new overtime protections take effect.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 6094, which would unnecessarily delay by six months the new overtime rules and the increased income they would bring to working families. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

WADE HENDERSON,
President & CEO.

NANCY ZIRKIN,
Executive Vice President.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: I am writing to urge you to support the U.S. Department of Labor's overtime regulation and oppose the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act (H.R. 6094), which would delay its implementation. The new overtime rule that is scheduled to take effect on December 1 would finally end the days when people who work long hours for poverty wages are not required to receive overtime pay. By updating wage and hour protections that have been allowed to erode for decades, the new rule will make a tremendous difference for millions of working women and their families.

The National Partnership for Women & Families is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to promoting fairness in the workplace, reproductive health and rights, access to quality health care and policies that help women and men meet the dual demands of work and family. For four decades, we have fought for every major policy advance that has helped women and families.

Right now in our country, only hourly workers and salaried workers making less than \$23,660 per year—which is below the poverty line for a family of four—qualify for overtime pay when they work more than 40 hours per week. It has been three decades since the regulations that govern overtime pay in our country have been updated in a meaningful way. In its final regulation, the Department of Labor raised the salary threshold below which most workers are eligible for overtime pay from \$23,660 to \$47,476.

The rule will extend overtime eligibility and protections to millions of women and help them support themselves and their families. The rule will provide or strengthen overtime protections under the Fair Labor Standards Act for as many as 12.5 million salaried workers, 6.4 million of whom are women, boosting economic security for working families across the country. Outdated overtime rules contribute to unfair pay, which has harmful consequences—including for the two-thirds of mothers who are breadwinners or co-breadwinners for their families. In particular, this rule represents an important step toward fairer pay for women and people of color, who are over-represented in lower-paying jobs and are often required to work additional hours without compensation.

Expanding overtime protections will guarantee employees fairer wages and hours. Under the current low and outdated threshold, a promotion to "shift supervisor" for a salary of just \$24,000 a year could cost a woman her overtime pay. The new rule will help to keep millions of workers from being

denied the pay they rightfully deserve and their families desperately need. Employers who have been relying on their employees' free labor now will have to acknowledge the value of the 40-hour workweek by either limiting workers to 40-hour workweeks, thus giving them more time with their families, or compensating them for the hours they work.

This overtime rule is long overdue. It will help end blatant worker exploitation and help restore basic fairness to our nation's workplaces. It is a historic advance for fair pay. It must not be diminished or delayed. Please support the overtime regulation and vote no when the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act (H.R. 6094) comes to the floor. Working families cannot wait any longer.

Sincerely,

DEBRA L. NESS,
President,

National Partnership for Women & Families.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the chairman of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for his leadership on this issue. I am a cosponsor, and I strongly support passage of this legislation.

The Department of Labor's overtime rule is yet another one-size-fits-all mandate out of Washington that will have severe negative impacts on small businesses and their employees.

Countless small employers, including small businesses, nonprofits, and counties, simply do not have the profit margins or budget flexibility to increase the salaries of workers who are currently exempt to the new salary level.

Not only is the 100 percent salary level increase too high, but the compliance timeline is far too short. With the December 1 deadline looming, small businesses are scrambling to figure out how the rule will impact them and what they need to do to comply to stay out of trouble with this Federal Government.

According to a survey by Paychex, 49 percent of businessowners aren't even aware of the final overtime rule, which is rapidly breathing down their necks.

Over the past year, the Committee on Small Business has heard from countless small businesses that share their concerns about the overtime rule.

□ 1900

Many small businesses currently give their employees flexible schedules, pay increases when they can afford it, and offer career advancement opportunities because employees are the key to their successes. They want to treat their employees well. They don't need the Federal Government telling them to do that.

The new labor rule would limit the ability of small businesses to provide these benefits, which would have a devastating impact on employee morale. Our committee members, and other of-

ficials, including the Chief Counsel for Advocacy at the Small Business Administration, joined small businesses in urging the Department of Labor to change course.

In fact, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy sent the Department of Labor a letter that described numerous problems with the rule and recommended that small businesses be given at least a year or 18 months to comply. Instead, the Department of Labor finalized the rule without addressing small business concerns and made the compliance deadline December 1, providing barely 6 months to comply, when they said that they ought to have at least a year or 18 months.

H.R. 6094, this bill, is critical because it will provide small businesses with 6 more months to figure out how the rule affects them, how to deal with it, and what changes they need to make to stay out of trouble with the Labor Department.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for small businesses and support this bill.

I would, again, thank Congressman WALBERG for his leadership on this.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), the ranking member of the Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations Subcommittee of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise today in support of the Department of Labor's overtime rule that will go into effect on December 1, 2016. This rule will protect 4.2 million workers who are newly eligible for overtime pay and strengthen protections for 8.9 million workers nationwide. Such a change not only puts more money in workers' pockets, it also strengthens our economy by driving consumer spending.

H.R. 6094 is an attempt to delay the implementation of the overtime rule, taking \$600 million out of the pockets of 4.2 million American workers who would have gained overtime protection on December 1. In North Carolina, 425,000 workers will benefit from the new rule.

I acknowledge the concerns of my colleagues regarding the impact this rule may have on small businesses, universities, and nonprofits. Only 3.4 percent of employees at colleges and universities and junior colleges will be affected by this rule. Of those groups, only one-half percent of employees will be both affected by the rule and regularly work overtime.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. ADAMS. Preserving the right to overtime pay is crucial at the time when lower- and middle-income family

wages are stagnant. I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 6094 and support working families.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), a distinguished member from Pennsylvania.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Non-profits Act introduced by my colleague, Mr. WALBERG. As an original cosponsor of this measure, I am fully supportive of its goal—to put the brakes on the Department of Labor's final overtime rule and continue to shield workers, small businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions from its potentially devastating effects.

Under the final rule from the Department of Labor, companies and organizations will be required to pay overtime to employees who make less than \$47,476, more than double the current salary threshold. While there is little doubt that the current overtime rules are in need of modernization, the Department's drastic approach will do more harm than good, marginalizing economic growth, diminishing access to valuable services provided by non-profits, and discouraging upward mobility in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, in the midst of an economy that is still struggling, we simply cannot allow for the enactment of ill-advised policies that make it harder for hardworking Americans to make ends meet. For that reason, I am proud to support this measure, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. With the minimum wage failing to provide a living wage, Americans are working more hours than ever. Full-time employees are working an average of 47 hours a week. Nearly 40 percent report logging 50 hours or more.

Yet, only 7 percent of salaried workers qualified for overtime last year, down from 62 percent 40 years ago. Updating the rule to restore the purpose of the Fair Labor Standards Act was long overdue.

In New York State, an additional 23 percent of the salaried workforce, nearly 1 million employees, will directly benefit from the new regulations. At a time when lower- and middle-income wages remain stagnant, these changes will be particularly helpful to American families.

Our colleagues on the other side go on about the negative impact on small

businesses. Yet, the data shows that this rule will increase payroll less than one-tenth of 1 percent. Furthermore, this money will go directly in the pockets of the middle and working class, who will spend it at their local small businesses. It is not going to diminish job creation in this country. It will increase employment opportunities in this country when those workers will go and spend their money in the local businesses.

They are not going to go and get a loan to find—to buy another home. They will not buy a second home. They will spend it in the local economy.

So, in turn, this provides an economic boost that will create over 120,000 new jobs. This is a win-win regulation.

Let's be clear, no one is asking to be unjustly enriched, only to be fairly compensated for a hard day's work. These ideals are advanced by the DOL's overtime rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Yet, despite this benefit for millions of Americans, this legislation will delay the rule until June 2017, when I am sure there will be attempts to eliminate this rule completely. I cannot and will not support this attack on workers.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter from the American Sustainable Business Council in support of the overtime regulations.

AMERICAN SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS
COUNCIL,
July 12, 2016.

Hon. JOHN KLINE,
Chairman, Education and the Workforce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT,
Ranking Member, Education and the Workforce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN KLINE AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: On behalf of the businesses represented by the American Sustainable Business Council's, ASBC, network, I write in support of the Department of Labor's recently released overtime rule, and to oppose a Congressional Review Act, CRA, action to roll it back.

ASBC advocates for policy change and market solutions for building a vibrant, sustainable economy. Through its national member network, ASBC represents more than 200,000 business owners, executives and investors from a wide range of industries.

The rule creates certainty and predictability for business owners. Since the announcement of the draft rule in July 2015 and the release of the final rule this spring, businesses have been planning for its implementation on December 1, 2016. In fact, payroll operations companies have been marketing solutions to help employers handle the transition.

Invoking a CRA or other legislative action delaying the overtime rule will create unnecessary and disruptive uncertainty for business owners. Business owners, by nature, are creative at problem solving. When rules are

established, they make the necessary decisions to comply. However, when the rules are in flux, business owners react to the uncertainty by holding back on investments in growth and expansion.

When employers set fairer, clearer wages, they earn dividends with happier, more productive employees. That's good news for a businesses' bottom line, and for growing the nation's middle class. High road businesses understand that compensating their employees for extra time spent on the job builds a better work culture.

The American economy is fundamentally a domestic, consumer-driven economy, unlike some countries where growth is fueled by exports and business-to-business spending. The biggest long term threat to our economy is the hollowing out of the middle class, which is losing its capacity for discretionary spending—responsible for about 70 percent of our gross domestic product.

The new overtime rule closes a loophole which has allowed for hourly workers to be deprived of pay by inappropriately classifying them as exempt. Employees are consumers; if they are not earning sufficient wages, demand will remain stagnant. Closing this loophole will help restore consumer spending and give the economy a needed boost.

The overtime rule has been under consideration for some time and businesses have weighed in through the public comment process. Most businesses are moving forward to meet the December deadline for compliance. Congress should not take action to stop the progress the business community is making.

Sincerely,

BRYAN MCGANNON,
Policy Director.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BYRNE).

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of this legislation to require a 6-month delay in the Department of Labor's new overtime rule. This is an ill-advised regulation that will result in hardworking Americans losing their jobs and less economic growth.

Don't take my word for it. Let's look at what some actual business leaders and organizations had to say about the change.

Richard, a businessman in Birmingham, says that he "will cut back on employee hours as much as possible since raising their compensation is not my option."

Ability Alliance of West Alabama, which provides assistance to more than 600 intellectually disabled individuals wrote that "the untenable financial pressure resulting from the proposed changes would force us into disastrous service reductions and program closures."

Greg from Vinemont, Alabama, is much more direct. He writes that he "will have to lay people off to meet the overtime demands."

First Heritage Credit, LLC wrote to the Department of Labor that "increased costs cannot simply be passed on, and the proposed rule will mean fewer branch openings, fewer new hires, and fewer lending options to the communities we serve."

Our Nation's education institutions will be hit especially hard by the change. A representative from the University of Alabama wrote that "the proposed regulation puts more pressure on the educational system as a whole. Institutions will either reduce the level of services and programs or will be required to maintain services and programs with inadequate staffing. Regardless, the quality of education will suffer."

All told, this change will cost the University of Alabama system \$17 million in just the first year.

These are just a few stories about the reality of the overtime change. These are real people, real families who will suffer.

I think this change should be re-worked altogether, but, if that is not an option, we should at least delay this rule in order to provide relief to these businesses and organizations.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the co-chair of the Progressive Caucus.

Mr. ELLISON. I thank the ranking member for the time and for his advocacy for working people.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD two articles which talk about how the overtime rule is likely to add 100,000 jobs to the economy; one from Goldman Sachs, and the other from the National Retail Federation.

[From the National Retail Federation, Sept. 28, 2016]

HOW EXPANDING OVERTIME COULD AFFECT RETAILERS

The Department of Labor has proposed a major change in federal regulations governing overtime pay that could have a significant impact on the retail industry.

Under current rules, workers making up to \$455 a week are automatically entitled to overtime if they work more than 40 hours a week. Managers and professionals who make more can be declared exempt, but only if they meet certain conditions such as having supervision of other workers as their primary duty. Under the proposed changes, the wage threshold would be increased to \$970 a week, and the administration is asking whether additional restrictions should be placed on non-supervisory duties managers can perform and still be considered exempt.

To better understand the effects of the proposal, NRF commissioned the research firm Oxford Economics to conduct a study. While raising the threshold would mandate overtime pay for many workers, the analysis found that most employees would not actually see a change in net pay. Instead, many employees would see their hours reduced so that overtime would not be worked, while others would see their base wages, benefits or bonus pay decreased in order to offset the added payroll expense.

The study also found that updating payroll systems, establishing ways to track employee hours and other administrative expenses would cost the restaurant and retail industries alone an estimated \$745 million even if workers saw no additional take-home pay.

(The original study was prepared before the Labor Department proposal was released,

and was conducted with projected wage thresholds that might have been proposed. An update has been prepared based on the actual proposal.)

[From Business Insider.com, Sept. 27, 2016]

GOLDMAN SACHS: NEW OBAMA RULE ON OVERTIME LIKELY TO ADD 100,000 JOBS TO ECONOMY

(By Lucy Nicholson, REUTERS)

A new rule from the Obama administration—which will increase the fraction of workers entitled to time-and-a-half overtime pay—is likely to increase total employment in the US in 2017 by about 100,000 jobs, according to Goldman Sachs.

The idea is this: Companies whose workers are covered by the rule will try to avoid paying overtime, and they'll hire additional workers to do this. The point is to keep from asking their existing employees to work more than 40 hours a week.

The rule change affects salaried "executive, administrative and professional" workers, who can currently be exempt from overtime pay if they make as little as \$23,660 a year.

Following implementation of the rule (expected in December) the overtime exemption will apply only to salaried workers making at least \$47,476—making 4.2 million additional Americans eligible for time-and-a-half.

Of those, in any given week about 1 million actually work more than 40 hours.

There are four ways employers may respond to this rule change:

Simply making the overtime payments.

Reducing employees' base pay, in an effort to leave their total compensation unchanged after the new overtime payments—though this can be complicated, especially because the employers don't always know in advance how much overtime each employee will work.

Increasing employees' base pay to exceed the new threshold so they remain exempt from overtime payments. Goldman thinks this is most likely for employees who already earn a salary very close to \$47,476.

Employing more workers and have them work fewer hours, so they do not run afoul of the 40-hour limit.

By examining employer behavior from the last time the overtime threshold was changed, in 2004, Goldman economist Alec Phillips developed a "central" estimate that 100,000 additional jobs will be created in 2017 as employers choose the third option—not a huge amount in an economy creating between 2 and 3 million jobs a year, but not trivial either.

It's important to note that employers who respond to the new overtime pay rule by reducing overtime hours will not be "cheating" or skirting the intent of the rule. The point of the rule is to ensure that lower-income salaried workers get compensated if they have to work extra hours, allowing those workers to collect their salaries without working uncompensated overtime is a meaningful gain for those workers.

The new time-and-a-half payments would also increase some workers' hourly pay, but not for enough workers to show up in the statistics of average hourly earnings, according to the Goldman analysis—so don't expect this rule to drive a boost in wages that can be felt at the economy-wide level.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, one wonders if there could possibly ever have been any small businesses only a few years ago. At its peak, 62 percent of

workers were eligible for overtime pay. Today, only 7 percent are eligible. What did they do then? They hired people.

This idea that making it fair for working people who work overtime is somehow going to bring doom and gloom and destruction on small businesses is absolutely nonsense.

It is typical. We hear it all the time. Anything we are going to do for working people just can't possibly be done, or little people themselves will be hurt. This is a constant refrain.

If big, big, big agriculture wants something, they say, oh, we are here for the family farm.

If big, big banks want something, they say, oh, we are here for the community banks.

And if big, big, big businesses want something, and they don't want to pay their overtime, they say, oh, what about the small businesses.

In fact, this bill named for small businesses, folks out there listening should know that the title of this legislation is misleading. The legislation delays the rule for all employers, including small businesses.

But here's the fact. Walmart, are they—do they benefit from the fact that this overtime rule hasn't kept pace?

McDonald's, Burger King, all types of huge businesses which absolutely have the capacity to pay people fairly simply haven't done so.

It is interesting to me that our Republican friends have had the gavels in their hands since 2010 now. They haven't stepped up to improve and update this particular overtime rule.

The administration has done what they have failed to do. And now what do they have to say about it? Oh, it can't possibly happen, can't possibly work, and it is going to make everything worse.

How discouraging it must be to an American worker today. This Congress won't look at increasing the Federal minimum wage of \$7.25. And the tip wage of \$2.13, a national disgrace, they won't do that. They don't take that up.

They are constantly attacking the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has brought consumers over \$12 billion. And they are constantly trying to cut taxes for the rich, and they don't want to invest in anything for the working people. Yet, they always justify everything they are doing by saying, oh, it would hurt the working people themselves.

This is ridiculous. This argument has no merit. It has to be rejected.

Over the past 35 years, we have failed to meaningfully update our overtime pay regulations. Now is the right time.

As I said, at its peak, 62 percent of workers were eligible for overtime pay. Today, only 7 percent are eligible because we have let the working people down. We have delayed action to help

working families long enough, and we can't ask them to wait any longer. I urge a very strong "no."

□ 1915

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ELLISON. I want to say this. It is about real people. One of those real people is Jodi T. from Minneapolis. She said:

I work more than 40 hours a week regularly, and this will make a great deal of difference for me and my family. Lately, I find that businesses will eliminate positions and put more work on existing staff regardless of whether they can handle it within the time and the workday. If they pay overtime, they will bear some of the real costs of these decisions.

Vote "no" on this bill. It is a bad thing.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Augusta, Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act. This legislation works to delay implementation of the Department of Labor's new overtime rule for 6 months.

Without this legislation, the rule goes into effect on December 1, leaving employers scrambling to comply with the new rule and jeopardizing employees' paychecks right before the holiday season—a very bad time.

As a small-business owner who has employed thousands of people, I know the challenges that the business community will face: moving salaried employees to hourly; trouble recruiting qualified, new hires to accept an hourly position; current employees' time being spent monitoring the time clock; and, ultimately, the potential for hours to be cut and paychecks to dwindle.

This is devastating to employees who have worked hard to earn a salaried position. They have earned this position to be salaried, and then to move to hourly? Many Americans will soon realize they have fewer job prospects, less flexibility in the workplace, and less opportunity to move up the economic ladder. In other words, those who can least afford it will be hit the hardest: small businesses, nonprofits, and educational institutions.

I could stand here before this body, just as Congressman BYRNE did, and tell you stories of all the small businesses in my district and employees that have come to me to warn me of the struggles other employees and families will face because of this overtime rule.

The President is enacting this rule a mere month before he is out of office to

try and score cheap political points when he knows he won't be here to clean up the mess. I have to say: I am ashamed, Mr. President. We need to take a step back and hit the pause button.

Unsurprisingly, the administration has no plans to change the rule, so an extra 6-month grace period is crucial to the well-being of our schools, small businesses, and nonprofits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind people that, of the people affected and the people that routinely work overtime, complying with the rule will add less than one-tenth of 1 percent to U.S. payrolls. The costs to nonprofits and to higher education, way under 1 percent. And the time has been sufficient. The last time this rule was changed, they got significantly less time to comply, and that rule was even more complex than this one.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my friend and colleague on the committee.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we look at this bill, what is it about? It is saying that you have got to pay overtime to somebody who is making more than \$47,000 a year. What will that mean? It will mean that employers will say: You had better get out of here; we can't have you working more than 40 hours a week. That is what is going to happen.

I am reminded of a buddy of mine back home in my district. His daughter had a new job working for salary. He told her: Always make sure you are the first person to show up in the morning and the last person to go home at night, and you will advance in that company. She was the first person to show up in the morning and the last person to go home at night, and she is having a very successful career by doing so.

What this bill does is it is kind of an odd thing. It makes it against the law to work hard. Think about that gal now. Now she won't be able to be the first person to show up in the morning and the last person to go home at night because her boss is going to say: Get out of here.

It is part of a pattern we are, sadly, seeing from this administration of discouraging hard work. Just like ObamaCare, if you work more hours, then you wind up losing your ObamaCare subsidy. You had better not work hard. There is a plethora of welfare programs around here. I don't care if it is the earned income tax credit, food stamps, low-income housing, whatever; if you work hard, then you

will lose your subsidy. We are doing all we can in this country to penalize the hardworking.

Furthermore, think just on a day-to-day basis what it means to you as an employee who has worked for salary. Let's say you have to work on a project. It gets near 5 o'clock, and you are not satisfied with your work product. What are you supposed to do? Turn in a bad work product to your boss, or hang around another hour and do a good job? This, in essence, removes the choice from you: I have got to turn in a bad work product because my boss is going to kick me out of here at the end of 8 hours.

So my final plea is this. Come, Republicans; come, Democrats, race to the Chamber and vote for the bill, H.R. 6094, and stand up for the hardworking of our society.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the chairman for his advocacy on behalf of all working families in this country—not just today, but throughout his entire career.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this bill and in support of the updated overtime rule that will combat the exploitation of workers across America and put more money in their pockets.

In 1938, Congress came together to pass the Fair Labor Standards Act, a bill that revolutionized opportunity for Americans by ensuring they were fairly compensated for their work and they would work in safe working conditions. One of the provisions in that piece of legislation was the creation of a 40-hour workweek. In addition, this legislation required employers to compensate employees at time and a half for hours worked beyond a 40-hour workweek. It was a compromise.

They went on to say that there is an exemption for protection of those workers who were considered white-collar employees. As a result of their salary, their benefits, and their high level of work within an organization, they were exempt.

Unfortunately, the wage level which determines who is exempt from these worker protections has been updated only once—only once—in the last 40 years. That is where the problem lies. The last time it was updated was in 2004, under Republican President Bush—a Republican President.

Today, the threshold wherein an employee is exempt is \$23,660. What this means is somebody making \$24,000 a year is routinely required to work 45, 55, 65 hours a week with not just compensation for the overtime, but they are not needed to be paid at all because they are considered exempt employees. In other words, a family of four could be living under the poverty line and

still be considered to earn too much money to be considered for overtime protections.

Mr. Speaker, I support these rules because I know, when American families succeed, our country as a whole succeeds, including the entire business community. This is a partnership working together. This rule simply means updating our laws surrounding worker exploitation by simply adjusting that floor to keep up with inflation.

This is not a Democratic or a Republican bill. This is a worker and business bill.

Twelve years before the success of the Fair Labor Standards Act, Henry Ford created the 40-hour workweek. Mr. Speaker, 117 years ago, Peter J. Maguire, the founder of Labor Day, went on to talk about just creating a 6-day workweek.

This is very simple. The experiment with a \$5 minimum wage, which today would be \$15 an hour with inflation realized, Ford realized that, when his workers could afford to buy the cars they were making and to drive them, his business, his employees, and the economy would do better.

Mr. Speaker, American workers have waited long enough to get a fair day's pay for a fair day's work that they certainly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose this bill.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act, a bill I am proud to cosponsor.

This important bill would provide a measure of relief not only for the thousands of small businesses and charitable institutions that would be negatively impacted by the Department of Labor's overtime rule, but also the countless workers who depend on entry- and mid-level employment opportunities.

This rule hurt everyday Americans, raising the cost of living while reducing wages and incomes. Many of the individuals affected by this rule will be forced into part-time employment or be transitioned to jobs with lower hourly wages, no benefits, and no overtime at all.

I have heard from a number of people in my district concerned about the impacts this onerous rule will have for them. A bank in my district will have to transition 13 of their salaried tellers on staff to hourly wage workers in order to assume the \$129,000 in compliance costs they anticipate from this rule. Schools have expressed concerns that they will be forced to cut staff and limit the educational services of extracurricular activities they provide for our students.

I have heard from faith-based and charitable institutions, too. These institutions often operate with fixed operating budgets and serve the most vulnerable in our society, yet this rule will impose similar financial and staffing burdens on them. A senior care group in my district, for example, has told me this rule will likely lead to a reduction in hiring, meaning fewer seniors will be able to get care.

Mr. Speaker, for the countless families, small businesses, and communities that I serve, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and delay this onerous rule.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a good friend, who has a special take on this.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6094, the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act.

We are at a crossroads in our country as we are still struggling to build up our economy after the last recession. Since then, businessowners have struggled to not only grow their companies, but also to provide for their employees.

As a small-business owner, I had both the company's and my employees' best interest in mind, as my employees were like a second family to me. I would have wanted nothing more than to ensure they are getting what they need and that they are fully compensated for all of their work. But this rule doesn't do that.

On the surface, this administration is painting this rule as a step forward for American workers, but it is not. Everyone from universities to nonprofits will feel the weight of this rule as they seek to rearrange schedules and reclassify employees so as to prevent compounding negative effects on their organizations.

Universities and colleges will see a sharp jump in payrolls as they have to grapple with how to manage their existing personnel while trying to keep their institution on an upward trajectory. Tuitions will increase. Nonprofit organizations will have to reclassify workers as their annual budgets are stretched to the brink, resulting in a drop in services to the people who need it most.

The Department of Labor spent the last 27 months working on this rule. Since its implementation, they have given businesses a 6-month window to implement it.

I have heard from countless companies, nonprofits, universities, and chambers of commerce who are extremely worried about the impact this will have on their operations. While this rule was intended to ensure em-

ployees see an increase in benefits, it will have the direct opposite effect.

This bill would delay the rule for 6 months to allow for a longer look at its effects. It gives Congress more time to find a legislative solution. Mr. Speaker, I have always wanted the best for my employees, and this rule simply doesn't do that.

I applaud Congressman WALBERG, Chairman KLINE, and the Education and the Workforce Committee staff for their hard work in pulling this together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, the 40-hour workweek used to mean something. It was installed many years ago so that people wouldn't have to work 6 and 7 days a week, 10 or more hours a day. They could work 5 days a week, 8 hours, and have an opportunity to go home. Now the 40-hour workweek only applies to 7 percent of salaried workers, and they can be forced to work 45, 50, 60 hours, with no additional pay.

We have heard the impact on universities. I think the gentleman from Alabama said that it would cost the Alabama system \$17 million. Well, their budget is \$2.4 billion; \$24 million would be 1 percent.

□ 1930

If his number is right—\$17 million—that is still way under 1 percent of their expenditures. But there are a lot of ways to comply with this rule without any cost at all. You can let people go home after 40 hours, or you can honestly restate their salary. If it is \$30,000 and a lot of overtime, call it \$20,000 and they have got to make \$10,000 overtime. They will get the same amount at the end of the year at no cost to the employer, but an honest way to assess the salary. It wouldn't cost anything. So there are ways of complying with this honestly that make the 40-hour workweek mean something.

The new rule only covers about a third of the salaried workers. It is a good rule. It should not be delayed. In fact, it is not being delayed. This is the first step in trying to defeat the rule. This bill should be defeated. Let the people get their salaries on December 1.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I want to remind my colleagues why this legislation is so important.

We all agree our Nation's overtime rules need to be modernized and worker protection should be strengthened. That is not what we are debating today.

Small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities play a critical role in our communities. Right now,

they are struggling to implement a fundamentally flawed rule under an unrealistic deadline, and many don't even know about the rule yet. At the very least, they deserve more time. More time would allow small businesses, nonprofits, and colleges and universities to make significant changes and mitigate the impact on workers, students, and individuals in need—for the positive, for the good.

I urge my colleagues to provide that time, even if they stand by the Department's overtime rule. A vote in support of the Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act isn't just commonsense; it is the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we are intending to do. We are intending to do the best for our citizens, our employees, and our employers. Shouldn't it be worth an additional 24 weeks to make sure that this is implemented to the positive?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 897, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5578. An act to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent Resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2030

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 8 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL H.R. 5325, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. COLE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-800) on the resolution (H. Res. 901) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO THE BILL H.R. 5325, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 901 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 901

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to adoption without intervening motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5

legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325, the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act.

The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325, with 60 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am always disappointed when we are forced to consider continuing resolutions, especially given the work this House has done in the appropriations process this fiscal year.

For 2 years in a row, the House Appropriations Committee was able to complete all 12 appropriations bills—and complete them before the August recess. In addition, this House passed five appropriations bills. Unfortunately, just as in years past, Senate Democrats prevented consideration of many appropriations bills on the floor of that body. This leads us to the unfortunate situation of having to put forward a short-term CR to fund the government through December 9.

I hope that in the weeks and months ahead, the House, Senate, and the President can come to an agreement on a path forward which ensures we are not in this same position in December.

At the same time, I am pleased that this amendment also includes a fully conferenced MILCON-VA bill. The MILCON-VA portion provides a 4 percent increase for the VA, additional resources to address the disability claims backlog, and contains a number of important oversight provisions to make certain our veterans receive the care that they deserve.

The military construction portion provides \$7.9 billion for military family housing, Guard and Reserve facilities, and military bases both in the United States and around the world. This ensures that we can sustain quality housing for 1.3 million military families.

In addition, the MILCON-VA bill maintains a provision which prohibits the closure of Guantanamo Bay and the construction of any facilities to house detainees in the United States or its territories.

Importantly, Mr. Speaker, this amendment also provides a total of \$1.1 billion to fight Zika and offsets \$400 million of this spending. While I would

have preferred offsetting the entire amount—and have supported legislation to do just that—I believe this is a reasonable compromise with both the Senate and the administration, both of whom initially proposed no offsets at all.

When combined with funds already preprogrammed by the administration for Zika response activities, the total available resources to respond to Zika equals \$1.7 billion. This legislation provides the necessary funds for the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, the State Department, and USAID to develop vaccines and diagnostic tests for mosquito control and, in addition, provides healthcare resources to those areas experiencing the highest rates of Zika transmission, all while maintaining the Hyde amendment restrictions barring the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion services.

I am encouraged by the hard work of Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and, of course, the Speaker, whose leadership has made all of this possible. While a CR is not the ideal vehicle, the alternative of a government shutdown is not what we have been sent here to Washington to do.

Additionally, I am encouraged that we are finally returning to regular order and passing full-year appropriations measures by the end of the fiscal year. This is the first time since fiscal year 2006, when we passed two bills by the end of the fiscal year, that we have passed any individual appropriations bills through both Chambers of the United States Congress by the September 30 deadline. While we have a long way to go, this is a good first step that we can hopefully build upon next year.

I urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the deadline for keeping the government running has been staring us all in the face for months. Yet, the majority is using martial law rule to rush the continuing resolution to the floor just 2 days before the weekend deadline. I wish we had spent the last 4 weeks properly debating the bill under regular order.

Mr. Speaker, I am relieved that a reasonable compromise was reached on a bipartisan amendment to the Water Resources Development Act that will authorize funding for the people of Flint, Michigan, who have been forced to drink and bathe in poisoned water for years. As the only microbiologist in Congress, I can detail the many ways that this is a major public health failure.

The children that have been impacted could suffer everything from neurodevelopmental damage to behavioral changes to anemia to hypertension. These are lifelong impacts, Mr. Speaker, along with a statistically higher risk of incarceration.

This compromise is a positive step forward, but there is much more work to do at all levels of the government to get the resources needed to help the people of Flint and the United States.

Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, the bill finally provides the resources to tackle the Zika virus more than 7 months after President Obama submitted his funding request to Congress to combat the spread of the virus and accelerate research into finding a vaccine.

I am disappointed that this continues a poison pill that would prevent the Securities and Exchange Commission from moving forward with a rule requiring publicly traded companies to disclose their political spending. This is so important. I think the fact that spending is out of control, money comes in from everywhere and we don't know how much, where it goes, and it is not a good thing for a democracy. I think it is nothing more than an attempt to hide from the American people the identities of the big corporate donors and probably people from all over the world who are sending money in here in hidden ways to affect our campaigns.

If sunlight is the best disinfectant, then we certainly should have spread some sunlight on the SEC to be able to do what we had asked them to do. We are very concerned that electoral spending is increasingly being conducted in the dark.

It is also disappointing that, despite overwhelming bipartisan, bicameral support, the continuing resolution fails to ensure that the Export-Import Bank is able to fully help businesses and workers across the country by restoring a board quorum to the bank.

This continuing resolution is going to avert a crisis in the short term, but it is a clear demonstration of the failure of the majority to do the most basic job: fund the government.

The majority has been so preoccupied with holding more than 60 votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act and investigating nonexistent scandals involving Planned Parenthood that they have allowed the body to lurch from crisis to crisis instead of enacting long-term appropriations. All the while, our infrastructure is crumbling and the cost of college education and college loans and the interest on them, which is skyrocketing, is skyrocketing.

Mr. Speaker, CBS News has highlighted that it costs the taxpayers an estimated \$24 million a week to run the House of Representatives. It is abundantly clear that, under this leadership, taxpayers aren't getting their money's worth. Nonetheless, I am

pleased to be here to be part of passing this tonight to prevent the awful crisis of a shutdown, and I think we have all learned lessons there.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by congratulating my friend and thanking her. I know she is committed to the resumption of regular order, and she has worked that way tirelessly. That is a goal that we share with our friends on the other side of the aisle.

I think it is worth pointing out that you can't have regular order in the House if you don't have regular order in the Senate. The real reason we are here is because the Senate has refused consistently to take up appropriations bills that have been passed by this House.

At some point, you simply quit passing the bills because the Senate isn't going to deal with you. Once we finally have a Senate that will work in regular order—and I hope we do at the beginning of next January—perhaps we can overcome this and get back to the system that I know my friend from New York and I want to see on this floor: passing each individual appropriations bill, doing so in a way that Members can participate, conferences with our friends in the Senate, and then moving forward.

As to Zika, I think it is worth pointing out that nothing has not been done for lack of money. The reality is, when the administration made its initial request for Zika funds, they immediately received a letter from Chairman ROGERS, from Subcommittee Chairman GRANGER on State-Foreign Operations, and from myself, saying: Look, we know this is an emergency. We agree with you. You have billions of dollars of funds. Start spending that money—a bowl of money, so-called—and we will replace that money.

Frankly, they have done that, to their credit. They set aside \$600 million, not all of which has been spent, but that was the responsible thing to do, as Congress studied and look at this problem.

Chairman ROGERS actually led a codel that went to Brazil, Peru, and some of the areas that have suffered from this disease, and we have continued to work. We have twice put on this floor hundreds of millions of dollars for Zika response that our friends on the other side didn't see fit to vote for.

Zika didn't get funded because, frankly, our friends just simply didn't want to pay for it. That has actually been the essence of the dispute, in my opinion. It has not been about Zika. It has been about whether or not you pay for Zika.

The original request from the administration was for \$1.9 billion over a 2-year period to come out of State-Foreign Operations and Labor-HHS, two

committees that, in that same period, have \$425 billion to spend. It is not hard to pay for \$1.9 billion out of \$425 billion.

Still, at the end of the day, my friend is absolutely correct: we are here. We have not failed to do anything, but we do need to provide a framework to go forward with guaranteed continuity. I am pleased and proud this does that. Frankly, we reserve the option next fiscal year to look at actually covering other parts of the unfunded spending on Zika.

□ 2045

In terms of the Export-Import Bank, I am going to agree with my friend. I don't know that this was the appropriate vehicle, but I think the point she makes is exactly right. We need to restore this particular institution to full functioning. That has been a matter of some partisan debate, but, actually, I agree with my friends. I support the Export-Import Bank, and I think we need to re-establish it. And if we could have done it in this bill, that would have been fine with me.

But I trust the people that negotiated the final product, and they did try to remove a lot of issues that were controversial and divisive so that, hopefully, we could get a substantial majority of both parties to vote for continuing the government.

I want to end by saying that, again, I want to invite our friends in the Senate to participate in regular order. In some ways they have done that. I want to give them credit for last year and this year passing all 12 appropriations bills at least through the full committee level.

But it was a decision by their leadership not to allow those bills to come to the floor that actually gummed up the works. It is not anything that was done in the House. Indeed, we didn't give up on that process until it became abundantly clear that the Senate wasn't going to move.

We are now, however, at the last moment. My friend is correct in that. I am pleased that we have negotiated together in good faith, frankly, within this body, across the rotunda with the other body, and with the administration, to arrive at something that will get us through the election and give us the time when we return from the election to sit down.

In that period of time, I want to commit to my friend that I will be looking forward to working with her and her colleagues to make sure we fully finish the appropriations process.

There are some in this body that don't want to do that. They want to simply CR or do a continuing resolution to some point in the future next year, dumping off the work of this Congress and this administration on the next administration and the next Congress. That would be a big mistake, in my opinion.

I know my friend feels exactly the same way, so I commit to her, I will do everything I can on my side of the aisle—I know she will on her side—to make sure that we continue the full appropriations process, and we make sure fiscal year 2017 is funded.

The new administration, when it shows up, is going to have a lot to do, whoever that person is. They are going to have to advance their agenda. They are going to have to name the Cabinet members. They are going to have to get them confirmed. They are going to have to write a budget for FY18 by the middle of February. We will have a debt ceiling crisis in March, and we will have, frankly, the sequester to deal with which, like Halley's Comet, will return on schedule on time. That is plenty for a new President and a new Congress to do.

I would hope we do our job in the so-called lameduck session and make sure that they don't have the additional task of picking up and doing the work that this Congress and this President should have done on their own. So my friend is right on that point.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives has been in session for the last 4 weeks, more than enough time to properly debate the continuing resolution under regular order. But, instead, we have taken up a lot of one-House bills that will never become law.

Mr. Speaker, you can't run the United States Government in 3-month tranches. The majority should get back to focusing on the issues the American people care about, like repairing our roads and bridges and bringing down the cost of college education.

Also, let's end the brinksmanship that my colleague spoke of—and I accept his offer to work and look forward to working with him—and the temporary stopgap measures and the threats of a government shutdown always hanging over us by getting back to enacting long-term appropriations. That is something that I would be happy to join him in because, frankly, what we have done now is no way to run our government.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to begin by thanking my good friend for her debate and her cooperation and her hard work in this exercise that has been genuinely valuable and significant.

And I want to agree with her basic point. We need to do our business. I wish it would have all been done by this point. It has extended into the period after the election, but that is a place that I hope we finish our busi-

ness. I know my friend will be working to that end; certainly, I will as well.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this legislation is critical to prevent a government shutdown, to provide the necessary funds to address the Zika virus, and to demonstrate to the American people that Congress can actually govern.

While I would have much preferred considering 12 individual appropriations bills, I am encouraged that at least one fully conferenced bill is included in the legislation before us today. So I want to urge my colleagues to support this rule and the underlying legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid upon the table.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 5325, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 901, I call up the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause, and insert in lieu thereof:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.
- Sec. 4. Statement of appropriations.
- Sec. 5. Availability of funds.
- Sec. 6. Explanatory statement.

DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Title I—Department of Defense

Title II—Department of Veterans Affairs
 Title III—Related agencies
 Title IV—Overseas contingency operations
 Title V—General provisions

**DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND
 PREPAREDNESS**

Title I—Department of Health and Human Services

Title II—Department of State

Title III—General Provisions—This Division

**DIVISION C—CONTINUING
 APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017**

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The following sums in this Act are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017.

SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available (or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 6. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.

(a) The explanatory statement regarding this Act, printed in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on or about September 22, 2016, by the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of divisions A through D of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

(b) Any reference to the “joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act” contained in division A of this Act shall be considered to be a reference to the explanatory statement described in subsection (a).

**DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
 VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
 AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017**

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$513,459,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$98,159,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE
 CORPS**

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and

other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$1,021,580,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$88,230,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$1,491,058,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That of this amount, not to exceed \$143,582,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be for construction of the Joint Intelligence Analysis Complex Consolidation, Phase 3, at Royal Air Force Croughton, United Kingdom, unless authorized in an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military construction.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$2,025,444,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$180,775,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL
 GUARD**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$232,930,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$8,729,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the

training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$143,957,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$10,462,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$68,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$7,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$38,597,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$3,783,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$188,950,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, of the amount appropriated, not to exceed \$4,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$177,932,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE
ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$240,237,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$157,172,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$325,995,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND
MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$94,011,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$300,915,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$61,352,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$274,429,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$59,157,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING
IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$3,258,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the

Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if

amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: Provided, That not more than \$35,000 per unit may

be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: Provided further, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5–10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 125. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2021:

"Military Construction, Army", \$40,500,000;

"Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$227,099,000;

"Military Construction, Air Force", \$149,500,000;

"Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$67,500,000;

"Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$11,000,000;

"Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$30,000,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2017 submitted to Congress by the Secretary of Defense: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 126. For an additional amount for "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$89,400,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That, such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified by the Department of the Navy in its June 8, 2016, unfunded priority list submission to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing unfunded reprogramming and emergency construction requirements: Provided further, That, not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 127. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense from prior appropriation Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

"Military Construction, Army", \$29,602,000;

"Military Construction, Air Force", \$51,460,000;

"Military Construction, Defense-Wide", \$171,600,000, of which \$30,000,000 are to be derived from amounts made available for Missile Defense Agency planning and design; and

"North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program", \$30,000,000:

Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 128. Of the unobligated balances made available in prior appropriation Acts for the fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) (other than appropriations designated by law as being for contingency operations directly related to the global war on terrorism or as an emergency requirement), \$25,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 129. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 130. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to consolidate or relocate any element of a United States Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) outside of the United States until the Secretary of the Air Force (1) completes an analysis and comparison of the cost and infrastructure investment required to consolidate or relocate a RED HORSE squadron outside of the United States versus within the United States; (2) provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress ("the Committees") a report detailing the findings of the cost analysis; and (3) certifies in writing to the Committees that the preferred site for the consolidation or relocation yields the greatest savings for the Air Force: Provided, That the term "United States" in this section does not include any territory or possession of the United States.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,119,449,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: Provided, That not to exceed \$17,224,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2018 under this heading shall be reimbursed to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", and "Information Technology Systems" for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and Pensions" appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical Care Collections Fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$13,708,648,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2017: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code,

\$124,504,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$107,899,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2017, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$198,856,000.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$36,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,517,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$389,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,163,000.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,856,160,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services

Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; \$1,078,993,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$44,886,554,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide access to therapeutic listening devices to veterans struggling with mental health related problems, substance abuse, or traumatic brain injury.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$7,246,181,000, plus reimbursements, of which \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020; and, in addition, \$9,409,118,000 shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, \$1,500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$6,654,480,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or

for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$247,668,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2016; and, in addition, \$5,434,880,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2017, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2017, under this heading, \$250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$675,366,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$286,193,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$345,391,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$156,096,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$4,278,259,000, plus reimbursements: Provided, That \$1,272,548,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed \$37,100,000

shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That \$2,534,442,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed \$180,200,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That \$471,269,000 shall be for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, and shall remain available until September 30, 2018: Provided further, That amounts made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: Provided further, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development, modernization, and enhancement may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: Provided further, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That funds under this heading may be used by the Interagency Program Office through the Department of Veterans Affairs to define data standards, code sets, and value sets used to enable interoperability: Provided further, That of the funds made available for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement for VistA Evolution or any successor program, not more than 25 percent may be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

(1) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the VistA Evolution Business Case and supporting documents regarding continuation of VistA Evolution or alternatives to VistA Evolution, including an analysis of necessary or desired capabilities, technical and security requirements, the plan for modernizing the platform framework, and all associated costs;

(2) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes a strategic plan for VistA Evolution, or any successor program, and the associated implementation plan including metrics and timelines; a master schedule and lifecycle cost estimate for VistA Evolution or any successor; and an implementation plan for the transition from the Project Management Accountability System to a new project delivery framework, the Veteran-focused Integration Process, that includes the methodology by which projects will be tracked, progress measured, and deliverables evaluated;

(3) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report outlining the strategic plan to reach interoperability with private sector healthcare providers, the timeline for reaching "meaningful use" as defined by the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for each data domain covered under the VistA Evolution program, and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs leverages the State Health Information Exchanges to share health data with private sector providers;

(4) submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, the following: a report that describes the extent to which VistA Evolution, or any successor program, maximizes the use of commercially available software used by DoD and the private sector, requires an open architecture that leverages best practices and rapidly adapts to technologies produced by the private sector, enhances full interoperability between the VA and DoD and between VA and the private sector, and ensures the security of personally identifiable information of veterans and beneficiaries; and

(5) certifies in writing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has met the requirements contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66) which require that electronic health record systems of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have reached interoperability, comply with national standards and architectural requirements identified by the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office in collaboration with the Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology: Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development, modernization, and enhancement, shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$160,106,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2018.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$528,110,000, of which \$478,110,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021, and of which \$50,000,000 shall remain available until expended: Provided, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account and contracting officers who manage specific major construction projects, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used

for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2017, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2017; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2018: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: Provided further, That, of the amount made available under this heading, \$222,620,000 for Veterans Health Administration major construction projects shall not be available until the Department of Veterans Affairs—

(1) enters into an agreement with an appropriate non-Department of Veterans Affairs Federal entity to serve as the design and/or construction agent for any Veterans Health Administration major construction project with a Total Estimated Cost of \$100,000,000 or above by providing full project management services, including management of the project design, acquisition, construction, and contract changes, consistent with section 502 of Public Law 114-58; and

(2) certifies in writing that such an agreement is executed and intended to minimize or prevent subsequent major construction project cost overruns and provides a copy of the agreement entered into and any required supplementary information to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$372,069,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: Provided, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$90,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2017 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: Provided, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: Provided, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facilities" account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and

Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2017, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2017 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2017 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication under section 319 of title 38, United States Code, for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$47,668,000 for the Office of Resolution Management and \$3,932,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication: Provided, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: Provided further, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: Provided, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the rea-

sonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: Provided further, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 217. Of the amounts appropriated in title II of division J of Public Law 114-113 under the heading "Medical Services" which become available on October 1, 2016, \$7,246,181,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 218. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled "Quarterly reporting", under the heading "General Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance",

“Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2017 may be transferred to or from the “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 220. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “Construction, Minor Projects”, and “Information Technology Systems”, up to \$274,731,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That section 223 of title 11 of division J of Public Law 114-113 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2017, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$280,802,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 223. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as

combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense-Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500).

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 224. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 225. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 227. None of the funds made available for “Construction, Major Projects” may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 228. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled “Disability claims backlog”, under the heading “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

SEC. 229. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017 for “Medical Support and Compliance” a maximum of \$40,000,000 may be obligated from the “Medical Support and Compliance” account for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects: Provided, That funds in addition to these amounts may be obligated for the VistA Evolution and electronic health record interoperability projects upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes

which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 231. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$2,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 232. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the “Medical Services” account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2017 in this title (except appropriations made to the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2017, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: Provided, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: Provided further, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided further, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 233. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 234. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$5,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 235. Of the unobligated balances available within the “DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund”, \$40,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 236. Of the discretionary funds made available in Public Law 114-113 for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2017, \$134,000,000 are rescinded from “Medical Services”, \$26,000,000 are rescinded from “Medical Support and Compliance”, and \$9,000,000 are rescinded from “Medical Facilities”.

SEC. 237. The amounts otherwise made available by this Act for the following accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by the following amounts:

(1) "Veterans Health Administration—Medical and Prosthetic Research", \$2,000,000.

(2) "Departmental Administration—Board of Veterans Appeals", \$500,000.

(3) "Veterans Benefits Administration—General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", \$12,000,000.

(4) "Departmental Administration—Information Technology Systems", \$8,000,000.

(5) "Departmental Administration—Office of Inspector General", \$500,000.

SEC. 238. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

SEC. 239. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall treat a marriage and family therapist described in subsection (b) as qualified to serve as a marriage and family therapist in the Department of Veterans Affairs, regardless of any requirements established by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

(b) A marriage and family therapist described in this subsection is a therapist who meets each of the following criteria:

(1) Has a masters or higher degree in marriage and family therapy, or a related field, from a regionally accredited institution.

(2) Is licensed as a marriage and family therapist in a State (as defined in section 101(20) of title 38, United States Code) and possesses the highest level of licensure offered from the State.

(3) Has passed the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board Examination in Marital and Family Therapy or a related examination for licensure administered by a State (as so defined).

SEC. 240. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;

(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;

(3) a cost vs. benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;

(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a VA medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care;

(5) an inventory of VA buildings with historic designation and the methodology used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;

(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and

(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 241. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 242. Paragraph (3) of section 403(a) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 38 U.S.C. 1703 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) DURATION.—A veteran may receive health services under this section during the period beginning on the date specified in paragraph (2) and ending on September 30, 2017."

SEC. 243. (a) Section 1722A(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to opioid antagonists furnished under this chapter to a veteran who is at high risk for overdose of a specific medication or substance in order to reverse the effect of such an overdose."

(b) Section 1710(g)(3) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking "with respect to home health services" and inserting "with respect to the following:"

"(A) Home health services"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B) Education on the use of opioid antagonists to reverse the effects of overdoses of specific medications or substances."

SEC. 244. Section 312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended in subsection (c)(1) by striking the phrase "that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action,"

SEC. 245. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018 for "Medical Services", funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 246. Section 5701(l) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "may" and inserting "shall".

VA PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

SEC. 247. (a) PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

"§ 731. Whistleblower complaint defined

"In this subchapter, the term 'whistleblower complaint' means a complaint by an employee of the Department disclosing, or assisting another employee to disclose, a potential violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

"§ 732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints

"(a) FILING.—(1) In addition to any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint, an employee of the Department may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with a supervisor of the employee.

"(2) Except as provided by subsection (d)(1), in making a whistleblower complaint under paragraph (1), an employee shall file the initial complaint with the immediate supervisor of the employee.

"(b) NOTIFICATION.—(1)(A) Not later than four business days after the date on which a supervisor receives a whistleblower complaint by an employee under this section, the supervisor shall notify, in writing, the employee of whether the supervisor determines that there is a reasonable likelihood that the complaint discloses a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or gross mismanagement, gross waste of funds, abuse of authority, or substantial and specific danger to public health and safety.

"(B) The supervisor shall retain written documentation regarding the whistleblower complaint and shall submit to the next-level supervisor and the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h) a written report on the complaint.

"(2)(A) On a monthly basis, the supervisor shall submit to the appropriate director or other official who is superior to the supervisor a written report that includes the number of whistleblower complaints received by the supervisor under this section during the month covered by the report, the disposition of such complaints, and any actions taken because of such complaints pursuant to subsection (c).

"(B) In the case in which such a director or official carries out this paragraph, the director or official shall submit such monthly report to the supervisor of the director or official and to the central whistleblower office described in subsection (h).

"(c) POSITIVE DETERMINATION.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint of an employee, the supervisor shall include in the notification to the employee under such subsection the specific actions that the supervisor will take to address the complaint.

"(d) FILING COMPLAINT WITH NEXT-LEVEL SUPERVISORS.—(1) If any circumstance described in paragraph (3) is met, an employee may file a whistleblower complaint in accordance with subsection (g) with the next-level supervisor who shall treat such complaint in accordance with this section.

"(2) An employee may file a whistleblower complaint with the Secretary if the employee has filed the whistleblower complaint to each level of supervisors between the employee and the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (1).

"(3) A circumstance described in this paragraph is any of the following circumstances:

"(A) A supervisor does not make a timely determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint.

"(B) The employee who made a whistleblower complaint determines that the supervisor did not adequately address the complaint pursuant to subsection (c).

"(C) The immediate supervisor of the employee is the basis of the whistleblower complaint.

"(e) TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEE WHO FILES WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT.—If a supervisor makes a positive determination under subsection (b)(1) regarding a whistleblower complaint filed by an employee, the Secretary shall—

"(1) inform the employee of the ability to volunteer for a transfer in accordance with section 3352 of title 5; and

"(2) give preference to the employee for such a transfer in accordance with such section.

"(f) PROHIBITION ON EXEMPTION.—The Secretary may not exempt any employee of the Department from being covered by this section.

"(g) WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT FORM.—(1) A whistleblower complaint filed by an employee under subsection (a) or (d) shall consist of the form described in paragraph (2) and any supporting materials or documentation the employee determines necessary.

"(2) The form described in this paragraph is a form developed by the Secretary, in consultation

with the Special Counsel, that includes the following:

“(A) An explanation of the purpose of the whistleblower complaint form.

“(B) Instructions for filing a whistleblower complaint as described in this section.

“(C) An explanation that filing a whistleblower complaint under this section does not preclude the employee from any other method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint.

“(D) A statement directing the employee to information accessible on the Internet website of the Department as described in section 735(d).

“(E) Fields for the employee to provide—

“(i) the date that the form is submitted;

“(ii) the name of the employee;

“(iii) the contact information of the employee;

“(iv) a summary of the whistleblower complaint (including the option to append supporting documents pursuant to paragraph (1)); and

“(v) proposed solutions to the complaint.

“(F) Any other information or fields that the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(3) The Secretary, in consultation with the Special Counsel, shall develop the form described in paragraph (2) by not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

“(h) **CENTRAL WHISTLEBLOWER OFFICE.**—(1) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office—

“(A) is not an element of the Office of the General Counsel;

“(B) is not headed by an official who reports to the General Counsel;

“(C) does not provide, or receive from, the General Counsel any information regarding a whistleblower complaint except pursuant to an action regarding the complaint before an administrative body or court; and

“(D) does not provide advice to the General Counsel.

“(2) The central whistleblower office shall be responsible for investigating all whistleblower complaints of the Department, regardless of whether such complaints are made by or against an employee who is not a member of the Senior Executive Service.

“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office maintains a toll-free hotline to anonymously receive whistleblower complaints.

“(4) The Secretary shall ensure that the central whistleblower office has such staff and resources as the Secretary considers necessary to carry out the functions of the central whistleblower office.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘central whistleblower office’ means the Office of Accountability Review or a successor office that is established or designated by the Secretary to investigate whistleblower complaints filed under this section or any other method established by law.

“§ 733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse actions against supervisory employees (as defined in section 7103(a) of title 5) whom the Secretary, an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the Inspector General of the Department determines committed a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):

“(A) With respect to the first offense, an adverse action that is not less than a 12-day suspension and not more than removal.

“(B) With respect to the second offense, removal.

“(2)(A) An employee against whom an adverse action under paragraph (1) is proposed is entitled to written notice.

“(B)(i) An employee who is notified under subparagraph (A) of being the subject of a proposed adverse action under paragraph (1) is entitled to 14 days following such notification to answer and furnish evidence in support of the answer.

“(ii) If the employee does not furnish any such evidence as described in clause (i) or if the Secretary determines that such evidence is not sufficient to reverse the determination to propose the adverse action, the Secretary shall carry out the adverse action following such 14-day period.

“(C) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7513 of title 5, subsection (c) of such section, paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of section 7543 of such title, and subsection (c) of such section shall not apply with respect to an adverse action carried out under paragraph (1).

“(b) **LIMITATION ON OTHER ADVERSE ACTIONS.**—With respect to a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c), if the Secretary carries out an adverse action against a supervisory employee, the Secretary may carry out an additional adverse action under this section based on the same prohibited personnel action if the total severity of the adverse actions do not exceed the level specified in subsection (a).

“(c) **PROHIBITED PERSONNEL ACTION DESCRIBED.**—A prohibited personnel action described in this subsection is any of the following actions:

“(1) Taking or failing to take a personnel action in violation of section 2302 of title 5 against an employee relating to the employee—

“(A) filing a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(B) filing a whistleblower complaint with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(C) providing information or participating as a witness in an investigation of a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 732 or with the Inspector General of the Department, the Special Counsel, or Congress;

“(D) participating in an audit or investigation by the Comptroller General of the United States;

“(E) refusing to perform an action that is unlawful or prohibited by the Department; or

“(F) engaging in communications that are related to the duties of the position or are otherwise protected.

“(2) Preventing or restricting an employee from making an action described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1).

“(3) Conducting a negative peer review or opening a retaliatory investigation because of an activity of an employee that is protected by section 2302 of title 5.

“(4) Requesting a contractor to carry out an action that is prohibited by section 4705(b) or section 4712(a)(1) of title 41, as the case may be.

“§ 734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses

“(a) **EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—(1) In evaluating the performance of supervisors of the Department, the Secretary shall include the criteria described in paragraph (2).

“(2) The criteria described in this subsection are the following:

“(A) Whether the supervisor treats whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title.

“(B) Whether the appropriate deciding official, performance review board, or performance review committee determines that the supervisor was found to have committed a prohibited personnel action described in section 733(b) of this title by an administrative judge, the Merit Sys-

tems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or, in the case of a settlement of a whistleblower complaint (regardless of whether any fault was assigned under such settlement), the Secretary.

“(b) **BONUSES.**—(1) The Secretary may not pay to a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) an award or bonus under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, during the one-year period beginning on the date on which the determination was made under such subsection.

“(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall issue an order directing a supervisor described in subsection (a)(2)(B) to repay the amount of any award or bonus paid under this title or title 5, including under chapter 45 or 53 of such title, if—

“(A) such award or bonus was paid for performance during a period in which the supervisor committed a prohibited personnel action as determined pursuant to such subsection (a)(2)(B);

“(B) the Secretary determines such repayment appropriate pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary to carry out this section; and

“(C) the supervisor is afforded notice and an opportunity for a hearing before making such repayment.

“§ 735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints

“(a) **TRAINING.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary, in coordination with the Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman designated under section 3(d)(1)(C) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), shall provide to each employee of the Department training regarding whistleblower complaints, including—

“(1) an explanation of each method established by law in which an employee may file a whistleblower complaint;

“(2) an explanation of prohibited personnel actions described by section 733(c) of this title;

“(3) with respect to supervisors, how to treat whistleblower complaints in accordance with section 732 of this title;

“(4) the right of the employee to petition Congress regarding a whistleblower complaint in accordance with section 7211 of title 5;

“(5) an explanation that the employee may not be prosecuted or reprimed against for disclosing information to Congress, the Inspector General, or another investigatory agency in instances where such disclosure is permitted by law, including under sections 5701, 5705, and 7732 of this title, under section 552a of title 5 (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), under chapter 93 of title 18, and pursuant to regulations promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-191);

“(6) an explanation of the language that is required to be included in all nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements pursuant to section 115(a)(1) of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (5 U.S.C. 2302 note); and

“(7) the right of contractors to be protected from reprisal for the disclosure of certain information under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41.

“(b) **MANNER TRAINING IS PROVIDED.**—The Secretary shall ensure that training provided under subsection (a) is provided in person.

“(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall provide training on merit system protection in a manner that the Special Counsel certifies as being satisfactory.

“(d) **PUBLICATION.**—(1) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, and display prominently at each facility of the Department, the rights of an employee to file a whistleblower complaint, including the information described in paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (a).

“(2) The Secretary shall publish on the Internet website of the Department, the whistleblower complaint form described in section 732(g)(2).”

“§ 736. Reports to Congress

“(a) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes—

“(1) with respect to whistleblower complaints filed under section 732 of this title during the year covered by the report—

“(A) the number of such complaints filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints in which a positive determination was made by a supervisor under subsection (b)(1) of such section;

“(2) the number of whistleblower complaints filed during the year covered by the report that are not included under paragraph (1), including—

“(A) the method in which such complaints were filed;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints; and

“(3) with respect to disclosures made by a contractor under section 4705 or 4712 of title 41—

“(A) the number of complaints relating to such disclosures that were investigated by the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the year covered by the report;

“(B) the disposition of such complaints; and

“(C) the ways in which the Secretary addressed such complaints.

“(b) NOTICE OF OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives from the Special Counsel information relating to a whistleblower complaint pursuant to section 1213 of title 5, the Secretary shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of such information, including the determination made by the Special Counsel.

“(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.”

(2) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(A) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such chapter is further amended by inserting before section 701 the following:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”.

(B) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended—

(i) by inserting before the item relating to section 701 the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL EMPLOYEE MATTERS”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

“731. Whistleblower complaint defined.

“732. Treatment of whistleblower complaints.

“733. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints.

“734. Evaluation criteria of supervisors and treatment of bonuses.

“735. Training regarding whistleblower complaints.

“736. Reports to Congress.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EMPLOYEES AS OFFICIAL DUTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, as designated by section 2(a)(2)(A), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty

“(a) CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY.—An employee of the Department is performing official duty during the period with respect to which the employee is testifying in an official capacity in front of either chamber of Congress, a committee of either chamber of Congress, or a joint or select committee of Congress.

“(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall provide travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, to any employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs performing official duty described under subsection (a).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section 2(a)(2)(B), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 713 the following new item:

“715. Congressional testimony by employees: treatment as official duty.”.

SEC. 248. (a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of verifying that an individual performed service under honorable conditions that satisfies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who is recognized pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note) as having performed active duty service for the purposes described in subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of Defense shall accept the following:

(1) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom no applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record is available, the Secretary of Defense shall provide such recognition on the basis of applicable Social Security Administration records submitted for or by the individual, together with validated testimony given by the individual or the primary next of kin of the individual that the individual performed such service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(2) In the case of an individual who served on a coastwise merchant vessel seeking such recognition for whom the applicable Coast Guard shipping or discharge form, ship logbook, merchant mariner’s document or Z-card, or other official employment record has been destroyed or otherwise become unavailable by reason of any action committed by a person responsible for the control and maintenance of such form, logbook, or record, the Secretary of Defense shall accept other official documentation demonstrating that the individual performed such service during period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(3) For the purpose of determining whether to recognize service allegedly performed during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946, the Secretary shall recognize masters of seagoing vessels or other officers in command of similarly organized groups as agents of the United States who were authorized to document any individual for purposes of hiring the individual to perform service in the merchant marine or discharging an individual from such service.

(b) TREATMENT OF OTHER DOCUMENTATION.—Other documentation accepted by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall

satisfy all requirements for eligibility of service during the period beginning on December 7, 1941, and ending on December 31, 1946.

(c) BENEFITS ALLOWED.—

(1) MEDALS, RIBBONS, AND DECORATIONS.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) may be awarded an appropriate medal, ribbon, or other military decoration based on such service.

(2) STATUS OF VETERAN.—An individual whose service is recognized as active duty pursuant to subsection (a) shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such recognized service to any benefit that is not described in this subsection.

SEC. 249. Section 322(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “allowance to a veteran” and inserting the following: “allowance to—

“(A) a veteran”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), as designated by paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) a veteran with a VA service-connected disability rated as 30 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs who is selected by the United States Olympic Committee for the United States Olympic Team for any month in which the veteran is competing in any event sanctioned by the National Governing Bodies of the United States Olympic Sports.”.

SEC. 250. (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) A veteran with vision impairment, a veteran with a spinal cord injury or disorder, or a veteran with double or multiple amputations whose travel is in connection with care provided through a special disabilities rehabilitation program of the Department (including programs provided by spinal cord injury centers, blind rehabilitation centers, and prosthetics rehabilitation centers) if such care is provided—

“(i) on an in-patient basis; or

“(ii) during a period in which the Secretary provides the veteran with temporary lodging at a facility of the Department to make such care more accessible to the veteran.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the beneficiary travel program under section 111 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), that includes the following:

(1) The cost of the program.

(2) The number of veterans served by the program.

(3) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 251. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct inspections of kitchens and food service areas at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such inspections shall occur not less frequently than annually. The program’s goal is to ensure that the same standards for kitchens and food service areas at hospitals in the private sector are being met at kitchens and food service areas at medical facilities of the Department.

(b) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations

under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) **ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.**—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) **REMEDATION PLAN.**—

(1) **INITIAL FAILURE.**—If a kitchen or food service area of a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) not to meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector, that medical facility fails the inspection and the Secretary shall—

(A) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 72 hours; and

(B) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 14 days of the failed inspection.

(2) **SECOND FAILURE.**—If a medical facility of the Department fails the second inspection conducted under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall close the kitchen or food service area at that medical facility that did not meet the standards for kitchens and food service areas in hospitals in the private sector until full remediation is completed and all kitchens and food service areas at that medical facility meet such standards.

(3) **PROVISION OF FOOD.**—If a kitchen or food service area is closed at a medical facility of the Department pursuant to paragraph (2), the Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network in which the medical facility is located shall enter into a contract with a vendor approved by the General Services Administration to provide food at the medical facility.

(d) **QUARTERLY REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary of Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 252. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to conduct risk-based inspections for mold and mold issues at each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such facilities will be rated high, medium, or low risk for mold. Such inspections at facilities rated high risk shall occur not less frequently than annually, and such inspections at facilities rated medium or low risk shall occur not less frequently than biennially.

(b) **AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall seek to enter into an agreement with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations under which the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations conducts the inspections required under subsection (a).

(2) **ALTERNATE ORGANIZATION.**—If the Secretary is unable to enter into an agreement described in paragraph (1) with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate organization that—

(A) is not part of the Federal Government;

(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and

(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospital Organizations.

(c) **REMEDATION PLAN.**—If a medical facility of the Department is determined pursuant to an inspection conducted under subsection (a) to have a mold issue, the Secretary shall—

(1) implement a remediation plan for that medical facility within 7 days; and

(2) Conduct a second inspection under subsection (a) at that medical facility within 90 days of the initial inspection.

(d) **QUARTERLY REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Under Secretary of Health shall submit to Congress a report on inspections conducted under this section, and their detailed findings and actions taken, during the preceding quarter at medical facilities of the Department.

SEC. 253. Section 1706(b)(5)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the first sentence, by striking “through 2008”.

SEC. 254. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 255. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 256. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 257. Appropriations made available in this Act under the heading “Medical Services” shall be available to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, to include the payment of the administrative ex-

penses necessary to carry out such sections. Of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2017, up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to \$8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A. Of the amounts appropriated in advance for fiscal year 2018, up to \$2,000,000 shall be available for the payment of monthly assistance allowances to veterans pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 322(d) and up to \$8,000,000 shall be available for the payment of grants pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 521A.

SEC. 258. (a) In fiscal year 2017 and each fiscal year hereafter, beginning with the fiscal year 2018 budget request submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the budget justification documents submitted for the “Construction, Major Projects” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall include, at a minimum, the information required under subsection (b).

(b) The budget justification documents submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include, for each project—

(1) the estimated total cost of the project;

(2) the funding provided for each fiscal year prior to the budget year;

(3) the amount requested for the budget year;

(4) the estimated funding required for the project for each of the 4 fiscal years succeeding the budget year; and

(5) such additional information as is enumerated under the heading relating to the “Construction, Major Projects” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the joint explanatory statement accompanying this Act.

(c) Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a proposed budget justification template that complies with the requirements of this section.

SEC. 259. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects, with each project to be carried out in an amount not to exceed the amount specified for that project:

(1) Seismic corrections to buildings, including retrofitting and replacement of high-risk buildings, in San Francisco, California, in an amount not to exceed \$180,480,000.

(2) Seismic corrections to facilities, including facilities to support homeless veterans, at the medical center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$105,500,000.

(3) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$287,100,000.

(4) Construction of an outpatient clinic, administrative space, cemetery, and columbarium in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed \$87,332,000.

(5) Realignment of medical facilities in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed \$194,430,000.

(6) Construction of a medical center in Louisville, Kentucky, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,000.

(7) Construction of a replacement community living center in Perry Point, Maryland, in an amount not to exceed \$92,700,000.

(8) Seismic corrections and other renovations to several buildings and construction of a specialty care building in American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$16,260,000.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2016 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account, \$1,113,802,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

(c) The projects authorized in subsection (a) may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2016 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (b);

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2016 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 260. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “service-connected” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term “assisted reproductive technology” means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member.

(4) The term “adoption reimbursement” means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113).

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not

to exceed \$7,500 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$30,945,000: Provided, That \$2,500,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described, and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth, under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$70,800,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$64,300,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Funds appropriated in this Act under the heading “Department of Defense—Civil, Cemeterial Expenses, Army”, may be provided to Arlington County, Virginia, for the relocation of the federally owned water main at Arlington National Cemetery, making additional land available for ground burials.

SEC. 302. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Army”, \$18,900,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects out-

side of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$59,809,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force” \$88,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 401. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program

named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017”.

DIVISION B—ZIKA RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “CDC-Wide Activities and Program Support”, \$394,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: Provided, That products purchased with these funds may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the Public Health Service (“PHS”) Act: Provided further, That funds may be used for purchase and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries: Provided further, That the provisions in section 317S of the PHS Act shall apply to the use of funds appropriated in this paragraph as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be appropriate: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used for grants for the construction, alteration, or renovation of non-federally owned facilities to improve preparedness and response capability at State and local laboratories: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated in this paragraph, \$44,000,000 is included to supplement either fiscal year 2016 or fiscal year 2017 funds for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness cooperative agreement program to restore fiscal year 2016 funds that were reprogrammed for Zika virus response prior to the enactment of this Act: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases”, \$152,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for research on the virology, natural history, and pathogenesis of the Zika virus infection and preclinical and clinical development of vaccines and other medical countermeasures for the Zika virus and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally: Provided, That such funds may be transferred by the Director of the National Institutes of Health (“NIH”) to other accounts of the NIH for the purposes provided in this paragraph: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMERGENCY FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, \$387,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, domestically and internationally; to develop necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, necessary med-

ical supplies, and administrative activities; for carrying out section 501 of the Social Security Act; and for carrying out sections 330 through 336 and 338 of the PHS Act: Provided, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be used to procure security countermeasures (as defined in section 319F–2(c)(1)(B) of the PHS Act): Provided further, That paragraphs (1) and (7)(C) of subsection (c) of section 319F–2 of the PHS Act, but no other provisions of such section, shall apply to such security countermeasures procured with funds appropriated in this paragraph: Provided further, That products purchased with funds appropriated in this paragraph may, at the discretion of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, be deposited in the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That funds appropriated in this paragraph may be transferred to the fund authorized by section 319F–4 of the PHS Act: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$75,000,000, in addition to the purposes specified above, shall also be available for necessary expenses for support to States, territories, tribes, or tribal organizations with active or local transmission cases of the Zika virus, as confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to reimburse the costs of health care for health conditions related to the Zika virus, other than costs that are covered by private health insurance, of which not less than \$60,000,000 shall be for territories with the highest rates of Zika transmission: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$20,000,000 shall be awarded, notwithstanding section 502 of the Social Security Act, for projects of regional and national significance in Puerto Rico and other territories authorized under section 501 of the Social Security Act: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$40,000,000 shall be used to expand the delivery of primary health services authorized by section 330 of the PHS Act in Puerto Rico and other territories: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, \$6,000,000 shall, for purposes of providing primary health services in areas affected by Zika virus or other vector-borne diseases, be used to assign National Health Service Corps (“NHSC”) members to Puerto Rico and other territories, notwithstanding the assignment priorities and limitations in or under sections 333(a)(1)(D), 333(b), or 333A(a) of the PHS Act, and to make NHSC Loan Repayment Program awards under section 338B of such Act: Provided further, That for purposes of the previous proviso, section 331(a)(3)(D) of the PHS Act shall be applied as if the term “primary health services” included health services regarding pediatric subspecialists: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

DIRECT HIRES

SEC. 101. Funds appropriated by this title may be used by the heads of the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development to appoint, without regard to the provisions of sections 3309 through 3319 of title 5 of the United States Code, candidates needed for positions to perform critical work relating to Zika response for which—

(1) public notice has been given; and

(2) the Secretary of Health and Human Services has determined that such a public health threat exists.

TRANSFER AUTHORITIES

SEC. 102. Funds appropriated by this title may be transferred to, and merged with, other appropriation accounts under the headings “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention”, “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, and “National Institutes of Health” for the purposes specified in this title following consultation with the Office of Management and Budget: Provided, That the Committees on Appropriations shall be notified 10 days in advance of any such transfer: Provided further, That, upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by this title may be transferred pursuant to the authority in section 205 of division H of Public Law 114–113 or section 241(a) of the PHS Act.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide a detailed spend plan of anticipated uses of funds made available in this title, including estimated personnel and administrative costs, to the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That such plans shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 104. Of the funds appropriated by this title under the heading “Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund”, up to—

(1) \$500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the heading “Office of the Secretary, Office of Inspector General”, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and

(2) \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the Comptroller General shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, \$14,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: Provided, That such funds may be made available for medical evacuation costs of any other department or agency of the United States under Chief of Mission authority, and may be transferred to any other appropriation of such department or agency for such costs: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Con-

sular Service”, \$4,000,000 for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REPATRIATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Repatriation Loans Program Account” for the cost of direct loans, \$1,000,000, to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases, to remain available until September 30, 2017: Provided, That such costs, including costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That such funds are available to subsidize an additional amount of gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,880,406: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Operating Expenses”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to support response efforts related to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for fiscal year 2016 for “Global Health Programs”, \$145,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2017, for necessary expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Zika virus, health conditions related to such virus, and other vector-borne diseases: Provided, That funds appropriated under this heading shall be made available for vector control activities, vaccines, diagnostics, and vector control technologies: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading may be made available as contributions to the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Pan American Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the Food and Agriculture Organization: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading may be made available for the Grand Challenges for Development program: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE
TRANSFER AUTHORITIES
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic and Consular Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, “Repatriation Loans Program Account”, and “Operating Expenses” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds ap-

propriated by this title under such headings to carry out the purposes of this title.

(b) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

(c) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

(d) No funds shall be transferred pursuant to this section unless at least 5 days prior to making such transfer the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing of the details of any such transfer.

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

SEC. 202. Funds appropriated by this title shall only be available for obligation if the Secretary of State or the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as appropriate, notifies the Committees on Appropriations in writing at least 15 days in advance of such obligation.

CONSOLIDATED REPORTING REQUIREMENT

SEC. 203. Not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act and prior to the initial obligation of funds made available by this title, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a consolidated report to the Committees on Appropriations on the anticipated uses of such funds on a country and project basis, including estimated personnel and administrative costs: Provided, That such report shall be updated and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations every 60 days until September 30, 2017.

OVERSIGHT

SEC. 204. Of the funds appropriated by this title, up to—

(1) \$500,000 shall be transferred to, and merged with, funds available under the heading “United States Agency for International Development, Funds Appropriated to the President, Office of Inspector General”, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the transfer authority provided by this paragraph is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law; and

(2) \$500,000 shall be made available to the Comptroller General of the United States, and shall remain available until expended, for oversight of activities supported with funds appropriated by this title: Provided, That the Secretary of State and the Comptroller General, as appropriate, shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations prior to obligating such funds.

TITLE III

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS DIVISION
EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES AND PROVISIONS

SEC. 301. Unless otherwise provided for by this division, the additional amounts appropriated pursuant to this division are subject to the requirements for funds contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114–113).

PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS

SEC. 302. Funds made available by this division may be used to enter into contracts with individuals for the provision of personal services (as described in section 104 of part 37 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations (48 CFR 37.104)) to support the purposes of titles I and II of this division, within the United States and abroad, subject to prior consultation with, and the notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That such individuals

may not be deemed employees of the United States for the purpose of any law administered by the Office of Personnel Management: Provided further, That the authority made available pursuant to this section shall expire on September 30, 2017.

DESIGNATION RETENTION

SEC. 303. Any amount appropriated by this division, designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this division shall retain such designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 304. This division shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the “Zika Response and Preparedness Appropriations Act, 2016”.

DIVISION C—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2016, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division A of Public Law 114–113), except section 728.

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division B of Public Law 114–113).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016 (division C of Public Law 114–113).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division D of Public Law 114–113).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114–113), which for purposes of this Act shall be treated as including section 707 of division O of Public Law 114–113.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114–113).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division G of Public Law 114–113).

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division H of Public Law 114–113).

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2016 (division I of Public Law 114–113).

(10) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (division K of Public Law 114–113), except title IX.

(11) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division L of Public Law 114–113), except section 420.

(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 0.496 percent.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to sec-

tion 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for: (1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2016 or prior years; (2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2016 funds; or (3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2016.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs: (1) the enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act; (2) the enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2017 without any provision for such project or activity; or (3) December 9, 2016.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2017 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2016, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2016 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91–672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) The reduction in section 101(b) of this Act shall not apply to—

(1) amounts designated under subsection (a) of this section;

(2) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the second paragraph under the heading “Social Security Administration—Limitation on Administrative Expenses” in division H of Public Law 114–113; or

(3) amounts made available by section 101(a) by reference to the paragraph under the heading “Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services—Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Account” in division H of Public Law 114–113.

(c) Section 6 of Public Law 114–113 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism.

SEC. 115. During the period covered by this Act, discretionary amounts appropriated for fiscal year 2017 that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts covered by section 101 of this Act shall be available in the amounts provided in such Acts, reduced by the percentage in section 101(b).

SEC. 116. (a) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–198), at a rate for operations of \$17,000,000.

(b) In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, an additional amount is provided to the Attorney General to carry out the authorizations in the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-198), at a rate for operations of \$20,000,000.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to the purposes otherwise provided for amounts that become available on October 1, 2016, under the heading “Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services” in division J of Public Law 114-113, such amounts shall be used to implement the Jason Simcakoski Memorial and Promise Act (title IX of Public Law 114-198) and the amendments made by that Act.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Agriculture—Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” at a rate for operations of \$310,139,000, of which \$236,120,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 118. Amounts provided by section 111 to the Department of Agriculture for “Corporations—Commodity Credit Corporation Fund—Reimbursement for Net Realized Losses” may be used, prior to the completion of the report described in section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11), to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, as reflected in the June 2016 report of its financial condition.

SEC. 119. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to pay ongoing debt service for the multi-family direct loan programs under sections 514 and 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 and 1485).

SEC. 120. Section 529(b)(5) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)(5)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2016”.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 102, within amounts provided for “Department of Defense—Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide” and “Department of Defense—Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide”, except for amounts designated for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Secretary of Defense may develop, replace, and sustain Federal Government security and suitability background investigation information technology system requirements of the Office of Personnel Management at a rate for operations of \$95,000,000.

SEC. 122. Section 1215(f)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112-81; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), as most recently amended by section 1221 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114-92), shall be applied by substituting “2017” for “2016” through the earlier of the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense.

SEC. 123. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid disruption of continuing projects or activities funded in this appropriation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of

Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 124. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds under the heading “District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2016 (title IV of division E of Public Law 114-113) at the rate set forth under “Part A—Summary of Expenses” as included in the Fiscal Year 2017 Local Budget Act of 2016 (D.C. Act 21-414), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) During the period in which this Act is in effect, the authority and conditions provided in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2016 (division E of Public Law 114-113) which were applicable to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia for any program, project, or activity during fiscal year 2016 shall apply to the obligation or expenditure of funds by the District of Columbia with respect to such program, project, or activity under any authority.

SEC. 125. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, amounts are provided for “General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition” for necessary expenses to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), at a rate for operations of \$9,500,000, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 is for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: Provided, That such amounts may be transferred and credited to the “Acquisition Services Fund” or “Federal Buildings Fund” to reimburse obligations incurred prior to enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein related to the Presidential election in 2016: Provided further, That amounts available under this section shall be in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “General Services Administration—Pre-Election Presidential Transition”.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 101, for expenses of the Office of Administration to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and similar expenses, in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated by law, amounts are provided to “Presidential Transition Administrative Support” at a rate for operations of \$7,582,000: Provided, That such funds may be transferred to other accounts that provide funding for offices within the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President in this Act or any other Act, to carry out such purposes.

SEC. 127. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia” for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration, at a rate for operations of \$19,995,000.

SEC. 128. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “National Archives and Records Administration—Operating Expenses” to carry out the Presidential transition responsibilities of the Archivist of the United States under sections 2201 through 2207 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Presidential Records Act of 1978”), at a rate for operations of \$4,850,000.

SEC. 129. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 130. Amounts provided by section 101 for the Department of Homeland Security may be obligated in the account and budget structure set forth in the table provided by the Chief Financial Officer of the Department to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives prior to the end of fiscal year 2016 pursuant to section 563(e) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2016 (division F of Public Law 114-113).

SEC. 131. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of staff achieved on September 30, 2016.

(b) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Department of Homeland Security—Transportation Security Administration—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain not less than the number of screeners achieved on September 30, 2016.

SEC. 132. The authority provided by section 831 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

SEC. 133. Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking “September 30, 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

SEC. 134. (a) The authority provided by subsection (m)(3) of section 8162 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2000 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note; Public Law 106-79) shall continue in effect through the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act.

(b) Section 419(b) of division G of Public Law 114-113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 135. Notwithstanding section 101, subsection 35(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(d)) shall be applied, at a rate for operations, through the date specified in section 106(3), as if the following new paragraph were added at the end—

“(5) There is appropriated to the Fee Account established in subsection (c)(3)(B)(ii) of this section, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, to remain available until expended, for the coordination and processing of oil and gas use authorizations, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and transferred to such Fee Account pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(A)(ii) of this section, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.”.

SEC. 136. In addition to the amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an additional amount is provided for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System” for security and visitor safety activities related to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies, at a rate for operations of \$4,200,000.

SEC. 137. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by section 101, and notwithstanding section 104, amounts are provided for “Environmental Protection Agency—Environmental Programs and Management” at a rate for operations of \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations needed, for necessary expenses of activities described in section 26(b)(1) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2625(b)(1)): Provided, That fees collected pursuant to such section of such Act and deposited in the “TSCA Service Fee Fund” as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses under the above heading

and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum provided by this section of this Act from the general fund for fiscal year 2017 shall be reduced by the amount of discretionary offsetting receipts received during fiscal year 2017, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2017 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0: Provided further, That to the extent that amounts realized from such receipts exceed \$3,000,000, those amounts in excess of \$3,000,000 shall be deposited in the "TSCA Service Fee Fund" as discretionary offsetting receipts in fiscal year 2017, shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading by section 101, the Chemical Risk Review and Reduction program project shall be allocated for this fiscal year, excluding the amount of any fees made available, not less than the amount of appropriations for that program project for fiscal year 2014.

SEC. 138. Section 114(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011c(f)) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "September 30, 2016".

SEC. 139. The first proviso under the heading "Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Payments to States for the Child Care and Development Block Grant" in title II of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

SEC. 140. (a) The second proviso under the heading "Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs" in title II of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act as if the following were struck from such proviso: " , of which \$141,000,000 shall be available for a cost of living adjustment notwithstanding section 640(a)(3)(A) of such Act".

(b) Amounts made available in the third proviso under the heading "Department of Health and Human Services—Administration for Children and Families—Children and Families Services Programs" in title II of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall not be included in the calculation of the "base grant", as such term is used in section 640(a)(7)(A) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(7)(A)), during the period described in section 106 of this Act.

SEC. 141. (a) Section 529 of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied by substituting "in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from the appropriation to the Fund for the first semi-annual allotment period for fiscal year 2017 under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act" for "or available in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from appropriations to the Fund under section 2104(n)(2)(A)(i) of the Social Security Act"; and

(b) Section 530 of division H of Public Law 114-113 shall be applied by substituting "\$541,900,000" for "\$4,678,500,000" and by adding at the end the following: "and of the funds made available for the purposes of carrying out section 2105(a)(3) of the Social Security Act, \$5,669,100,000 are hereby rescinded".

SEC. 142. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated for payment to Sami A. Takai, widow of Kyle Mark Takai, late a Representative from the State of Hawaii, \$174,000.

SEC. 143. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for "Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Operating Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" and "Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Capital and Debt Service Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" shall be obli-

gated in the account and budget structure, and under the authorities and conditions, set forth for "Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" and "Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" in H.R. 5394 and S. 2844, as introduced in the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

(b) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) are provided for "Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" at a rate for operations of \$235,000,000, to remain available until expended, and for "Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation" at a rate for operations of \$1,155,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 144. Amounts made available by section 101 for "Maritime Administration—Maritime Security Program" shall be allocated at an annual rate across all vessels covered by operating agreements, as that term is used in chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, and the Secretary shall distribute equally all such funds for payments due under all operating agreements in equal amounts notwithstanding title 46, United States Code, section 53106: Provided, That no payment shall exceed an annual rate of \$3,500,000 per operating agreement.

SEC. 145. (a) In addition to the amount otherwise provided by section 101 for the "Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund", there is appropriated \$500,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2016, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared in 2016, and which the disaster occurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): Provided, That funds shall be awarded directly to the State or unit of general local government at the discretion of the Secretary: Provided further, That as a condition of making any grant, the Secretary shall certify in advance that such grantee has in place proficient financial controls and procurement processes and has established adequate procedures to prevent any duplication of benefits as defined by section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155), to ensure timely expenditure of funds, to maintain comprehensive websites regarding all disaster recovery activities assisted with these funds, and to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds: Provided further, That prior to the obligation of funds a grantee shall submit a plan to the Secretary for approval detailing the proposed use of all funds, including criteria for eligibility and how the use of these funds will address long-term recovery and restoration of infrastructure and housing and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas: Provided further, That such funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available by, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or the Army Corps of Engineers: Provided further, That funds allocated under this heading shall not be considered relevant to the non-disaster formula allocations made pursuant to section 106 of the Housing and Community Devel-

opment Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5306): Provided further, That a State or subdivision thereof may use up to 5 percent of its allocation for administrative costs: Provided further, That in administering the funds under this heading, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the obligation by the Secretary or the use by the recipient of these funds (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), if the Secretary finds that good cause exists for the waiver or alternative requirement and such waiver or alternative requirement would not be inconsistent with the overall purpose of title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974: Provided further, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, recipients of funds provided under this heading that use such funds to supplement Federal assistance provided under section 402, 403, 404, 406, 407, or 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) may adopt, without review or public comment, any environmental review, approval, or permit performed by a Federal agency, and such adoption shall satisfy the responsibilities of the recipient with respect to such environmental review, approval or permit: Provided further, That, notwithstanding section 104(g)(2) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5304(g)(2)), the Secretary may, upon receipt of a request for release of funds and certification, immediately approve the release of funds for an activity or project assisted under this heading if the recipient has adopted an environmental review, approval or permit under the preceding proviso or the activity or project is categorically excluded from review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.): Provided further, That the Secretary shall publish via notice in the Federal Register any waiver, or alternative requirement, to any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers pursuant to title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 no later than 5 days before the effective date of such waiver or alternative requirement: Provided further, That amounts provided under this section shall be designated by Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for administrative costs of the Office of Community Planning and Development associated with funds appropriated to the Department for specific disaster relief and related purposes and designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, including information technology costs and costs for administering and overseeing such specific disaster related funds, shall be transferred to the Program Office Salaries and Expenses, Community Planning and Development account for the Department, shall remain available until expended, and may be used for such administrative costs for administering any funds appropriated to the Department for any disaster relief and related purposes in any prior or future act, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: Provided, That the amounts transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section

251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 and shall be transferred only if the President subsequently so designates the entire transfer and transmits such designation to the Congress.

(c) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

This division may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017”.

DIVISION D—RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS

SEC. 101. (a) Of the unobligated balances available from prior year appropriations under the heading “Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Economic Development Assistance Programs” designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, \$10,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Operations, Research, and Facilities” in title II of Public Law 111–212 for responding to economic impacts of fisherman and fishery dependent businesses, \$13,000,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(c) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Secretary and Executive Management” in Public Law 109–148, \$279,045 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(d) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Salaries and Expenses” from emergency funds in Public Law 107–206 and earlier laws transferred to the Department of Homeland Security when it was created in 2003, \$39,246 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(e) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard, Acquisition, Construction, and Improvements” in Public Law 110–329, Public Law 109–148 and Public Law 109–234, \$48,075,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(f) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Administrative and Regional Operations” in Public Law 109–234, \$731,790 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(g) Of the unobligated amounts made available under section 1323(c)(1) of the Patient Pro-

tection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18043(c)(1)), \$168,100,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(h) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Operating Expenses” in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113–235), \$7,522,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(i) Of the unobligated balances of appropriations made available under the heading “Bilateral Economic Assistance, Funds Appropriated to the President” in title IX of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2015 (division J of Public Law 113–235), \$109,478,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(j) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment” in Public Law 109–148, \$4,384,920 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(k) Of the unobligated balances available from amounts provided under the heading “Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, Facilities and Equipment” in Public Law 102–368, \$990,277 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(l) Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Transportation from amounts provided under section 108 of Public Law 101–130, \$37,400,000 is rescinded immediately upon enactment of this Act: Provided, That such amounts are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 901, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the Senate amendment to H.R. 5325.

This legislation includes the fiscal year 2017 continuing resolution and full-year appropriations for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs. It also includes funding to fight and prevent the spread of the Zika virus and assistance to communities affected by recent, devastating floods.

This is a reasonable and necessary compromise that will keep the government open and operating, address urgent needs across the country, and provide the necessary support for our servicemembers, their families, and our veterans.

First and foremost, Mr. Speaker, this bill helps us avoid the unwarranted damage of a government shutdown by providing the funds required to keep the government open and operational past our September 30 deadline.

The funding is provided at the current rate of \$1.067 trillion and lasts through December 9. This short timeframe will allow Congress to complete our annual appropriations work without jeopardizing important government functions.

Secondly, the package contains the full-year Military Construction-VA bill for FY17, which was conferenced by the House and Senate and passed by the House already in June.

In total, \$82.5 billion is provided for our military infrastructure and veterans' health and benefits programs, \$2.7 billion above current levels, with targeted increases to address mismanagement and improve operations at the VA.

It is important to note that, once the President signs this bill into law, it will be the first time since 2009 that an individual appropriations bill has been conferenced with the Senate and enacted before the September 30 fiscal year deadline.

Third, this legislation includes \$1.1 billion in funding to respond to and stop the spread of the Zika virus. This funding is directed to programs that control mosquitoes, develop vaccines, and treat those affected. This funding is spent responsibly, balanced by \$400 million in offsets of unused funding from other programs.

Lastly, this legislation includes important provisions that address current national needs, including an additional \$37 million to fight the opioid epidemic, which has struck my district especially hard, and an additional \$500 million in disaster-designated funding to help States recover and rebuild from recent destructive flooding.

I believe this legislation is a good compromise that this House can and should support. It is not perfect, but it ensures we meet our Nation's current critical needs.

I have said many times before, standing in this exact spot, that a continuing resolution is a last resort. But at this point, it is what we must do to fulfill our congressional responsibility

to keep the lights on in our government.

So I urge my colleagues to vote “aye” on this necessary legislation so we can send it to the President’s desk without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the 2017 continuing resolution. Seven months after President Obama requested emergency assistance to respond to the Zika virus, it is long past time for Congress to act. The \$1.1 billion provided equals the total funding the Senate passed by a vote of 89–8 in May.

The continuing resolution includes the full-year 2017 appropriations bill for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, providing \$82.7 billion to address the needs of those who have served our Nation in uniform, as well as construction costs necessary to supportive and reserve components of the military and their families.

It extends current Federal spending rates through December 9, which is sufficient time for Congress to negotiate and enact an omnibus consisting of each of the remaining 11 appropriations bills.

I object to the inclusion of \$400 million in rescissions in this CR, which could lead some to believe, incorrectly, that emergency spending should be offset or will be in the future. I also object to the continuation of a rider shielding corporate political spending from public disclosure.

During the lameduck session, Congress must enact a Water Resources Development Act conference report that includes robust funding to respond to the manmade disaster in Flint, as well as emergency funding to respond to the natural disaster in Louisiana.

I intend to vote for this continuing resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2100

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), the ranking member of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, we know the Republican majority wants to adjourn and go home, but we shouldn’t be going home until the work is done. Americans understand that concept. They stay and work until the job is done. So why don’t the Republicans?

Here we are, once again, voting on another continuing resolution just hours before a devastating government shutdown. The last shutdown in 2013 cost the American taxpayers \$2 billion.

Now, that is a lot of money that was wasted because Republicans refused to do their jobs. That was money that could have been used to tackle the Zika outbreak or the water issues in Flint or provide much-needed assistance to flood victims in Louisiana.

In this last-minute CR, Republicans are finally letting us address Zika. That is after months of ignoring this serious issue. We could have—should have—done better. The pregnant women and children infected with Zika deserve better. The same goes for Flint. After thousands of children are poisoned by lead, we finally have some assurances that the contaminated water supply will be addressed.

I am proud to have fought alongside my Democratic colleagues to make sure these children would not continue to be the victims of politics. Even the one job Congress is required to do—fund the government—the majority won’t let us do.

Today’s CR does not actually amount to Republicans doing their job. We are simply kicking the can down the road and setting up for another eleventh-hour Band-Aid like tonight to, once again, avert a government shutdown in December.

We can do better. We are elected to do better—and better will simply be doing our jobs. That is all the American people want from us.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and wish to engage the gentleman from Kentucky, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, in a colloquy.

Before I ask the chairman my question, I want to recognize his efforts for reaching an agreement on a package to fund the government through December 9 and include interim aid to the August 2016 flood victims in south Louisiana.

Early last month, the people of south Louisiana experienced an extraordinary flood event, about a 1,000-year rain event. To put it in perspective, 7 trillion gallons of water fell in about 48 hours. That is roughly the same amount of water discharged by the entire Mississippi River system into the Gulf of Mexico over the course of about 80 days. If you live up North, that equates to somewhere in the vicinity of about 25 feet of snow in 36 hours. If you live in Arizona, in some areas, that is up to 10 years of cumulative rainfall.

As many as 110,000 homes and more than 100,000 vehicles were damaged. All told, more than 20,000 people were rescued, 10,000 sheltered, and 13 lost their lives. Early estimates predict that this disaster will cost upward of \$15 billion in economic damages, and FEMA estimates this will be the fourth most costly flood disaster in U.S. history.

Over the past several weeks, the gentleman from Kentucky and I have discussed the flood and the extraordinary impact on our State several times. During those meetings, we discussed the devastating impact I just spoke of and the need for both immediate unmet needs assistance as well as a comprehensive strategy and solution to provide the people of south Louisiana certainty that Congress will address their long-term needs when we return after the election.

During those discussions, we discussed—and you acknowledged—that dire situation so many are facing and will face in the coming weeks in south Louisiana—that of handing over their keys and walking away or sticking it out knowing that Congress may provide them with a hand up.

Mr. Chairman, families are facing foreclosure, businesses are facing bankruptcy, and local communities are struggling to provide basic services such as policing, fire protection, and schooling, among others. The disaster funding provided through this legislation, though helpful, will not address all of the financial challenges our community is facing.

That is why I want to engage the chairman tonight.

Mr. Chairman, thousands are facing bankruptcy, foreclosure, elevation of homes, need for flood protection, and other financial challenges as a result of the August flood event in south Louisiana.

Is it your intent, as we discussed, to deliver a package to address the needs of our local communities who desperately need it when we return?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I salute the gentleman from Louisiana, who has been tirelessly working to help the people in his district and the State of Louisiana for the terrible disaster that has stricken that State.

I thank you for your efforts to share information about this with me and the committee regarding the devastating impacts of the flood. Many of the Members of Congress from across the country that you led to the flooded areas have also reached out to us advocating for assistance to Louisiana.

It is my intention to work with the White House, my colleagues in the Senate, as well as our respective leadership teams over the coming weeks to head off the personal and fiscal calamity so many are facing in south Louisiana. Sir, you have my commitment to work towards that end.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. The commitment to work toward additional recovery dollars and assistance is the difference between a viable recovery and a decades-long struggling effort in

south Louisiana, and I want to thank Chairman ROGERS for his commitment.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution, though I prefer full-year funding for all of the government rather than just through December 9. It is good that this bill funds veterans and military construction programs through next year.

While I am pleased that the bill includes \$1.1 billion for the Zika public health emergency, I am very disappointed that this funding comes 7 months after the President's emergency request and is \$800 million short. Zika is a public health crisis that has waited too long to be funded.

Congress should have provided this funding before local transmission began in Florida and in Puerto Rico. Zika is long from over, and we will need to provide additional resources to combat the Zika virus in the future.

In the interim, this supplemental does address some critical Zika-related needs in the U.S. and its territories. It includes \$126 million for healthcare services, including, yes, contraceptive services for Puerto Rico and the territories to help nearly 20,000 people infected with Zika, including more than 1,300 pregnant women. Another \$400 million in the Zika supplemental is for advanced research and development at NIH and BARDA, which will support clinical trials of vaccine candidates and advanced diagnostics.

I am pleased that State and local health departments, which are under severe financial strain, will be reimbursed for \$44 million that was taken from their budgets earlier this year.

I am disappointed that we are not providing the people of Flint, Michigan, with immediate relief after failing to provide emergency resources for over a year. While I support quickly providing emergency assistance to Louisiana, we should do the same to assist the people of Flint—9,000 children, lead poisoning. I hope that the chairman will have that same commitment to Flint, Michigan, as he does to Louisiana.

I am also disappointed that this bill contains almost half a percent across-the-board funding cuts. We can and must do better going forward.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), the chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Sub-

committee and the author of the bill that is before us now.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, the continuing resolution before you includes, in Division A, the full-year appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies for fiscal year 2017. Division A is exactly the same as the MILCON-VA conference report that was approved by the House on June 23.

Thanks to the leadership of Chairman ROGERS; Mrs. LOWEY, the ranking member, and the partnership of the subcommittee ranking member, SANFORD BISHOP, the gentleman from Georgia, this conference report was negotiated with the Senate and will provide necessary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects.

This conference report demonstrates our firm commitment to fully supporting our Nation's veterans and servicemembers and their families. The total investment is \$82.5 billion for Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies—\$2.6 billion over last year's level.

This bill provides comprehensive support for servicemembers, military families, and veterans. It supports our troops with the facilities and services necessary to maintain readiness and morale at bases here in the States and, of course, overseas. It provides for Defense Department schools and health clinics that take care of our military families.

The bill funds our veteran healthcare systems to ensure that our promise to care for those who have sacrificed in defense of this great Nation continues as those men and women return home. We owe this to our veterans and are committed to sustained oversight so that programs deliver what they promise and taxpayers are well served by the investments we make.

On the military construction side, the bill provides a total of \$7.9 billion for military construction projects and family housing, including base and overseas contingency operations, OCO, funding—an increase of \$282 million over the President's request.

This funding meets DOD's most critical needs, including priority projects for the combatant commanders and funding new mission requirements. It provides \$304 million for military medical facilities. It provides \$246 million for Defense Department education facilities, for construction or renovation of four schools. It supports our Guard and Reserve through \$673 million for facilities in 21 States. It funds military family housing at \$1.3 billion. It provides \$178 million for the NATO Security Investment Program, which is \$43 million over last year's level, to deal with the increasing threats and necessary investments overseas.

On the VA side, the legislation includes a total of \$74.4 billion in discre-

tionary funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs. That is \$2.9 billion above the fiscal year 2016.

VA medical services, the bill funds VA medical services at \$58.8 billion. Many Members expressed concerns about medical services, and we were able to fully fund the budget request for hepatitis C at \$1.5 billion—and I believe that is about 70,000 veterans who will be treated for hepatitis C—veteran homelessness at \$1.6 billion, long-term care at \$8.6 billion, Office of the Inspector General at \$160 million, and caregiver stipends at \$735 million, \$10 million over the request.

For disability claims, we provide \$30 million over the request for the Veterans Benefits Administration, which is a \$148 million increase over fiscal year 2016, and the full request for the Board of Veterans' Appeals, which is about a \$46 million increase.

The bill will enhance transparency and accountability at the VA through further oversight and an increase for the VA Office of Inspector General's independent audits and investigations.

The legislation also contains \$260 million for the modernization of the VA electronic health record and includes language restricting the funding until the VA meets milestones and certifies interoperability to meet statutory requirements. This, of course, is a major priority for the committee. I know the chairman and the ranking member have spoken at length about the integrated health record, and we have to get this done.

Major construction—we continue to focus on major construction oversight and maintain strict requirements, including holding back 100 percent of the funding for the largest construction projects until VA meets our requirements.

We include bill language requiring improved standards for the suicide hotline and certification of mental health therapists to expand access for veterans who need their care.

We include major new whistleblower protections for VA employees to avoid retribution for the employees.

In closing, this is a very solid, bipartisan bill that is focused on the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and all their families. We are \$2.6 billion—\$2.6 billion with a B—over the fiscal year 2016 level; more than a 3 percent increase. We have provided for our military and veterans to the very best level we can in a manner that is fiscally responsible within the constraints of the Budget Act we adopted last year.

We are going to do a lot of good with this bill. It is fair, it is balanced, and it is generous.

On behalf of our servicemembers, military families, and veterans, I urge support of this legislation. Let's take care of those who sacrificed so much for our country.

I urge support of the resolution with an "aye" vote.

Once again, I thank the chair, the ranking member, and Mr. BISHOP for all their support of this legislation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. I am so pleased that Mr. BISHOP and Chairman DENT were able to craft such an outstanding bill to really support our veterans who have served us with such distinction.

□ 2115

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, division A of the MILCON/VA portion provides robust funding for military construction and provides adequate funding for both the Active and Reserve components.

I was pleased the bill provides \$35 million above the FY17 budget request to help speed up the cleanup of former Defense Department sites within the Base Realignment and Closure Account.

The bill provides \$74.4 billion, \$3 billion above the FY16-enacted level in discretionary funding for VA programs. I believe that these resources will have a profound impact on the lives of our Nation's veterans. A couple of VA items that I want to highlight are the \$1.5 billion for hepatitis C treatment, which is \$840 million above the President's request.

In addition, the bill includes \$78 million for the Veterans Crisis Line and, overall, \$173 million for suicide prevention. Furthermore, language is included that requires certain professional standards for the suicide hotline. This is a topic that many Members on both sides of the aisle were concerned about, and I think that we have taken some important steps for it to function better.

Mr. Speaker, the funding provided will help the Department of Veterans Affairs provide better care and better service to our veterans. I believe that the resources provided in the bill will help lead to the elimination of a claims backlog, which is now under \$75,000, down from a high of \$650,000. The bill includes healthy funding for the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the bill carries the authorization for several major construction projects that were previously funded. I believe it is past time to get these projects going because the demand on the VA is going to grow.

As I stated earlier, the MILCON/VA portion of this package is a good one and is one that I think we can all be proud of.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman ROGERS, Ranking Member LOWEY, and my colleague and friend Chairman DENT for their hard

work on this bill. I couldn't have asked for better partners in conducting our business and fashioning a bipartisan bill.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for joining me in pushing for us to reach the point that we have, where we now have not all the funding we need, but \$1.1 billion to finally fight the Zika virus without also fighting the political weight that had weighed it down for many, many months.

While I rise today in support of the fiscal year 2017 continuing resolution, I also rise to express my significant objections to the delay in bringing this bill to the floor with funds to attack the Zika virus.

In south Florida, we have waited more than 7 months for congressional Republicans to drop their political games and approve funding to stop the spread of the Zika virus. South Florida, as many probably know by now, is the epicenter for this virus. And yesterday, the Florida Department of Health confirmed its 900th case of the Zika virus.

Despite this hefty toll, Congressional Republicans repeatedly put partisan politics before women's health care and inserted a provision in the Zika bills that would have cut off funding for Planned Parenthood. My Republican colleagues spent much of the past 9 months firm in their belief that the most appropriate response to a virus that overwhelmingly affects pregnant women was to place a politically motivated ban on funding for reproductive health care, and that was unacceptable. This is shameful conduct that hurt women all across Florida and Puerto Rico.

And while some may praise today's agreement as a breakthrough and the end of our action on Zika, I must warn my colleagues that the mosquitos that carry the Zika virus do not know if they are biting a Republican or a Democrat, they don't know whether they are in Florida or Georgia or Michigan or Louisiana or any other State, or whether Congress has passed an eleventh-hour stopgap funding bill. They simply bite you and infect you with Zika. And because of that risk, our work in defeating this virus is far from over. We must drop the politics and stop playing politics with women's health.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Cali-

fornia (Ms. PELOSI), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee for yielding. And I thank her for her great work being involved in the appropriations process, which I shared with her for many years, but a place where so many of our values are reflected by how we allocate our resources. I particularly want to thank Congresswoman NITA LOWEY, Congresswoman DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Congresswoman ROSA DELAUNO for their relentless, persistent, constant advocacy for this Flint money.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, it was February when President Obama sent over a request for \$1.9 billion to address the Zika crisis. This was an amount of money based on expert advice and was related to scientific evidence. It related to how we would do research for a vaccine, how we would do vector control, how we would do prevention, and, as our colleagues have mentioned, how we address the issue that this is a very unusual situation because it is sexually transmitted, and we had the obstacle of saying no contraception, which held us up for awhile.

So today, finally, we come to the floor, and I think it is very important that we take the action that we do. But I do want to remind you that \$1.1 billion is still \$800 million short of the \$1.9 billion the President requested. Some of that other money was taken from the Ebola resources, which were sorely needed, and continue to be needed there. So while this is an important, giant step, it is not complete in terms of what we need to do.

The continuing resolution before us must recognize that more than 23,000 Americans, including almost 2,100 pregnant women, have been infected with Zika. The bill falls short, as I said, of the \$1.9 billion that top public health officials said is the full amount required to protect American communities.

But I would say this. I think there are some good intentions in a bipartisan way of the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee and others, working with Congresswoman LOWEY, Congresswoman DELAUNO, and Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, to think in terms of anticipation rather than reaction that perhaps we could have a FEMA-like fund for disasters of this kind that affect the public health. The public health system is a strength of our country, and when it is threatened, we must have the resources to protect it.

So perhaps out of this long delay, one of the things that could come together is a conversation that says, let's have FEMA-like biomedical research, whatever it happens to be, reaction to a public health emergency that enables

us to do the research necessary to protect the public health of the American people.

Earlier tonight, the House took an important, long overdue step toward addressing a man-made disaster in Flint, Michigan. The success of the Flint amendment is a tribute to the leadership of Congressman DAN KILDEE, who has been an absolute lion—a lion—for the children and families of Flint throughout this crisis. Thanks to Congressman KILDEE, we have sent a message of hope to the people of Flint.

It is my hope that in the House-Senate WRDA conference, we can move forward the Flint assistance that overwhelmingly passed the Senate by 95–3 earlier this month. With strong bipartisan support, the amendment passed earlier this month.

While we would have preferred to deliver those funds to the children of Flint in this bill, we are at least on a path to meaningful action, and that is important to mention.

In this bill—and our distinguished chairman made this reference, and certainly our distinguished ranking member on the committee, Mr. BISHOP, made the point about what the bill contains to increase the funding for the military and veteran caregivers. So much is in this bill about veterans. And as they say in the military, on the battlefield, we leave no soldier behind; and when they come home, we leave no veteran behind. So many in this room on both sides of the aisle have been champions in that, and certainly our ranking member, Mr. BISHOP.

I particularly want to highlight that in this bill, we have increased funding for our military and veteran caregivers, strengthening the support for America's hidden heroes. The hidden heroes were named such by Senator, Secretary—she carries many titles—Elizabeth Dole.

Yesterday, in the United States Capitol Visitor Center theater, hundreds of caregivers of our military and veteran families came together to talk about the shared challenges that they have to be engaged in a Hidden Heroes launch, the launching of cities in conjunction with the actions of the Hidden Heroes initiative. I am proud to be a cochair with the Hidden Heroes Congressional Caucus with Senator MCCAIN and Senator REED on the Senate side and our chairman, Congressman JEFF MILLER, on the House side.

In this bill, there is \$10 million to boost the VA caregivers initiatives that will help address the increasing demand on VA services as servicemembers continue to come home to their families. Hidden heroes, do you know how many there are? 5.5 million military and veteran caregivers in our country. How these families raise their children, care for their loved ones, siblings, spouses, children is remarkable, and this legislation recognizes that need to assist with training and all.

We must ensure that the VA can meet the demand of a growing population of caregivers, hiring more staff and coordinators to make sure veterans and their families, friends, and loved ones get the services they earned and deserve.

With this CR, we will keep the government open and prevent any self-inflicted wounds to our economy that had been inflicted before.

I want to especially thank our ranking member, NITA LOWEY, for her leadership in helping to craft this bipartisan path forward. I thank our distinguished chairman for his leadership. I extend my gratitude to the Speaker for us coming together to address the issue of Flint, which has enabled us to come forward in this legislation. For that reason, I will be supporting this legislation.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me associate myself with the words of our leader. Let me also thank Ranking Member LOWEY, all of the appropriators, and the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

This is a terrible time to shut the government down. So I rise today to support this CR for a number of reasons.

A few months ago, in Houston, Texas, I organized the regional Zika Virus Task Force. The committee members, representing public and private health professionals, talked about active surveillance, were concerned about the number of infections among pregnant women, and talked as well about the issue of mosquito control, research, and a vaccination.

□ 2130

I am glad that some of the funds here will be able to help us in dealing with these issues—long overdue. Coming from a flood-ridden State, let me say that I appreciate the funding for Baton Rouge. I thank those who were involved, particularly CEDRIC RICHMOND, who, on our side of the aisle, worked so very hard.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to make mention of the Flint dollars. We have worked very hard with the Michigan delegation on the issue of Flint funding. I am glad that the amendment of Mr. KILDEE and others passed in the WRDA bill, but we must deal with that question as well.

Where we are is that we are keeping hardworking employees and government services going. We are helping our veterans. We are making sure health services are going forward. We are making sure the necessary facilities that our public uses will be open. What a shame to have closed a number of these facilities that are so important.

As we go forward, in coming from Houston and in having experienced the tax day floods and the Memorial Day floods, I am looking forward to working with the appropriators for funding—that will help us do a massive study on the bayous in the region—with an amendment that I have submitted to the energy and water bill.

Finally, I would say that it is time that we recognize that government worked for the American people, and what we have to do is not borrow to pay Paul. We should have given the \$1.9 billion in Zika funding. It is \$1.1 billion, but I think we can do better, and I hope we will do so.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the distinguished whip of the House and a champion for the people in his State and in his district during their devastating floods.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his leadership in bringing this critical piece of legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, I specifically want to talk about the important language that is in this bill to help the people of south Louisiana recover from the devastating flooding that we saw last month. Over 100,000 houses were damaged, and thousands of families are still making the decision of whether or not they are going to be able to rebuild. This legislation gives them not only hope but a serious down payment so that people will know that the Federal Government is there to help them get back in their homes and rebuild their communities at such a vital stage.

We saw so many positive things come out of the resiliency of the people of Louisiana. You saw the Cajun Navy—citizens—just helping their fellow neighbors, saving people's lives over and over again, and faith-based organizations coming together. When you see the worst of times, like we did during that tragic flooding, you also see the best in people, and this bill makes a serious down payment to help those people get back in their homes and rebuild their communities.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill so that we can do the work of the people of this great Nation.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I inquire of the gentleman from Kentucky if he has any further requests for time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to close.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons that you have heard tonight, we need to pass this bill to keep the government operating—and keep the lights on in the government—and to provide the assistance to the Nation's needs, as you have heard described here. I urge the adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that, once again, Republican leaders have failed to complete the appropriations process on time, and decided that critical government funding decisions can be delayed until December. While I will vote for tonight's Continuing Resolution so that our government can keep functioning, I will cast my vote in the hope that Congress will act in December to pass an omnibus spending bill that does more to create jobs, bolster paychecks, improve our infrastructure, and keep our country safe.

The CR includes a badly needed and long-overdue \$1.1 billion to fund our fight against the Zika virus. While I would have preferred a bill that funded President Obama's \$1.9 billion Zika request, the funding in this resolution is an important first step in helping us to combat Zika's terrible threat. In addition, I am pleased that Republican leaders agreed to stop tying this funding to partisan political tactics, such as gutting the Clean Water Act.

However, I am concerned about several elements of the CR. For example, it hobbles the Export-Import Bank's ability to help American businesses and workers and it prevents the Securities and Exchange Commission from making public companies' political spending more transparent.

Again, I will vote for this CR to keep government doors open. I hope the December omnibus will address the defects I described, and endeavor on many fronts to make our nation more prosperous and secure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 901, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to concur will be followed by 5-minute votes on the passage of H.R. 6094 and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 342, nays 85, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 573]

YEAS—342

Abraham	Diaz-Balart	Langevin
Adams	Doggett	Larsen (WA)
Aderholt	Dold	Larson (CT)
Aguilar	Donovan	Latta
Allen	Doyle, Michael	Lee
Amodei	F.	Lewis
Ashford	Duckworth	Lieu, Ted
Barletta	Duffy	Lipinski
Barr	Edwards	LoBiondo
Barton	Engel	Loeb
Bass	Eshoo	Lofgren
Beatty	Esty	Loudermilk
Becerra	Farr	Love
Benishek	Fitzpatrick	Lowenthal
Bera	Fleischmann	Lowe
Beyer	Fleming	Lucas
Bilirakis	Forbes	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (GA)	Foster	Lujan Grisham
Bishop (MI)	Fox	(NM)
Bishop (UT)	Frankel (FL)	Lujan, Ben Ray
Blum	Frelinghuysen	(NM)
Bonamici	Fudge	Lummis
Bost	Gabbard	Lynch
Boustany	Gallego	MacArthur
Boyle, Brendan	Garamendi	Maloney,
F.	Garrett	Carolyn
Brady (PA)	Gibson	Maloney, Sean
Brady (TX)	Goodlatte	Matsui
Brooks (IN)	Graham	McCarthy
Brown (FL)	Granger	McCaul
Brownley (CA)	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	McCollum
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	McGovern
Bustos	Grayson	McHenry
Butterfield	Green, Al	McKinley
Calvert	Green, Gene	McMorris
Capps	Grijalva	Rodgers
Capuano	Grothman	McNerney
Carney	Guinta	McSally
Carson (IN)	Guthrie	Meehan
Carter (GA)	Gutiérrez	Meeks
Carter (TX)	Hahn	Meng
Cartwright	Hanna	Messer
Castor (FL)	Hardy	Mica
Castro (TX)	Harper	Miller (FL)
Chabot	Hartzler	Miller (MI)
Chaffetz	Hastings	Moelenaar
Chu, Judy	Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)
Cicilline	Heck (WA)	Moore
Clark (MA)	Herrera Beutler	Moulton
Clarke (NY)	Higgins	Murphy (FL)
Clawson (FL)	Hill	Murphy (PA)
Clay	Himes	Nadler
Cleaver	Hinojosa	Napolitano
Clyburn	Honda	Neal
Coffman	Hoyer	Noem
Cohen	Hudson	Nolan
Cole	Huffman	Norcross
Collins (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Nugent
Collins (NY)	Hunter	Nunes
Comstock	Hurd (TX)	O'Rourke
Conaway	Hurt (VA)	Olson
Connolly	Israel	Palazzo
Cook	Issa	Pallone
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Pascarella
Costa	Jeffries	Paulsen
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (KS)	Pelosi
Courtney	Jenkins (WV)	Perlmutter
Cramer	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Peterson
Crenshaw	Johnson, E. B.	Pingree
Crowley	Jolly	Pittenger
Cuellar	Joyce	Pocan
Culberson	Kaptur	Poliquin
Cummings	Katko	Polis
Curbelo (FL)	Keating	Posey
Davis (CA)	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)
Davis, Danny	Kennedy	Price, Tom
Davis, Rodney	Kilmer	Quigley
DeGette	Kind	Rangel
Delaney	King (NY)	Reed
DeLauro	Kinzing (IL)	Reichert
DelBene	Kline	Rice (NY)
Denham	Knight	Richmond
Dent	Kuster	Rigell
DeSantis	LaMalfa	Roby
DeSaulnier	Lamborn	Roe (TN)
Deutch	Lance	Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)	Sinema	Vela
Rooney (FL)	Sires	Velázquez
Ros-Lehtinen	Slaughter	Visclosky
Ross	Smith (NE)	Wagner
Rouzer	Smith (TX)	Walberg
Roybal-Allard	Smith (WA)	Walden
Royce	Speier	Walorski
Ruiz	Stefanik	Walters, Mimi
Ruppersberger	Stewart	Walz
Ryan (OH)	Stivers	Wasserman
Ryan (WI)	Swalwell (CA)	Schultz
Sánchez, Linda	Takano	Watson Coleman
T.	Thompson (CA)	Webster (FL)
Sanchez, Loretta	Thompson (MS)	Welch
Sarbanes	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup
Scalise	Thornberry	Westerman
Schakowsky	Tiberi	Wilson (FL)
Schiff	Tipton	Wilson (SC)
Schrader	Titus	Womack
Scott (VA)	Tonko	Woodall
Scott, Austin	Torres	Yarmuth
Scott, David	Trott	Yoder
Serrano	Tsongas	Yoho
Sessions	Turner	Young (AK)
Sewell (AL)	Upton	Young (IA)
Sherman	Valadao	Young (IN)
Shimkus	Van Hollen	Zeldin
Shuster	Vargas	Zinke
Simpson	Veasey	

NAYS—85

Amash	Gowdy	Palmer
Babin	Griffith	Pearce
Black	Harris	Perry
Blackburn	Hensarling	Pitts
Blumenauer	Hice, Jody B.	Pompeo
Brat	Holding	Ratcliffe
Bridenstine	Huelskamp	Renacci
Brooks (AL)	Hultgren	Ribble
Buck	Johnson, Sam	Rice (SC)
Burgess	Jones	Rohrabacher
Byrne	Jordan	Rokita
Conyers	Kelly (MS)	Roskam
Davidson	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
DeFazio	Kildee	Russell
DesJarlais	King (IA)	Salmon
Dingell	Labrador	Sanford
Duncan (SC)	LaHood	Schweikert
Duncan (TN)	Lawrence	Sensenbrenner
Ellison	Levin	Smith (MO)
Ellmers (NC)	Long	Smith (NJ)
Emmer (MN)	Marchant	Stutzman
Farenthold	Marino	Walker
Fincher	Massie	Walters, Maxine
Flores	McDermott	Weber (TX)
Fortenberry	Meadows	Westmoreland
Franks (AZ)	Mullin	Williams
Gibbs	Mulvaney	Wittman
Gohmert	Neugebauer	
Gosar	Newhouse	

NOT VOTING—5

Cárdenas	Payne	Rush
Kirkpatrick	Poe (TX)	

□ 2156

Messrs. ROSKAM, CONYERS, and RUSSELL changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. HURT of Virginia, LAMBORN, ROUZER, and POSEY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 573.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANNE BRADBURY

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I have the bittersweet task tonight of paying tribute to a valued member of our team, one of the most widely respected people in this institution. That is our director of floor operations, Anne Bradbury.

As many Members now know, this is her last week on the job. When we return in November, this House will convene without Anne on the floor for the first time in 11 years.

It was Speaker John Boehner who had the good sense to hire Anne for this post, and it is not hard to figure out why he did that. She is just absolutely first class, the absolute consummate professional, always focused on getting the job done. There may be times when we get hung up on small things, trying to figure out what the heck just happened on the floor, and she is always out there working on the plan for the next steps a mile ahead of everybody else. When everybody else is thinking short term, she is out there thinking long term, and not only in terms of this vote or that bill, but how to protect this institution.

Anne Bradbury has been here for 11 years, protecting both the majority and the minority. She fights for this House as an institution, and I am sure that Leader PELOSI and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) would agree with that.

As for me, Anne, I hope you thought through how this is a huge inconvenience for me. Who am I going to call when we are in a jam? Who do we get to take all the chocolate that is gifted to our office every day?

Anne has been such an indispensable help to us, especially taking the job in the middle of a session, not having experience doing something like this. I just can't conceive of having gone through this past year without this brilliant woman.

The last point I want to make is this. To do such a big job so well for so long, as Anne has, takes certain things. It takes a really thick skin, for one, but it takes a very, very deep desire to serve, and you have to have the support of the ones that you love.

Anne has two great boys, John and Clayton, and they are 7 and 8 years old—great kids. On so many nights, just like this night tonight, they have had to share their mom with us. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

And I want to say on behalf of every single Member of the House of Representatives: Anne Bradbury, thank you for serving this institution. Thank you for serving the people's House. You will be sorely missed.

□ 2200

It is my pleasure to yield to the distinguished leader, Mr. HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the Speaker for yielding.

Anne, apparently my colleagues did not understand the gravity of this oc-

casional, the solemnness of this occasion, and they did not dress accordingly, apparently.

Anne, I want you to know that I just left the Crown Prince of Denmark and Princess Mary because I told them I had to come see Queen Anne.

I have risen before and talked about our extraordinary staff, the people who really make this institution what it wants to be. They are the best of us, whether they are at the desk, whether they are with the Sergeant at Arms, whether they are recording our debates; and the best of them who has one of the toughest jobs is to help us, as the Speaker has said, manage this floor. Sitting next to me is Shuwanza Goff. She is the floor director on our side.

You cannot leave.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I tried that.

Mr. HOYER. Anne, as the Speaker so well said, serves us all. Shuwanza does as well because their job, as the Speaker has so well stated, is to help make this institution work in a democratic nation to make our citizens proud. Very frankly, if they knew the work of Anne Bradbury and others who work on this floor, the level of their pride would be much higher than sometimes it is, because they are people of extraordinary ability, great reticence and fairness in dealing with Members, all 435 of us.

Anne, you have been a shining example of the best that is in this House. You have always been quick to share your views as to what needed to be done. You were always fair when any of us talked to you—I know, when I talked to you. There were differences, of course, as one would expect, but there was no acrimony. There was no judgment. There was simply an attempt to make sure that this institution was working well.

Anne, we will miss you. The Speaker, as he says, will be inconvenienced. We will be sad, and we will be a lesser place for your leaving. You also worked with my chief of staff, Alexis Covey-Brandt, who was at one point in time the floor director. Both Shuwanza and Alexis have unrestrained respect and affection for you. You have made us all better.

Whatever you do in the future, I know you will bring the same quality, the same commitment, the same energy, the same judgment, the same fairness, and they will be advantaged, as we have been.

Godspeed.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the whip.

REGULATORY RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, SCHOOLS, AND NONPROFITS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 177, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 574]

YEAS—246

Abraham	Foxx	Massie
Aderholt	Franks (AZ)	McCarthy
Allen	Frelinghuysen	McCaul
Amash	Garrett	McClintock
Amodei	Gibbs	McHenry
Ashford	Gibson	McKinley
Babin	Gohmert	McMorris
Barletta	Goodlatte	Rodgers
Barr	Gosar	McSally
Barton	Gowdy	Meadows
Benishek	Granger	Meehan
Billirakis	Graves (GA)	Messer
Bishop (MI)	Graves (LA)	Mica
Bishop (UT)	Graves (MO)	Miller (FL)
Black	Griffith	Miller (MI)
Blackburn	Grothman	Moolenaar
Blum	Guinta	Mooney (WV)
Bost	Guthrie	Mullin
Boustany	Hardy	Mulvaney
Brady (TX)	Harper	Murphy (PA)
Brat	Harris	Neugebauer
Bridenstine	Hartzler	Newhouse
Brooks (AL)	Heck (NV)	Noem
Brooks (IN)	Hensarling	Nugent
Buchanan	Herrera Beutler	Nunes
Buck	Hice, Jody B.	Olson
Bucshon	Hill	Palazzo
Burgess	Holding	Palmer
Byrne	Hudson	Paulsen
Calvert	Huelskamp	Pearce
Carter (GA)	Huizenga (MI)	Perry
Chabot	Hultgren	Peterson
Chaffetz	Hunter	Pittenger
Clawson (FL)	Hurd (TX)	Pitts
Coffman	Hurt (VA)	Poliquin
Cole	Issa	Pompeo
Collins (GA)	Jenkins (KS)	Posey
Collins (NY)	Jenkins (WV)	Price, Tom
Comstock	Johnson (OH)	Ratcliffe
Conaway	Johnson, Sam	Reed
Cook	Jolly	Reichert
Costello (PA)	Jones	Renacci
Crawford	Jordan	Ribble
Crenshaw	Joyce	Rice (SC)
Cuellar	Katko	Rigell
Culberson	Kelly (MS)	Roby
Curbelo (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Roe (TN)
Davidson	King (IA)	Rogers (AL)
Davis, Rodney	King (NY)	Rogers (KY)
Denham	Kinzinger (IL)	Rohrabacher
Dent	Kline	Rokita
DeSantis	Knight	Rooney (FL)
DesJarlais	Labrador	Ros-Lehtinen
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Roskam
Dold	LaMalfa	Ross
Donovan	Lamborn	Rothfus
Duffy	Lance	Rouzer
Duncan (SC)	Latta	Royce
Duncan (TN)	Lipinski	Russell
Ellmers (NC)	LoBiondo	Salmon
Emmer (MN)	Long	Sanford
Farenthold	Loudermilk	Scalise
Fincher	Love	Schweikert
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Scott, Austin
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Sensenbrenner
Fleming	Lummis	Sessions
Flores	MacArthur	Shimkus
Forbes	Marchant	Shuster
Fortenberry	Marino	Simpson

Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott

Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland

Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—177

Adams
Aguilar
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)

Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Loebsock
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lynch
Maloney
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler

Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarell
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—8

Carter (TX)
Cramer
Grijalva

Hanna
Kirkpatrick
Payne

Poe (TX)
Rush

□ 2214

Mr. HUFFMAN changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 5325

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table (S. Con. Res. 53) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 53

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That, in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5325, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following correction to the title so as to read: “Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMEMBERING ARNOLD PALMER

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, we said goodbye to a true American hero, not just in the golf world but in American life.

Arnold Palmer was larger than life, both on and off the golf course. After learning to play golf at age 4, he never quit and changed the sport forever. The “King,” as he was known, had 62 victories on the PGA Tour, including 7 majors and 10 on the Champions Tour, not to mention his own signature drink that delighted the masses for generations.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the 12th District of Georgia and the good people who live and work there. Georgia's 12th Congressional District is home to the Augusta National, which hosts the most famous Masters tournament.

In Augusta, we consider Arnold Palmer one of our own. He won the

coveted green jacket four times: 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964. He took the Masters and golf to a whole new level in the sports world. The Masters will never be the same. Like Tiger Woods said, “It's hard to imagine golf without him.” I am not sure we even want to.

Arnie's Army mourns together. We remember the king of golf, the legendary Arnold Palmer.

Arnie, you will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RODNEY NOEL ELLIS, SR.

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the late Mr. Rodney Noel Ellis, Sr., a dedicated public servant and immediate past president of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

Throughout his entire career, Rodney was a talented teacher and a steadfast advocate for North Carolina's students and educators, who worked relentlessly to improve public schools and fought tirelessly for equal and quality education.

A cherished friend and confidant, I never met anyone who worked harder or gave more than Rodney Ellis. He will not only be remembered as our champion for education and kids, but as a dedicated and devoted family man who loved his wife and five children. He was an inspiration. His loss will be felt throughout our entire State.

Rodney was a titan with a gentle spirit and a heart of gold. North Carolina has lost one of her most extraordinary educators and one of her greatest leaders.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with Rodney's family, his friends, and our community.

□ 2220

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we approach October to recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The statistics are sobering: one in eight women will get breast cancer in her lifetime.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 41, I quickly understood the importance of knowing your risk for breast cancer. I learned that, as an Ashkenazi Jewish woman, my chances of having the BRCA mutation linked to breast cancer were significantly higher.

That is why in 2009 I introduced the EARLY Act, which equips young

women with the tools they need to make informed decisions about their breast health. Though we have made significant advances on some fronts, there is still work to be done. For example, there has been no statistically significant improvement in survival rates for the metastatic cancer community in the past 20 years.

We must do more to support those who are affected by this deadly disease and do everything we can to eradicate breast cancer once and for all.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution as follows:

H. CON. RES. 166

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Wednesday, September 28, 2016, through Friday, November 11, 2016, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016, TO FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today on a motion offered pursuant to this order, it adjourn to meet at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 30, 2016, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 166, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills

of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1475. An act to authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

H.R. 2494. An act to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Friday, September 30, 2016, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 166, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7011. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2015 Inventory of Contracted Services, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2330a(c)(1); Public Law 107-107, Sec. 801(c)(1) (as amended by Public Law 112-81, Sec. 936(a)(1)); (125 Stat. 1545); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7012. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, United States Navy Reserve, and her advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7013. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert P. Otto, United States Air Force, and

his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7014. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Technical Mapping Advisory Council National Flood Mapping Program Review for June 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4101d; Public Law 113-89, Sec. 17; (128 Stat. 1027); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7015. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations and Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs [Docket No.: FR 5863-F-02] (RIN: 2506-AC40) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7016. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for the Handling of Retaliation Complaints Under the Employee Protection Provision of the Seaman's Protection Act, as Amended [Docket No.: OSHA-2011-0841] (RIN: 1218-AC58) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7017. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits received September 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7018. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's semi-annual report on Energy Conservation Standards Activities for August 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 15834; Public Law 109-58, Sec. 141(b); (119 Stat. 648); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7019. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking for September 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290bb-25b(c)(1)(F); Public Law 109-422, Sec. 2; (120 Stat. 2892); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7020. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's 2015 Annual Report to the President and Congress, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 2076(j); Public Law 92-573, Sec. 27(j) (as amended by Public Law 110-314, Sec. 209(a)); (122 Stat. 3046); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7021. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Three Synthetic Phenethylamines Into Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-423] received September 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law

104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7022. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-059, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7023. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-065, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7024. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-077, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7025. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-049, pursuant to Section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7026. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7027. A letter from the Chair and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Releasing Information; Availability of Records of the Farm Credit Administration; FOIA Fees (RIN: 3052-AD18) received September 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7028. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's small entity compliance guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-91 [Docket No.: FAR-2016-0051, Sequence No.: 5] received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7029. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2005-91; Item XI; Docket No.: 2016-0052; Sequence No.: 4] received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7030. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Limitation on Allowable Government Contractor Employee Compensation Costs [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2014-012; Item X; Docket No.: 2014-0012; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AM75) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7031. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Contractors Performing Private Security Functions [FAC

2005-91; FAR Case 2014-018; Item IX; Docket No.: 2014-0018, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN07) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7032. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Amendment Relating to Multi-year Contract Authority for Acquisition of Property [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2016-006; Item VII; Docket No.: 2016-0006, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN24) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7033. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Consolidation and Bundling [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2014-015; Item VI; Docket No.: 2014-0015, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AM92) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7034. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Unique Identification of Entities Receiving Federal Awards [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-022; Item V; Docket No.: 2015-0022, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN00) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7035. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Sole Source Contracts for Women-Owned Small Businesses [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-032; Item IV; Docket No.: 2015-0032; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN13) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7036. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Non-Retaliation for Disclosure of Compensation Information [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2016-007; Item III; Docket No.: 2016-0007; Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN10) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7037. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Updating Federal Contractor Reporting of Veterans' Employment [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-036; Item II; Docket No.: 2015-0036, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN14) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7038. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Ac-

quisition Regulation Prohibition on Contracting with Corporations with Delinquent Taxes or a Felony Conviction [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2015-011; Item I; Docket No.: 2015-0011, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN05) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7039. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of interim and final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-91; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR 2016-0051, Sequence No.: 5] received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7040. A letter from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; New Designated Countries-Ukraine and Moldova [FAC 2005-91; FAR Case 2016-009; Item VIII; Docket No.: 2016-0009, Sequence No.: 1] (RIN: 9000-AN25) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7041. A letter from the Executive Secretary, United States Agency for International Development, transmitting two notifications of nomination, action on nomination, and change in previously submitted reported information, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7042. A letter from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the final map and perimeter boundary description for the Skagit Wild and Scenic River, in Washington, added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1274(b); Public Law 90-542, Sec. 3(b) (as amended by Public Law 100-534, Sec. 501); (102 Stat. 2708); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7043. A letter from the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico, transmitting a report titled "Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico: Status Update to the House and Senate", pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 2196(g); Public Law 114-187, Sec. 409(g); (130 Stat. 593); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7044. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, *Pursuing America's Greatness v. Federal Election Commission*, —F. 3d—, 2016 WL 4087943 (D.C. Cir. Aug. 2, 2016); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7045. A letter from the Counsel to the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, *United States v. Wolfname*, No. 15-8025, 2016 U.S. App. LEXIS 15778 (10th Cir. Aug. 26, 2016); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7046. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (RIN: 1505-AC52) received September 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7047. A letter from the Deputy Secretary and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, transmitting the Departments' FY 2015 Annual Joint Report, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 8111(f)(1); Public Law 96-22, Sec. 301(a) (as added by Public Law 97-174, Sec. 3(a)(3)); (96 Stat. 73); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 4092. A bill to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-703 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 5227. A bill to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all forms, to establish a National Collection Stewardship Fund for the processing and storage of collection materials of the Library of Congress, and to provide for the continuation of service of returning members of Joint Committee on the Library at beginning of a Congress (Rept. 114-706 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DENT: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative David McKinley (Rept. 114-795). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2261. A bill to facilitate the continued development of the commercial remote sensing industry and protect national security; with an amendment (Rept. 114-796). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 2263. A bill to rename the Office of Space Commerce and for other purposes (Rept. 114-797). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5311. A bill to improve the quality of proxy advisory firms for the protection of investors and the U.S. economy, and in the public interest, by fostering accountability, transparency, responsiveness, and competition in the proxy advisory firm industry, with an amendment (Rept. 114-798). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5429. A bill to improve the consideration by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the costs and benefits of its regulations and orders (Rept. 114-799). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 901. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-800). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged

from further consideration. H.R. 4092 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5227 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia):

H.R. 6195. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow charitable organizations to make statements relating to political campaigns if such statements are made in the ordinary course of carrying out its tax exempt purpose; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 6196. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to ensure community accountability for areas repetitively damaged by floods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6197. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide loan deferment and loan cancellation for founders and employees of small business start-ups, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CULBERSON (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. OLSON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6198. A bill to provide that no alien may be naturalized as a citizen of the United States until such time as the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement completes the digitization of all remaining paper-based fingerprint records for inclusion in the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6199. A bill to require the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to complete a study on the human health implications of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in drinking water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 6200. A bill to provide for the issuance of a Puget Sound Restoration Semipostal Stamp; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6201. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act with respect to the moni-

toring program for unregulated contaminants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 6202. A bill to amend the Act popularly known as the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1915 to prohibit the establishment of certain anchorage grounds within five miles of a nuclear power plant, a location on the national register of historic places, a superfund site, or critical habitat of an endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 6203. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a STEM grant program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6204. A bill to amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Service to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6205. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow certain payments made by public service employees to qualify for public service repayment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6206. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize certain students to retain financial aid eligibility while completing a drug rehabilitation program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. NUNES, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6207. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements in scheduling veterans for health care appointments; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 6208. A bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 6209. A bill to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H.R. 6210. A bill to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 6210. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen accountability of authorized public chartering agencies and reduce charter school authorizing misconduct; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Ms. NOR-TON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRAYSON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. MENG, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BERA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 6211. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence or sexual assault under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 6212. A bill to authorize the Department of Energy to assess and score new and existing homes for the cost-effective reduction in the energy use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HECK of Washington (for himself, Mrs. NOEM, Mr. COLE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 6213. A bill to direct the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund to perform an outreach program for the new markets tax credit to underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 6214. A bill to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6215. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual health insurance mandate certain low-income individuals residing in States that have not elected the Medicaid expansion under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6216. A bill to require State and local law enforcement agencies to submit information about law enforcement investigations to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6217. A bill to require States and units of local government to have in place laws requiring law enforcement officers to submit reports when an individual is injured or killed by such a law enforcement officer in the course of the officer's employment as a condition on receiving certain grant funding,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 6218. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 6219. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to ensure that individuals who are found to have stored classified information on unsecured servers are disqualified from receiving security clearances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. SLAUGHTER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. YOHO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CAPUANO):

H.R. 6220. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility leases of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMERT (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. RATCLIFFE, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 6221. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Don Stephens, President and Founder of Mercy Ships, in recognition of his 38 years of service as the leader of a humanitarian relief organization that exemplifies the compassionate character of America; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 6222. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require publication of information pertaining to the persons participating in the rule making, and on the basis on which the rule is made, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6223. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide that a national of the United States may only bring a claim against a foreign state for an injury which was caused by international terrorism and which occurred on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa):

H.R. 6224. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote the inclusion of minorities and women in clinical research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. MURPHY of Florida):

H.R. 6225. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require Federal Reserve banks to interview at least one individual reflective of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity when appointing Federal Reserve bank presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 6226. A bill to delay the Medicare demonstration for pre-claim review of home health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERA (for himself and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas):

H.R. 6227. A bill to provide for a comprehensive interdisciplinary research and development initiative to strengthen the capacity of the electricity sector to neutralize cyber attacks; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6228. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the alternative fuel and alternative fuel mixture credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HUDSON, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 6229. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate assignment of military trauma care providers to civilian trauma centers in order to maintain military trauma readiness and to support such centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 6230. A bill to ensure that seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities who receive Social Security and certain other Federal benefits receive a \$250 payment in the event that no cost-of-living adjustment is payable in a calendar year; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BASS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. HAHN, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 6231. A bill to carry out an income-contingent repayment program for Federal

Interest Free Education Loans for undergraduate students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. MACARTHUR):

H.R. 6232. A bill to provide for the establishment of a Commission on the Advancement of Social Enterprise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. CULBERSON, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. OLSON, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. WILLIAMS):

H.R. 6233. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the George W. Bush Childhood Home, located at 1412 West Ohio Avenue, Midland, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 6234. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the sale of any Purple Heart awarded to a member of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6235. A bill to transfer certain land from the Secretary of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLON, Mr. POLIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. FUDGE, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 6236. A bill to elevate the teaching profession through systemic innovations in teacher recruitment and retention to ensure that students, especially those from low-income families, are taught by excellent, well-prepared, and well-supported teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6237. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to coordinate the reduction in the American Opportunity Tax Credit with Federal Pell Grants, to the extent such grants are attributable to expenses not eligible for such credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 6238. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to establish a program for issuing identity protection personal identification numbers (IP PINs) to adopted children for purposes of tax administration; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DEFALIZIO:

H.R. 6239. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve Federal Pell Grants and loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DELANEY (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 6240. A bill to accelerate reductions in climate pollution in order to leave a better

planet for future generations, and to create a bipartisan commission to develop economically viable policies to achieve science-based emissions reduction targets; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 6241. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for reciprocal marketing approval of certain drugs, biological products, and devices that are authorized to be lawfully marketed abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6242. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the rate of income tax of a publicly traded corporation based on the ratio of compensation of the corporation's highest paid employee to the median compensation of all the corporation's employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DONOVAN (for himself and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 6243. A bill to improve the ability of the Federal Government to address synthetic opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 6244. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain non-significant investments in the capital of unconsolidated financial institutions as qualifying capital instruments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 6245. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing Hall, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6246. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the indexing of certain assets for purposes of determining gain or loss of eligible individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 6247. A bill to provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FOXX (for herself and Mr. WOODALL):

H.R. 6248. A bill to establish a direct spending safeguard limitation on any direct spending program without a specific level of authorized spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6249. A bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to provide for a macadamia tree health ini-

tiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GALLEGOS (for himself and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 6250. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to allow qualified entrepreneurs to temporarily defer Federal student loan payments after starting a new business; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 6251. A bill to promote transparency by permitting the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board to allow its disciplinary proceedings to be open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6252. A bill to make any city or county that has in effect any law or ordinance that is in violation of Federal immigration law ineligible for any Federal grant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6253. A bill to establish an advisory commission to examine licensing and certification challenges confronting members of the Armed Forces and their spouses upon post-service entry into the civilian workforce and to make recommendations to Congress for the development of a new class of uniform veteran's certifications for selected occupations that can be accepted by States and United States territories; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Ms. EDWARDS):

H.R. 6254. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit schools and libraries that receive universal service support from blocking Internet access to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. BERA,

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DENT, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HILL, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MARINO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. BECERRA, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 6255. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Norman Yoshio Mineta in recognition of his courageous, principled dedication to public service, civic engagement, and civil rights; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6256. A bill to provide temporary visitation to spouses of United States citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6257. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to provide for nominations of individuals for appointment as Coast Guard Academy cadets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 6258. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to enter into certain contracts for the acquisition of vessels for the Coast Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6259. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that liquid over-the-counter medications are packaged with appropriate dosage delivery devices and, in the case of such medications labeled for pediatric use, appropriate flow restrictors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 6260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on certain loans secured by agricultural real property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas):

H.R. 6261. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the way beneficiaries are assigned under the Medicare shared savings program by also basing such assignment on primary care services furnished by nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 6262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the family members with respect to whom treatment for alcohol and drug addiction is treated as a qualified medical expense for purposes of health reimbursement arrangements, health flexible spending arrangements, and health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MACARTHUR (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 6263. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the family members with respect to whom treatment for alcohol and drug addiction is treated as a medical expense for certain purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6264. A bill to assist States in providing voluntary high-quality universal prekindergarten programs and programs to support infants and toddlers; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 6265. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain reforms with respect to medicare supplemental health insurance policies; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. McHENRY (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 6266. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify the definition of a deposit broker, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 6267. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the rehabilitation credit for commercial buildings and to provide a rehabilitation credit for principal residences; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. McNERNEY:

H.R. 6268. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a definition of the term "gang", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. TED LIEU of California):

H.R. 6269. A bill to ban the use of bisphenol A in food containers and the replacement of bisphenol A in such containers with unsafe alternatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 6270. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the avoidance of tax by insurance companies through reinsurance with non-taxed affiliates; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNES (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 6271. A bill to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to require a period of service at an overseas post of at least four years, to amend title 10, United States Code, to require a tour of duty at defense attaché offices of at least four years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

H.R. 6272. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the maximum market pay of physicians and dentists in the Veterans Health Administration who work in health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 6273. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of education debt reduction available for health care professionals employed by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 6274. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create incentives for healthcare providers to promote quality healthcare outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. DENT, and Mr. DELANEY):

H.R. 6275. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicare program for FDA-approved qualifying colorectal cancer screening blood-based tests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 6276. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of locum tenens physicians as independent contractors to help alleviate physician shortages in underserved areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 6277. A bill to prohibit the implementation of a proposed Department of Veterans Affairs rule relating to the practice authority of advanced practice registered nurses; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 6278. A bill to provide certain reforms to promote accountability and efficiency in the civil service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 6279. A bill to provide for the restoration of legal rights for claimants under holocaust-era insurance policies; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 6280. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give priority to eligible entities that partner with certain community partners with respect to grants awarded under the maternal, infant, and early childhood home visitation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BERA, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. MARINO, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 6281. A bill to prevent further advances in North Korea's nuclear program by preventing specialized financial messaging services to, or direct or indirect access to such messaging services for, the Central Bank of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and certain other financial institutions and sanctioned persons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr.

HIGGINS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HANNA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. GIBSON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. REED, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ZELDIN, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 6282. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2024 Jerome Avenue, in Bronx, New York, as the “Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr. Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOHO, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, and Mr. HOLDING):

H.R. 6283. A bill to establish agency procedures for the issuance of significant guidance documents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 6284. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the marketing of authorized generic drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6285. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize admission of Canadian retirees as long-term visitors for pleasure described in section 101(a)(15)(B) of such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6286. A bill to provide for the consideration of energy storage systems by electric utilities as part of a supply side resource process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. HULTGREN, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 6287. A bill to establish requirements for use of a driver's license or personal identification card by certain financial institutions for opening an account or obtaining a financial product or service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6288. A bill to provide protections and certainty for private landowners related to resurveying certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. ROSS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HILL, and Mr. MARINO):

H.R. 6289. A bill to provide priority under certain federally assisted housing programs to assisting youths who are aging out of foster care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 6290. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain tax incentives for biodiesel, renewable diesel, and alternative fuels; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VISCLOSKEY (for himself, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MESSER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana):

H.R. 6291. A bill to retitle Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as Indiana Dunes National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. JOLLY):

H.R. 6292. A bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6293. A bill to prohibit an employer from inquiring about the salary history of an applicant for employment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. HILL, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H.R. 6294. A bill to improve the coordination and use of geospatial data; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 6295. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the requirements for secure geological storage of carbon dioxide for purposes of the carbon dioxide sequestration credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. PITTENGER):

H.J. Res. 99. A joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS):

H.J. Res. 100. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to give States the authority to repeal a Federal rule or regulation when ratified by the legislatures of two-thirds of the several States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.J. Res. 101. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any

fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Con. Res. 165. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress and reaffirming longstanding United States policy in support of a direct bilaterally negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and opposition to United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing a solution to the conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MESSER:

H. Con. Res. 166. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BECERRA (for himself, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. HAHN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. AGUILAR):

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution honoring Vincent Edward “Vin” Scully, the baseball broadcaster who has magnificently served as the play-by-play announcer for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers for 67 Major League Baseball seasons since 1950; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana):

H. Con. Res. 168. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the United States Capitol Police and their role in securing the United States Capitol complex and protecting Members of Congress, their staff, and the general public; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. KIND, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MESSER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ISSA, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. BOST, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. DOLD, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. YODER, Mr. REED, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. ROSKAM):

H. Con. Res. 169. Concurrent resolution establishing a Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself and Mr. SCHRADER):

H. Con. Res. 170. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of a “National Purebred Dog Day”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. O’ROURKE, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HONDA,

Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. COSTA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. POLIS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H. Res. 898. A resolution supporting the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS, and Ms. TSONGAS):

H. Res. 899. A resolution expressing support for a stable and sustainable funding source for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H. Res. 900. A resolution providing for the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 769) terminating a Select Investigative Panel of the Committee on Energy and Commerce; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. CURBELO of Florida (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. SIRE, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. WALZ):

H. Res. 902. A resolution recognizing and honoring the life of Jose Fernandez; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. RANGEL):

H. Res. 903. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2016 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas:

H. Res. 904. A resolution honoring Sisters Network Inc.® for its work to raise awareness about the tragic impact of breast cancer in the African-American community; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RUSH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. FOOX, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H. Res. 905. A resolution expressing condolences to the family of Ms. Jacqueline A.

Ellis, and commemorating the life and work of Ms. Jacqueline Ellis; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GUINTA (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H. Res. 906. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 907. A resolution recognizing Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H. Res. 908. A resolution expressing support for designation of October 2016 as "Bullying Prevention Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. HONDA:

H. Res. 909. A resolution expressing support for the right to rescue animals; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H. Res. 910. A resolution supporting the ideals and goals of the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H. Res. 911. A resolution expressing appreciation during "Domestic Violence Action Month" to all the providers of services in the Second District of Washington state that work tirelessly to end the scourge of domestic violence and to provide education, shelter and assistance to victims of domestic violence; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself and Mr. RIBBLE):

H. Res. 912. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that congressional redistricting should be reformed to remove political gerrymandering; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NOLAN (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr.

HONDA, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. FUDGE):

H. Res. 913. A resolution supporting a Federal, publically-funded universal school meal and nutrition program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PAULSEN (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H. Res. 914. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 2016 as "Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. LEWIS, and Ms. NORTON):

H. Res. 915. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to Marcus Garvey; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI):

H. Res. 916. A resolution recognizing the impact of tribology on the United States economy and competitiveness in providing solutions to critical technical problems in manufacturing, energy production and use, transportation vehicles and infrastructure, greenhouse gas emissions, defense and homeland security, health care, mining safety and reliability, and space exploration, among others, and recognizing the need for increased research and development investments in tribology and related fields; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. DEFazio):

H. Res. 917. A resolution congratulating The Optical Society on its 100th anniversary; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 918. A resolution expressing support for policies that maintain a robust Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and do not jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources to the private sector; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H. Res. 919. A resolution encouraging States to uphold the rights and dignity of human trafficking survivors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H. Res. 920. A resolution calling for revisions to the existing rules of engagement under Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

296. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 26, calling upon the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another man and, instead,

direct the FDA to develop science-based policies such as criteria based on risky behavior in lieu of sexual orientation; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

297. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 29, declaring unnecessary and unexplained increases in pharmaceutical pricing is a harm to our health care system that will no longer be tolerated because the system cannot sustain it; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

298. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 28, to ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under the law when they are fighting to remain in the United States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

299. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 24, commending Congress and the President of the United States for enacting the FAST Act to provide stability and reliability in federal transportation funding over the next five years; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

300. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 22, urging the Congress to appropriate \$248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

301. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of California, relative to Senate Resolution 86, requesting the Congress of the United States to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646), and further requests President Barack Obama to sign that legislation; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. HUFFMAN introduced A bill (H.R. 6296) For the relief of Yeganeh Salehi Rezaian; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 1021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 2507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H.R. 3298.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG of Indiana:

H.R. 5942.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 6195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The First Amendment guarantees both free speech and the free exercise of religion. The Free Speech Fairness Act restores these fundamental liberties to churches and non-profits.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 6196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 1 (relating to the general welfare of the United States); and Article I, section 8, clause 3 (relating to the power to regulate interstate commerce).

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6197.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. CULBERSON:

H.R. 6198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 6207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 6208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 6209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 6210.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution Amendment X: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 6211.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution: "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 6212.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6213.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 6214.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6215.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6216.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I—The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. POLIQUIN:

H.R. 6218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.R. 6219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 6220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 6221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5. To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 6222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 6223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 6224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 6225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3

(To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.)

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

(To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department thereof).

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 6226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Consistent with the understanding and interpretation of the Commerce Clause, Congress has the authority to enact this legislation in accordance with Clause 3 of Section 8, Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 6227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H.R. 6228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 6229.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 6230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 6231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 6232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 6234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the

United States, as enumerated in Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2, of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 6238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 6239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. DELANEY:

H.R. 6240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DESANTIS:

H.R. 6241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. DONOVAN:

H.R. 6243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. DUFFY:

H.R. 6244.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee:

H.R. 6245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution, Clause 1: All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. EMMER of Minnesota:

H.R. 6246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—The Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. FLEMING:

H.R. 6247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution, which states "The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State."

By Ms. FOX: H.R. 6248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 grants Congress the power to "pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States." Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 grants Congress the power to "make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers." As this legislation concerns oversight of federal spending on programs authorized by Congress, it is an appropriate use of the authority granted to Congress by the above clauses of the Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 (General Welfare Clause) and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. GALLEGRO:

H.R. 6250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 6251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (The Congress shall have Power "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States and within the Indian Tribes") and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (The Congress shall have Power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof").

Additional authority derives from Article III, Section 1 ("The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.) Additional authority also derives from Article III, Section 2, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8, Clause 4 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HECK of Washington:

H.R. 6253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

United States Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 6254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3)

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 6255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or office thereof.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8, Clause 18, of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 6258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JENKINS of Kansas:

H.R. 6260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 6261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 6262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8:

Congress shall have Power To Law and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. MACARTHUR:

H.R. 6263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8:

Congress shall have Power To Law and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 6264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power * * * To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. McDERMOTT:

H.R. 6265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 6266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence . . . of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 6267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MCNERNEY:

H.R. 6268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 6269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEAL:

H.R. 6270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. NUNES:

H.R. 6271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, section 2 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to "by Law vest the appointment of . . . inferior Officers, as they think proper . . . in the Heads of Departments." Article I, section 8 provides that Congress shall have power, among other things, to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations"; "make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces"; and "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested in this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 6272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 6273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

By Mr. PAULSEN:

H.R. 6274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—necessary and proper

By Mr. PAYNE:

H.R. 6275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3—Congress has the ability to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia:

H.R. 6276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills."

Clause 1, Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution which reads: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts, and provide for the common Defense and General Welfare of the United States; but all Duties and Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 6277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ROKITA:

H.R. 6278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8, cl. 18

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN:

H.R. 6279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 6280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 6281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 6282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 6283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of legislative powers generally granted to Congress by that section, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 to 17, and Section 9, Clauses 1 to 2, 4, and 7 of the United States Constitution, in that the legislation concerns the exercise of specific legislative powers granted to Congress by those sections, including the exercise of those powers when delegated by Congress to the Executive; Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the

United States Constitution, in that the legislation exercises legislative power granted to Congress by that clause "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof;" and Article III, Section 1, Clause 1, Sentence 1, Section 2, Clause 1, and Section 2, Clause 2, Sentence 2, of the Constitution, in that the legislation defines or affects judicial powers and cases that are subject to legislation by Congress.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 6284.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or officer thereof.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 6287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 6288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4 Section 3 Clause 2: The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 6289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . ."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (the Commerce Clause) of the United States Constitution, to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 6290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the

Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts, and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY:

H.R. 6291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 6292.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XIII which authorizes Congress to make laws enforcing the extension of civil rights and universal freedom to victims of slavery.

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution which states that Congress has the power "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 6293.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 6294.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 6295.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 6296.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to "establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization".

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.J. Res. 99.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact the following due to its power of the purse, outlined in Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution: "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law;"

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H.J. Res. 100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V

By Mrs. ROBY:

H.J. Res. 101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 5:

"The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by

Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 27: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 169: Mr. REICHERT.
H.R. 213: Mrs. BEATTY and Mr. CONNOLLY,
H.R. 265: Ms. MCCOLLUM,
H.R. 297: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. FARR, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 303: Mr. MCNERNEY and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 465: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 546: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 556: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 583: Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 703: Mr. BRAT.
H.R. 711: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 750: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 775: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 789: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 900: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 923: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 973: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
H.R. 1095: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1111: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 1147: Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 1196: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1209: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1220: Ms. DUCKWORTH and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1258: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1282: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1399: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1427: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mrs. LOVE.
H.R. 1457: Mr. ISSA, Mr. TROTT, and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 1507: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1552: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1608: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LATTA, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 1650: Mr. TROTT.
H.R. 1655: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1669: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 1700: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1706: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 1848: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 1854: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1911: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1959: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2016: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2095: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2103: Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2116: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MENG, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 2124: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 2125: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2148: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 2192: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 2293: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 2302: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2403: Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 2461: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 2493: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 2518: Mr. HECK of Nevada.
H.R. 2653: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
H.R. 2660: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2680: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2694: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2698: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 2715: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2737: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. MICA, Mr. BEN RAY LLAÚN of New Mexico, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WOODALL, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2759: Mr. POLIQUIN.
H.R. 2808: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2849: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 2858: Mr. KATKO,
H.R. 2948: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 2991: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3074: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 3084: Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. MENG, and Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 3099: Mr. STIVERS.
H.R. 3119: Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH.
H.R. 3163: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3201: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3316: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3343: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3381: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 3397: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 3411: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 3436: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 3515: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 3526: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3535: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3546: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 3562: Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3652: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 3660: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 3666: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. SANFORD.
H.R. 3687: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 3706: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GALLEG0, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3742: Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 3770: Mr. GALLEG0, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 3830: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3833: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3882: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3886: Mr. VEASEY and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3892: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 3929: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.
H.R. 3985: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 3991: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4016: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 4131: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 4164: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 4172: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 4184: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4223: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4247: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4272: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4298: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. O'Rourke, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4301: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4352: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 4374: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4399: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 4456: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 4475: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 4514: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 4524: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4558: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4559: Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4585: Mr. CLAY.
H.R. 4622: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4626: Ms. KUSTER, Mr. ROSS, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BEYER, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. HAHN, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. BERA, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4657: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4695: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4700: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4706: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 4718: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4764: Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 4766: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4770: Mr. JOYCE.
H.R. 4773: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 4784: Mr. BERA.
H.R. 4818: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 4833: Mr. NORCROSS and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4907: Mr. BEYER, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 4919: Mr. ASHFORD and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4927: Mrs. LAWRENCE
H.R. 4932: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 4949: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 4980: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 5009: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5015: Mr. DESANTIS.
H.R. 5067: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 5082: Mrs. NOEM.
H.R. 5090: Mr. POLIS, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. FLORES, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 5167: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 5177: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 5180: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 5182: Mr. PAULSEN and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5187: Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 5191: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 5205: Ms. DELAURO and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5208: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 5219: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5256: Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 5272: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 5285: Mr. DONOVAN.
H.R. 5299: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 5301: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 5369: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 5373: Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 5405: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 5410: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 5418: Mr. GARRETT, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MICA, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
H.R. 5482: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 5489: Mr. STIVERS and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5555: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 5557: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 5567: Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 5571: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 5573: Mr. WALZ.
 H.R. 5584: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 5589: Mr. FLORES.
 H.R. 5600: Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 5610: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 5621: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GARRETT, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 5632: Mr. NUGENT.
 H.R. 5650: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 5653: Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DONOVAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5671: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 5686: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 5689: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 5726: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 5732: Mrs. WALORSKI.
 H.R. 5742: Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 5745: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 5772: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
 H.R. 5779: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 5797: Ms. LEE and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 5813: Mr. BERA, Mr. KIND, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
 H.R. 5814: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 5887: Mr. COFFMAN and Mr. KNIGHT.
 H.R. 5899: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 5902: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 5910: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 5932: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 5942: Mr. LOEBSACK, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 5955: Mr. AMODEI.
 H.R. 5962: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5965: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 5980: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. SINEMA.
 H.R. 5989: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 5996: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 5999: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. NUGENT, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 6025: Mr. STIVERS and Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 6030: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 6034: Mr. BYRNE.
 H.R. 6037: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.R. 6045: Mr. KATKO and Mr. LATTI.
 H.R. 6047: Mr. OLSON, Mr. MESSER, Mr. BARTON, and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 6059: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 6072: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 6073: Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 6076: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Mr. PERLMUTTER.
 H.R. 6086: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. PITTS.
 H.R. 6087: Mr. DESANTIS.
 H.R. 6093: Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 6094: Mr. POLIQUIN and Mr. WALKER.
 H.R. 6097: Mr. POLIS.
 H.R. 6100: Mr. HILL, Mr. ROTHFUS, Mr. COOK, Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, and Mr. ZINKE.
 H.R. 6104: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California.
 H.R. 6108: Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. ASHFORD, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COLE, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. VELA, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 6110: Mr. GOWDY.
 H.R. 6122: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 6126: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 6132: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 6149: Mr. COHEN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. GIBSON, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 6168: Mr. POLIS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 6171: Mr. PEARCE, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr.

ROUZER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. ROKITA, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 6176: Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. KATKO.
 H.R. 6181: Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 6186: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 6188: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
 H. Con. Res. 17: Mr. STEWART.
 H. Con. Res. 19: Mr. CLEAVER.
 H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. PALAZZO and Mr. HARPER.
 H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BARTON, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. KATKO.
 H. Con. Res. 141: Mr. PETERS and Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
 H. Con. Res. 143: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. KEATING.
 H. Con. Res. 153: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H. Con. Res. 155: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. REICHERT.
 H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. SIRE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DELANEY, and Mr. OLSON.
 H. Con. Res. 161: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H. Res. 28: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. LAHOOD.
 H. Res. 110: Mr. DESANTIS.
 H. Res. 647: Mr. VALADAO.
 H. Res. 703: Mr. PAYNE.
 H. Res. 750: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H. Res. 752: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. CAPUANO.
 H. Res. 784: Mr. AGUILAR and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H. Res. 840: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
 H. Res. 848: Mr. HUNTER.
 H. Res. 854: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
 H. Res. 861: Mr. SESSIONS and Mrs. BEATTY.
 H. Res. 882: Mr. SERRANO.
 H. Res. 883: Mr. COOPER.
 H. Res. 885: Mrs. TORRES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. YARMUTH.
 H. Res. 887: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. YARMUTH, and Ms. EDWARDS.
 H. Res. 891: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Ms. ROSELEHTINEN.
 H. Res. 895: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF KELLY MCMILLIN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable public service career of Chief Kelly McMillin, who is retiring after a 32-year-long career in law enforcement, that last 4 as the Chief of the Salinas, California, Police Department. Kelly has been a remarkable leader who led the Salinas Police Department through a particularly challenging period. I am particularly grateful for his work with my office to help convince the U.S. Department of Justice in 2011 to include the City of Salinas as one of the initial 7 U.S. cities in the pilot National Forum on Youth Violence. I am proud of Kelly's service and honored to call him a friend.

Kelly began his law enforcement career in 1984 as a Deputy with the San Benito County Sheriff's Department. In 1986, he transferred to the San Diego County Sheriff's Department before joining the Salinas Police Department in 1988. As a Salinas Police Officer, Kelly has worked patrol, several anti-gang units, vice/narcotics, administration, and various assignments as a detective including homicide. He was a SWAT operator, team leader and tactical commander. He has held the ranks of Officer, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander and Deputy Chief. He was appointed Chief of the Salinas Police Department on June 11, 2012, and was the first Chief to be promoted from within the ranks since 1965.

While he was serving as a full time officer, Kelly earned an Associate's Degree from Hartnell College, a BA from Saint Mary's College, and a Masters of Public Policy from the Panetta Institute at California State University Monterey Bay. He is a 2003 graduate of the 213th session of the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia. In 2012, the White House recognized Kelly as a "Champion of Change" for his work in youth violence prevention in 2012.

Kelly is married to his wife Teresa, a Physician Assistant who owns a cosmetic dermatology practice in Salinas. Their son Liam has followed in his father's public service footsteps and is currently a Plebe at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House in congratulating Chief Kelly McMillin on the occasion of his retirement and to thank him and his family for his many years of selfless service.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEST ORLANDO BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a special occasion for West Orlando Baptist Church in Winter Garden, Florida. West Orlando Baptist Church will celebrate their 45th anniversary and new building dedication on October 2, 2016.

On October 3, 1971, more than 100 charter members founded Metropolitan Baptist Church in Pine Hills, Florida. Today, known as West Orlando Baptist Church it serves more than 700 in Winter Garden, FL. In honor of their 45th anniversary, West Orlando Baptist Church is dedicating a new 32,000-square foot expansion in Winter Garden, which includes a brand-new sanctuary and additional classrooms.

I would like to thank West Orlando Baptist Church for their 45 years of faithful ministry to our community and their dedication to Christian leadership. Many lives have been impacted through the church's ministry.

On behalf of the people of Central Florida, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate West Orlando Baptist Church on this momentous occasion. May God continue to bless their church and ministry throughout future generations.

**RESTORATION TUESDAY: UNITED
WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL**

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the dangerously divisive effect that voter suppression has had on this country and the pressing need to restore the vote.

The unique diversity of the people of the United States of America is indeed one of our greatest strengths. However, it is our unity of principles that forms the strong foundation that our greatness is built upon. This country stands on the principles of liberty, justice and equality for all. In order to maintain our position and place as one of the greatest nations in the world, we simply cannot stand for any efforts that would suppress a fundamental right of the American people. The right to a vote—to a voice is the cornerstone of our democracy and we cannot continue to stand by idly while the right to vote continues to be trampled on simply because of Congress' apathy and failure to act.

Following the 2013 Supreme Court decision asking for a new preclearance formula in *Shelby v. Holder*, states all across the country put in place new suppressive voting laws making it harder, not easier for Americans to vote. The elderly, disabled, students and minorities have been disproportionately affected by these new laws blocking hundreds of thousands of Americans from the ballot box. It has been three years since the Supreme Court decision asking Congress for a modern-day preclearance formula—and for three years, Republican leaders in Congress have refused to take up bipartisan legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act.

This is an election year and with less than 50 days from the Presidential election, we are facing the first time in over 50 years that Americans will not have the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We are in desperate need for immediate action to voting rights in this country. These threats to our democracy and civil rights bar thousands of Americans from their right to the voting polls. Division in this country is both dangerous and destructive. We are never better when rights are restricted and we are always stronger when all voices can be heard. This is still the United States of America and as elected officials and conduits of the Constitution—voting rights deserves our undivided attention.

On this Restoration Tuesday, I give us all the charge to battle against the continued suppression of the American vote and stand strong by our principles of democracy, liberty and justice for all. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues should join the 178 members of Congress and support H.R. 2867—the Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015. Let's restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and give all Americans access to the voting polls—it's the right thing to do.

**THE OCCASION OF THE BIRTHDAY
OF MR. ERIC JOHNSON**

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask that the 50th birthday of a dear friend, Mr. Eric Johnson, be recognized on October 14th. A great patriot and Arizonan, my wife Joyce and I wish Mr. Johnson another 50 years of good health and happiness. Happy Birthday, Eric.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on September 26,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

2016, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 557 and YEA on Roll Call 558.

HONORING LIBBY MAYNARD AS
2016 NONPROFIT LEADER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Libby Maynard of Humboldt County, who is being honored on September 30, 2016, by the Northern California Association of Nonprofits with the 2016 Nonprofit Leader Achievement Award, a recognition she richly deserves.

Libby Maynard has served as co-founder and Executive Director of The Ink People Center for the Arts in Eureka since 1979. A professional printmaker, Libby co-founded The Ink People to support artists and educate the community about the arts. Under her leadership, The Ink People has grown to more than 400 members and provides exhibitions, performances, and educational opportunities for all ages. The program helps at-risk youth create positive change in their communities through the MARZ Project and provides administrative support, management, and capacity building through its DreamMaker Program to self-directed projects.

With Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Humboldt State University in Arcata, Libby is an accomplished artist in her own right. Her artwork has been exhibited throughout California and is in collections across the nation.

Libby Maynard is highly engaged in her community, serving as a consultant in nonprofit management and program development, as well as director on many nonprofit boards, including Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board and Executive Committee, Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Marketing Committee, and Access Humboldt and Finance Committee. Since 2005, Libby has served as staff to the City of Eureka's Art & Culture Commission and sits on Eureka Main Street's Public Arts Committee.

Libby has received numerous awards and honors, including the Ingrid Nickelsen Award for a lifetime of commitment to the arts; The Selina Roberts Ottum Award from Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts; California Association of Nonprofits' Insurance Services' Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership; California Arts Council Director's Special Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Local Arts Agency Field; and recognitions from the Hmong Community of the North Coast and Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, Libby Maynard's commitment to bettering her community through the advancement of art and culture is commendable and worthy of recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in extending our congratulations to her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDMUND
EDELMAN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Mr. Edmund Edelman—father, husband, grandfather, cellist, politician, and activist—who passed away on September 12, 2016, at the age of 85.

A lifelong resident of Los Angeles, Ed grew up on the Westside where he attended Beverly Hills High School. After serving in the Navy for two years, Ed earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and Bachelor of Laws degree, both from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ed's service to the community began in these halls as a staff lawyer for a congressional subcommittee on education and labor and then as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board.

Ed served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1965 to 1974 to represent the 5th district. His progressive agenda helped the most vulnerable citizens in this district. Some of his notable accomplishments working as a City Councilman are creating support systems for the homeless and mentally ill, promoting public transportation, and protecting important landmarks from developers.

Ed was elected in 1975 to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors where he continued to serve the community. In that position he continued to be proud of his title as an "unabashed liberal." During his time as a Supervisor, Ed was a champion for abused and neglected children by establishing the county's Department of Children and Family Services and the Monterey Park court, which was later named for him. Ed was also a supporter for the arts and supported the renovations of the Hollywood Bowl to better promote cultural events in the community.

Ed was a passionate advocate for public transit, leading the drive for Los Angeles to invest in mass transit both in the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles. The Red Line connecting the North Hollywood to downtown and the Los Angeles-Long Beach Blue Line are here today because of the vision and drive of Ed Edelman.

Ed retired from political office in 1994, but his public service did not end there. He continued to help others by advising on different public policy matters a Senior Fellow at the RAND Corporation. He later worked for the City of Santa Monica to assist the homeless population and created a program to establish connections between homeless people and different social services. Ed's legacy comes from his compassion for other people. The wide range of accomplishments in humanitarian, environmental, and cultural endeavors has enduring impact on the community of Los Angeles.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Mari; brother Raymond; sister; Sandra; daughters Erica Edelman Benadon and Emily Glickman; and grandchildren Jonah, Juliette, Adam, and Alexandra.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Ed Edelman.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
ROHRERSVILLE BAND HALL'S
100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN K. DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community of Rohrsersville and join with them in celebration of the Rohrsersville Band Hall's 100th Year Anniversary. The Rohrsersville Band Hall was built by the community band and first opened its doors in 1916. The Rohrsersville Band Hall has served as a rehearsal space, Town Hall, and concert venue to the people of Rohrsersville for the last 100 years.

The Rohrsersville community's commitment to preserving and maintaining this historic building is nothing short of inspiring. It is so critical to preserve and celebrate local history. So much has changed since 1916, but this building and the band who calls it home have stood the test of time.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S TEN TEN

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2016, Taiwan celebrates the National Day of the Republic of China, more commonly known as double-ten day. I wish all Taiwanese a safe and happy National Day, and hope for many more to come. I lived in Taiwan for two years while serving a church mission, and quickly grew to love the people of Taiwan, their way of life, democratic values, and open-market principles. Taiwan has left a lasting impression on me and I have celebrated and worked to protect the U.S.-Taiwan relationship ever since.

In Congress, I've striven to ensure that Taiwan's close friendship and faithfulness as a global citizen is never forgotten. Just this year, Taiwan reminded the world once again that a vibrant democracy can thrive in the region with the peaceful election of a new leader through genuinely free and fair elections. I congratulate President Tsai once again and wish her well in leading her people.

Congress has also acted to include Taiwan in the international community and prevent marginalization efforts by China. As the world grows smaller and more interconnected, it is not only unreasonable that Taiwan is not at the table, it is dangerous. For that reason, I want to express my profound disappointment that the United Nations failed to include Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly this year. As we all know, Taiwan airports are among the busiest in the world, and pressure from China should not lead to putting passenger safety at risk. I urge the UN to include Taiwan as a participant in all future ICAO assemblies; in addition to all other international organizations as they would be a valuable addition to addressing our many global challenges.

Congress and the United States stand firm in our commitment to Taiwan, and will continue to do so. I look forward to celebrating another double-ten day along with my friends in Taiwan this year and in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING DYSAUTONOMIA
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the millions that fight each day against Dysautonomia, a group of debilitating medical conditions that result in a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system. This system is responsible for "automatic" bodily functions such as respiration, heart rate, blood pressure, digestion, and temperature control, things that many of us have the luxury of taking for granted. Dysautonomia continues to significantly impact the lives of Americans across the United States especially in Western New York.

As is, dysautonomia can be extremely debilitating but an often unseen symptom of this disability is the social isolation that accompanies it. The stress on the families of those impacted coupled with the financial hardships warrant our recognition as well as awareness. I am proud to affirm that the outstanding character and strong moral fiber of those in the Western New York community has provided the much needed support for the victims suffering from dysautonomia. Looking ahead, it will be crucial for the community to rally around these victims as they continue their hard fought battle against this disease.

Dysautonomia awareness is monumental in the early detection of the disease due to the fact that most patients take years to be properly diagnosed. Dysautonomia International, a non-profit organization that advocates on behalf of patients living with dysautonomia, encourages communities to deepen their understanding and be mindful of this challenging condition especially during Dysautonomia Awareness Month each October. The tireless efforts of the Dysautonomia community for increased research and accessible services will be recognized on Saturday, October 1 in my Congressional District as the color turquoise will bathe Niagara Falls and the Peace Bridge in the light of care, concern and continuing the fight to improve the lives of individuals living with this chronic condition.

Currently, Dysautonomia International is funding research to develop more substantial treatments and hopefully find a cure for all forms of this condition in the future.

I wanted to recognize the contributions of the professional medical community, patients and family members who are working to educate our citizenry about dysautonomia throughout Western New York. They are deserving of our support, recognition and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in support for those suffering from the devastating medical condition and encourage them to spread awareness across our nation throughout and beyond the month of October.

THE OCCASION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. DAVID SCHWEIKERT

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, Beijing's concentrated effort to isolate Taiwan from the global community, coupled with Taiwan's ambiguous sovereignty status has contributed to its exclusion from many international organizations and agreements. This is despite Taiwan's willingness and capability to be a major actor on the international stage.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island of Formosa represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. While Taiwan might be separated by oceans and different cultures, we are united in our respect for democracy and human rights.

As an economic partner and vital ally, the United States should aid Taiwan in ensuring its meaningful participation in international organizations and bodies that it has expressed interest in participating. It is of vital importance for Taiwan's inclusion in the International Civil Aviation Organization. Taiwan occupies a critical geographical location and handles large cargo and passenger volumes. More than 47 foreign airlines operate flights from Taipei to over 100 international destinations. For the sake of passenger safety and international security, it is crucial Taiwan be brought into the ICAO fold. Any exclusion from the International Civil Aviation Organization is unnecessary and unconstructive.

On this noteworthy day Congress and the United States are provided the opportunity to evaluate our relationship with Taiwan. As such, the United States should work with Taiwan and our allies to ensure Taiwan is fully included in the international community, including the ICAO.

IN HONOR OF SHEN-YI MICHELLE
CHANG

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and bring attention to an outstanding individual who has come to the United States and demonstrated that the American Dream is still alive and waiting for those who are willing to strive for it and are committed to achieving it.

Shen-Yi Michelle Chang, now residing in Phoenix, Arizona, has shown the grit and resolve that has so long been a staple of American pioneers across this country. She founded her own real estate firm and has excelled at real estate development and sales. In so doing, she has helped countless others achieve their dream of home ownership, a cornerstone of the American Dream. Her dynamic office is a mainstay of the community and employs Arizonans from diverse backgrounds.

Her peers have recognized her hard work and talent. Soon, Ms. Chang will be installed as the 2017 President of the Arizona State Women's Council of Realtors (WCR) and she will be the first Asian American to take office in its 78 year history. A woman dedicated to public service and the well-being of others, Ms. Chang serves on multiple commissions for the City of Chandler, Arizona. She has founded and runs numerous non-profits and even works in support of the local Little League team.

It is an honor to recognize her hard work, diligence and determination. I congratulate Ms. Chang on behalf of the members of Congress and thank her for showing all of us what self-reliance and motivation can achieve and how such success can benefit one's community.

IN CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN'S
NATIONAL DAY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Taiwan's National Day, celebrated on October 10th, and to offer my best wishes to the people of Taiwan.

Also known as Double Ten Day, since it takes place on the 10th day of the 10th month, this holiday marks a special time for the Taiwanese as they celebrate their rich culture and take part in festivities across the country of Taiwan as well as here in the United States where Taiwanese-Americans have enhanced and diversified the culture of many cities and towns.

The state of Texas has a strong bond with the Taiwanese, bolstered by the trade of agricultural goods and products. I am also proud to have joined several of my colleagues from Texas to cosponsor legislation geared towards fostering Taiwanese prosperity as well as supporting their admission to the United Nations.

The 26th Congressional District of Texas has experienced great diversification and enrichment thanks to the people of Taiwan. I am glad to call them friends of Texas and friends of the 26th district.

I wish the people of Taiwan all the best as they celebrate Double Ten Day.

HONORING LT. COL. IRA STEPHEN
"SHOOTER" EADIE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Ira Stephen "Shooter" Eadie, who died on September 20, 2016 while flying a routine training mission.

At 9:05 am, the TU-2S piloted by Lt Col Eadie and his trainee crashed near the Sutter Buttes in California. They were assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale Air Force Base. Although both pilots ejected from the aircraft, Lt Col Eadie did not survive.

Lt Col Eadie was a respected pilot who began his military career in the Navy, flying P-3 patrol aircraft. He eventually joined the Air Force and became a U-2 pilot. The U-2 is a notoriously difficult aircraft to fly—becoming a U-2 pilot means you are among the very best. He was part of an elite, tight-knit group of pilots, whose flights more closely mirror those of astronauts—the U-2 flies at altitudes over 70,000 feet, at the very edge of the atmosphere, affording the pilot breathtaking views of the horizon, watching nighttime creep across the Earth.

Steve was a loving and devoted family man. He met his wife Ashley in Lake City, FL, and together they raised six children, and recently welcomed a granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, pilots fondly quote, "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings". Today, it is my heartfelt honor to remember a cherished member of the flying community, Lt Col "Shooter" Eadie, who has put out his hand, and touched the face of God. In the days to come, may strength and comfort be granted to his family and friends, the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron and Beale Air Force Base, and the entire Dragon Lady community.

THANKING PATRICIA ORSINI FOR
HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Ms. Patricia Orsini who is retiring on September 30, 2016, as the Director of the Wounded Warrior Program at the United States House of Representatives.

Patricia joined the House of Representatives in February 2008 after a long and distinguished career in the Marine Corps. For the past eight and a half years, Patricia has served as the first, and only, Director of the House Wounded Warrior Program. To embark on this endeavor, Patricia relied on the skills and instinct honed as a Marine and quickly rose to the challenge of creating a brand new program for our Nation's Wounded Warriors.

Through Patricia's guidance, assistance, and expert placement, many Members of Congress have come to rely on the Fellows as talented advisors and reliable advocates for military and veterans affairs issues. Every day, the Fellows are asked to attend and lead meetings with constituents, conduct policy analysis on complex issues, handle important and sensitive casework with the utmost care and compassion, and serve as a liaison with the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

However, one only needs to look at the results of the program to understand and appreciate that the true benefit rests with the Veterans and their families. Over the course of the program's eight year history, Patricia helped place 142 Wounded Warriors into fellowships in Washington, DC and District Offices nationwide. Of those, 23 Fellows

transitioned to full-time employment with the Member office. An additional 53 accepted a full-time position outside of the House of Representatives. Fifteen other Fellows advanced their career path by accepting a job with the Department of Veterans Affairs. All in all, 75 percent of the Wounded Warrior fellows either accepted a full-time position or returned to college after completing their assignment with the Member office.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to commend and thank Patricia for her military service. Patricia began her career in the Marines in 1975 as the Assistant Editor at the Marine Corps Institute in Washington, DC. Over the next 33 years, she rose to become a Master Gunnery Sergeant, which is the highest rank an enlisted Marine can achieve. Patricia retired from the Marine Corps in 2008 as the Program Manager for the Wounded Warrior Regiment in Quantico, Virginia.

Clearly Patricia's background in the Marine Corps made her the right candidate to serve as the first and, up to this point, only Director of the House of Representatives Wounded Warrior Program.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Patricia Orsini for her many years of dedication, outstanding contributions, and service to the United States House of Representatives and to our grateful Nation.

We wish Patricia many great years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEALTHLINK DENTAL CLINIC IN SOUTHAMPTON

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, HealthLink Dental Clinic opened its doors in 2001 in Southampton, Bucks County Pennsylvania as a medical and dental clinic providing free care to underserved adults. The 15th anniversary, this year, marks the opening of a free dental clinic. The change from a medical-dental facility to a dental clinic resulted from the increased availability to healthcare through expansion of the eligibility requirements for Medicaid coverage and the Affordable Care Act. But little progress has been made regarding access to dental care; therefore, in March 2015, HealthLink Dental Clinic, Inc. became a sole provider of dental care with an expansion of the clinic and collaboration with Temple University's Kornberg School of Dentistry. Congratulations on this milestone and for recognizing a need in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and stepping in. In so doing, HealthLink has set an example of professionalism and charitable giving for others to follow.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN
MACOMB-OAKLAND HOSPITAL

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital in Warren as it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

In 1955, the greater Warren Chamber of Commerce and others recognized a need for quality health care and so began the effort to build a hospital in the south end of Macomb County. The city of Warren purchased the land and an ambitious community fund drive led to the groundbreaking of a new 202-bed hospital, South Macomb Hospital which first opened its doors to patients on March 1, 1966.

As the city and region saw growth, so did South Macomb Hospital. In 1974, South Macomb Hospital opened the west tower and over the next several years continued to add additional floors to the east wing. By 1987, the hospital changed its name to Macomb Hospital Center in recognition of its wider geographic outreach and expansion of services.

In 1997, the Macomb Hospital Center joined the St. John Health System and became St. John Macomb Hospital. The hospital continued to grow and gave residents of southeast Michigan access to quality health care at a state of the art facility. St. John Macomb Hospital provided patients with comprehensive prevention, primary care, and advanced treatment programs through the additions to their surgery center, OR, ICU, Webber Cancer Center and Cardiac Intervention Center.

And in 2007, St. John Macomb joined with St. John Oakland to create the current St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital. The two campuses in Madison Heights and Warren are now home to over 1,200 physicians and 195 residents, 3,436 nurses and associates, 600 volunteers, all faithfully caring for the patients who walk through the door.

I've had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the growth of St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital and have enjoyed many opportunities to meet with hospital administrators, doctors, nurses, and patients to discuss critical health care issues. We've discussed challenges such as the effects of sequestration on the hospitals, and the impact of proposed cuts to Medicare. And we have discussed the importance of the Affordable Care Act on patients' health. I've also had the opportunity to see the many medical advances made at St. John Macomb-Oakland. I toured the Hip & Knee Replacement Center, an orthopedic program for joint replacement, that has been designated a Blue Distinction Center by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

I look forward to continuing to work with St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital as it remains committed to addressing the needs of the community it serves.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANUFACTURERS AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION AND THE FIRE APPARATUS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association (FEMSA) and the 70th Anniversary of the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association (FAMA). In advance of their joint conference in Nashville, TN on October 5th, I would like to personally extend my congratulations to both organizations in recognition of their distinguished legacies. Both of these organizations bring their members together to discuss ideas on how best to provide the needed tools, equipment, educational materials, and apparatus that enable our nation's firefighters and emergency services personnel to perform their missions safely and more effectively.

The brave men and women serving in our nation's fire and emergency services put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities. Every year the fire service industry does everything it can to reduce the threat of injury and death for these heroes. While members of both FEMSA and FAMA compete with each other for business, these two associations have served a critical role in bringing fire service companies together to advance important issues to the industry and the fire service as a whole.

The fire service industry is vast, comprised of both large and small companies. These companies are located in nearly every state in our nation, including my home state of New Jersey. They provide thousands of well-paying jobs to highly skilled and trained workers. Some bear a family name and are guided by new generations of family members who possess the same values and work ethics as the founders themselves, while others are large companies providing a broad range of technologies and equipment.

Thanks to the great work being done by FAMA and FEMSA, the fire service industry has been bolstered by individual companies working collectively to develop new technologies and training methods. Next week marks two important anniversary milestones for the fire service industry. I extend my congratulations to both the Fire and Emergency Manufacturers and Services Association and the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers' Association. I encourage both organizations to continue their important missions as we all work together to make the fire service industry a safer profession for all who serve.

COMMEMORATING CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize Paul Findley's contributions to the state of Illinois and his accomplishments as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

From a young age, Mr. Findley had a talent for writing, starting at the Jacksonville Journal Courier in high school, he went on to author his own section in the Illinois College newspaper titled, Findley's Uncensored Prejudices. He then became the first editor of Wingtips at Monmouth College. Mr. Findley joined the Navy Reserves in the spring of 1942, following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Eager to go overseas, he was stationed in both Guam and Japan during the war. Upon his return to the United States, he married Lucille Gemme, a flight nurse whom he had met in Guam. They moved to Pittsfield, Illinois, where he became the managing editor of the Pike County Republican.

In 1958, Mr. Findley felt called to enter politics, and he ran for Illinois' 20th congressional seat, which he won in 1960. As a Congressman, he was an active supporter for the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He persistently offered the Powell Amendment, to prohibit racial discrimination, as an amendment to each bill considered on the House Floor. In 1965, Congressman Findley hired Frank Mitchell, a 15-year-old boy from Springfield, Illinois, and the first African American page in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman Findley shaped U.S. House of Representatives' foreign policy by leading the NATO task force and establishing a stronger relationship with France, particularly General de Gaulle, whom he always considered a strong ally of the United States. In his early years in office, Congressman Findley was a supporter of the Vietnam War and led initiatives to block food sales to any Warsaw Pact countries aiding Hanoi. This action became known as the Findley Amendments.

Congressman Findley devoted a considerable amount of his public and personal life to honoring Abraham Lincoln. He authored, "A. Lincoln: The Crucible of Congress," a book about Abraham Lincoln's influence in the U.S. House of Representatives. His admiration of Lincoln led to the preservation of Lincoln's home, which was fulfilled when the Lincoln Home Historic Site Act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1974.

Congressman Findley was the first Republican member of the House of Representatives to advocate for diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China, during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Once diplomatic relations were achieved, the Chinese Ambassador traveled to Jacksonville, Illinois to speak to the local Rotary Club, where he praised the leadership and friendship of Congressman Findley.

During all of his overseas negotiations, Congressman Findley still found time to support his constituents in Illinois. He continuously

protected the interests of farmers and the agricultural community, which made up most of Illinois' 20th Congressional District. Although one may disagree with Congressman Findley on policy, he was never a disagreeable person. His personal motto was "One catches more flies with honey than vinegar."

Congressman Findley spoke freely about his passions, even if they were against his own party. He continues, at the age of 93, to play a role in politics through speeches, books, and Op Ed articles advocating for tolerance, fair and balanced policy, and against nuclear proliferation. Stephen Jones, a long-time colleague and friend of Mr. Findley, described him saying, "He was an ideal Congressman. He was not dogmatic, always open to persuasion, did his homework, and remembered the people back home."

It is an honor to represent Jacksonville, Illinois, the hometown of Congressman Findley. He admirably served our state, worked to make the United States a stronger nation, and continues to live Abraham Lincoln's vision.

CELEBRATING THE LONG-STANDING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE OF THE NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER CRANE DIVISION

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the active duty military and civilian employees at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division as they celebrate their 75th anniversary and the 241st birthday of the United States Navy.

Located at Naval Support Activity Crane in Indiana, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division supports the shore command of the U.S. Navy and provides engineering services for electronic systems and electronic, strategic, and special warfare weapons. These systems and weapons have proven to be critical to the success and high performance of the Navy over NSWC Crane's 75 years of service.

American Naval supremacy and military readiness depends on the ability to harness the power of the cutting-edge technologies that NSWC Crane supports. Because of these hardworking employees and military personnel, the exceptional men and women of our Armed Forces are well-equipped to defend our nation and support our allies across the globe.

NSWC Crane, which is located on the third largest naval installation in the world, is an important contributor to the Indiana economy. The base employs over 5,000 civilian personnel and is an engine of the Indiana economy that provides secure jobs to Hoosiers who work every day knowing the vital role they play in the defense of the nation. Moreover, it is one of Indiana's largest high-tech employers, with over 2,000 scientists, engineers, and technicians.

This organization is committed to excellence and continues to promote patriotism, honor,

and strong national security. Their continued devotion to our service members and our country should serve as an honorable example for all Hoosiers.

On behalf of all Hoosiers, I am honored to celebrate the Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division's 75th anniversary and the U.S. Navy's 241st birthday. Lastly, I would like to recognize the important work of the men and women at NSWC Crane, and wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, October 10, 2016 is Taiwan's National Day, marking the founding of the Republic of China 105 years ago. I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important occasion.

I've had the opportunity to visit Taiwan in the past. The country's evolution into a free society that espouses the values of free elections, human rights, free markets, and the rule of law is a significant one in which the United States has played an important role. Taiwan remains a great friend and strategic ally to the United States.

Beginning with passage of the Taiwan Relations Act, Congress has been at the forefront of bilateral relations with the island nation, playing a key part in ensuring Taiwan's military needs are addressed and assisting Taiwan with its democratic and economic development.

That cooperation continues today. Congress has played a critical role in assisting Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly and facilitating its entrance into the Visa Waiver Program. Most recently, through the assistance of the United States, Taiwan was granted observer status in Interpol.

As a member of the Asia Pacific Economic Forum and World Trade Organization, Taiwan is an important trading partner and export market for the United States in almost every major sector. It is our ninth largest trading partner overall, and the sixth largest international market for U.S. agricultural products. Taiwan has been a full participant in trade negotiations and initiatives, devoting a great amount of effort to multilateral trade and investment activities, working to ensure that any trade agreements are both free and fair.

Given its economic strength and dedication to global trade and investment, Taiwan should be given fair and equal treatment when considering future U.S. partnerships and trade deals. As we continue to discuss the merits of a Trans-Pacific Partnership, we must carefully examine the implications of excluding countries that are not only robust trading partners, but critical geopolitical allies as well. It is my hope that the U.S. Government thoughtfully consider all these relevant factors and allow them to inform our path forward in an evolving landscape of international trade.

I look forward to the continued collaboration with Taiwan in the months and years ahead

as we continue to enhance our bilateral security, economic, and trade relations.

HONORING LEVI LEIPHEIMER'S GRANFONDO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Levi Leipheimer for his work to create the GranFondo cycling event, taking place this year on October 1, 2016, which has enjoyed great success in the cycling community and has raised funds to support many local charitable organizations in our community.

Mr. Leipheimer led an impressive cycling career from 1997 until his retirement in May 2013. His accomplishments include three Amgen Tour of California victories from 2007 to 2009 and a bronze medal at the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics in the road time trial. Mr. Leipheimer later finished as the Tour de France Stage 4 winner in 2009 and won the Tour de Suisse in 2011.

Mr. Leipheimer began "Levi's GranFondo" in 2009 to welcome cyclists of all ability levels from around the world to our community and to raise funds for important local causes. The GranFondo has achieved incredible success under Mr. Leipheimer's leadership, raising nearly \$2 million for philanthropic causes over the past eight years. Furthermore, publications including Red Kite Prayer, Road Bike Action and Outside Online have recognized the GranFondo as one of the best organized cycling events in the world.

The GranFondo has raised nearly \$2 million for the King Ridge Foundation which supports numerous programs that address the needs of at-risk youth in our community. For example, the foundation provides funding to the Forget Me Not Farm and the B-RAD Foundation which teach children and teens team-building and leadership skills through farming and outdoor adventures. The Social Advocates for Youth program, also supported by the foundation, provides housing, counseling and job training to young adults at risk for homelessness.

The King Ridge Foundation also creates opportunities for our young people to become involved in cycling through its 50 Bikes for 50 Kids program, which supplies bikes, helmets and locks to 50 underserved youth in our community each year. The GranFondo has also helped our community in times of need, raising over \$60,000 for the Valley Fire relief efforts in Lake County.

Mr. Speaker, Levi Leipheimer has created an impressive event that provides resources for young people in need. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. It is therefore, fitting and proper that we honor him here today and recognize the tremendous value of his GranFondo event for our local community.

RECOGNIZING THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NAVIENT'S MUNCIE, INDIANA FACILITY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the ten-year anniversary of Navient's Muncie, Indiana facility in my district. As one of the largest employers in the region, Navient has recognized the talent and value that Hoosiers bring to the table.

Today, Navient has two locations in Indiana and employs more than 2,000 people who are on the front lines providing superior customer service to both private and public sector clients. The employees in Muncie play an integral part in providing quality loan counseling and guidance to over 12 million customers nationwide whose loans are serviced by Navient.

Companies have a choice in where they do business, and I am confident Navient has chosen well in Muncie, Indiana. I want to congratulate the employees in my district for ten years of tremendous work, and I wish them the best in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2016, I missed roll call vote 557 and 558.

On roll call vote 557, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 3537, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2015.

On roll call vote 558, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on final passage of H.R. 5392, the No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered Act.

On September 27, 2016, I missed roll call votes 559, 560, 561, and 562.

On roll call vote 559, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 560, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

On roll call vote 561, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question.

On roll call vote 562, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on agreeing to the resolution.

HONORING LENNIE ROBERTS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lennie Roberts, a tireless advocate for our open spaces and wild creatures, a conscience for elected officials on the local, state and federal level for all things environmental and a

personal friend for over 35 years. Lennie will be honored today with the extremely rare "Guardian of Nature Award" from the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter for her four decades of exemplary service. This is only the second time in the chapter's 83-year history that this honor will be bestowed. There is no one who comes close to Lennie Roberts in vigilance of our environment.

Lennie served on the original California Coastal Commission after it was established by voter initiative in 1972. In 1974, she was a founding docent for Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. Whether as policymaker or docent, Lennie Roberts seems to advocate and educate because the laws of nature command her to these tasks.

One of Lennie's greatest accomplishments was her fight against construction of a six lane freeway at Devil's Slide, a treacherous stretch of Highway 1 along California's beautiful coast. Instead, Lennie Roberts had the audacity to proffer to Caltrans a pair of tunnels. These tunnels now connect communities long threatened with periodic isolation when massive rock and debris slides, or the loss of the roadway, occurred during storms.

Construction came after a decades-long, hard-fought battle by the so-called tunnelistas. A handful of visionaries saw that San Mateo's beautiful coast could be protected and the public's safety ensured.

Vast stretches of the Santa Cruz mountain range from San Mateo through Santa Clara counties have been preserved because Lennie and her friends established, with voter approval, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Working with local philanthropists such as Tom Ford and the Peninsula Open Space Trust, Lennie's vision of a permanent mechanism to identify and preserve precious tracts of land has given the Bay Area a crown jewel: huge Redwood forests, hundreds of miles of walking and riding trails, recreational opportunities for people and pets, and habitat that nourishes endangered and threatened species. In part because of Lennie's advocacy, local farmers and ranchers now transition agricultural lands into permanent conservation, often permitting sustainable agriculture to remain on the property even when the land is in public ownership.

Lennie's interests are not simply in the mountains. The coast and coastal waters, and streams that serve as endangered species habitat, are all enriched and preserved through her efforts. Vast stretches of open space along the coast have been preserved by a local ordinance, passed by voters, that was inspired by Lennie's direction and standards.

The Yosemite Trust is an important steward of Yosemite National Park, and Lennie is an active member of the trust's board of directors. The planning and long-term vision for John Muir's most precious place on earth is in skilled hands through Lennie's thoughtful advocacy.

Some say that Lennie Roberts knows every square inch of rural San Mateo County. I can tell you that she certainly knows every square inch that is worth preserving. At the same time, she is also willing to support thoughtful development and this includes using land with in already-developed areas for housing and

public services. In short, she is a public steward and compromise is often offered but only with the public's best interests in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representative to join me in honoring San Mateo County's version of a Mount Rushmore figure, Ms. Lennie Roberts. Where Caltrans once proposed to carve a bypass, we might carve her visage although she would undoubtedly oppose such a sacrilege against the pristine nature of our coast, and perhaps file a lawsuit, if anyone seriously made such a proposal. The Sierra Club's Loma Prieta Chapter may be honoring Lennie Roberts with a Guardian of Nature Award, but in truth they are only stating the obvious over the past many decades. Mother Nature has no greater local and regional guardian, and we are all honored to call her friend and leader as she is honored on October 1st for her lifetime of achievement in service to this nation's environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARAB AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEAGUE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arab American Civil Rights League on the day of the organization's 5th annual Fight for Justice Gala. The ACRL plays an integral role in advocating on behalf of the constitutional and civil rights of Arab Americans through its legal and outreach efforts and continues to serve as a driving force toward meaningful change.

The ACRL was founded in 2011 in Dearborn, Michigan to protect and advocate on behalf of the wider Arab American community. The organization acts as a conduit between Arab Americans and the media to ensure adequate and accurate representation on issues affecting the Arab American community. The ACRL is dedicated to combating negative stereotypes through education and outreach, and providing legal representation for individuals whose civil rights have been violated.

The organization plays a vital role in addressing discrimination and helps shape public policy initiatives that protect and preserve Arab Americans' civil rights. ACRL also works to better the wider community through charitable efforts, including recent efforts to provide bottled water to families in Flint.

The ACRL has effectively served the Arab American community at a time when the principles of religious tolerance and respect are under threat. The ACRL's efforts show that, in a time of uncertainty, there is far more that unites us than divides us. We must all come together to combat the most extreme elements of society while recognizing our common humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the ACRL. The organization serves in the public interest through its anti-discrimination initiatives, and it is my hope that it continues to be an effective advocate for the Arab American community.

TRIBUTE FOR PASTOR JAMES MODLISH

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor James Modlish of the Huerfano Community Bible Church in Walsenburg, Colorado. Pastor Modlish, through his faithful service and commitment to God, has served individuals and families across Colorado and the country for the past fifty years.

Born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, Pastor Modlish received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri. He went on to receive his Doctorate of Divinity from Hyles-Anderson College in Hammond, Indiana. After receiving his Ph.D., Pastor Modlish got to work establishing churches across the nation.

In 2007, after establishing churches in Wisconsin, New York, Washington State, and Idaho, Pastor Modlish came back to Walsenburg in Huerfano County, Colorado, where he and his wife planned to retire. God seemed to have other plans for Pastor Modlish. Shortly after moving to Walsenburg he formed the Huerfano Community Bible Church. Today, the Huerfano Community Bible Church has grown to a congregation of 120 people.

Not only has Pastor Modlish spent his life spreading the gospel in communities across the United States, he has also prioritized sharing God's word across the world. Pastor Modlish has visited 26 different countries to inspire missionaries and share the good news of Christ. He has spread his message from the jungles of the Philippines to the distant villages of Antarctica.

Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of appreciation for Pastor Modlish and his dedication to his church and community, and it is my honor to acknowledge his faithful service.

IN HONOR OF THE OLD HICKORY DIVISION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Old Hickory Division for their service during World War II.

This October 2nd will mark the 72nd Anniversary of the 30th Infantry Division's crossing into Germany during World War II and smashing through Adolf Hitler's vaunted Westwall. The Westwall was designed to keep American forces from driving into the heart of the Ruhr Industrial area, but American forces broke through, destroying Germany's ability to supply its armies.

The 30th Infantry Division, a National Guard Division made up of young men from the Carolinas, Tennessee and Georgia was part of that force that broke through the German lines. The 30th Infantry Division was proudly called "Old Hickory" after Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States.

In less than 100 days after landing on the beaches of Normandy, these men first kept the routes between Omaha and Utah Beach—the two principal American landing sites—open. They then led the charge through the Normandy hedgerows down to Saint-Lô, France. Next, they were the division that spearheaded the Normandy breakout in late July.

Less than two weeks later—in what was agreed to by both American and German commanders as the turning point of World War II in Europe—Old Hickory managed to hold off the onslaught of four German panzer divisions during a fight at Mortain, France that numbered nearly 80,000 Germans against 13,000 brave soldiers from Old Hickory.

By the 2nd of October, 1944, 72 years ago next week, the 30th infiltrated into France and became the first infantry division into Belgium and the Netherlands. This was the longest and fastest military incursion in history.

Two weeks later the men of Old Hickory broke up a massive counterattack put on by the 1st SS Panzer Corps and closed the Aachen Gap, which cut off all supply and reinforcement lines into the ancient imperial city of Aachen and forced its surrender on the 21st of October, 1944. This was the first large German city to be captured by the Allies in WWII.

The 30th followed this success with a rapid advance around the north side of the Ruhr Industrial Pocket, capturing Brunswick and finally capturing Magdeburg on the Elbe River on the 17th of April 1945.

The 30th met the Russian army at Magdeburg and remained in occupation there throughout the month of May when it was turned over to the Russians, as part of their designated occupation territory. This brought the end of the war for the 30th Infantry Division.

After war's end in 1946, General Dwight Eisenhower directed his historian of the European Theater to draw up a rating sheet and rank all of the divisions that fought there.

There were 42 infantry divisions in all.

His staff of 35 officers came to a quick and near unanimous consensus. Old Hickory was merited with the distinction of being the top-rated infantry division in all three major operations performed in Europe during World War II.

A Presidential Unit Citation honoring these men for this achievement was recommended that very same year. But it was never awarded.

Following the end of conflict in Europe, the 30th returned to Ft. Jackson, SC and was deactivated on the 25th of November 1945.

On this anniversary of the crucial breaching of Hitler's vaunted Westwall and subsequent capture of Aachen, I ask this body to pause and remember. Remember the achievements and sacrifice of those members of the greatest generation who belonged to the "most outstanding infantry division" in the European Theater in World War II, the 30th Infantry Division, the Workhorse of the Western Front.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing the 30th Infantry Division for their outstanding service and sacrifice during World War II.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA URBY URRABAZO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of one of Laredo's finest teachers, Yolanda Urby Urrabazo.

Mrs. Urrabazo was born on February 12, 1947 to Juan and Carolina Urby in Del Rio, Texas. She was considered a miracle baby due to being born ten years after her nine siblings. Although her first language was Spanish, she quickly learned English and excelled in her studies. She had straight A's throughout her grade school education and graduated in the top five percent of her class from Del Rio High School in 1965. She was one of the few Hispanics in the National Honor Society all four years and participated in many extracurricular activities. She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish Literature and a minor in English from Texas Woman's University and then a Master's degree in Spanish Literature from The University of Texas-El Paso in 1977. Many of her loved ones knew that her favorite novel was Don Quixote de la Mancha by Cervantes and she could quote Shakespeare eloquently and effortlessly.

Her enthusiasm for literature and poetry was most evident to everyone she met. This eventually led her to a passionate and fulfilling teaching career of 32 years, recently retiring from United High School in June 2016. Yolanda's devotion to her students is shown by her long and passionate career in teaching where she prided herself in teaching in every decade since the 1960s. For decades, she dedicated her life to educating generations of students, including her own seven children. She also inspired two of her daughters, Elizabeth U. Velasquez and Veronica Urrabazo, to follow in her footsteps and become educators themselves. This commitment to education is an inspiration, and serves as reminder for how important educators are to our community. Her dedication to serving others will not be forgotten and will serve as a testament to what we should all strive for.

Mrs. Urrabazo is survived by her beloved husband Ignacio Urrabazo and their seven children (Tom, Elizabeth, Jaime, Yolanda, Veronica, Alejandra, and Claudia) and six grandchildren, as well as her five siblings. Her legacy will live on in the countless people she helped shape—she was intelligent, humble, strong, and compassionate to all. The mentoring and guidance that she provided will be shown throughout the community she touched. I have personally seen her impact through the great work her daughters, Yolanda Urrabazo and Claudia Urrabazo, provided when they worked in my Congressional office. It was clear through their hard work and ability that their mother had taught them very well.

She serves as reminder for how much one person can do to affect so many lives. Not only my family, but students, teachers, community members, and both the young and old, mourn her passing. Her legacy will live on through her good deeds and through our cherished memories. The city of Laredo will miss

her and cherish the kindness and inspiration that she brought to our community and our education system.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to remember the legacy of Yolanda Urby Urrabazo.

IN HONOR OF MRS. ANNA M. DEBRO

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Anna M. Debro of Columbus, Georgia on her 100th birthday. Mrs. Debro is a phenomenal woman who has lived a life of compassion dedicated to serving her community as a triumphant and caring teacher, Christian, and mother.

Anna M. Debro was born in Mississippi on October 3, 1916 to Reverend Louis W. Hooper, an honored educator, and Minnie Hooper. She married the late Presiding Elder James Debro, Sr., and together over their 30 years of marriage, had five children—James Jr., Willie, Lisa, Harriette, and Dwight.

Mrs. Debro graduated from Delta Industrial High School, a historical boarding school for gifted Black children in the Mississippi Delta. In 1941, she earned her undergraduate degree at Alcorn & Campbell College and continued her education at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), where she received her Master's in Math Education in 1960. As a lifelong learner with a passion for education, she sought further studies at the University of Georgia, Florida A&M University, and Tuskegee University.

Over the next 40 years, Mrs. Debro was committed to educating young minds in several capacities. She held the position of Math Department Chair, the Tri Hi Y Chair and Student Advisor, as well as the PTA Chairwoman at Carver High in Columbus, GA from 1954 to 1971. Furthermore, she taught at Columbus High from 1971 to 1978, where she was historically among the first wave of African American teachers to desegregate the Muscogee County School District.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Mrs. Debro has lived a truly blessed life due to her eternal faith in the Lord and her vibrant testimony of His greatness to all whom she encounters, whether they are a member of her community, church or classroom. As a devout servant of God and a member of St. Mark A.M.E. Church for over 70 years, her pledge to Christ is echoed in her compassionate leadership, which makes her a guiding light within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife, Vivian, in extending our best wishes to Mrs. Anna M. Debro on her 100th birthday. As we celebrate another year of this outstanding citizen's life, we would do well to follow the example of her legacy of striving to

be lifelong learners and improving the quality of the communities we touch.

A TRIBUTE TO CIVIL RIGHTS
LEGEND FRANKIE MUSE FREEMAN

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Frankie Muse Freeman, a remarkable American who will soon celebrate her 100th birthday on November 24, 2016. As an exceptional and groundbreaking attorney, Frankie Freeman is a long-time civil rights icon who has set a standard of excellence in the law, housing reform, social justice, protecting the right to vote and personal courage.

Attorney Frankie Muse Freeman is a trailblazer who has been making history for decades. A brilliant, public service-oriented lawyer, she has devoted her life to opening up the doors of equal opportunity for all.

Her career has been exceptional in many ways. It includes her dedicated service as a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and Inspector General of the Community Services Administration, as well as her long time service as an attorney for the St. Louis Housing Authority.

Mrs. Freeman's extraordinary work has been recognized across generations and across this nation. This living legend was instrumental in creating the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights in 1982, inducted into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in 2007, and appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as a Member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars in 2015.

In addition, she has been the recipient of numerous awards such as the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP and the Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession.

I have known Mrs. Freeman since my earliest days growing up in St. Louis. She stood shoulder-to-shoulder with my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, and other national leaders to help break down the walls of segregation. A grand and gracious lady, and a person of total integrity, she has truly been a mentor to me, whose learned opinion I still seek out on a regular basis.

A noted author, she published her memoir, "A Song of Faith and Hope," to critical acclaim in 2003. She is also a Past President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of Congress to join me in honoring Frankie Muse Freeman on her centennial, she has helped so many and continues to inspire us to have courage, to work towards transformative change, and to confront injustice and inequality wherever it exists.

RECOGNIZING THE 105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the 105th anniversary of their National Day, which will take place on October 10, 2016.

Taiwan has close trade ties with the United States, ranking as our country's ninth largest trading partner. Taiwan also represents Kansas' fifth largest export market in Asia, and thirteenth largest export market in the world. In 2014, Kansas' exports to Taiwan reached \$185.4 million.

Every two years, Taiwanese Agricultural Trade Goodwill Missions visit the United States to purchase top quality American agricultural commodities, many of which are produced in my home state.

As a member of Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I cherish the friendship between our two nations and look forward to continuing to work with Ambassador Stanley Kao of Taiwan and his team in Washington, D.C.

TRIBUTE FOR GRAND JUNCTION
CHALLENGER BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Grand Junction Challenger baseball team on qualifying for the Little League World Series Championship game. The Challenger little league baseball team gives special needs children an opportunity to compete in baseball. The program started in 1989 with 12 kids who had a dream of playing baseball, and has turned into an entire league of kids with a passion for America's pastime. Today there are more than 30,000 children participating in more than 900 leagues worldwide.

This year the Challengers Little League World Series games will be broadcast on ESPN. They are one of eight teams from the Grand Junction area to qualify to compete, and will be the first Grand Junction Challengers team to play in this televised game. The whole community is proud of this Grand Junction team that rose to the challenge to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

There is a natural competitiveness to the game, but these kids will take it a step further when they take the field, showcasing their baseball skills and demonstrating that anything is possible in life through perseverance and determination. I look forward to watching them fulfill their dreams of playing baseball in front of a large crowd cheering for them just as fans cheered for Ruth, DiMaggio, Mays, Robinson and Williams.

THANKING CAROLINE KLEMP FOR
HER DEDICATED SERVICE TO
THE HOUSE

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to Ms. Caroline Klemm who, during the past forty-one years, has served the United States House of Representatives in the offices of the House Sergeant at Arms and the Chief Administrative Officer.

In October of this year, Caroline will officially end her tenure at the House.

Caroline began her career with the House Sergeant at Arms in 1975, where she held various financial responsibilities for Members of Congress. In 1993, she began working in the Office of Members' Services under the direction of George Chapin in the Office of Non-Legislative and Financial Services, which later became the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Throughout the years, Caroline has made significant contributions processing and managing Member benefits and payroll for the House. In 1994, Caroline was promoted to Director of Members' Services. In this capacity she is responsible for the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of submissions of all Members' benefits records to the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). She has provided many years of dedication, hard work, and service to Members and their families.

The Members truly view Caroline as a member of their family as she continues to serve them well beyond their House careers.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Caroline for her many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the House. We wish Caroline many wonderful years in fulfilling her retirement dreams.

HONORING MR. CHARLES C.
FIELDER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Representative HUFFMAN, to honor Charles C. Fielder, the Director of Caltrans District 1, upon his retirement on September 29, 2016 from an impressive career that spanned over 28 years as a civil engineer in state and federal transportation planning.

A California native, Mr. Fielder completed his B.S. in Civil Engineering at the University of California, Davis and his Master in Business Administration at Humboldt State University. He moved to Humboldt County in 1988 and has been an active member of his community ever since.

Mr. Fielder began his career with Caltrans as a Junior Civil Engineer and rapidly earned promotions in the agency. He served as a

Transportation Engineer, Senior Transportation Engineer and Supervising Transportation Engineer over the next three years before earning a promotion to Deputy District Director for Program and Project Management. He was appointed District 1 Director in 2003 and has since been responsible for transportation policy and projects across northern California. Mr. Fielder has also served in Sacramento as an Interim Deputy Director for Maintenance and Operations, where he was responsible for over 50,000 lane miles throughout California.

Throughout his career, Mr. Fielder has focused on collaborative approaches to transportation operations. He has served our community well by receiving and implementing suggestions from the public. In addition to his work with Caltrans, he is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and he serves as a committee member on the Transportation Research Board which addresses transportation issues on a national level.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Fielder has dedicated his career to making the process of delivering a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system as transparent as possible. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY MOORE, JR.

HON. BRAD ASHFORD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a beloved Nebraskan whose life was truly an inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Terry Moore, Jr., who has passed away at the age of 47, suffered from a rare developmental disorder known as Williams Syndrome.

Although it brings with it a lifetime of health and learning challenges, Terry refused to let it slow him down as he maintained an extremely rigorous, productive and fulfilling life.

Many Omahans came to know him during his years happily working in the City-County building, as an energetic and most-helpful clerk in the Douglas County Treasurer's office.

This is a most difficult time for Terry's dad, Terry Moore, Sr., a very good friend of mine and longtime Nebraska labor leader.

Terry, I can't begin to understand the pain you are suffering but please know that your son will long be remembered for his never-ending courage and grace as he lived a truly motivating life.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VETOES SUPPORT FOR 9/11 VICTIM FAMILIES

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago, on September 11, 2001, our country was instantly transformed. Three thousand

Americans and people from other nations were murdered at the hands of evil, malicious terrorists.

A few weeks ago Congress granted the families of these victims their basic right under the Constitution of the U.S., to their day in court, the right to sue the perpetrators. President Obama disagrees. He vetoed the bill.

Based on the 28 pages held secret for years, there may be evidence that the country of Saudi Arabia and their officials may have had some involvement in planning the elements of that attack.

As a former judge I am a strong believer in the jury trial to solve such disputes. That is what the courtroom is for. However the administration seems more interested in diplomatic niceties with foreign nations than the victims of 9/11.

Congress must override this veto. The truth needs to be known about who was responsible for the 9/11 attacks. The families of the 9/11 victims deserve to pursue justice because Mr. Speaker, justice is what we do in America.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE MARK L. WILT AMERICAN LEGION POST 210 FOR 95 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the members of the Mark L. Wilt American Legion Post 210 in Middlebury, Indiana, as they celebrate 95 years of service to our community and advocacy on behalf of all veterans.

After its founding in 1921, American Legion Post 210 was named in honor of Mark L. Wilt, a local citizen who was killed in World War I. Post 210 met at several locations until 1969, when construction was completed on their present building on York Road in Middlebury.

Post 210 has grown since its founding, as has its mark on the community. The members of Post 210 have been constant advocates for Northern Indiana veterans, consistently raising charitable donations and honoring the area's veterans through activities such as dedicating headstones for unmarked military graves. Their continued success is due to their standing within the Northern Indiana community as a patriotic organization whose mission helps American veterans within our community and ensures future generations of Hoosiers recognize the sacrifices these heroes made on their behalf.

Because of their many significant contributions to our community and our veterans, I am grateful that the Mark L. Wilt American Legion Post 210 is in Indiana's Second District. It is clear the veterans of Post 210 are still serving the nation long after their active duty has ended.

According to its mission statement, the American Legion "is the nation's largest war-time veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advo-

cating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans." For Hoosiers, Post 210 exemplifies the longstanding tradition of excellence in Indiana.

On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I sincerely congratulate the Mark L. Wilt American Legion Post 210 on their 95th Anniversary, and I wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF HOWARD COUNTY, MISSOURI

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial birthday of Howard County, Missouri, a truly monumental milestone. Howard County was first established in January 23, 1816 as migrants from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia came west looking for room for their families to grow. Twenty-three more counties would be formed from this Missouri "Mother of Counties" which stretched all the way from St. Louis to what was then the edge of the Missouri Territory. After 200 years this thriving rural area, though quite a bit smaller in land mass, is home to more than 10,139 residents, 192 businesses, a plethora of family farms, and one of the loveliest court-houses in Missouri.

I am honored to represent the good people of Howard County and I want to congratulate the leaders of this beautiful area for their efforts in making this county one of the priceless gems of central Missouri.

SEA BOX, INC.

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sea Box, Inc., of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, in its recent award of a 32 million dollar General Services Administration contract to provide the United States Air Force with Containerized Hygiene Systems over the next two years.

Sea Box, Inc., of East Riverton, was established in 1983 and specializes in the design, customization, and manufacturing of ISO containers and related equipment for military and commercial applications. Sea Box directly supports our warfighters and has created 200 manufacturing jobs in New Jersey. This two year contract will provide the United States Air Force with temperature controlled expendable shelters for bathing and storage that can be transported worldwide, utilizing standard military equipment.

Sea Box, Inc., has deep ties to the community and has answered the call of need for our men and women in uniform. I am proud to represent a South Jersey company that is providing shelter and care for our active duty members who sacrifice so much to protect our nation and our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously honored to have Sea Box, Inc., as a part of their community. Sea Box, Inc., has shown a desire to serve our nation and provide for our troops. I am honored to recognize the award of their GSA contract, which will enable them to service our soldiers more efficiently, and to commend Sea Box, Inc., for all of its contributions to our community, before the United State House of Representatives.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
NATHANIEL R. JONES

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great jurists of the United States, Nathaniel R. Jones. Judge Jones was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio, just blocks from the federal courthouse that now bears his name. He served his country valiantly in World War II, and later attended Youngstown College.

Judge Jones was the first African American to serve as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. In 1969, he became General Counsel of the NAACP, where he directed national legal efforts to end school segregation. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Jones to the U.S. Court of Appeals, where he served until he retired from the bench in 2002.

Judge Jones has dedicated his life and career to protecting the rights of all: as a professor at Harvard Law School, an observer in South Africa's first democratic elections, a defender of affirmative action, and an advocate for black servicemen facing discrimination in our newly-integrated military.

At age 90, Judge Jones still serves as Senior Counsel at Blank Rome, LLP in Cincinnati. In October, he will receive the Simeon Booker Award for Courage of which he is so deserving.

Thank you, Judge Jones, for your tireless service to our community, our nation, and our world.

COMMEMORATING DR. JOHN HARVEY'S TENURE OF PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak in honor of a good friend, Dr. John Harvey. Dr. Harvey is the outgoing President of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG), which has close to 8,000 members spanning the entire state of Georgia focused on enhancing patient care and advancing the art and science of medicine.

Dr. Harvey has served Georgians for more than 25 years as a general and trauma sur-

geon in the Atlanta area. During his tenure with MAG, Dr. Harvey started the Medical Reserve Corp. The Medical Reserve Corp assists the state in times of disaster by having trained physicians ready to respond. Before serving as the President, Dr. Harvey was the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the primary legislative and policymaking body for the association, for five years.

Mr. Speaker, despite his full schedule, Dr. Harvey still takes time to teach residents in the transitional year at Gwinnett Medical Center and travels across the state to testify on the behalf of patients and physicians. He is a man I am glad to call a friend and a colleague in medicine. I would like to thank Dr. Harvey on behalf of citizens of the Sixth District of Georgia and the entire state for his service to patients and physicians and his commitment to public health.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
TOBLER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler of the United States Air Force who has been named one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2016.

Aaron enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 2011 and received honors at both basic training and technical school. He is currently a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst assigned to the 50th Intelligence Squadron at Distributed Ground Station—Two at Beale Air Force Base, California. His mission is to exploit high-value targets and satisfy intelligence requirements in support of Combatant Commanders around the World. As a direct result of Staff Sergeant Tobler's work, weapon manufacturing compounds were identified and destroyed, crippling an entire terrorist network. He also facilitated successful overwatch of Joint Task Force troop convoys, ensuring over two thousand miles of roads were clear of threats.

When he's not working for the Air Force, Aaron is an active member in his community. He is a manager with the California Department of Social Services in Sacramento, and serves on the Board of Directors for Rocklin Residents Unite for Fido community group, an organization that offers scholarships to wounded veterans to receive training for their service dogs. He is involved in several community fundraising events, offering strategic support and is a regular blood donor.

Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler exemplifies what it means to be an Outstanding Airman. He has accumulated many accolades and medals in his Air Force career, and now he can add being the first Reservist in the Intelligence Career Field to ever be selected as an Outstanding Airman of the Year as one of his many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Sergeant Tobler and his family are assigned to Beale Air Force Base in my district. And it is my privilege to recognize him here for his outstanding contributions to California and to the United States.

ST. VOLODYMYR UKRAINIAN
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on October 30, 2016 the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding. St. Volodymyr is a part of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA and was established in 1916 as the first independent Ukrainian Church in the United States. The centennial celebration will take place on the 30th day of October 2016, starting with the Hierarchal Dinner Liturgy, led by his eminence metropolitan Anthony and his grace Bishop Daniel at 10:00 am at St. Volodymyr, which has been a source of spiritual strength to its members as they perpetuated their religious heritage and culture at the same time. They also found inspiration from their religion to be active and loyal citizens to the USA and to the city of Chicago.

The festivities then will continue with a member banquet held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center at 2247 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago. Since its inception, the cathedral has been an integral part of life of the community at large. Some notable examples include participating in the 1928 women's world fair at the coliseum, and in the Ukrainian Pavilion during Chicago's 1933 century of progress international exposition; sending its son and daughter to war when the government called; providing help to those in need during troubled times.

I congratulate the St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church for 100 years of spiritual and community service and look forward to 100 years more.

RECOGNITION OF THE TAIWANESE
NATIONAL DAY

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Taiwanese people on their National Day, the 105th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China (Taiwan), celebrated each year on October 10th.

Taiwan is a key ally in the region and shares the important values of freedom and respect for human rights with our country. This year, Taiwan went through a peaceful transition of power with the election of President Tsai Ing-wen, the first woman elected to this office. I was pleased to have productive conversations with President Tsai and my colleagues during a recent visit to Taiwan earlier this year. Taiwan's remarkable democracy serves as a model to neighboring countries.

Both Chambers of Congress passed resolutions earlier this year reaffirming the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. As a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I would like to reiterate

my commitment of support to Taiwan and its self-defense capabilities.

Once again, I extend my best wishes for a Happy Double Tenth Day to the people of Taiwan and our Taiwanese American friends at home.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a sys-

tem for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

SENATE—Thursday, September 29, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You sustain us with Your unfailing love, for Your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Use our Senators to accomplish Your purposes in our Nation and world. May they tackle the complex challenges of our times with the confidence that Your providence will prevail. Train them in the school of humility so that they will walk safely without stumbling. May they remember that humility precedes honor.

Lord, bless and protect America, making it a land that provides freedom's lamp to our world. Incline each citizen to hear Your words of truth and to apply his or her heart to knowledge.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in this Republican Congress—especially as we head out for yet another unearned recess—I feel compelled to comment on how Republicans have treated the President of the United States during the last 8 years.

History will look back and note that the Republicans in Congress treated President Obama with unprecedented disrespect. No one expected them to agree with everything that he did or tried to do, but Americans deserve better than the way Republicans behaved toward President Obama.

A day or two after President Obama was elected the first time, Republicans met here in Washington—all the Republican big names—and they came to two conclusions. No. 1, Obama would not be reelected. They failed on that one quite miserably. But No. 2, they

would oppose everything that President Obama tried to do, and they have stuck by that without any question.

America would be better off with a responsible opposition party that found a way to make its differences with President Obama clear without treating him with such contempt. But, sadly, that is not what they saw from Republicans over the past 8 years.

President Obama is the first President to be denied a hearing on his budget. He is the first President to be denied a hearing on a Supreme Court nominee. President Obama is the first President to be asked to show his birth certificate. President Obama is the first President who has faced over 500 filibusters here in the Senate. In this Republican Senate, President Obama will see fewer nominations confirmed than any President in many, many decades.

Republicans have not done their basic work of government, and they have not stood by their commitments to restore regular order or to pass a budget.

Republicans have spent their time doing everything in their power to discredit President Obama and empower Donald Trump. That is not a legacy that any Senator should be proud of.

I listened to public radio this morning, and the Arizona Republic, from the big city of Phoenix, right next to Nevada, for the first time in its history of more than 120 years—for the first time in its history—endorsed a Democratic Presidential nominee. It had never been done before. It is a Republican newspaper. I listened to the editor of the newspaper on the radio this morning saying they couldn't. Why? Because of Donald Trump.

The legacy of Donald Trump should not be anything the Republicans are proud of. The only thing Republicans have done this year was to prove that they are the party of Trump. They are the party of Trump. They say they are not the party of Trump, but they are. They would have us believe that Trump just fell out of the sky and somehow mysteriously became the nominee of the party, but that is not the way it is.

Everything he has said, stood for, done in this bizarre campaign he has run has come, filtered up, from what has gone on here in the Republican Senate—disagreeing with everything—anything—President Obama wanted. They filibustered things they agreed with just to slow things down.

Trump is no anomaly. He is the monster the Republicans built. He is their Frankenstein monster. They own him.

All we have to do to see that the Republicans are the party of Trump is to

look at the way they have treated President Obama. He is a good man, a good family man. He has a great education. He is a good communicator. He has written two best-selling books. Everyone knows he can communicate orally. He deserved better than the unprecedented disrespect the Republicans have shown toward him.

America, which twice elected Barack Obama to be its President, deserves better—much, much better. It is a shame what has not been done, and it is a shame what has been done.

Mr. President, I note that my friend the Republican leader is not here. I will suggest the absence of a quorum, and the Chair can announce the business of the day following his appearance here.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 954

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 954) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

TRIBUTE TO DALLAS POLICE CHIEF DAVID BROWN

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to start today by offering a word of gratitude to retiring Dallas police chief David Brown, who will retire from his long career of public service this Tuesday.

Chief Brown became the face of a terrible tragedy that occurred in Texas a few weeks ago when five police officers were gunned down in cold blood. Frankly, I had many colleagues and other people whom I have run into ask me about him because he made such a positive impression with his calmness under difficult circumstances and his leadership qualities.

The incident occurred last July when 12 law enforcement officers were shot, and 5 were killed. I remember attending the memorial service with President Obama and the First Lady, as well as President George W. Bush and Laura Bush, and the chief spoke then along with Mayor Rawlings. I can't tell you how grateful I am that, at a time when people think Washington has lost its way, we still have strong, articulate, compassionate leaders like Chief Brown and Mayor Rawlings.

Chief Brown is retiring after 33 years of service to the Dallas police force. As a result of the attention he got from all of the publicity surrounding this terrible tragedy in July, the chief became a little bit of a folk hero, I guess, and people began to listen to what he had to say about a lot of different things. One of the things he would like to say is "Dallas loves." He made that a bit of a rallying cry following the attack. His actions in the aftermath of that tragedy certainly demonstrated his belief in that statement.

Of course, while many Americans know Chief Brown from his leadership during the shooting in July, Dallasites have benefited from his service for a long time. He grew up in Oak Cliff in southwest Dallas and has been on the Dallas police force for the last 33 years. I know the people of Dallas will miss his leadership and hearing him sing a little Stevie Wonder from time to time.

I want to express my gratitude and thanks to Chief Brown and wish him well in the next chapter of his life.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION AND SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday we finally were able to move legislation forward that would keep the lights on here in Washington, at least until December, and provided very important relief that I want to emphasize.

There is flood relief for States like Texas, but not just Texas—Maryland, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Iowa, all of which will benefit from the flood relief that is provided for in this continuing resolution that was passed yes-

terday and was passed by the House as well.

More importantly, perhaps, is the support for veterans programs and military construction. It is important that we pass legislation to meet our responsibilities to support our men and women in uniform wherever they may be serving, whether here at home or abroad.

Thanks to the leadership of the Senator from Ohio and the Senator from New Hampshire, we passed legislation that will provide additional funds to deal with the opioid epidemic that is ravaging many parts of our country. As a medical doctor, the Presiding Officer knows that people unfortunately get hooked on opioid prescription drugs. Frequently, when that runs out, they often opt for cheaper, more plentiful heroin, which, when mixed with other ingredients such as fentanyl, makes it even more deadly and more likely that they will overdose with the use of this heroin laced with fentanyl. We have provided additional funds in this continuing resolution to deal with that.

Finally, but very significantly, we also were able to break the impasse over funding for Zika. As we have come to learn, Zika is a mosquito-borne virus that has the potential of causing terrible birth defects in children. We have seen pictures of children with shrunken skulls from the microcephaly caused by this terrible mosquito-borne virus.

We had been trying since last May to get that Zika funding done. For some reason, even though the amount of the funding, \$1.1 billion, was agreed upon, our Democratic colleagues wouldn't take yes for an answer. Finally, yesterday, they decided to give up their filibuster and allow this legislation and this important funding to be done. My point is that we could have done this a long time ago. In fact, we wouldn't have had to pass the continuing resolution taking us over to December—just 10 weeks from now, when we will have to start all over again—if it weren't for the obstructionism and filibustering of our Democratic colleagues.

Of course, the cause of this is a fight over Federal spending. We know there are caps on discretionary spending, and many of our Members, myself included, have become very concerned in this very dangerous world we live in that we have shortchanged our military and our national security support. So in order to get additional spending for our troops abroad and at home and to make sure that we are prepared for the next threat to our country, we increased spending for the Department of Defense, but the costs of doing that were increases in nondefense discretionary spending. Thus we get back into the same old fight, which unfortunately has left us \$19 trillion in debt, where spending is simply out of control.

That is the reason we ended up in this posture. It is highly regrettable. Nobody would have chosen this—certainly I wouldn't have—as a first option. Now we are going to be confronted with the responsibility in December of passing appropriations bills that will take us through the next year, through the end of the fiscal year. So we have this resolution taken care of. It is behind us now, and that looms large ahead of us.

I want to mention some of the good work being done in Texas by folks like the Harris County Mosquito & Vector Control unit. A few weeks ago, I had a chance to go on the rounds with them and set some of the traps for various mosquitoes.

Actually, I got this idea from listening to Mike Rowe, who has this "Dirty Jobs" series, and I noticed one of them happened to be mosquito control. It occurred to me that maybe there was something for me to learn about how local leaders like those in Harris County identify these mosquitoes that bear this Zika virus and how they deal with it. I got a firsthand look at how much work it takes for our local public health officials to protect our communities from mosquito-borne viruses.

It is not just about Zika. It is also about the West Nile virus, which unfortunately has taken the lives of some Texans in the past, as well as other diseases such as dengue fever. The Presiding Officer knows all of them.

Our folks at the local level do have their work cut out for them. They trap these mosquitoes every day to test them for the virus, and they spend a lot of time educating the public about how to better protect themselves. I walked around with them, and they pointed out places where water has been pooled in old tires or in swimming pools in the backyard or perhaps birdbaths or other places where mosquitoes, if they are given an opportunity, will simply breed.

This is one way, by being better educated, that people can help protect themselves from these mosquito-borne viruses by eliminating the breeding ground for these mosquitoes. If you are a woman of childbearing age, being able to dress appropriately, spray yourself with mosquito repellent, and otherwise help yourself while we are waiting for the Federal Government to live up to its responsibility to provide the funds, which now we have finally done, would help.

It became clear to me in our visits to Houston that our local officials need more help. More specifically, what they need is the research that will lead to a vaccine. We went through this experience in another context with the Ebola virus not that long ago. It is important that our scientists and researchers develop a vaccine to particularly protect women of childbearing age from the consequences of the Zika virus.

We need a whole government response. We finally got one yesterday, one that deploys local, State, and Federal authorities.

The funding bill we passed yesterday outlines a way forward for the Federal Government to do its part that will provide funding for communities in Texas and throughout the country. They are already working diligently to safeguard folks against the virus. As I mentioned, it will go a long way in helping local and State officials with prevention efforts and even working to create a vaccine. I am pleased we finally were able to get that done and overcome the impasse created by objections, obstructions, and filibusters of our friends across the aisle.

Beyond getting this funding for the Zika research and prevention done, I wish to identify a few other things that we have been able to accomplish. As I came to the floor and said a couple of days ago, the senior Senator from Montana, who happens to head up the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, was caught basically telling the truth when he said that one of the things they are depending on is a narrative to help Democrats in the selection, this false narrative that under the Republican majority, under Republican leadership, we simply hadn't been getting many things done.

We have been doing a lot to take care of the Nation's business during the events of the last 2 days, including the Water Resources Development Act that passed with 95 votes, which includes additional funding for Flint, MI, and their lead pipe water challenges.

I mentioned the opioid crisis and heroin crisis. Recently, we passed a bill called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act by more than 90 votes. As I mentioned, the junior Senators from Ohio and New Hampshire have provided such great leadership in that area.

We also passed other reforms for chemical safety, the so-called TSCA bill, which provides companies with regulatory certainty so they can continue to create products Americans use every day. This bill proves we can responsibly protect the environment at the same time we are growing our economy. This legislation passed the Senate by a voice vote and received more than 400 votes in the House.

We also passed legislation to impose stronger sanctions on North Korea in February. It sailed through this Chamber with one "no" vote.

Of course, we also took care of intractable problems that we had trouble getting any traction on for a long time, major reform bills such as the Energy Policy Modernization Act to help bring our Nation's energy infrastructure up-to-date, as well as to expedite the permitting of liquefied natural gas exports, which the Presiding Officer has worked on a lot. I was just at Sabine

Pass. Cheniere has a huge export facility for natural gas. Golden Pass and others are in the process of trying to get their permits, but they have been waiting a long time. This legislation will provide a shot clock, which will hopefully expedite that process. The energy we have been able to produce in this country is a great natural resource for the United States and a great economic engine. To make it available to our friends and allies around the world is very important. The Energy Policy Modernization Act as well as lifting the ban on crude oil, which we did last December, have been very important steps.

I was discussing with the senior Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER, chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, the important work we did reforming the bill known as No Child Left Behind with the Every Student Succeeds Act. This legislation was very important because many people had the impression that Washington had simply taken control of our K-12 education system. Under his skillful leadership, working with Senator MURRAY in the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, they were able to write a piece of legislation that passed with overwhelming bipartisan margins that would devolve the control of K-12 education back to the States, local school districts, parents, and teachers. It literally removed the common core mandate that so many people had chafed under.

We also finally have passed a Medicare payment reform system that had long plagued our medical community. I know many physicians in Texas told me they simply would not be able to take any more Medicare patients—which of course are our senior citizens—because the Federal Government kept cutting their payment rate and the uncertainty created by that. We finally fixed that on a bipartisan basis.

Under the new majority in this Congress, we also saw President Obama sign other important laws, such as the Freedom of Information Improvement Act, a bill that will make our government more transparent and more accountable to the people we serve. By an overwhelming 99-to-1 vote, we passed the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, a bill that will help victims of human trafficking recover.

We will support law enforcement in their fight against active shooters by passing and signing into law the POLICE Act, legislation that allows existing grant programs to be used for police training to deal with active shooter situations. I have traveled all around Texas with local police departments in both urban and rural areas, and they find this training very useful and timely.

Unfortunately, it is necessary, in times such as these where we have had

to learn from hard experience—if an active shooter is loose, they will continue to kill and people will continue to die unless the police can crash that site, stop the shooter, and then rescue, with emergency medical people, the people who are injured.

By all accounts, I have to say the Senate, under Republican leadership, with cooperation from our Democratic colleagues—because of course nothing happens around here unless it is bipartisan. That is the way this place is constructed. That is the way the Constitution is written. I am grateful that under the leadership and steady hand of Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL of Kentucky, we have gotten back to work and taken care of the country's business.

Of course, we still have disagreements like we had over spending bills that led up to this continuing resolution, and in the lameduck it will leave us with having to deal with the long-term spending bills this December, but I simply want to make the point that leadership matters. Under the leadership of Senator MCCONNELL, our committees are now actively producing legislation on a bipartisan basis that is then available to the majority leader to bring to the floor for us to debate, for Senators to offer suggestions for improvement by way of amendment and allow everybody to participate in that process to vote on the legislation and then bring it to the President's desk.

I hope we can continue to put sound policy over the sort of partisan politics that left us in the uncomfortable and unenviable position we were in yesterday, trying to meet a deadline to keep the government up and running. With a little cooperation and a little elevation of responsibility to our constituents and the people we serve, rather than partisan politics, I think we can continue to do better.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3464 and S. 3462 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. LANKFORD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, before the Senate adjourns this afternoon, I want to remind my colleagues that National Domestic Violence Awareness Month begins on Saturday.

Throughout the month of October, we are called to increase public awareness and understanding of domestic violence. As noted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, domestic violence thrives when we remain silent. That is why I recently introduced a resolution to commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

As stated in our resolution, Congress should continue to raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States. We also should pledge our continued support for programs designed to assist survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and bring an end to domestic violence.

I thank my colleagues, Senators LEAHY, AYOTTE, and KLOBUCHAR, for joining as original cosponsors of the resolution. It passed the Senate unanimously on September 15. Through the enactment of other key measures—such as the Violence Against Women Act, the Family Violence Prevention Act, and the Victims of Crime Act—Congress has made support to survivors a national priority for over three decades. Through the enactment of laws criminalizing domestic violence at the State and local level, we also have sent a strong signal to abusers that domestic violence is not a private matter, but a public issue.

We have come a long way, but our work is far from complete. Even now, domestic violence affects more than 12 million people each year in the United States, including women, men, and children of every age and socioeconomic status. Research also suggests that young women between the ages of 18 and 34 are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence. The negative effects of this crime go far beyond the confines of individual households. It impacts our communities when the victims of domestic violence are forced to choose between continued abuse or financial insecurity and even homelessness. It impacts our economy when the victims of this crime miss work and school.

Thankfully, there are many individuals and organizations in Iowa and elsewhere around the country that work around the clock to meet the needs of victims. They include the crisis hotline personnel who provide peer-to-peer support or counseling to victims across the Nation. They include the staff and volunteers at shelters, who provide safe havens for victims

fleeing abuse in communities. They include the advocates who champion prevention initiatives and resources for victims at the State and Federal levels. Last, but certainly not least, they include the first responders who compassionately respond to victims of domestic violence in their most vulnerable moments. These men and women put their lives at risk when responding to domestic abuse calls, which can be among the most volatile they will experience. We thank them for their never-ending service.

Mr. President, once again, I thank my colleagues for passing this resolution unanimously. It is important that we continue to support the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING SHIMON PERES

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute and reflect on the legacy of Israeli leader, two-time Prime Minister, and ninth President of Israel Shimon Peres. I extend my condolences to the family of Shimon Peres and to the people of Israel.

Today you have lost a towering leader who leaves behind a legacy of moral clarity and hope. I had the opportunity to meet Shimon Peres on numerous occasions. After each meeting, I walked away inspired and hopeful, having benefited immensely from his insight and perspective on a number of difficult global issues.

Shimon Peres was not only one of the world's greatest statesmen but an ardent and committed advocate for peace. Given Shimon Peres's personal history and journey, it is truly remarkable that in his final years he refused to give in to cynicism and acrimony.

As an immigrant to Israel, he was part of the grand project that cultivated a thriving country and society. As a warrior, he made sure that Israel was always ready and able to defend itself. As a politician, he contributed to the lively and robust democracy that the Israelis enjoy today, but he never shied away from reaching out across lines if he thought that was in Israel's interest.

As a friend to the United States, his legacy is the unshakeable bond between our two countries, our governments, and our people. As a leader, he showed the world that extending a hand and daring to work for peace is worthy and just. He shared the Nobel

Peace Prize in 1994 with Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin. The legacy of the Oslo Accords remains active today.

We must continue to work toward a two-state solution, a Jewish and Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security. Shimon Peres's legacy is the patient, difficult, taxing, and necessary work of negotiations. It is only through direct negotiations and direct contact between the two sides, Israelis and Palestinians, that we can achieve this objective.

Shimon Peres leaves behind incredibly important initiatives, such as the Peres Center for Peace. This is a peace-building organization that seeks to foster personal and professional interactions between Israelis and Palestinians, Arabs and Jews.

I want to pay tribute to Shimon Peres's morality and courage. He called for reconciliation in times of strife. We can fill his legacy by turning this sober and sad occasion to a call for direct talks between the Israelis and Palestinians, for boldness and courage to return to the negotiating table to fulfill the dream and meet the expectations of so many living in this part of the world who are so desperately seeking peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The Senator from Michigan.

NASA

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I rise to speak about NASA and the human exploration program. NASA and our industry partners have made incredible progress in space exploration, and we are now closer to human missions into deep space than we have been since we last left the Moon nearly 45 years ago. We have set a lofty but achievable goal. We are going to Mars, and we are building the rockets and infrastructure to get us there.

Achieving a complex, long-term goal can be challenging for a government, and this is especially true during an administration transition. But we can't let up on the development if we are going to put a human on Mars. That is why I, along with a number of my Commerce Committee colleagues, recently introduced the NASA Transition Authorization Act of 2016. This bipartisan bill will ensure that NASA maintains a continuity of purpose over the next year. The NASA Transition Authorization Act will give NASA the stability needed to keep NASA's important missions moving through 2017. It is not just important to the agency, it is something that is particularly important to the thousands of small- and medium-sized businesses across the country where dedicated men and women are working hard to move our space program forward.

With this bill, we are sending a strong message to companies like Futuramic Tool & Engineering in Michigan. They are so proud to help build the rockets that will take us to Mars, and all of us in the Congress must stand solidly behind their efforts.

A few weeks ago, I visited the Kennedy Space Center to witness the launch of the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft, a science mission that will take a sample from an asteroid and return that sample back to Earth. I saw the launch infrastructure taking shape for the massive SLS rocket and the assembly and testing of the Orion crew capsule that will launch in 2018 aboard SLS. I also saw amazing work by Boeing, SpaceX, and the United Launch Alliance on their rockets and spacecraft, which will start sending U.S. astronauts to the International Space Station in a couple of years. When you see the scale of these gigantic structures and the intricacy of the machinery, you really get a sense of how much power, energy, and precision it takes to conduct these very ambitious missions, and you see why we can't stop this momentum toward space. We are going boldly, and we are going to stay, and this legislation makes that point very clear.

Importantly, this bill authorizes the entire agency, reaffirming that NASA is a multimission agency with important missions in space technology, aeronautics, exploration, and education.

I am particularly pleased that the legislation underscores the importance of NASA's science programs. Investing in NASA's science mission leads to research and development of new technologies. These technologies increase the competitiveness of our space program and at the same time shed light on ways we can protect and improve our planet Earth. I cannot overstate the importance of this work to our Nation, our planet, and to humanity as a whole. I agree with many in the scientific community who believe we need to increase our investments in NASA science missions, aeronautics, and other areas of the agency, and I will work to improve these programs more comprehensively in future legislation.

I am also pleased that parts of my bill reinforces NASA's ongoing efforts to educate the scientists and astronauts of the future. Earlier this year, Senator GARDNER and I introduced legislation to promote American competitiveness through investments in research and STEM education. NASA's inspiring exploration and science missions make the agency uniquely positioned to engage students in STEM subjects. I witnessed this firsthand when former astronaut Charlie Precourt joined me in speaking to a group of Michigan students last year. I can assure you the students were much more excited to talk to a former astronaut than a U.S. Senator.

It is also my hope that we can move forward and pass the space weather bill

that Senator GARDNER and I introduced earlier this year. This legislation assigns roles to the various Federal agencies involved with space weather and improves the research and observations needed to better predict space weather events. The space weather bill, together with the NASA bill, represents a strong and positive bipartisan consensus for our space program, including space science. Heliophysics, or the study of the Sun, is a critical component of NASA's science research mission and has major implications for life here on Earth.

I was also pleased to see that NASA's new Associate Administrator for Science, University of Michigan professor Dr. Thomas Zurbuchen, has a strong background in space weather. I wish him good luck in his new role.

I wish to congratulate Senator CRUZ, Chairman THUNE, Ranking Member NELSON, Senator WICKER, Senator RUBIO, Senator UDALL, and Senator CANTWELL for their hard work on the NASA transition act, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that NASA has a steady path forward to keep making groundbreaking discoveries and inspiring Americans for years to come.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

AMENDING THE GULLAH/GEECHEE CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 573, H.R. 3004.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3004) to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3004) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BATHROOMS ACCESSIBLE IN EVERY SITUATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5147, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5147) to amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5147) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC SALES OF LIVESTOCK ACT OF 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5883, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5883) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5883) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RANDY D. DOUB UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Environment and Public Works Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3937 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3937) to designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the "Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3937) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 527.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 527) recognizing the 75th anniversary of the opening of the National Gallery of Art.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 527) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 12, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

SUPPORTING LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 578, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 578) supporting Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 20, 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 578) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 26, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 591, S. Res. 592, S. Res. 593, and S. Res. 594.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

S. RES. 593

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today as the chairman of the Senate Aging Committee to speak about the bipartisan resolution I have introduced with Senator MCCASKILL designating September 22, 2016—the first day of the fall season—as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day. The purpose of this designation is to better educate seniors, families, and caregivers—as well as government and civic organizations—about the practices, programs, and policies that can be taken to reduce the risk of falls.

Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults. Older adults are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population, and the number is projected to increase from 46.2 million in 2014 to 82.3 million in 2040. As more Americans age, falls will become even more numerous and costly than they are now.

In 2014, approximately 2.8 million older Americans were treated in emergency rooms after falling, and more than 800,000 were subsequently hospitalized. Tragically, more than 27,000 of them died as a result of their injuries.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts these staggering statistics in a context that really brings the problem home: one out of every three seniors falls each year; every 13 seconds, a senior is treated in an emergency room for a fall; every 20 seconds, a senior dies from a fall.

In addition to the human toll, these falls generate enormous economic costs. The annual total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults is approximately \$34 billion. As more members of the baby boomer generation reach retirement age, these costs could nearly double within the next 5 years.

Beyond the pain, suffering, and expense, falls can affect a senior's ability to live independently and can lead to a compromised quality of life, and thus to isolation and depression. Many people who fall, even if they are not in-

jured, can develop a fear of falling. This may cause them to limit their activities, resulting in reduced mobility and physical activity.

As a Senator representing the state with the oldest median age, I am especially concerned that Maine is eighth in the Nation in the percentage of seniors who suffer falls. Seniors in Maine who fall experience an average medical cost of approximately \$16,000, according to the most recent statistics available. Fortunately, there are many organizations throughout Maine, including several Area Agencies on Aging, which provide important fall awareness programs, such as risk assessments, and exercise and balance programs.

Our resolution urges relevant Federal, State, and local organizations to work to help educate seniors about ways they can reduce the risks that may result from a fall, including injury and even death. The resolution also recognizes that evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education. Family members and other caregivers can also help seniors evaluate their homes for fall-inducing hazards and modify their living space with adequate lighting and assistive devices, such as grab bars in the shower or tub, to help ensure a safe environment.

There are more steps we can take. The costs of even minor modifications like grab bars and hand rails can add up quickly, while more expensive projects such as widening doorways or installing a ramp are financially unrealistic for far too many seniors. Several existing Federal programs can help seniors make these needed modifications to their homes, but few seniors are aware of them. To address this issue, I have joined Senators KING and AYOTTE in sponsoring S. 3230, the Senior Home Modification Assistance Initiative Act, which would improve awareness and better coordinate existing Federal programs.

Falling is not an inevitable consequence of aging. Practical lifestyle adjustments, evidence-based prevention programs, community partnerships, and continued research are among the tools available to reduce falls. Fall-related injuries have a devastating impact on the lives of our seniors, their families, and their communities. Our goal is to unite professionals, older adults, caregivers, and family members so that they might all play a part in raising awareness and preventing falls.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM BILL

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak briefly about what occurred yesterday on the Senate floor when the Senate and the House of Representatives overrode a veto in order to ensure that the victims of 9/11 had an outlet, if you will, to try to seek justice and compensation. It was not as satisfactory as most in this body would hope. I am hopeful that over the course of time between now and the lameduck, or shortly thereafter, we will have a way to rectify some of the issues that concern us.

I don't think many Members are aware of that fact that Senator CARDIN and I attempted throughout the last weekend to set up a meeting with the White House to go over options that could, in fact, be more beneficial to our country and, at the same time, give some justice to the people of 9/11. I think many people here know that there were Saudi officials here seeking to come up with some option that might work better than the option that we all opted for, with none other available, yesterday.

We were unable to get the President to convene a meeting that we had hoped would include the Secretary of State—we had a couple of conversations with Secretary Kerry and I also had conversations directly with the White House—and to set up a meeting between the President and Secretary Kerry, and, of course, Leader McCONNELL, Leader REID, Senator CARDIN, and myself, as well as the two major sponsors of the bill. The purpose was to see if the issues with the bill that we voted on yesterday could be resolved via a better route. Was there another option that we could consider, and could we develop a timeframe where that could be considered to take us to an improvement over where we were yesterday?

For reasons that still are unknown to me, that was not achievable. There was no desire whatsoever to sit down and meet. I am unaware of any meetings that took place to try to resolve this issue. My friends on the other side of the aisle mentioned that they did have

a letter read to them at lunch one day regarding the President's views. But now we have passed a bill. In fact, the victims of 9/11, whom many of us have met with, now have an outlet to try to seek justice. I think there was a desire—as was written yesterday in a letter, which many Senators here signed and many others have discussed—to amend what occurred yesterday to put us in a better place.

So it is my hope, now that we have a piece of legislation that has become law, that maybe the executive branch—which, by the way, we tried to get to engage in this issue over this entire last year—will sit down with us and figure out an option that might work a little better than what passed yesterday on the floor. That hasn't occurred. There just has been no engagement. Even at the last minute, with the first veto override facing the administration, there was just an unwillingness to sit down and discuss routes that can take us to a better place.

So I know there is a desire on the House side, I know there is a desire in this body, as was widely expressed yesterday, and I know there is a desire—no doubt—for the victims to be able to get answers to the questions they have had and to seek, in their minds, justice. There is a desire for that. But there is also a desire to do so in a manner that will not possibly undermine other equities that the U.S. Government and our people have.

So I am hopeful that over the course of the next 6 weeks—last night I had a discussion with a Saudi official whom I know is desirous of sitting down and pursuing that, as they have been over the course of the last week—now that this has become law, the administration will be willing to do the same. My sense is that, with some of the comments that are going to be made publicly and some of the back-and-forth that will occur over the next 6 weeks, I am hopeful that the major sponsors of this bill, who are leaders in this body, will be willing to do that so that we will be able to create some alterations that, unfortunately, were not available to us yesterday to cause this piece of legislation to better serve U.S. national interests.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEROIN EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I am on the floor to talk about an epi-

demic that has gripped my State of Ohio and affected every single State in this body in every community we represent; that is, the issue of prescription drug, heroin, and now fentanyl and other synthetic heroin addiction.

This epidemic is affecting our communities in fundamental ways. It is breaking families apart. It is causing crime. In fact, in my home State of Ohio, as I talk to law enforcement officials in every county, they tell me it is the top reason for crime and the growth of crime.

It is affecting our first responders. When I go to a firehouse now and talk to firefighters about what they do with most of their time, they tell me they do a lot more heroin runs than fire runs, and thank God because they are out there saving lives every single day. They now carry Narcan with them, which is a form of naloxone, which is a miracle drug that reduces the dangers because it reverses the effects of an overdose. They have provided Narcan 19,000 times in the last year in Ohio. This is something that is out there in all of our communities.

Sometimes there is a huge spike in these overdoses. Sadly, we had that this week in Columbus, OH, when in the space of 24 hours we had 27 overdoses. I have been working with the county coroner's office and with the health department in the city of Columbus to try to help them determine what the cause of this spike in overdoses was. It appears to be another case where there is a particularly dangerous batch of heroin, and it probably has something to do with these synthetic heroins that are coming into the States and our country—fentanyl, carfentanil, or U-4. A few flakes of carfentanil ingested can kill you. This is very dangerous stuff. I wish I could say it is getting better, but I fear it is only getting worse.

I have been on this floor talking about this issue every single week since February. During that time period, we passed, by a vote of 92 to 2, legislation to help address this issue. A vote of 92 to 2 is a rare vote in this place. Because Republicans and Democrats came together on this issue, we were able to pass something that will help. We spent 3½ years working on it—my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and I and others were very involved—to help ensure that we can get better prevention and education efforts out there; do more in terms of treatment for people who are addicted and need to get help; provide longer term recovery, which we believe is essential to successful treatment because all the facts indicate that unless you have the longer term recovery, the relapse rate is very high.

We also help our police officers, our firefighters, and other first responders by saying: Let's get them the Narcan they need and the training they need to be able to save those lives.

Very specifically, it also helps our veterans and pregnant women who are addicted and these babies born with dependency. Some very specific programs are going to help to turn the tide.

Overall, I would say the legislation is important because for the first time ever not only is Congress supporting recovery, as we talked about, but we are also finally addressing this issue as it needs to be addressed, as a public health issue, saying that this is not a question of someone making a bad moral choice as much as it is a disease. It needs to be treated like a disease. Until addiction is treated as a disease, I think it is going to be very difficult for us to turn this tide and begin to save these lives.

In my home State, it has been the top cause of accidental death, surpassing car accidents, probably since 2007. Sadly, that is now the case in many States around the country. Nationally, we believe it is the No. 1 cause of accidental death. Think about that.

It is a situation that affects every State and our entire country, so in the legislation that was passed yesterday, called the continuing resolution, which is basically just a bill to continue the funding of government through December—it is a short-term spending bill—we were able to include \$37 million to help implement this legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. I am very proud of that. I am very pleased that this Senate and the House were willing to go along with that.

I know it is unusual because typically in a continuing resolution, you simply fund the previous year's funding and there are no new programs, no new starts. Frankly, the administration did not recommend a new start in this instance, although they did recommend an anomaly or an addition to the CR in 27 other areas. We had to rely on Members in the House and the Senate to do the right thing, to make an exception, and to include this funding. I thank my colleagues for doing that.

I think it is critical that we begin to fully fund this Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act—otherwise known as CARA—and do it now and not wait until the regular appropriations process in December.

That \$37 million will help us stand up some programs. In particular, there are four I want to mention this morning. One is the community-based coalition prevention grants, the second is the grants for access to overdose treatment, the third is the recovery grants, and the fourth is the State incentive grants for a comprehensive response to this opioid issue. In other words, we are dealing with prevention, education, treatment, and recovery, helping the States be more engaged and involved in this issue so the Federal Government can be a better partner.

On the prevention side, what it does is start to tell people what is going on. We are doing that here today on the floor but specifically to let people know what this connection is between prescription drugs, prescription drug overprescribing and abuse, and heroin and fentanyl. The reason I think this is very important is that probably four out of five heroin addicts in Ohio started with prescription drugs. Many people don't know that. When they are prescribed a prescription drug for pain relief, sometimes they don't realize the potential for addiction.

To the young people who are listening today, you need to know this. You need to understand this. Everybody does. Again, if we are going to turn the tide, we have to change the way we deal with it to ensure that people are getting the education they need to avoid getting into the funnel of addiction in the first place.

This program called CARA also increases the availability naloxone, or Narcan, which is very important. It has long-term recovery grants, including grants for recovery colleges, recovery universities. In other words, there are programs within colleges and universities to help on recovery because unfortunately we are finding that many of our students need these recovery programs as they are trying to work through their addiction. It also supports recovery high schools and increases eligibility for alternatives to incarceration—drug courts and veterans courts. So instead of putting people in jail for using these drugs, we say: Let's do a diversion. If you stay sober and clean, you will stay out of jail and we will get you into treatment. As I have seen around our State, these programs can help people get back on their feet.

These are critical changes. The experts who helped us write this legislation over the last 3½ years, who came here to Washington, where we held four different conferences on this issue and brought in the best minds, the best practices, tell us they believe this legislation will make a difference in our communities day to day.

Of course, it is up to the administration to actually implement this aggressively. Congress has done its work to pass these new programs, to pass this legislation. Now it shifts over to the executive branch to administer it. There is no excuse that the funding is not there because we were able to provide this funding. It is an exception to a normal CR, but we got the \$37 million of funding in to begin to get these programs up and running so we can begin to turn the tide on this addiction epidemic.

There are some aspects of the legislation that are already working that don't require a new program or setting up a new program. For instance, nurse practitioners and physician's assist-

ants are now permitted to be involved in administering Suboxone at treatment clinics around the country. We should get that up and going now. That shouldn't require a lot of time, effort, and new programs.

Earlier this week, I had the opportunity to visit a fire station in Norwood, OH. This is a community of about 19,000 people that has had 56 overdoses since June 1. That is one small town in Ohio with 56 overdoses just since this summer. I met with law enforcement, I met with firefighters, and I met with other first responders. I met with a treatment specialist they brought in to help and work with them. They are doing some very interesting intervention work with families. They showed me a video of a young man who was overdosing. They showed me a video of police officers and then firefighters administering Narcan—not once, not twice, but three times. They showed how he was brought back to life. It was tough to watch, but firefighters and other first responders, police officers, see that every single day.

Every 3 hours someone dies of an overdose in Ohio, but every 3 hours many more are saved by the administering of naloxone and Narcan to bring them back to life. As they are doing in Norwood, OH, the key is to intervene with that person, their family, and their friends and get that person into treatment so first responders are not administering Narcan again the next week or sometimes even the next day.

Over the last 4 years, the number of heroin overdoses has tripled. Let me repeat that. Over the last 4 years, the number of heroin overdoses has tripled. Sadly, there is reason to believe this trend is continuing.

Even though our first responders save the vast majority of those who overdose in Ohio, in Ohio we are losing more lives every day. We have already had more drug overdoses and more drug overdose deaths this year, at the end of September, than we had all of last year.

Of course, the numbers don't really tell the story. This story is about people. It is about dreams that have been shattered. It is about lives that have been cut short, often lives that are promising and young. It is about people like the 25-year-old student who was found dead of a heroin overdose in a bathroom stall at Columbus State University last week—25 years old, with his whole life ahead of him. It is about people like the Hess family of Crestline, OH. Their son Jason was a college student, a talented musician, a gifted athlete. One of his classmates got him to try heroin, to just try it. Almost immediately the drugs became everything in Jason's life. Jason's dad said: "He liked his dealer more than he liked me."

I have met with several hundred addicts or recovering addicts in Ohio over

the last few years. Many of them tell me the same thing, which is that the drugs do become everything, so they become everything ahead of friends and family and work.

Jason struggled with his addiction for 15 years. He was in and out of jail a lot and in and out of hospitals. In the past 2 months, his dad saved his life twice with naloxone because as family members they are now permitted to get Narcan over the counter.

A few weeks ago, Jason died of an overdose. He was 35 years old. When his mother heard the death notice a few hours later—she was informed about it—she went to a cemetery with a bottle of Valium and committed suicide. It was her 60th birthday. In a note she left behind, she said: “Thanks, heroin. Another victim.” That was the note she left for all of us.

With this crisis getting worse and taking such a toll in Ohio, we have to get this legislation implemented as soon as possible and we have to continue to fight, not just for more funding but for better ideas and ways to address this problem at every level and in a comprehensive way.

We need support for safe disposal sites for prescription drugs. That is part of the legislation. When you are at the drugstore or at the pharmacy getting your medication, you will also have an opportunity right there to dispose of some of the medication you may not have used. I have been to these dropoff sites. I was at one recently at Walgreens in Toledo, where they are implementing a program to provide these sites and to provide safe disposal of these drugs so they don't get in the wrong hands.

The experts tell us that in most families in America, there are drugs available that can be dangerous. Many times, they are painkiller prescription drugs that are very addictive. Recently in Marion, OH, an 18-month-old girl was able to get into her parents' Percocet, and she overdosed. We need these disposal sites to help protect kids like her.

We need CARA's prevention efforts, such as its national awareness campaign that is making this link I talked about between prescription drugs and heroin. People need to understand this.

Kelly Clixby of Marion, OH, needed that information. I met her earlier this year when I visited the Crawford-Marion Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services, where they are working hard every day to fight back against this epidemic.

When I visited, the director, Jody Demo-Hodgins, told me that they are so overwhelmed with patients that “most of the time, I feel like I'm drowning.” They are overwhelmed, but they are doing a great job, and Kelly is an example.

Kelly was prescribed painkillers. She became addicted to those painkillers,

and, as is the case with many people, when those pills became too addictive and too expensive, when she couldn't afford them, she turned to heroin. Heroin is less expensive and more available, actually, in many cases. Within a year, she had lost her job, her house, her car, and custody of her five kids. Over the next decade, she and her husband Randy got a divorce. She was arrested four different times for shoplifting. She went to jail 19 times. She overdosed. Paramedics saved her life with naloxone, the Narcan we talked about. When Kelly was in the grip of this addiction, she didn't even want to get out of bed in the morning. She felt like she couldn't even get started on her day. She felt a constant sense of despair.

Kelly's life turned around when her best friend Chrystina died of a heroin overdose. At that point, she realized she needed to get treatment. Nine months to the day after paramedics saved her life, Kelly got clean. With the help of medication—in her case, Vivitrol, which is medication that actually blocks the craving for the opioid, and it has worked very well in many cases in Ohio, including in our drug courts—with the help of Vivitrol and with the compassion of people at the Marion Area Counseling Center, Kerry has now been sober for a year and a half. She is back with her husband Randy. She is back with her kids and her family. She is now a grandmother. She is leading a 12-step program to help others. She is beating this because she got treatment.

The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act will help get more people into treatment so we can have more success stories like Kelly's. As I said, we need to raise awareness about how easy it is to become addicted to these opioids.

I believe that will also help us to be able to push aside the stigma that is so often associated with addiction. That is one reason people don't come forward and get treatment. Kelly said the stigma of addiction kept her from getting help when she needed it. She said:

You feel horrible for stealing because you need to get high. Then you get high and you feel horrible for getting high. And then you have to steal again. I feel guilty because I use, and I use because I feel guilty.

And the stigma kept her from coming forward.

Think about Tera Guest. Tera Guest is from Lorain, OH. She was a nurse's aide in a nursing home. She had been a good student and a talented artist. One day she was on her way to work and was hurrying down some stairs in her apartment building. She slipped, fell, and broke her ankle. When she went to her doctor, her doctor prescribed her Percocet and then OxyContin. She became addicted. When the prescriptions expired, like so many, she turned to heroin.

Her mom Lori—who is a strong advocate on this issue and heads up the Lorain Community Task Force—found out about Tera's addiction when Tera was evicted from her apartment and started living out of her car.

Lori felt what so many moms and dads have experienced in Ohio and across the country. She said that when her kids were young, “We never discussed heroin. I never thought it would be part of our lives. You don't think that it's going to be your child; you don't think that it's going to be in your family. And when it is, the stigma makes you so ashamed” and you don't want to talk about it.

Her daughter Tera fought this addiction for 2 years. At just 24 years old, she died of an overdose of heroin laced with fentanyl. Fentanyl is this synthetic heroin that is creeping into our communities, this poison that is coming into our country from other countries, particularly China and India. It is coming here by the mail system.

For Tera, it started with a broken ankle. It could happen to anybody. That is why we need this prevention effort—to warn people about the dangers and to help end the stigma to keep people from hiding it and to get them to come forward. For all these reasons—the prevention, the treatment, the recovery, and ending the stigma—the people we represent need this legislation to be enacted but also to be implemented as soon as possible.

In order to help as many people as we can, we have to get the funding in the CR working and we have to continue to fight for funding.

Madam President, we have talked about a lot of tough stories today. Unfortunately, the grip of this addiction is so great that there are a lot of heart-breaking stories, and it is getting worse, not better. But there is also hope. There is hope I see every week when I am back home in Ohio.

I recently met Sheila Humphrey, whose child succumbed to a heroin addiction and an overdose and death. She started her own organization with other moms and family members, and they are having great success in intervening with these families and explaining the reason to get treatment and get into recovery. She gave me this bracelet. It talks about the Rally for Recovery in 2016. We had one in Ohio last weekend that I was able to attend.

At that rally, with the Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery, I got to meet so many people who are in recovery. They came forward to talk to me about their stories and to talk about what they are doing to help others. They talked to me about the need for us to have more treatments and recovery programs. I met someone who has not only beaten the addiction but is a counselor in Dayton, OH, named Gary. Gary Gonnella is helping others to get their lives back on track. He is

incredibly persuasive because he has a story to tell.

Gary told me: Senator, there is hope. Don't give up.

He is telling me don't give up. I am telling my colleagues: People expect us not to give up. They are not giving up. This guy, Gary, is a recovering addict. He is not giving up, and he is asking us to ensure we do everything we can to help—to be a better partner with State and local governments and with the nonprofits out there in the trenches every day that are doing this work with folks like Gary who are looking for our help. CARA will give more people more hope.

So on behalf of all of those whom I talked about today, those whose lives were cut short, and their family members, and on behalf of our communities, let's continue this fight. Let's ensure we do, in fact, get CARA implemented quickly. Let's ensure we do continue to push not just to provide funding but new ideas and better ideas.

There is new legislation we just introduced in the last couple of weeks called the STOP Act that stops the synthetic heroin, the fentanyl, the carfentanyl, and U-4 from coming into our country from other countries by requiring packages include information about where the package is from, what is in it, and where it is going. That is not required now by the post office, but it is required by private carriers. So these traffickers are using the postal system, including the U.S. postal system, to move these deadly chemicals into our communities. We need to stop that.

So there is more we can and should do. It is our responsibility to do that. As we break for these elections and as the lameduck period in December comes upon us after that, let's continue to work to ensure we are able to turn this tide and bring back more hope.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

WILLS EYE HOSPITAL

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wanted to come to the floor today, as I did last week, to speak once again about WillsEye Hospital in Philadelphia. When I was here last week, I was talking about the hospital itself and the truly excellent work that is done at that hospital and, unfortunately, to talk as well about the unfair treatment that hospital is receiving from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We know it by the acronym CMS.

CMS is using an arbitrary ratio of the number of inpatients and outpatients to make the argument—faulty though it is—that WillsEye is not a hospital and should be an ambulatory surgery center, which could have drastic implications and ultimately force

WillsEye Hospital to close down. This hospital is almost 200 years old.

Last week, WillsEye Hospital started an online petition on change.org so people could show their support for the hospital. I wanted to share some of those comments today with Members of the Senate. These online postings, of course, don't just come from Philadelphia or Pennsylvania. They come from States across the Northeast and even beyond.

Here are just a couple of examples. Jack Croft from Lansdale, PA, which is not too far from Philadelphia, said:

I owe my life, my right eye, and my sight to Wills Eye Hospital and its brilliant ocular oncology team. Losing federal designation as a hospital would have a devastating effect on the lives of thousands, many of them children, who desperately need the specialized expertise of Wills.

So said Jack Croft.

Ayan Chatterjee from Philadelphia said the following:

Wills Eye Hospital provides care to so many complex patients from all across the world. It is not just a "surge-center." State regulators got it right but Federal regulators should revisit this.

We continue to hope they will do that—my words, in addition to the comments.

Kathleen O'Brien from Vestal, NY—not from Pennsylvania—said:

I've needed Wills since 2005 to treat and monitor my ocular melanoma. They are the best in the world for my very rare cancer. Medicare is my primary insurance provider. It makes no logical sense to take away this vital institution to the thousands of children and adults they not only treat but save lives.

Erica Roache from Cape May Court House, NJ, said:

This hospital provides specialized care not available anywhere else. Doctors at Wills Eye quickly diagnosed and successfully treated my daughter's rare eye condition that had been misdiagnosed for years by other less specialized doctors. The possibility of closing this world class hospital due to senseless bureaucracy is just unthinkable.

So says Erica.

Here are two more. This is Mike Stanley from Overland Park, KS—half a country away from Pennsylvania:

We live in Overland Park, KS, and for the past 2 years have been flying from Kansas City to Philly for treatment for the retinoblastoma eye cancer you refer to.

He is referring to comments I had made when I was at WillsEye Hospital.

I continue on with Mike Stanley's comments:

Thankfully, my daughter is now 4 and in remission and we travel back to Philly next week and Wills. Please let us know what we can do to support CMS changing how they classify Wills Eye so we and others can continue to get the best care in the world.

Alexis Butler, from Chelsea, MI, said:

I'm signing because as a volunteer at Camp Sunshine at Sebago Lake I've met many children who have been saved by Wills Eye Hospital. Their cases aren't handled much by other hospitals as well as they are at Wills. It needs to survive.

So said Alexis from the State of Michigan.

I will do one more. The final comments come from Nancy Cotton from Marlton, NJ.

Please do not be blinded by rubber stamp bureaucracy. Not everything fits neatly into arbitrary slots—visit Wills Eye and look in the faces of those whose vision was restored, saved, as well as the parents whose children's very lives were saved. This institution fills a desperate need for highly specialized service! Save Wills Eye!!

Notice she uses exclamation points—actually two exclamation points at the end. That is how Nancy Cotton from New Jersey ends her comments.

So you can see from these comments that these are real people talking about their real lives or that of a family member—sometimes a child—and commenting from the vantage point of what they had experienced in terms of the benefits that WillsEye Hospital has provided. I hope CMS is listening—and not just to these comments but to the many others that have been sent in.

None of these comments are compulsory. None of these comments are part of some organized political effort. People are just responding in a very authentic and substantial way. This is very rare to have this kind of commentary that is so specific about how WillsEye Hospital has made life better for people across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, people across the northeastern part of the United States and well beyond that, as we can document from the comments from Kansas.

So what we are trying to do is to work with WillsEye and CMS to work this out and to remove a bureaucratic barrier or obstacle in the way of keeping WillsEye Hospital open as a hospital so that it can deliver the kind of eye care—the kind of lifesaving eye care—that not only these people experience but that I experienced myself as a father.

My wife and I had a daughter, and, fortunately, she is doing very well now. She is out of college. But she had a moment in time when she was a little girl where she would have lost eyesight in one of her eyes were it not for WillsEye Hospital. That is a fact. That is documented. We know that. So I join in those comments we heard today, and I will continue to make them a part of the RECORD.

We are working to save this hospital. To say it is a world-class institution is a vast understatement. It has affected so many lives, including my own.

So CMS got this wrong. They have an obligation to get it right, to fix it, so that WillsEye Hospital can continue into the future.

We are grateful so many people are taking the time to go to change.org and focus on all the benefits of WillsEye Hospital. I will continue to make this case a high priority for the work I do, the work our office does. Time is running short now for the hospital. CMS has some work to do to

make sure we get the result not only that I want but one that I know people across our Commonwealth and our country want.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I just came from a discussion on the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the damage it will do to our country.

We have had 25 years of trade policy that has cost jobs in places like Lorain, OH, Cleveland, OH, and Dayton, OH. We know these trade agreements pull down worker safety standards, environmental rules and protections, and food safety laws and rules. We know they cost us jobs. I know what has happened in my State. I see what has happened in places like Omaha, the Presiding Officer's State, and all over our country. I appreciate Senator McConnell and Speaker Ryan saying they don't plan to bring the Trans-Pacific Partnership up for a vote in the lame-duck session of Congress. I believe it would be a bit underhanded to do that when the public is speaking pretty loudly that these trade agreements don't work.

One part that in particular affects my State is something called rules of origin in the auto industry, where in order to qualify for a tariff reduction or tariff elimination to sell products, to sell a car, under NAFTA—NAFTA was a very flawed agreement. I helped lead the opposition. We almost defeated it down the hall in the House of Representatives. To qualify for NAFTA tariff reduction, removal, elimination, the car had to be mostly made—60 percent, more or less—in one of the three countries, the United States, Mexico or Canada. Under the TPP, Trans-Pacific Partnership, there are 12 countries, very disparate countries—Peru, the United States, Mexico, Canada, wealthy countries, Vietnam, poor countries. Under the rules of origin and TPP, a car can be more than half made elsewhere, like China, and then still be sold into the United States or sold into Canada or Mexico.

Fundamentally, what this means is, it has created a loophole you can drive my Jeep Cherokee, made by union workers 150 miles from my home in Toledo, OH—you can drive a Jeep Cherokee through this loophole. This will undermine the auto industry, it will undermine the supply chain, it will mean loss of jobs from auto assembly in Youngstown and Toledo and

Sharonville, to other kinds—whether it is glass, tires, the steel in the cars. All this will undermine those jobs.

I again thank Senator McConnell and Speaker Ryan as they have promised not to bring up this agreement. I hope they are men of their word. It is a disaster for our country. It is bad for our country. I appreciate that both Presidential candidates—one more knowledgeable than the other, perhaps, about trade policy—have opposed the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

I close with this. I see candidates make all kinds of claims about their position on trade. I see all kinds of candidates in their own private businesses doing certain things, but I know we can make products in the United States of America. The shoes I have were made by workers in Maine and Massachusetts. The suit I wear was made by union workers in a company 11 miles from my home in Cleveland. American workers just want a level playing field. They just want the opportunity to compete. They want the opportunity to make things. We know how to do that in this country. Our trade policy should reflect that.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUSTICE AGAINST SPONSORS OF TERRORISM BILL

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, yesterday I voted to override the President's veto of S. 2040, the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. I chose to support the motion to override after hearing from supporters of this bill, including the families of the 9/11 victims, and considering the concerns that have been raised by the administration about the bill's potential unintended consequences on our national security and foreign policy.

Ultimately, I believe that the families who lost loved ones on 9/11 should have their day in court. Although I supported passage of the bill, I have grave concerns about the dangerous precedent of opening foreign sovereign immunity. I believe our national security and foreign policy could be put in jeopardy if reciprocal laws are enacted in other countries, with the potential to open U.S. citizens, officials, and servicemembers to foreign lawsuits in which they could be required to disclose classified or sensitive information as part of court proceedings in other countries.

I have joined 27 of my colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to the bill's

authors, Senators SCHUMER and CORNYN, laying out our concerns about the legislation and seeking their commitment to work with us to mitigate any potential consequences of enacting this legislation.

RECOGNIZING PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, today I congratulate the Planned Parenthood Federation of America on a century's commitment to protecting women's health and making that health care a right, not a privilege. I have been proud to stand with Planned Parenthood against a tide of relentless political attacks, and I look forward to supporting this organization as it continues to empower all Americans to take control of their health for years to come.

When advocates opened the first birth control health clinic in the United States in 1916, they had a simple but bold goal: to ensure that all women, regardless of where they were born or where they live, have access to the information and resources they need to lead strong and healthy lives. Over the next hundred years, Planned Parenthood worked to cement the idea that preventive and reproductive health care is not a privilege afforded to the few but a key to leading a full, healthy life that should be available to every American.

In Ohio, our 28 Planned Parenthood clinics educate and provide care to tens of thousands of men and women each year, many of whom have nowhere else to turn. The lives and struggles of those patients are what motivate the dedicated staff and volunteers at these health clinics. And they do this critical work in the face of constant threats and attacks from all levels of government. Just this year, the State of Ohio passed an ill-conceived law that, had it not been overturned by a Federal district court, would have jeopardized access to preventive care and ceased operation of a prominent infant mortality prevention program.

I get letters all the time from constituents who rely on Planned Parenthood. One Ohioan wrote to me saying, "I was so amazed by the support for women that Planned Parenthood provided that I volunteered for them for years," while another wrote, "Planned Parenthood not only provided a well-rounded education, in which I had received none previously, but they also provided services that I would not have had access to otherwise." I have even heard that Planned Parenthood "saved the life of my best friend when she found a lump in her breast and she had no health insurance."

We need to listen to the voices of these women and remember that Planned Parenthood remains a vital health provider for so many. It is a

strong advocate for its patients, and further attempts to defund or destabilize this organization will result in more undiagnosed cancers, more untreated illnesses, and more unintended pregnancies.

We have seen the incredible progress our country can make when women make their own health care decisions and follow their dreams, and we know what an important role Planned Parenthood plays in making that possible. Congratulations to Planned Parenthood Federation of America on its 100th anniversary and for the important work its members do in Ohio's communities and across the country every day.

NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, in honor of National Manufacturing Day on October 7, I would like to recognize the nearly 150,000 Coloradans who work for the 6,000 manufacturers across the State and contribute \$20 billion annually to the State's economy.

Colorado manufacturers contribute their ingenuity and talent to support growth in the aerospace, energy, bioscience, defense, food and beverage, agriculture, apparel and many other industries. In 2015, they exported over \$8 billion worth of U.S.-made goods overseas.

Manufacturing leaders in Colorado are continually looking for innovative ways to produce high-quality products. They have developed strong public-private-university partnerships through the Alliance for the Development of Additive Processing Technologies, ADAPT, Center at Colorado School of Mines, led by the Manufacturer's Edge—Colorado's NIST Manufacturing Extension Partnership—and the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute National Research Initiative at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

From Oliver Manufacturing in La Junta to Woodward in Fort Collins to Lockheed Martin in Littleton to Reynolds Polymer in Grand Junction, manufacturers play a significant role in our local communities, providing high-skilled jobs and opportunities for suppliers and service providers.

That is why I look forward to celebrate the contributions of Colorado's manufacturers throughout the month of October with my colleagues in the Colorado congressional delegation, Governor John Hickenlooper, and Manufacturer's Edge.

TRIBUTE TO CLARENCE M. DITLOW III

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, today I wish to recognize and thank Mr. Clarence M. Ditlow III for his commitment to protecting the American people. Through a lifetime of work improving automotive and safety laws,

Mr. Ditlow has helped save thousands of lives and prevented many more injuries than would otherwise have occurred. A tireless champion for consumers, his work has resulted in better government oversight of automakers, the installation of key safety features, and the exposure of safety defects in millions of cars, SUVs, and other trucks.

A 1965 chemical engineering graduate of Lehigh University, Mr. Ditlow pivoted to the legal profession following the completion of a JD from Georgetown University in 1970 and an LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1971. Since then, he has been instrumental in improving auto safety, reliability, and efficiency as executive director of the Center for Auto Safety.

Mr. Ditlow's discovery of numerous automotive defects, combined with his persistent pressure on safety agencies and automakers alike, led to the removal of many unsafe vehicles from the road. His direct efforts led to the automotive recalls of 6.7 million Chevrolet with defective engine mounts, 15 million Firestone 500 tires, 1.5 million Ford Pintos and 2 million Jeeps with exploding gas tanks, 3 million Evenflo child seats with defective latches, 7 million Toyotas because of sudden acceleration defects, 2 million GM vehicles with defective ignition switches, and over 30 million Takata airbag inflators. He also led consumer efforts to get "lemon laws" passed in all 50 States.

I offer my sincere appreciation to Mr. Clarence M. Ditlow III and the Center for Automotive Safety for indefatigable dedication to auto safety and vigilance in uncovering automotive safety threats. Clarence demonstrates the impact a devoted industry watchdog can have on informing the public and saving lives. I am grateful for his years of collaboration with and assistance to Members of Congress, Federal and State safety agencies, and a myriad of other stakeholders, to improve automotive and public safety.

TRIBUTE TO DONDA MORGAN

Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I wish to say a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to Donda Morgan, who retired at the end of last month after 17 years and 8 months with my office. I do this knowing that she shies away from fuss and attention, preferring to stay quiet and behind the scenes. But she deserves this recognition for her service to me—and especially to the people of New Mexico.

Donda was born and raised in the Clovis-Portales area of Eastern New Mexico. She graduated from Eastern New Mexico University and worked in public service for over two decades. She came to Washington in 1995 after a nearly 10-year stint with Capitol Government Reports, a Santa Fe publica-

tion. She went to work for one of my predecessors in the House of Representatives, former U.S. Representative Bill Richardson, until he was appointed Energy Secretary. So I knew she was well qualified for the job. When I was elected in 1998, she joined my new congressional office, starting almost on the first day of the new year, January 3, 1999.

Donda began as the manager of my office operations, managing the office budget and then my schedule—which I am sure was no easy task. As one newspaper reporter once wrote, she was in charge of "everything that [came] in and out of the . . . office from pencils and pens to letterhead and business cards." She served with me throughout my tenure in the House and then moved over to the Senate staff as my executive assistant and scheduler when I was elected to this body in 2009.

I admire many things about Donda, but perhaps the most important is that she served with the highest integrity. As my assistant and scheduler, she worked directly with New Mexicans who came to my Washington office for appointments or to check in with me or my staff. Donda was always particularly careful to make sure that everyone was treated the same. In a sense, she was the face of my Senate office, scheduling and greeting everyone—celebrated or not—with equal parts of graciousness and firmness, while keeping the train running on time, a daunting task in a Senate office. She firmly appreciated that her first responsibility was to the people of New Mexico. My constituents from New Mexico got to know and love her. I have heard them comment that they were glad that she was my scheduler because they knew she would try her best to make sure they had an opportunity to see me.

Donda has a strong work ethic and was an incredible coworker and team player, always willing to help where she could. She also has a quirky sense of style. My staff especially enjoyed hearing ZZ Top and AC/DC playing from her office while she worked. She was known for wearing colorful hightop sneakers, chosen with the help of her beloved grandson Aiden.

Donda also has a fondness for certain celebrities, and while she shied away from the fuss, she enjoyed seeing some of the Hollywood stars who sometimes visit Congress to talk about issues they care about. But, more than anything, Donda appreciates good, hard work. My dad used to say it was important not just to "get it done—but get it done right." And that fits Donda to a T. She had a demanding job. To use a metaphor, she was a juggler, and she managed to do it with humor and unfailing commitment.

Time, which she managed for my office with such skill and aplomb, has

now brought her to a much deserved retirement, which I know she will manage with equal grace and spirit. I thank her on behalf of my office and the people of New Mexico.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ALAN CHARLES

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Alan Charles of Miles City for his tireless work at Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. Alan served in the agency's Helena office for the last 20 years, helping maintain Montanans' access to quality hunting grounds, an integral part of our way of life.

In his role, Alan oversaw the block management program, which enabled landowners to enroll 7,234,628 acres of land for public hunting. He also provided oversight for critical access programs to ensure Montanans were able to enjoy our great outdoors and participate in our favorite pastimes. Over the course of 10 legislative sessions, he also provided testimony and background on legislation dealing with access and game issues in our great State.

Alan was also a community builder, helping bring together landowners, the State government, and sportsmen, finding common ground among these groups.

I am grateful for Alan's service to our State and its vast natural resources. After all, they are what make Montana the Treasure State. It takes a dedicated person to accomplish what Alan did, and I profoundly appreciate his time and efforts to preserve the Montanan way of life.●

RECOGNIZING FARM RESCUE

• Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Farm Rescue for assisting 400 farm and ranch families during times of crisis. Farm Rescue provides assistance to farming families who are suffering from a major injury, illness, or natural disaster by lending a helping hand with planting, harvesting crops, or providing haying assistance. They also assist producers with hauling hay and grain if a farmer or rancher cannot do these critical tasks. Farm Rescue's relief efforts have come in times of natural disaster, like tornadoes, and personal crisis, such as cancer treatments, spinal cord injuries, and lost limbs.

In rural communities, it is common for folks to help one another when in need, and this organization epitomizes that spirit. Farm Rescue was founded by Bill Gross in 2006, a native North Dakota farm boy who, while working as a full-time UPS pilot, donates his free time to run this organization. Mr. Gross has molded Farm Rescue into a

one-of-a-kind nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to aid farmers and ranchers who need a little help in the midst of a crisis. Farm Rescue actually does the critical labor the farmer or rancher needs to get done, while the assisted producer provides the crop inputs, like seed, fertilizer, and fuel.

Since 2006, Farm Rescue has assisted hundreds of farm families in the Midwest, including North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Montana, and Minnesota. This year alone, Farm Rescue has already helped 50 families, and they are still in the field assisting more. Its operations are primarily completed by a volunteer labor force that come from all over the country to help, and many of those volunteers are retired farmers seeking to lend their help and expertise to those in need.

Farm Rescue's first case in 2006 was to assist a farmer whose hand was severed in an auger accident. In 2012, they harvested for a family near Wyndmere, ND, marking their 200th case, after the farmer fell off his semitrailer and broke vertebrae in his neck. One hundred cases later, in 2014, Farm Rescue helped a Fergus Falls, MN, man with harvest while he underwent treatment for blood cancer. Two years later, Farm Rescue is now completing its 400th case by enabling a family with a loved one suffering from cancer to complete harvest.

It must be a great relief to farming and ranching families to know that, if an unexpected medical diagnosis complicates spring planting or multiple lengthy trips to doctor appointments make harvesting the fall crop near impossible, there is an organization that will coordinate volunteers to come out and lend a neighborly helping hand. Farm Rescue is making a positive contribution to the agriculture community all over the United States, and I am proud to be able to recognize this organization. Farm Rescue is a powerful reminder of what Americans can achieve when they work together to help each other in times of need.●

TRIBUTE TO BRETT BAKER

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Brett Baker, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Brett is a current student from the University of South Florida. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brett for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TRISTAN BAKER

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Tristan Baker, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Tristan is a current student from Rollins College. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tristan for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NICOLETTE DELORENZO

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Nicolette DeLorenzo, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Nicolette is a current student from Wake Forest University. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nicolette for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NICOLAS DUARIO

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Nicolas Duario, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Nicolas is a student at Bishop Moore High School. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nicolas for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL GILLIGAN

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize John Paul Gilligan, a 2016 summer intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

John Paul is a recent graduate from Villanova University, where he majored in comprehensive science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to John Paul for all the fine work he has done and

wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY HARRIS

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Wesley Harris, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Wesley is a student at Boone High School. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Wesley for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH TODD HIGGINBOTHAM

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Joseph Todd Higginbotham, a 2016 spring intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Joseph is a recent graduate from the University of North Florida, where he majored in political science and minored in urban and metropolitan studies and public administration. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Joseph for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO COLIN MATTHAEI

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Colin Matthaei, a 2016 summer intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Colin is a current student from Birmingham-Southern College, where he is majoring in global comparative studies. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Colin for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DARBY McQUEEN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Darby McQueen, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Darby is a current student from the University of Alabama. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Darby for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALISE MORRIS

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Alise Morris, a 2016 spring intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Alise is a recent graduate from the University of North Florida, where she majored in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alise for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BRETT NOLAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Brett Nolan, a 2016 summer intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Brett is a current student from the University of North Florida, where he is majoring in political science in American politics and minoring in economics and communications. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Brett for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO SHELBY RIGDON

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Shelby Rigdon, a 2016 spring intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Shelby is a recent graduate from the University of North Florida, where she majored in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Shelby for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LONDON ROTUNDO

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize London Rotundo, a 2016

summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

London is a student from Keiser University in Orlando. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to London for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO MAKAYLA STILIANOU

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Makayla Stilianou, a 2016 summer intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Makayla is a current student from the University of Florida, where she is majoring in English. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Makayla for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDRA TEISAN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Alexandra Teisan, a 2016 summer intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Alexandra is a current student from American University, where she is majoring in international studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alexandra for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN TORPEY

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Benjamin Torpey, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Benjamin is a student at the University of Florida. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Benjamin for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO LYDIA WALSH

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Lydia Walsh, a 2016 summer intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Lydia is a graduate from Stetson University. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Lydia for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE WILLIAMS

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Caroline Williams, a 2016 summer intern in my Jacksonville office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Caroline is a current student from the University of Florida, where she is majoring in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caroline for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING CHARLES
DELESINE FOSTER

• Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, I wish to acknowledge and honor Mr. Charles DeLesline Foster, the first African American to graduate from The Citadel in Charleston, SC. This year, on November 5, the school is celebrating the 50-year anniversary of his matriculation into the school.

Although Mr. Foster is no longer with us, we still remember and honor his legacy. After graduating from The Citadel in 1970 with a degree in business administration, he went on to serve our Nation as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and became an explosives expert working at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. In 1973, he left the Army and became the manager for a moving company in Texas.

Mr. Foster was an American hero who served his country and became a significant part of our State's history. I wish I could be there with the community to celebrate such a historical moment. But it is truly an honor to recognize Mr. Charles Foster, a true trailblazer, and his story can serve as an inspiration to us all.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. VEGE RAO

• Mr. SCOTT. Madam President, after serving pediatric patients and their

families for 38 years, Dr. Vege Rao will be retiring from Marion Pediatrics.

Dr. Rao, a loyal, dedicated, and passionate physician became the first pediatrician in Marion County when he opened his pediatric practice in 1978. He chose Marion County due to high infant mortality rates and the great need for pediatric services in the community.

Dr. Rao has served as a pillar to this rural community, as evidenced by the generations of families he has provided health care to over the years. Many parents of today's patients were initially patients of his themselves. Dr. Rao's legacy will forever be defined not just by his work but by the people he touched in this community, some of the State's most vulnerable and underserved populations.

I wish to recognize both him and his wife, Sochetha, for epitomizing the very best of the Palmetto State. I wish Dr. Rao well on his retirement; he has earned it.●

RECOGNIZING LARSON
CHIROPRACTIC

• Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, from time to time, I will be coming forward to recognize a small business from Alaska that has made contributions to our community.

This month, I wish to recognize Larson Chiropractic, a small business in Wasilla, AK, that does big things. Larson Chiropractic exemplifies the things that small businesses can do to benefit a community, a State, and our country.

First, let me say that small business truly is the backbone of our economy and our communities, and we should be doing all we can do in DC to support small businesses and the entrepreneurship and innovation that creates them. Small businesses owners and those who work for them have ties to the community. They know community needs, and they work to fulfill those needs.

Larson Chiropractic is a family business committed to improving the health care and lifestyles of Mat-Su Valley residents. Dr. Dan Larson started the company in 1991, and now his son, Dr. Kris Larson, owns Larson Chiropractic and Back in Action Physical Therapy. The company is fully Alaskan-owned and operated, and though it is small, the effect on the local community is anything but.

Larson Chiropractic focuses on family-oriented chiropractic health care that emphasizes effective pain relief without the use of drugs and promoting wellness care through prevention, specializing in sports treatment. Their community service centers around their commitment to the area high school athletes. The business is also heavily involved in the annual food drive during Hunger Action Month.

Dr. Kris Larson volunteers countless hours at high school sporting events,

dealing with injuries on scene, free of charge and, preventing the need for expensive treatment and recovery time later. The staff have also become regular fixtures at sporting events throughout the region, donating time and resources to sporting programs in each high school.

Even retired founder Dr. Dan fills in at the clinic when needed and during September assists student athletes and coaches from Wasilla High School every Friday night. From football season, he transitions into basketball season, often traveling with the teams to make sure they are always ready to compete.

Dr. Dan also started the Doc Larson Roundball Classic Tournament at the school to give athletes exposure to new people, more basketball, and to give back to the community. Larson Chiropractic and Back in Action Physical Therapy staff a therapy room at Wasilla High for the entire tournament, providing free care to all athletes present, no matter where their team is from.

Finally, Larson Chiropractic cares about the community beyond sports medicine. For Hunger Action Month, the business hosts a food drive to help residents of the Mat-Su Valley, covering the cost of admission to the Wasilla High varsity football match-up for anyone who donates two or more food items and continuing the drive in the clinic's lobby and waiting area.

They also educate their patients, placing "Real People, Real Stories" displays inside examination rooms providing the stories of community members who suffer food insecurity and how food drives help to ensure brighter futures for those in need.

Larson Chiropractic cares about the community and cares about the community caring about the community. They have demonstrated a tireless, selfless drive to give back and an inspirational enthusiasm. Their commitment to creating better lives for the residents of the Mat-Su area has benefited this Alaskan community for many years and hopefully will continue to do so for many more.●

REMEMBERING DAN SOSA, JR.

• Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the life of Justice Dan Sosa, Jr. On September 4, New Mexico lost an accomplished jurist, combat veteran, and champion of the Hispanic community. It is with great sympathy and respect that I honor this beloved Las Cruces.

Justice Sosa dedicated his long life to serving others. And thanks to news coverage of his life, I am able to share some details about his background and history. Shortly after enrolling at New Mexico A&M, he enlisted in the Air Force. When he returned home from World War II with 35 successful combat

missions under his belt, Justice Sosa finished his undergraduate degree and spent a year teaching at Mesilla Elementary before enrolling in the University of New Mexico Law School. It was there that he met and married the love of his life, Rita.

After graduating from law school, he returned to Las Cruces to start his own practice. He served as an assistant district attorney and city judge before being elected district attorney of Dona Ana, Otero, and Lincoln Counties in 1956, becoming the first Hispanic to ever serve in that position.

Justice Sosa's efforts to break down barriers for fellow Hispanics went far beyond his personal trailblazing. After completing two terms as district attorney, in 1965, he helped found the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, or MALDEF, an organization aimed at protecting the legal rights of Hispanics in America and promoting educational opportunities.

Justice Sosa is best known for his tenure on the New Mexico State Supreme Court. He was appointed to the court in 1975 and left as its chief justice in 1991. He remains one of the longest serving justices in the State court's history.

Throughout his storied career, Justice Sosa never forgot about the Las Cruces community he called home. In fact, he passed away in the very same adobe house he was born in on November 12, 1923. His commitment to the principles he learned from his family and community guided his great life and helped him build a towering example for generations of New Mexicans.

Justice Sosa leaves behind his wife, Rita, his sister Lucia, 7 children, 26 grandchildren, and 31 great-grandchildren, and I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends. He served his community, his State, and his country with honor. New Mexico will miss Justice Dan Sosa, Jr., a humble and dedicated public servant. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:01 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment):

S. Con. Res. 53. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 5325.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con Res. 166. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6094. An act to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

The message further announced that the House agree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:05 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5325. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, September 29, 2016, he signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

H.R. 2494. An act to support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

At 12:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5303. An act to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 954. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt from the individual mandate certain individuals who had coverage under a terminated qualified health plan funded through the Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 6094. An act to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the

Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

S. 3464. A bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, September 29, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1004. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to encourage the nationwide observance of two minutes of silence each Veterans Day.

S. 1698. An act to exclude payments from State eugenics compensation programs from consideration in determining eligibility for, or the amount of, Federal public benefits.

S. 1878. An act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

S. 2683. An act to include disabled veteran leave in the personnel management system of the Federal Aviation Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2763. A bill to provide the victims of Holocaust-era persecution and their heirs a fair opportunity to recover works of art confiscated or misappropriated by the Nazis.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3460. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide certain limitations on the designation and use of national monuments; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. 3461. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to refund or credit certain excess payments made to the Commission; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 3462. A bill to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 3463. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt student workers for purposes of determining a higher education institution's employer health care shared responsibility; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 3464. A bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3465. A bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3466. A bill to allow sponsors of certain new drug applications to rely upon investigations conducted in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 3467. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 3468. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to expand tax credit education and training for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 590. A resolution commemorating 100 years of health care services provided by Planned Parenthood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. Res. 591. A resolution designating the week of October 9 through October 15, 2016, as "National Case Management Week" to recognize the role of case management in improving health care outcomes for patients; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 592. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2016 as "Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month" in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. MCCASKILL):

S. Res. 593. A resolution designating September 22, 2016, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 594. A resolution expressing support for designation of the third Saturday in October 2016 as "National Animal Rescue Day" to create awareness of and educate individuals on the importance of adoption of animals, to create a humane environment for any pet, and to encourage animal adoptions throughout the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 595. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Veterans Small Business Week; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 596. A resolution designating September 2016 as "Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 597. A resolution designating September 2016 as "National Kinship Care Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 598. A resolution designating October 2016 as "Filipino American History Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 599. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 20, 2016, as the "National Day on Writing"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 600. A resolution designating the week of September 26 through 30, 2016, as "National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 601. A resolution designating September 2016 as "National Dystonia Awareness Month" and raising awareness and understanding of the disorder of dystonia; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HELLER):

S. Res. 602. A resolution supporting the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 603. A resolution designating the week beginning on the first Friday after Thanksgiving in 2016 as "National Electronic Payments Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KIRK:

S. Res. 604. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 2016 as "National Bladder Health Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. NELSON):

S. Res. 605. A resolution honoring Arnold Palmer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. Res. 606. A resolution honoring the memories and legacies of the 3 law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the attack on July 17, 2016, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, condemning that attack, and recognizing the heroism of law enforcement personnel and first responders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BURR, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 607. A resolution recognizing the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on its 20th anniversary; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 608. A resolution designating the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, as "National Estuaries Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. Res. 609. A resolution honoring the memories and heroic actions of those killed, injured, and affected by the fatal bus crash in Laplace, Louisiana, on August 28, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 610. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the first Friday in October 2016 as "Manufacturing Day"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 611. A resolution supporting the designation of October 8, 2016, as "40 Years of Women Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy Day"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 612. A resolution recognizing the Weatherization Assistance Program during its 40th anniversary year for its history of reducing the energy costs of families with low incomes, making low-income households healthier and safer, positively impacting the environment, and supporting jobs and new technology; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 613. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Oxford, Mississippi; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Con. Res. 55. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1916 opening of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the 2016 opening of the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex in College Station, Texas; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 298

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 298, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option of providing services to children with medically complex conditions under the Medicaid program and Children's Health Insurance Program through a care coordination program focused on improving health outcomes for children with medically complex conditions and lowering costs, and for other purposes.

S. 314

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 314, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 843, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2551

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2551, a bill to help prevent acts of genocide and mass atrocities, which threaten national and international security, by enhancing United States civilian capacities to prevent and mitigate such crises.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2867

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2867, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

S. 2895

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to extend the civil statute of limitations for victims of Federal sex offenses.

S. 3021

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to pursue independent study programs at certain educational institutions that are not institutions of higher learning.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3034, a bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress.

S. 3065

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3065, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to invest in funding prevention and family services to help keep children safe and supported at home, to ensure that children in foster care are placed in the least restrictive, most family-like, and appropriate settings, and for other purposes.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 3244

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3244, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to clarify the treatment of pediatric dental coverage in the individual and group markets outside of Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3304

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3304, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

S. 3374

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3374, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced excise tax rate for portable, electronically-aerated bait containers.

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3405, a bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List.

S. 3407

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3407, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate assignment of military trauma care providers to civilian trauma centers in order to maintain military trauma readiness and to support such centers, and for other purposes.

S. 3414

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3414, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

S. 3449

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3449, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a program for labeling cultural property of Iraq or Syria legally entering the United States.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 535

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 535, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the trafficking of illicit fentanyl into the United States from Mexico and China.

S. RES. 536

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 536, a resolution proclaiming the week of October 30 through November 5, 2016, as "National Obesity Care Week".

S. RES. 579

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 579, a resolution recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the first class of women admitted to the Coast Guard Academy.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3460. A bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to provide certain limitations on the designation and use of national monuments; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3460

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Local Community and Sportsmen Input in Monuments Act".

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION AND USE OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS.

Section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking (a), by striking "The President may, in the President's discretion," and inserting "Subject to subsection (e), the President may"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(e) CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL REQUIRED BEFORE DESIGNATION.—No national monument may be designated under subsection (a) until—

"(1) each county, borough, parish, or equivalent unit of local government within and adjacent to the boundaries of which the proposed national monument is to be located—

"(A) has been consulted with respect to the designation; and

"(B) has approved the designation; and

"(2) the Governor and legislature of each State within the boundaries of which the proposed national monument is to be located has approved the proposed national monument.

"(f) RESTRICTIONS ON USE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any national monument designated under subsection (a) shall be open to hunting, fishing, other forms of recreation, grazing, and other historic or traditional uses in accordance with applicable law, unless the Secretary concerned closes all or a portion of the national monument to 1 or more of those uses, in accordance with the purposes of this chapter.

"(2) REVIEW PERIOD.—The Secretary shall not impose any restriction on hunting, fishing, grazing, wildlife management, or other historic or traditional uses at a national monument designated under subsection (a) until the date of expiration of an appropriate review period, as determined by the Secretary, providing for, with respect to the proposed restriction, the concurrence by applicable State wildlife management agencies, public input, and approval by Congress."

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT, and Mr. FLAKE):

S. 3464. A bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes; read the first time.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, Senate offices have been hearing about something called the overtime rule on a daily basis. We are hearing about it from colleges, universities, Boy Scout troops, church camps, other nonprofits, employers, and employees who don't like to be suddenly considered employees who punch a timecard.

Today, I would like to talk about action that Congress can take to change the effect of the overtime rule the administration issued that will go into effect in December unless we do something.

The Senator from Oklahoma, Mr. LANKFORD, and the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, introduced legislation that would delay for 6 months the implementation of the rule. I cosponsored that legislation and I fully support it.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed a bill with that same language which would delay for 6 months the implementation of the rule. That would be my preferred solution.

Today I am introducing another piece of legislation that addresses the problems with the overtime rule that I hope will gather more bipartisan support. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Democrat Representative KURT SCHRADER of Oregon and is cosponsored by 10 Democrats and 7 Republicans. My hope is that when we come back in November, Senators on both sides of the aisle will have heard from their Boy Scout troops, from their colleges and universities, from their restaurants, and from their employees, who say: Wait a minute, this overtime rule makes no sense the way it is being implemented. Do something in November to change its negative effect on our country.

I am introducing a bill today with the cosponsorship of Senator COLLINS of Maine, Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma, Senator SCOTT of South Carolina, and Senator FLAKE of Arizona that will protect America's nonprofits, churches, colleges, and communities from the effect of the administration's overtime rule that will go into effect on December 1 unless we act.

When we talk about employers that will be affected by overtime, we are talking about Operation Smile, which is a charity that funds cleft palate operations for children. Operation Smile says this rule may cost them at least 3,000 surgeries a year. The effect of this rule may mean 3,000 children won't have surgeries each year for cleft palates because of the cost of this regulation.

We are talking about the Great Smoky Mountain Council of Boy Scouts. That is my home Boy Scout council where I grew up and where I live. They are telling me the new rule will result in about \$100,000 in annual costs because during certain seasons employees staff weekend camping trips, which mean longer hours. That is what you do in Boy Scouts, Mr. President—you go on camping trips. And they are not 8-hour trips most of the time. If you are going to start saying they have to pay overtime to Scout masters and others you are going to have fewer boys and girls having a chance for Scouting.

Senator ISAKSON of Georgia spoke on the floor about a phone call he received from the pastor at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, one of the largest Baptist churches in Georgia. That church provides daycare, early childhood development, and sports activities at Vacation Bible School, a 24/7 program for underprivileged kids in the Atlanta area. Under the overtime rule that goes into effect in December, a camp counselor for their Vacation Bible School will have to be paid overtime for many hours of the day when

they are with the children, even if they are sleeping. So this rule could price the Johnson Ferry Baptist Church out of the business of providing Bible school church camp for underprivileged children.

So there will be fewer cleft palate operations, fewer Scouting opportunities, and fewer church camp opportunities for underprivileged children.

Here's what I mean by the overtime rule:

Hourly workers in this country are usually paid overtime, but salaried workers generally don't earn overtime unless they are making below a threshold set by the Labor Department and required by the Fair Labor Standards Act. Today that threshold is a little over \$23,000. This new rule issued by the Obama administration just 4 months ago raises the threshold from just over \$23,000 to over \$47,000 all at once on December 1. In other words, in 3 months it will double. This is a 100-percent increase and on December 1, employers will have had only about 6 months to prepare for this, reclassify employees, put time clock systems in place, adjust workers' schedules, and find new revenue to pay for all of this. It has thrown small businesses and colleges into a panic in the State of Tennessee. One poll released this month found that 49 percent of business owners were not aware of the rule that goes into effect in 3 months.

The legislation I am introducing today would stretch out over 5 years the administration's increase in the salary threshold for overtime pay. I have not met many people who don't believe the threshold ought to go up. I have not met many people who think that it ought to be doubled in 6 months and automatically increased every 3 years, or that it should jump so high and all at once.

On December 1, under the legislation I am introducing, it would still increase significantly—from \$23,660 to \$35,984. This is about a 50-percent increase. This bill would modify a rule that many believe goes too high and too fast and will result in employers, nonprofits, colleges, and others cutting workers' hours and limiting their workplace benefits and flexibility, as well as costing students more in tuition.

If there is one subject I hear about on the Senate floor, it is Senators from both sides of the aisle saying college costs are too high. Yet the independent colleges and the public colleges of Tennessee have written me and they have detailed how the cost of this rule will have the effect of raising tuition by hundreds of dollars per student. So how can you go around complaining about college tuition increases on the one hand and on the other hand issue a rule that raises college tuition by hundreds of dollars in thousands of schools?

My bill will do four things:

No. 1, it will modify the rule so that it is phased in over 5 years rather than all at once on December 1. Most people I talk to think it ought to go up, just as I have said, but they do not think it ought to go up all at once. There is no need for that, so phase it in over 5 years.

No. 2, make a significant increase on December 1, but then prohibit an increase in 2017 to give employers and employees an opportunity to adjust while our independent government watchdog—the Government Accountability Office, the GAO—studies the impact of the rule on American workers after the first year of implementation. So what I have said is that on December 1, the threshold goes up 50 percent, and then for 1 year it doesn't go up at all while the GAO studies the impact of that increase on colleges, church camps, businesses, workers, and others.

No. 3, it would clarify that the administration does not have the authority to automatically increase the overtime threshold, which is currently set to occur automatically every 3 years, starting in 2020.

No. 4, it would require a study of the rule's impact after the first year of implementation. If the study finds the impact is negative, the bill will exempt certain employers from future increases—nonprofits, including churches, colleges, and universities; State and local governments; many Medicaid and Medicare eligible facilities, such as nursing homes or facilities serving individuals with disabilities.

These are employers who can't just raise prices. They are dependent on tax dollars or on charitable donations. And if they are in trouble because of this rule, our communities will lose critical services—surgeries for cleft palates, Scouting opportunities, church camps for underprivileged kids, and others.

This is not a partisan proposal. My bill is very similar to a bill introduced by House Democrat KURT SCHRADER of Oregon and cosponsored by 10 Democrats and 7 Republicans. So my hope is that our Democratic colleagues will take a look at this bill and say that this is a reasonable, bipartisan proposal to apply more common sense to the overtime rule when it comes to the employees, employers, and nonprofits that serve our country.

Without these bills, on December 1, the salary threshold for overtime pay will more than double, from just over \$23,000 to over \$47,000. Representative KURT SCHRADER, a Democrat, when he introduced his bill, said the following:

Since the Department of Labor's immediate phase-in date was announced, we've heard from business owners and their employees who are worried about implementing this increase overnight. Without sufficient time to plan for the increase, cuts and demotions will become inevitable, and workers will actually end up making less than they made before.

Democratic Representative SCHRAEDER has 10 Democrats as cosponsors, including Congressman JIM COOPER from my State of Tennessee, who said:

I am hearing from lots of Middle Tennesseans who are worried about how this new rule will affect them. The overtime rule hadn't been adjusted in years and needed updating. But it's good to make commonsense changes and add flexibility so the rule works for all businesses and workers can actually have a chance to get ahead. We don't want to see lost hours or shifts in job responsibility.

I congratulate Senator COLLINS of Maine and Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma for the legislation they introduced to delay the overtime rule's effect for 6 months. I support that bill, and I am glad the House of Representatives last night passed that bill, but I am also introducing this alternative for those in the body—especially my Democratic friends—who might not be willing to delay the implementation of the overtime rule, who believe it should go up, who believe it should go up as high as the President has proposed but not as fast as the President has proposed, and who believe the rule has created a problem for nonprofits, such as the Boy Scouts, or surgeries for cleft palates or church camps. I hope they will seriously consider the proposal I have made today, along with Senators COLLINS, LANKFORD, SCOTT, and FLAKE.

Over the next 5 weeks between now and the election, we will all be home. We will have a chance to see our Boy Scout leaders. We will have a chance to see our doctors and visit our churches. We can go by our colleges and ask how much this is going to raise the tuition at Maryville College, the University of Tennessee, the University of Wyoming, or wherever we may be. And if the fact is that most Americans feel that to impose this salary threshold on December 1 is too high and too fast, there will be two alternatives when we come back. One is to delay the rule for 6 months, and the other is to raise the threshold just as high as the President proposed but do it over 5 years. Take half of the increase in the first year, no increase the second year, and exempt nonprofits, state and local governments, and many Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible facilities if they are negatively affected. This is similar to the commonsense proposal that Congressman COOPER talked about, that 11 Democrats as well as 7 Republicans have signed on to in the House, and that I hope will have serious consideration here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I wish to join Senator ALEXANDER in discussing this overtime rule.

As he mentioned multiple times, Senator COLLINS and I dropped a companion bill here in the Senate that was passed in the House that delays the overtime rule's implementation by 6

months. As he also mentioned, I am most certainly a cosponsor of his bill as well. That is another approach, and, quite frankly, we are all looking for different approaches to be able to accomplish something that needs to be done and needs to be done immediately; that is, to address a regulation which has been put in place that can have serious, I believe, unintended consequences but most certainly serious consequences across our economy.

That is not an accusation that this administration wants to be able to damage the economy, wants to be able to damage small businesses, or wants to be able to damage universities and nonprofits. But I believe absolutely that is what is occurring. I am concerned, though, that the administration seems to have been deaf to the message that has come up over and over again from many of us in the Congress to be able to highlight that these are serious issues. Have you evaluated them?

The Small Business Administration even has real concerns that the data they presented to the Department of Labor was not used, and the advocate for small businesses within the Department of Labor is challenging the Department of Labor to say: Why didn't you use the data that we provided to be able to evaluate this?

There are a lot of questions about how the regulation itself was promulgated or what the end goal is, but let me tell you what the real consequences are on the ground. I will give a couple of hypothetical situations, and then I will go into some practical ones.

Right now, a single mom with a couple of kids at home is able to telecommute into work a couple of days from her particular job as maybe a sales marketing manager. She can be in the office for 3 days, telecommute a couple of days, save child care costs, and this gives her some flexibility. Under this rule, those same places would not typically allow someone to telecommute because they have to see exactly the hours that someone is working. So she would have to physically be present in the office every day so the work hours could be tracked, removing that flexibility and causing her increased child care costs and actually moving her to more of a situation where she is in a more structured environment, less suitable for her kids.

I will give another thought on this. What if we reach into a situation that many of us face as many of the millennials now leaving college are going into the workforce, well-trained, well-equipped, wanting to get an assistant manager's position or wanting to be able to work into a salaried position. It will be much more difficult for those individuals coming out of college now to land a salaried position because, overall, companies around the country that are hiring don't want to

hire salaried positions anymore; they want to be able to hire hourly people. So it will be tougher for the generation coming out of college right now to be able to land in those early management positions.

Is that a hypothetical situation? No. I would say it is already occurring. It is already happening around the country. When I was home in August, traveling around the State, this overtime regulation was the No. 1 question that came up when I talked to any business owner, any business person, any manager. The first thing they raised was the coming overtime rule, both in its complexity and in trying to figure out how to be able to actually implement this into the cost of their business. The conversations were already occurring with employees where they were moving someone from a salaried position to an hourly position, and their employees hated it because they liked working to a spot where they were in a salaried position.

During the August time period, I had a conversation with a youth pastor at a church. That youth pastor said they had left a conversation with their pastor just a couple of days before in which their pastor said: You are going to have to start documenting your hours—each hour that you are actually working with kids, even your time at home that you are preparing a Bible study to actually teach the kids—because we can't afford for you to go over 40 hours.

This is someone who feels a calling to be able to work with students, and literally their pastor has to tell them: I know you want to help. You can't help more than 40 hours. Most youth pastors don't go into youth ministry because they anticipate getting wealthy in it. They go into it because of a sense of calling and passion to be able to help students. This regulation is telling that person: Turn down your passion to work with the next generation. You are limited in what you can actually do, and, if you choose to volunteer beyond that, you put your employer, that church, at risk.

The Osage Nation—their HR folks, William Scott Johnson, said this:

I'm an HR professional at the Osage Nation and am concerned about the impact that changes to the overtime regulations will have on my organization and employees. NAFOA has heard from tribal governments who are concerned the use of a single national salary threshold would adversely affect already limited revenues, especially for tribes in rural areas.

From the YWCA battered women's shelter:

I'm a human resource (HR) committee member at the YWCA Battered Women's Shelter and am concerned about the impact that changes to the overtime regulations will have on this nonprofit organization and employees. All employees make less than \$50,000 except top management. The impact of this new legislation could be catastrophic

for payroll as employees will have to be moved from exempt to non-exempt status simply due to the salary base being proposed.

The Counseling & Recovery Services of Tulsa, Oklahoma, wrote me:

I am the executive human resource (HR) professional at Counseling & Recovery Services of Oklahoma, a nonprofit community mental health center, and am concerned about the impact that changes to the overtime regulations will have on my organization and employees. As a nonprofit, our agency is clinical staffing heavy; thus, about 80% of our workforce . . . will be impacted. The costs to meet the proposed regulations are expected to be in the 100s of thousands [of dollars] and will have a devastating impact to the community mental health industry overall.

I received a note from a small business owner in Edmond, right in my hometown. They said:

The proposed changes will require us to make significant changes [in the way we do business]. If the proposed salary threshold moves forward, we will be forced to change all our employees to hourly, which will result in the elimination of our bonus program. Our salaried managers make a significant amount of their income based on performance bonuses. Calculating bonuses for employees that have potential overtime is extremely complicated, labor intensive and opens up a huge liability risk if miscalculations occur.

One of the universities in my State wrote me and said about this rule:

Essentially, it would turn millions of dollars of professional, salaried jobs into hourly positions overnight, resulting in limited flexibility for workers and increased costs for colleges, universities, other nonprofits and public-sector employers that operate on very tight budgets as we attempt to keep the cost of education as low as possible for constituents.

We do not disagree that overtime rules need to be updated to ensure the law remains relevant for today's workforce. But we're deeply concerned about the unintended consequences of a massive increase in such a narrow implementation window which will impose serious hardships on our students, employees and institutions.

Last week, I met with leadership of the Department of Labor in a hearing. We discussed this exact issue. I talked about nonprofits and what a unique dynamic they really are. Nonprofits actually raise money based on their low administrative costs. They can tell donors: The money that you give will get directly to the individuals who need it most because our administrative overhead is low. This overtime regulation will increase their administrative overhead and will make it harder for them to raise money.

When I raised that issue to the Department of Labor, the officials of the Department of Labor told me: We understand that, so we met with the leadership of some of the nonprofit foundations around the country and told them that they should donate more to be able to cover the increased costs.

That has to be one of the most out-of-touch statements I have ever heard from someone in the Federal Government. In shock, my response was to

say: Do you know how many hundreds of thousands of nonprofits are in the country? You met with a few foundations and told those foundations that they should donate more to be able to cover, when almost every church and almost every small nonprofit around the country that deals with mental health, that deals with domestic violence shelters are not tapping into big, massive foundations. They are individuals within communities that donate, and they anticipate their donations are going to help those of greatest need.

The people who work in those nonprofits are most often volunteers, but the very few numbers of individuals within the nonprofits who are paid salaries make a meager salary because they choose to—because they have a passion for the work of helping in domestic shelters or helping at a church or helping reach out to people who are in poverty or helping with a clothing shelter or a food pantry. Now you are forcing those organizations to dramatically increase salaries, which will dramatically decrease services to those in greatest need across our country.

I am astounded that the administration believes they can talk to a few people in a few foundations and just tell them: Donate more, and that will fix this. There aren't more donors to just donate more.

There are real needs in a lot of communities around the country. Small business owners that I have spoken to of late all tell me about the complexity of this. It is not just a matter of every employee. There is a tremendous number of exemptions as they work through the process. They want more time, and they don't like the cost increase. They don't like what this is doing to their relationships within their businesses, and they do not like telling salaried employees: I'm sorry, you're going to have to move to hourly.

All of this headache was created by an administration that knew all of this in advance. The letters that I read earlier—those letters that were written to me I presented to the Department of Labor a year ago. The Secretary of Labor assured me they would take those things into account. We have seen the final rule. I can assure you, they were not taken into account.

As tuition goes up in universities, this administration needs to stop complaining about the high cost of tuition in higher education because this overtime rule will directly increase the cost of tuition in every university in the country.

On the day the final rule was proposed, the first text message I received about it was from a university president who texted me and said: Don't blame me next year when tuition goes up. There is no way I can stop it now.

I responded back to him: Don't blame me for this overtime rule. This is not

one we put in statute. This is one the administration created.

All of us want to see workers protected. All of us want to see things happen well in the United States. But the way this rule was implemented, the short period of time in the implementation, the size of the salary increase, and the few exemptions that are put into place have created an incredibly toxic effect for business across the country, whether it is a large business, medium business, small business, university, nonprofit—and I haven't even mentioned local government, which will be forced to raise taxes to be able to cover the cost of this. All of them are dramatically affected, and all of them are affected in a short period of time.

This is why Senator COLLINS and I proposed a bill that lines up with what the House has already passed to say: Delay this 6 months. Most businesses are just trying to figure out what in the world they do with this and how they handle the implementation. Delay it for 6 months.

I would say there is a tremendous amount we have to deal with on top of just the delay, but at a minimum let's delay it. There is no reason it has to go into effect right now, and it directly harms our economy in the days ahead.

These are serious issues. I hope the administration will take them seriously and understand the effect on the coming economy. I am very well aware that this administration will be out of office when most of the economic effects will be felt. But the economic effects will most certainly be felt by this economy, and the long-term effects for those individuals graduating from college right now, trying to land their first job in management, will be even tougher based on this one rule. There is no reason to do that to the next generation of leaders. There is no reason to raise tuition in every college. There is no reason to do this rule right now. I would challenge it to be readdressed and, at a minimum, to be delayed for 6 months.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I join my colleagues to call for action to prevent the version of the overtime rule that the U.S. Department of Labor finalized this past May from going into effect on December 1. I want to commend Chairman ALEXANDER, Senator SCOTT, and Senator LANKFORD for their leadership in this area.

Federal regulations can impose unexpected and costly requirements on small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations. The new U.S. Department of Labor rule on overtime pay is a prime example that could harm the very workers it intends to help, cause small businesses to curb hiring, and force universities and colleges to either raise tuition or cut programs.

The new rule will double the annual salary threshold from \$23,660 to \$47,476

for mandatory overtime, effective December 1.

While it is time for a reasonable update in the threshold, doubling the threshold overnight and with so little time for employers to prepare will have negative consequences. I have spoken with small businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations across Maine, and it is clear that this huge and sudden increase in the threshold is far too much and too fast. Rather than producing bigger paychecks, this new rule is likely to produce reduced hours, benefits, and flexibility for Maine workers.

Many small employers in Maine have told me that they do not have the margins to pay overtime to salaried employees earning up to \$47,476. Some will have to shift their employees to hourly positions. Formerly salaried employees used to flexibility in their work schedules will have to track closely each hour they work each week, instead of being able to leave work to pick up a child at school without worrying about the impact on their paycheck.

The new rule is also a problem for those seasonal businesses in Maine that make an effort to keep their employees on the payroll all year round. In the summer and fall, these employees often work for more than 40 hours a week, but in the winter and spring, they usually work far fewer than 40 hours a week. The current system allows them to have a constant, consistent year-round salary that they can count on. The new overtime rule would upend that and result in many workers being moved from salaried to hourly positions or even being let go during winter months. This will make it harder for workers to make ends meet and harder for employers to retain high-quality employees.

Although the regulation is touted as a means of boosting employees' pay, a study commissioned by the National Retail Federation found that most employees would see no change in net pay. Instead, many employees would see their hours reduced to avoid overtime, while others would see their base wages, benefits, or bonus pay decreased in order the offset the added payroll expense.

Moreover, the National Federation of Independent Business, a leading voice for small business, has noted that the new overtime rule would particularly hurt small businesses in rural areas. The Maine Department of Labor believes that the rule would have a disproportionate economic effect on Maine businesses, where salaries and the cost of living are not as high as in other regions of the country. For instance, the cost of living in Bangor is roughly 37 percent lower than in Washington, DC. While \$47,476 might seem like a reasonable threshold for an employee living in a high-cost area like Washington, DC, it is the equivalent of a salary of more than \$74,000 in Bangor.

Businesses are not alone in their concern. Nonprofit organizations are also struggling with the impact on their workers and those whom they serve. The executive director for Habitat for Humanity in greater Portland states that the “new overtime rules will so drastically change our current compensation obligations that we may no longer be able to give our workers the benefits, schedules and other incentives that drew them to us in the first place.” And he notes that “services to those in need will be reduced and organizational funding will decline as resources are spent on overhead instead of programs.”

Indeed, nonprofit organizations would be among the hardest hit by this rule. Cutbacks in essential services are predicted by the Salvation Army, youth services providers, home health care services, and blood centers throughout the country.

In addition, higher-education groups nationwide are urging the Department of Labor to take a more measured approach. When the final rule was published last spring, Molly Corbett Broad, the president of the American Council on Education, noted that “requiring such a dramatic and costly change to be implemented so quickly will leave many colleges with no choice but to respond to this regulation with a combination of tuition increases, service reductions, and, possibly, layoffs.”

She went on to note that those harmed by the new rule will include “a wide array of non-faculty employees—from athletics coaches and trainers to admissions recruiters and student affairs officers—whose work is not well suited to hourly wage status and who will face diminished workplace autonomy and fewer opportunities for flexible work arrangements and career development.”

This is not a theoretical concern. The University of Maine system would face an estimated \$14 million increase in annual operating costs if it restructured employees’ pay to maintain the exempt status of these workers. To avoid changes in its salary structure that could force tuition increases or threaten university services, Maine’s University System is conducting an arduous and costly position realignment that could still result in an increase in annual labor costs.

The overtime threshold has not been increased in a number of years and should be raised, but doubling virtually overnight and with so little time for employers to prepare will be extremely costly and damaging to small businesses, universities, nonprofit organizations, and so many other segments of our Nation’s economy and our society.

That is why I am a cosponsor of the resolution of disapproval of this rule introduced by Chairman ALEXANDER and Senator SCOTT’s Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity

Act, which would ensure a balanced approach to updating Federal overtime rules by requiring that any new regulation on overtime consider the impact on small business and nonprofits, differences in geographical regions, and impacts on lower-wage industries, startups, and workers.

Today I am joining Chairman ALEXANDER in introducing legislation that would phase in a more reasonable increase to the overtime threshold over five years. I am also cosponsoring another bill introduced today by Senator LANKFORD that would delay the effective date of the new rule by 6 months, from December 1, 2016, to June 1, 2017, to allow more time for Congress to work on this issue.

The flurry of bills on this topic is indicative of just how much concern there is about the potential harm this rule could inflict on the very workers it intends to help, on small businesses, on students, on nonprofits, and on countless others.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in rejecting this onerous and ill-advised rule.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 590—COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 590

Whereas on October 16, 1916, Margaret Sanger, her sister Ethel Byrne, and their activist friend Fania Mindell opened the first birth control health clinic in the United States in Brooklyn, New York, a groundbreaking and revolutionary act for women at that time;

Whereas their clinic was founded on the idea that women should have the information and care they need to live strong, healthy lives and fulfill their dreams;

Whereas Margaret Sanger in 1922 incorporated the American Birth Control League and in 1923 opened the first legal birth control center in the United States, the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, two organizations that would later merge to become Planned Parenthood Federation of America;

Whereas leading up to 1916, the two most common causes of death for women of child-bearing age in the United States were tuberculosis and complications from pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas over the past 100 years, gains in access to birth control, safe and legal abortion, and other reproductive health services have improved and transformed the lives of

women, men, and young people in the United States and around the world;

Whereas for the past century, Planned Parenthood has helped lead massive changes in women’s health and civil rights and has empowered millions of women, men, and young people worldwide to make informed health decisions, transforming the way they live, love, learn, and work;

Whereas Planned Parenthood has been at the forefront of fights for social change, including when the executive director of Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut challenged a law preventing the distribution of birth control, leading to the landmark 1964 Supreme Court ruling in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 379 U.S. 926, which finally allowed married women across the country to have legal access to birth control;

Whereas Planned Parenthood health care providers and staff have played important roles in increasing access to safe and legal abortion, and have successfully advocated for measures that increase access to birth control, including the Affordable Care Act requirement that private insurance plans provide coverage for birth control with no-out-of-pocket costs;

Whereas many leaders, including those in the domestic and global reproductive health, rights, and justice communities, have worked alongside Planned Parenthood in accomplishing these achievements;

Whereas breakthroughs in women’s health care, such as the legalization and expanded availability of birth control, have been named one of the biggest economic advancements for women in the past 100 years;

Whereas changes in women’s access to reproductive health care have led to cultural shifts: in the United States, women are now nearly half the workforce, the sole or primary breadwinners in 40 percent of homes, and more than half of the college students;

Whereas from the single Brooklyn clinic in 1916, Planned Parenthood has grown to approximately 650 clinics across the United States, with partners in a dozen countries in Africa and Latin America;

Whereas today Planned Parenthood proudly provides high-quality, affordable health care, with 90 percent of services provided being preventive health care for women, men, and young people;

Whereas Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of sex education in the United States;

Whereas an estimated 1 in 5 women in the United States have been to a Planned Parenthood clinic for care at some point in their lives, and, for many people, a Planned Parenthood clinic may be the only place they can turn to for health care;

Whereas in a single year, Planned Parenthood clinics provide sexual and reproductive health care, education, information, and outreach to 2,500,000 women, men, and adolescents in the United States and almost 2,000,000 women, men, and young people globally through its global programs and partnerships, and over 72,000,000 people visit Planned Parenthood’s website;

Whereas in the past 10 years, Planned Parenthood has nearly doubled services for male patients and expanded services for LGBTQ communities; and

Whereas Planned Parenthood’s commitment to offer care and resources has grown over the past century and is stronger than ever as it enters into its second century: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the wide-ranging preventive services that Planned Parenthood Federation of America doctors, nurses, and staff

provide every day to patients across the United States;

(2) recognizes that Planned Parenthood is a safety-net provider that reaches medically underserved people who are critically in need of compassionate care;

(3) declares that Planned Parenthood should not be defunded, attacked, or discriminated against for their role as a vital women's health care provider across the country; and

(4) affirms that Planned Parenthood remains an essential thread in the fabric of society, and it will be key in the next century to assisting millions of women, men, and young people in accessing the health care they need and deserve, no matter who they are or where they live.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, Congress has just passed a funding measure that will prevent a shutdown at the end of this week. As headlines across the country noted as the debate over this bill played out, it was delayed partly due to partisan attacks against women's health and one provider in particular—Planned Parenthood—that were shoehorned into the debate once again.

Colleagues, this year Planned Parenthood turns 100 years old. You cannot look at the last 100 years and deny that monumental progress has been made with respect to women's health and rights—thanks to strong allies like Planned Parenthood. But that progress is what some members of this body want to roll back.

When the first Planned Parenthood opened in 1916, it was illegal for women to get information about how to prevent a pregnancy. It is not surprising that at the time, one of the leading causes of death for women in the United States was complications from pregnancy and childbirth.

From the get-go, Planned Parenthood said that women in America have a fundamental right to information about their reproductive health and access to care. It was about the right of all women to a healthy life and the pursuit of happiness.

In 1965, Planned Parenthood Connecticut fought and won the Supreme Court decision that made birth control legal for married women.

In 2010, Planned Parenthood was at the front lines of the battle, along with a lot of us here in the Senate, to ensure that birth control would be covered under the Affordable Care Act.

Today, an estimated one in five women in America has been to a Planned Parenthood clinic for care at some point in her life. Eight out of ten Planned Parenthood patients live in or near poverty. As tough as it is for them to make ends meet, Planned Parenthood is a place they can turn to for important medical care from a provider they trust.

Planned Parenthood at 100 years old has racked up some impressive points on the scoreboard. Each year Planned Parenthood provides educational programs to 1.5 million people. Planned

Parenthood has doubled the number of health services it provides to men and has led the way in expanding access to health care for LGBT Americans. It has more than 650 health centers across the country and served two and a half million women and men last year.

In my home State of Oregon, more than 70,000 Oregonians are served by 11 Planned Parenthood centers. I know firsthand from visiting with Planned Parenthood officials throughout Oregon in Portland, in Lane County, in central Oregon, how important these centers are to the health care of Oregonians.

Planned Parenthood is at the heart of the revolution in women's health care over the last 100 years. It is the first place millions of American women turn to for health care—women from Portland, OR, to Portland, ME.

Here are some of the services Planned Parenthood provides: birth control and counseling; pregnancy tests; prenatal services; HIV tests; safe, legal abortion services; breast cancer screenings; HPV vaccinations; cervical cancer screenings and prevention; ovarian cancer screenings; PAP tests; exams for sexually transmitted diseases; treatment for urinary tract infections; basic physical exams; adoption referrals; family practice services; and nutrition programs.

Despite all these critical services Planned Parenthood provides, every day, legislators attack Planned Parenthood.

The fact is this crusade against Planned Parenthood is a crusade against the fundamental and constitutionally-protected right of women to make their own decisions about their bodies.

Time and time again on the Senate floor and in debates with the other side, my Democratic colleagues and I have had to beat back the attempts to defund Planned Parenthood.

Here is my bottom line colleagues. This country has made 100 years of progress on women's health, and it's not going to move backward.

I urge my colleagues to honor the commitment to women's health and rights that Planned Parenthood has shown in the last 100 years by working in a bipartisan way to improve access to women's health care, instead of limping it.

Let us allow more women and men to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter who they are or where they live. Let us work to uphold the fundamental right of all women to make their own reproductive choices and access quality health care. Let us continue funding for Planned Parenthood and end these partisan attacks against this bedrock American health provider.

Today, I am joined by 17 of my colleagues in introducing a resolution to formally recognize Planned Parent-

hood's immense contributions to progress for women's health and quality of life in America. It is time to end the unfounded attacks against Planned Parenthood and allow it to continue to provide critical health services for the next 100 years.

SENATE RESOLUTION 591—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9 THROUGH OCTOBER 15, 2016, AS "NATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT WEEK" TO RECOGNIZE THE ROLE OF CASE MANAGEMENT IN IMPROVING HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 591

Whereas case management is a collaborative process of assessment, education, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy;

Whereas the goal of case management is to meet the health needs of the patient and the family of the patient, while respecting and assuring the right of the patient to self-determination through communication and other available resources in order to promote high-quality, cost-effective outcomes;

Whereas case managers are advocates who help patients understand their current health status, guide patients on ways to improve their health, and provide cohesion with other professionals on the health care delivery team;

Whereas the American Case Management Association and the Case Management Society of America work diligently to raise awareness about the broad range of services that case managers offer and to educate providers, payers, regulators, and consumers on the improved patient outcomes that case management services can provide;

Whereas through National Case Management Week, the American Case Management Association and the Case Management Society of America aim to continue to educate providers, payers, regulators, and consumers about how vital case managers are to the successful delivery of health care;

Whereas the American Case Management Association and the Case Management Society of America will celebrate National Case Management Week during the week of October 9 through October 15, 2016, in order to recognize case managers as an essential link to patients receiving quality health care; and

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize the many achievements of case managers in improving health care outcomes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 9 through October 15, 2016, as "National Case Management Week";

(2) recognizes the role of case management in providing successful and cost-effective health care; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Case Management Week and learn about the field of case management.

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH” IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 592

Whereas sickle cell disease (in this preamble referred to as “SCD”) is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes episodes of considerable pain in the arms, legs, chest, and abdomen of an individual;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn African-American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants and is found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 African-Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD is often severely limited;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help patients with SCD; and

Whereas September 2016 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 593—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 22, 2016, AS “NATIONAL FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGE THE PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER ADULTS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mrs. McCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas individuals who are 65 years of age or older (in this preamble referred to as “older adults”) are the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States and the number of older adults in the United States will increase from 46,200,000 in 2014 to 82,300,000 in 2040;

Whereas more than 1 out of 4 older adults in the United States falls each year;

Whereas falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older adults;

Whereas, in 2014, approximately 2,800,000 older adults were treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related injuries and more than 812,000 of those older adults were subsequently hospitalized;

Whereas, in 2014, more than 27,000 older adults died from injuries related to unintentional falls and the death rates from falls of older adults in the United States have risen sharply in the last decade;

Whereas, in 2015, the total direct medical cost of fall-related injuries for older adults, adjusted for inflation, was \$31,000,000,000;

Whereas, if the rate of increase in falls is not slowed, the annual cost of fall injuries will reach \$67,700,000,000 by 2020; and

Whereas evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement, reduction of home hazards, and fall prevention education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 22, 2016, as “National Falls Prevention Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that there are proven, cost-effective falls prevention programs and policies;

(3) commends the 72 member organizations of the Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43 States and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work together to increase education and awareness about preventing falls among older adults;

(4) encourages businesses, individuals, Federal, State, and local governments, the public health community, and health care providers to work together to raise awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults in the United States;

(5) recognizes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its work developing and evaluating interventions for all members of health care teams to make falls prevention a routine part of clinical care;

(6) recognizes the Administration for Community Living for its work to promote access to evidence-based programs and services in communities across the United States;

(7) encourages State health departments and State units on aging, which provide significant leadership in reducing injuries and related health care costs by collaborating with organizations and individuals, to reduce falls among older adults; and

(8) encourages experts in the field of falls prevention to share their best practices so that their success can be replicated by others.

SENATE RESOLUTION 594—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF THE THIRD SATURDAY IN OCTOBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL ANIMAL RESCUE DAY” TO CREATE AWARENESS OF AND EDUCATE INDIVIDUALS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ADOPTION OF ANIMALS, TO CREATE A HUMANE ENVIRONMENT FOR ANY PET, AND TO ENCOURAGE ANIMAL ADOPTIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 594

Whereas between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 companion animals are placed into animal shelters each year;

Whereas between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 companion animals are euthanized each year;

Whereas a greater awareness of dog fighting and abuse encourages individuals to rehabilitate animals that would otherwise be put to sleep or left in animal shelters or rescues;

Whereas there are more than 13,000 animal shelters throughout the United States in need of pet supplies, medical supplies, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, food, educational materials about owning a pet, and information on how to screen out unqualified applicants and to provide the best pet match for a family;

Whereas increased knowledge and awareness of animal rescue programs throughout the United States will significantly reduce the number of cats and dogs that are euthanized and animals that have been rescued that are left in animal shelters;

Whereas “National Animal Rescue Day” will alleviate the problem of pet overpopulation, provide animals with good homes, and create awareness of, and financial and educational resources to alleviate, the problems animal shelters face each day;

Whereas “National Animal Rescue Day” will encourage individuals to make their homes available for animals in need; and

Whereas the third Saturday in October 2016 would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Animal Rescue Day”, to be commemorated with appropriate events that will increase the number of pet adoptions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of “National Animal Rescue Day”—

(1) to create awareness of animal rescue programs throughout the year; and

(2) to be commemorated with appropriate events that will increase the number of pet adoptions.

SENATE RESOLUTION 595—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL,

Mr. GARDNER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

S. RES. 595

Whereas the Armed Forces of the United States train individuals with the skills, discipline, and leadership necessary to establish and operate a successful business;

Whereas there are approximately 2,500,000 veteran-owned small businesses in the United States, employing nearly 6,000,000 individuals;

Whereas veteran-owned businesses make up nearly 10 percent of all businesses in the United States;

Whereas veterans account for more than \$1,200,000,000,000 in business receipts every year;

Whereas veterans are 45 percent more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans;

Whereas, from 2007 to 2012, veteran-owned small businesses grew at nearly twice the rate of non-veteran-owned small businesses;

Whereas women veterans' business ownership has increased significantly, from 97,114 in 2007 to 384,549 in 2012;

Whereas the Office of Veterans Business Development of the Small Business Administration is dedicated to maximizing the availability and usability of small business programs for veterans, members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving on active-duty, transitioning service members, and the spouses, dependents, or survivors of those members and veterans;

Whereas the Small Business Administration serves more than 200,000 veterans, service-disabled veterans, women veterans, and military spouses annually;

Whereas, in 2014, the Small Business Administration increased loans to veterans by more than 100 percent, guaranteeing more than \$1,000,000,000 in small business loans;

Whereas the entrepreneurship training program of the Small Business Administration, Boots to Business, has trained more than 30,000 service members, veterans, and spouses of service members and veterans since launching in 2013;

Whereas the Small Business Administration will be hosting events honoring National Veterans Small Business Week from October 31 through November 4, 2016;

Whereas the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate will be commemorating National Veterans Small Business Week during the week of October 31 through November 4, 2016; and

Whereas the week of October 31 through November 4, 2016, would be an appropriate time to celebrate National Veterans Small Business Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate joins with the Small Business Administration in—

(1) supporting the goals and ideals of National Veterans Small Business Week;

(2) celebrating the millions of people in the United States, especially the veterans of the United States and the spouses of those veterans, who benefit from the programs of the Small Business Administration; and

(3) expressing appreciation for the continued service to the United States by the veterans of the United States through small business ownership and entrepreneurship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 596

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis is a debilitating and ultimately fatal condition that causes progressive scarring in the lungs and generally has no known definitive cause;

Whereas as many as 200,000 individuals in the United States are known to suffer from pulmonary fibrosis, the majority of whom are between the ages of 50 and 75;

Whereas the average survival rate for the idiopathic form of pulmonary fibrosis is just 2.8 years and up to 80 percent of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients die within 5 years of diagnosis;

Whereas pulmonary fibrosis takes the lives of 40,000 individuals in the United States each year, approximately 1 death every 13 minutes;

Whereas many patients with pulmonary fibrosis are misdiagnosed for 1 year or longer after the patients are presenting with pulmonary fibrosis symptoms;

Whereas as of September 2016, there are no biomarkers for screening and testing for pulmonary fibrosis;

Whereas a cure or drug that is effective for all pulmonary fibrosis patients that would extend life or universally improve symptoms does not exist;

Whereas the symptoms of pulmonary fibrosis vary from person to person and include shortness of breath, a dry cough, fatigue, weight loss, and aching muscles and joints;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals; and

Whereas developing more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and providing access to quality care to individuals with pulmonary fibrosis requires increased research, education, and community support services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support more robust and accelerated research to develop more effective treatments for pulmonary fibrosis and to ultimately find a cure for the disease;

(4) recognizes the courage and contributions of individuals with pulmonary fibrosis who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals in the United States and abroad working to improve the quality of life for individuals with pulmonary fibrosis and the families of those individuals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 597

Whereas in September 2016, “National Kinship Care Month” is observed;

Whereas nationally 2,500,000 children are living in kinship care with grandparents or other relatives;

Whereas grandparents and relatives residing in urban, rural, and suburban households in every county of the United States have stepped forward out of love and loyalty to care for children during times in which biological parents are unable to do so;

Whereas kinship caregivers provide safety, promote well-being, and establish stable households for vulnerable children;

Whereas kinship care enables a child—

(1) to maintain family relationships and cultural heritage; and

(2) to remain in the community of the child;

Whereas kinship care is a national resource that provides loving homes for children at risk;

Whereas kinship caregivers face daunting challenges to keep countless children from entering foster care;

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize the many kinship care families in which a child is raised by grandparents or other relatives;

Whereas the Senate wishes to honor the many kinship caregivers who throughout the history of the United States have provided loving homes for parentless children;

Whereas National Kinship Care Month provides an opportunity to urge people in every State to join in recognizing and celebrating kinship caregiving families and the tradition of families in the United States to help raise children; and

Whereas much remains to be done to ensure that all children have a safe, loving, nurturing, and permanent family, regardless of age or special needs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Kinship Care Month”;

(2) encourages Congress to implement policies to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families;

(3) honors the commitment and dedication of kinship caregivers and the advocates and allies who work tirelessly to provide assistance and services to kinship caregiving families; and

(4) reaffirms the need to continue working to improve the outcomes of all vulnerable children through parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), and other programs designed—

(A) to support vulnerable families;

(B) to invest in prevention and reunification services; and

(C) to ensure that extended family members who take on the role of kinship caregivers receive the necessary support.

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2016 AS “FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FRANKEN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 598

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States

was October 18, 1587, when the first “Luzones Indios” arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to United States history by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas, with a population of approximately 3,898,739 individuals, the Filipino American community is the second largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States;

Whereas from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipino American servicemen and servicewomen have a long-standing history of serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas, as of June 2016, certain family members of Filipino World War II veterans who are United States citizens or lawful permanent residents may apply through the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for parole into the United States to reunite with their families before their immigrant visas become available;

Whereas, in July 2016, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. 1555 (114th Congress), a bill to award to Filipino veterans who fought alongside United States troops in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress, a recognition for which Filipino World War II veterans have waited more than 70 years;

Whereas Filipino Americans continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor;

Whereas 9 Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt, born in Claveria, Cagayan, on the island of Luzon in the Philippines—

(1) moved with her family to Alaska in 1965;

(2) was elected to the House of Representatives of Alaska in 1974;

(3) was the first Filipino woman elected to a State legislature; and

(4) authored a comprehensive history book entitled “Filipinos in Alaska: 1788–1958”;

Whereas Filipino American farmworkers and labor leaders such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement alongside Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role in the United States healthcare system as nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals;

Whereas Filipino Americans have contributed greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the landscape of the United States;

Whereas, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National His-

torical Society, efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of United States history;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill in Filipino American youth—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino American legacy; and

Whereas Filipino American History Month is celebrated during the month of October 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2016 as “Filipino American History Month”;

(2) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month as—

(A) a study of the advancement of Filipino Americans;

(B) a time to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States; and

(C) a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States—

(i) to learn more about Filipino Americans;

(ii) to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 20, 2016, AS THE “NATIONAL DAY ON WRITING”

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 599

Whereas people in the 21st century are writing more than ever before for personal, professional, and civic purposes;

Whereas the social nature of writing invites people of every age, profession, and walk of life to create meaning through composing;

Whereas more and more people in every occupation consider writing to be essential and influential in their work;

Whereas individuals who write continue to learn how to write for different purposes, audiences, and occasions throughout their lifetimes;

Whereas developing digital technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media at a faster pace than ever before;

Whereas young people are leading the way in developing new forms of composing by using different forms of digital media;

Whereas effective communication contributes to building a global economy and a global community;

Whereas the National Council of Teachers of English, in conjunction with its many national and local partners, honors and celebrates the importance of writing through the National Day on Writing;

Whereas the National Day on Writing celebrates the foundational place of writing in the personal, professional, and civic lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas the National Day on Writing highlights the importance of writing instruction and practice at every educational level and in every subject area;

Whereas the National Day on Writing emphasizes the lifelong process of learning to write and compose for different audiences, purposes, and occasions;

Whereas the National Day on Writing honors the use of the full range of media for composing, from traditional tools, including print, audio, and video, to social media, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and Internet website tools, including blogs, wikis, and podcasts;

Whereas the National Day on Writing encourages all people of the United States and overseas to write, enjoy, and learn from the writing of others;

Whereas in 2015, the hashtag #WhyIWrite generated over 60,000 tweets and reached millions of people, encouraging students, from elementary school through the university level, athletes, authors, and artists from all over the world to participate; and

Whereas, on the National Day of Writing in 2016, the National Council of Teachers of English encourages all people of the United States to tell others #WhyIWrite through print, social media, or other means: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 20, 2016, as the “National Day on Writing”;

(2) strongly affirms the purposes of the National Day on Writing; and

(3) encourages educational institutions, businesses, community and civic associations, and other organizations to celebrate and promote the National Day on Writing.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26 THROUGH 30, 2016, AS “NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. REED, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. KIRK, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reports that approximately 36,000,000 adults in the United States lack the basic literacy and numeracy necessary to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society;

Whereas the literacy of the people of the United States is essential for the economic and societal well-being of the United States;

Whereas the United States reaps the economic benefits of individuals who improve their literacy, numeracy, and English-language skills;

Whereas literacy and educational skills are necessary for individuals to fully benefit from the range of opportunities available in the United States;

Whereas the economy and position of the United States in the world marketplace depend on having a literate, skilled population;

Whereas the unemployment rate in the United States is highest among those without a high school diploma or an equivalent credential, demonstrating that education is important to economic recovery;

Whereas the educational skills of the parents of a child and the practice of reading to a child have a direct impact on the educational success of the child;

Whereas parental involvement in the education of a child is a key predictor of the success of a child, and the level of parental involvement in the education of a child increases as the educational level of the parent increases;

Whereas parents who participate in family literacy programs become more involved in the education of their children and gain the tools necessary to obtain a job or find better employment;

Whereas, as a result of family literacy programs, the lives of children become more stable, and the success of children in the classroom and in future endeavors becomes more likely;

Whereas adults need to be part of a long-term solution to the educational challenges faced by the people of the United States;

Whereas many older people in the United States lack the reading, math, or English-language skills necessary to read a prescription and follow medical instructions, which endangers the lives of the older people and the lives of their loved ones;

Whereas many individuals who are unemployed, underemployed, or receive public assistance lack the literacy skills necessary to obtain and keep a job, to continue their education, or to participate in job training programs;

Whereas many high school dropouts do not have the literacy skills necessary to complete their education, transition to postsecondary education or career and technical training, or obtain a job;

Whereas a large portion of individuals in prison have low educational skills and prisoners without educational skills are more likely to return to prison once released;

Whereas many immigrants in the United States do not have the literacy skills necessary to succeed in the United States; and

Whereas National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week highlights the need to ensure that each individual in the United States has the literacy skills necessary to succeed at home, at work, and in society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 26 through 30, 2016, as “National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week” to raise public awareness about the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy;

(2) encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist individuals in need of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs;

(3) recognizes the importance of adult education, workforce skills, and family literacy programs; and

(4) calls on public, private, and nonprofit entities to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

SENATE RESOLUTION 601—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL DYSTONIA AWARENESS MONTH” AND RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISORDER OF DYSTONIA

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following res-

olution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 601

Whereas National Dystonia Awareness Month will raise public awareness and understanding of the disorder of dystonia, which has numerous manifestations affecting people of all ages, races, genders, and backgrounds;

Whereas National Dystonia Awareness Month will also foster understanding of the impact the various forms of dystonia have on the individuals who are affected and the families of those individuals;

Whereas dystonia is a neurological disorder presenting in various forms, characterized by involuntary muscle contractions that cause abnormal and often repetitive movements or postures;

Whereas symptoms of dystonia may impede the ability of an individual—

(1) to walk, as in generalized dystonia or limb dystonia;

(2) to control the posture of the head of the individual, as in cervical dystonia;

(3) to speak, as in spasmodic dysphonia or oromandibular dystonia;

(4) to see, as in blepharospasm; or

(5) to write, as in hand dystonia;

Whereas there are limited treatments and no cure for dystonia;

Whereas dystonia is commonly misdiagnosed, delaying access to appropriate medical care for those individuals who are affected;

Whereas countless friends, loved ones, spouses, and caregivers must shoulder the physical, emotional, and financial burdens that dystonia causes;

Whereas the severity of the symptoms of dystonia and the limited public awareness of the disease cause many patients to be isolated;

Whereas the dystonia community is uniting to cooperate on awareness efforts throughout September of 2016; and

Whereas the Benign Essential Blepharospasm Research Foundation, Dystonia, Inc., the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, the National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, and the National Spasmodic Torticollis Association are dedicated to—

(1) conducting research to find treatments and a cure for dystonia;

(2) fostering public awareness and understanding of dystonia;

(3) educating patients and their families about dystonia to improve the treatment of and care for patients; and

(4) providing support and encouraging individuals to become advocates, including by sponsoring annual patient education conferences, school-based educational programs, and local events to raise funds for dystonia research, education, advocacy, and awareness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2016 as “National Dystonia Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Dystonia Awareness Month to raise public awareness and understanding of dystonia;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research to find a cure for all forms of dystonia; and

(4) encourages all people in the United States and interested groups to support National Dystonia Awareness Month through various appropriate ceremonies and activities—

(A) to promote public awareness of dystonia; and

(B) to foster the understanding of the impact of dystonia on patients and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 602—SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION AND MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF LATINOS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REID, Mr. UDALL, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 602

Whereas Latinos are the largest ethnic group in the United States, with more than 56,600,000 Latinos making up 17.6 percent of the population of the United States;

Whereas the Latino community is projected to grow to nearly ¼ of the population of the United States by 2050;

Whereas Latinos should have greater representation in the decisionmaking process relating to, and management of, public land;

Whereas Latino conservation initiatives break down barriers, improve access to public land, and encourage outreach to, and new opportunities for, the Latino community to use public land;

Whereas Latino conservation efforts can range from outdoor activities, such as hiking and kayaking, to educational activities and community gatherings;

Whereas increased access to outdoor recreation opportunities encourages Latino families and youth to engage with the outdoors and demonstrate the commitment of the Latino families and youth to conservation;

Whereas each person should have the opportunity to discover his or her history, culture, and heritage by exploring and experiencing the public land of the United States;

Whereas access to green spaces provides for healthier and more active lifestyles, which helps address numerous health disparity issues facing the Latino community, such as diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease;

Whereas the participation of Latinos in conservation efforts can encourage the interest and involvement of Latinos in careers in conservation;

Whereas the people of the United States must ensure that the public land and natural surroundings of the United States are protected for future generations; and

Whereas the members of the largest ethnic group in the United States, as the environmental stewards of tomorrow, will play a significant role in securing the future success and preservation of the public land of the United States, especially as that group continues to grow; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the role of Latinos in protecting and preserving the land, water, and wildlife of the United States;

(2) supports the inclusion and meaningful engagement of Latinos in environmental protection and conservation efforts; and

(3) encourages Latinos in the United States to participate in ceremonies, activities, and programs that engage the community in the outdoors and bring awareness to the importance of conservation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 603—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING IN 2016 AS “NATIONAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS WEEK”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 603

Whereas 70 percent of all consumer spending in the United States is conducted via electronic payments;

Whereas electronic payments play a central role in promoting prosperity, commerce, and economic growth in the United States;

Whereas electronic payments involve purchases with credit, debit, and prepaid accounts, either in-store using a card or connected device or online;

Whereas payments companies in the United States enable individuals to gain access to rapid, convenient, and secure financial payments not otherwise available without electronic payments;

Whereas payments and technology companies in the United States are continually developing and deploying new, innovative electronic payments technologies to make commerce more secure, faster, accessible, and efficient to protect against fraud;

Whereas innovative electronic payments technologies support small businesses in the United States by providing secure, faster, accessible, and efficient solutions;

Whereas electronic payments are used by more than 8,000,000 merchants in the United States and the 1,200,000,000 payment cards in circulation allow individuals to conduct electronic payments through those merchants and with one another;

Whereas the value of electronic payments made on a mobile device was estimated to increase by 210 percent in 2016;

Whereas electronic payments companies processed more than \$5,000,000,000,000 in payments in 2015, and electronic payments are projected to increase to \$7,000,000,000,000 in 2017;

Whereas holiday spending accounted for nearly 20 percent of retail sales during 2015, and nearly 70 percent of all holiday sales are conducted via electronic payments;

Whereas, on Black Friday in 2015, for the first time more individuals in the United States shopped online than in retail stores, which could not have been possible without electronic payments companies;

Whereas the 7-day period after Thanksgiving accounted for more than 6.5 percent of electronic payments for the final quarter of 2015, and electronic payments totaled \$35,000,000,000 during that 7-day period;

Whereas the designation of National Electronic Payments Week is especially important to the electronic payments industry because it marks the start of the holiday season and includes Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday; and

Whereas electronic payments play an integral role for consumers and merchants in the transfer of goods and services not only during the holiday season, but also throughout the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning on the first Friday after Thanksgiving in 2016 as “National Electronic Payments Week”;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions and great importance of electronic payments

and the advantages electronic payments provide to consumers, merchants, small businesses, and the economy of the United States as a whole;

(3) appreciates the significant role that electronic payments play in the global marketplace;

(4) acknowledges the growth of electronic payments domestically and abroad; and

(5) desires to foster an environment that encourages continued innovation and enhanced security in electronic payments.

SENATE RESOLUTION 604—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL BLADDER HEALTH MONTH”

Mr. KIRK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 604

Whereas tens of millions of people in the United States are affected by bladder diseases and conditions, including urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, underactive bladder, interstitial cystitis, nocturia, urinary tract infections, bladder cancer, urotrauma, and neurogenic bladder;

Whereas bladder diseases and conditions have a significant impact on health and quality of life, contributing to decreased physical activity (which can increase obesity levels and the risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease), depression, social isolation, falls, sexual dysfunction, loss of self-esteem, hospitalizations, nursing home admissions, and even death;

Whereas bladder diseases and conditions result in costs to the United States economy estimated at more than \$70,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas bladder problems are highly stigmatized, and open dialogue generated by National Bladder Health Month can reduce stigma and empower providers and patients to have much-needed conversations about bladder health;

Whereas medical and behavioral research to better understand and maintain bladder health and treat bladder diseases is critically needed yet poorly recognized;

Whereas bladder diseases and conditions are common in military veterans;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 military service members injured in Afghanistan and Iraq have urotrauma injuries (damage to the urinary tract or reproductive organs);

Whereas 1 in 3 younger women veterans report overactive bladder, stress urinary incontinence, and painful bladder symptoms;

Whereas more than ¾ of veterans with spinal cord injuries suffer from neurogenic bladder;

Whereas bladder cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer among Veterans Affairs Health System patients;

Whereas preventative campaigns and measures for diseases and conditions that are as extensive and expensive as bladder diseases and conditions are routine and accepted in common medical, societal, and public health practice, yet no preventative campaign or measure exists in a large, systematic fashion for bladder health; and

Whereas November 2016 is an appropriate month to designate as “National Bladder Health Month” since bladder health awareness has been promoted in November for more than 20 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of November 2016 as “National Bladder Health Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 605—HONORING ARNOLD PALMER

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. NELSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 605

Whereas Arnold Palmer was one of the most popular professional athletes of all time, known affectionately as “The King” for his civility, modesty, and commitment to public service;

Whereas Palmer, with his charming personality and approachability, popularized the game of golf, introducing millions of people in the United States to the sport, many of whom became part of “Arnie’s Army”, a legion of fans worldwide;

Whereas Palmer was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a small steel town at the western base of the Allegheny Mountains, east of Pittsburgh;

Whereas Palmer learned the game of golf at Latrobe Country Club, where his father Milfred “Deacon” Palmer served as the club professional and groundskeeper;

Whereas Palmer lived in his hometown for his entire life, where he stayed engaged in his community;

Whereas Palmer was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, a successful businessman, and a humanitarian;

Whereas Palmer opened the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, dedicated to the memory of his late wife, on the grounds adjacent to St. Vincent College;

Whereas Palmer served as honorary National Chairman of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for 20 years;

Whereas Palmer owned the Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida, which hosts the Arnold Palmer Invitational to raise funds to benefit the Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies and the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, both of which are also located in Orlando, Florida;

Whereas Palmer was a prostate cancer survivor and raised funds to support the Arnold Palmer Pavilion, a cancer center near Latrobe, Pennsylvania;

Whereas Palmer was an amateur aviator who helped develop the airport in his beloved hometown and served on the Westmoreland County Airport Authority, which renamed the airport in Latrobe in honor of Palmer in 1999;

Whereas Palmer served his country for 3 years in the United States Coast Guard;

Whereas Palmer won 92 tournaments, including 7 major championships;

Whereas Palmer played in the Masters Tournament 48 times, winning in 1958, 1960, 1962, and 1964;

Whereas, in 2004, Palmer received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush;

Whereas Palmer was presented the Congressional Gold Medal on September 12, 2012, in recognition of his service to the United States in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf; and

Whereas Palmer has received numerous other honors for his accomplishments in golf and his service to his community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Arnold Palmer for his philanthropy, humanitarianism, and significant contributions to the sport of golf; and

(2) expresses its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of Arnold Palmer on his death.

SENATE RESOLUTION 606—HONORING THE MEMORIES AND LEGACIES OF THE 3 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ATTACK ON JULY 17, 2016, IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, CONDEMNING THAT ATTACK, AND RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. VITTER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 606

Whereas, on July 17, 2016, a lone gunman in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, ambushed and opened fire on law enforcement personnel, killing 3 Baton Rouge law enforcement officers and wounding 3 additional officers at Benny's Car Wash and Oil Change;

Whereas Corporal Montrell Jackson, a 10-year veteran of the Baton Rouge Police Department who was a husband, father, brother, and son and who loved his career and serving his community, was killed in the attack;

Whereas Deputy Brad Garafola, a 24-year veteran of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office and a beloved husband, father, and son who touched the lives of many individuals during his more than 2 decades of faithful service, was killed in the attack;

Whereas Officer Matthew Gerald, who honorably served the United States as a member of United States Marine Corps and the United States Army before joining the Baton Rouge Police Department in 2015, was killed in the attack;

Whereas 3 other Baton Rouge law enforcement officers were injured during this senseless attack;

Whereas this attack took place with the intention of targeting law enforcement officers;

Whereas Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel performed their duties admirably during the attack and risk their lives every day to ensure the safety of the people of Baton Rouge; and

Whereas the people of the United States stand united with the community of Baton Rouge and the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims to support all of those individuals affected by the attack and to pray for healing and peace: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the attack of July 17, 2016, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana;

(2) honors the memory of the Baton Rouge law enforcement officers who lost their lives;

(3) recognizes the bravery, heroism, and dedication by Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, emergency medical re-

sponders, and all of those individuals who offered support and assistance;

(4) offers sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims;

(5) expresses hope that each individual who was wounded in the attack makes a full recovery; and

(6) stands united against violence and in support of those individuals who work every day to protect the communities of the United States and keep the United States safe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 607—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. BURR, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 607

Whereas, in an effort to improve the imagery intelligence, mapping, and geodesy capabilities of the United States, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (in this preamble referred to as "NIMA"), the predecessor of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (in this preamble referred to as the "NGA"), was founded on October 1, 1996, as a result of President William Jefferson Clinton signing into law the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104-201; 110 Stat. 2422), which authorized the establishment of NIMA;

Whereas the NGA derives from legacy agencies, including the Defense Mapping Agency, the National Photographic Interpretation Center, the Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office, the Central Imagery Office, and the Defense Dissemination Program Office, that played vital roles in the defense of the United States in conflicts dating back to World War II and contributed to the discipline of geospatial intelligence (in this preamble referred to as "GEOINT") through imagery and mapping production;

Whereas the NGA has, throughout its 20-year history, provided GEOINT support to United States policy makers and military commanders in both war and peacetime during significant national security and natural disaster events, including—

(1) the operations in the Balkans;

(2) the response to Hurricane Katrina;

(3) the operation that resulted in the killing of former al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden;

(4) operations against state-sponsored terrorist organizations;

(5) the humanitarian assistance responses to earthquakes in Haiti and Japan; and

(6) the continued critical mission support to members of the Armed Forces in the Middle East;

Whereas, with military and civilian employees serving at the NGA headquarters in Springfield, Virginia, the NGA West Campus in St. Louis, Missouri, and additional locations throughout the United States, and with personnel deployed worldwide in more than 200 locations in 17 countries, the NGA produces timely mapping, charting, geodesy, and intelligence products to warfighters, first responders, civil authorities, policy makers, and the maritime and aviation communities;

Whereas the NGA motto describes the many missions that were combined 20 years

ago upon the creation of the NGA, "Know the Earth, show the way, and understand the world";

Whereas the NGA is the primary organization responsible for developing, maintaining, and enhancing the World Geodetic System 84 reference frame, the foundation for all of the Positioning, Navigation, and Timing systems of the Department of Defense, including the Global Positioning System (commonly known as "GPS");

Whereas the Maritime Safety Office of the NGA, which traces its lineage to 1869, collects, analyzes, and writes the Notices to Mariners that keep government, civilian, and international mariners informed about vital safety and navigational issues;

Whereas the NGA also supports commercial vessels worldwide with navigational products and warning messages;

Whereas, in addition to updating worldwide digital nautical charts that ensure safety of navigation to a broad base of users, the NGA has expanded to provide safety of navigation information to the aeronautical community;

Whereas, in recent years, the NGA has increased its—

(1) worldwide, industry-leading aeronautical safety library to more than 10,000 flight procedures made available to the Department of Defense; and

(2) vertical obstructions database from 4,000,000 features to more than 24,000,000 features;

Whereas the NGA has converted from paper maps to downloadable digital maps, reducing the amount of gear that pilots need to carry while ensuring that those pilots always have the latest information;

Whereas the NGA continues to be a constant source of innovation, aiding the efforts of the Department of Defense in counterterrorism and counterinsurgency operations by using new—

(1) intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sensors and technologies; and

(2) analytic methods, including full-motion video, hyperspectral imagery, overhead persistent infrared, light detection and ranging, and activity-based intelligence;

Whereas the NGA continues to support warfighters and intelligence operators with dedicated efforts in global counterterrorism, counterproliferation, mission readiness, safety of navigation, and future weapons development;

Whereas, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the men and women of the NGA have worked diligently to deter, detect, and prevent acts of terrorism by providing GEOINT support to United States and coalition forces in support of the Global War on Terror, including Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa, Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria;

Whereas the NGA is commendably pursuing new methods of intelligence collection and analysis to inform, complement, and add to the NGA's support of warfighter requirements by—

(1) embracing innovative cost-sharing and risk-sharing constructs with the commercial electro-optical satellite industry; and

(2) looking to emerging commercial technology providers, including small satellite companies, that hold the promise of rapid technological innovation and potentially significant future cost savings to the taxpayers of the United States; and

Whereas the NGA has been awarded 3 Joint Meritorious Unit Awards reflecting the distinctive accomplishments of the personnel assigned to the NGA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the men and women of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency;

(2) honors the professional men and women, past and present, of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for their selfless service and dedication to the United States; and

(3) expresses gratitude to all the men and women of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for their past and continued efforts to provide timely, relevant, and accurate geospatial intelligence support to deliver overwhelming advantages to warfighters, defense planners, and national security policymakers in the defense and security of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 608—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2016, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. COONS, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 608

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States constitute a significant share of the economy of the United States, with as much as 43 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States generated in coastal shoreline counties;

Whereas the population of coastal shoreline counties in the United States increased by 39 percent from 1970 to 2010 and is projected to continue to increase;

Whereas not fewer than 2,100,000 jobs in the United States are supported by marine tourism and recreation;

Whereas the commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and seafood industries rely on healthy estuaries and directly support 1,839,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas, in 2014—

(1) commercial fish landings generated \$5,500,000,000; and

(2) recreational anglers—

(A) took more than 68,000,000 fishing trips; and

(B) spent \$32,000,000,000;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that the policy of the United States is to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 25 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to a better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, is recognized as “National Estuaries Week” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, as “National Estuaries Week”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 609—HONORING THE MEMORIES AND HEROIC ACTIONS OF THOSE KILLED, INJURED, AND AFFECTED BY THE FATAL BUS CRASH IN LAPLACE, LOUISIANA, ON AUGUST 28, 2016

Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 609

Whereas, on August 28, 2016, St. John the Baptist Parish firefighters and Louisiana

State troopers were responding to the scene of an accident along I-10 Westbound in Laplace, Louisiana, when an undocumented immigrant driving a passenger bus lost control of the bus and crashed into a nearby vehicle;

Whereas 3 firefighters were thrown over the highway guardrail from the impact of the vehicle, falling more than 30 feet into alligator-infested water;

Whereas fellow firefighters, State troopers, and at least 1 civilian quickly responded to rescue the 3 overthrown firefighters;

Whereas Chief Spencer Chauvin, a 36-year-old who served the St. John the Baptist Parish Fire Department for 12 years and was a beloved husband and father of 2, died in the crash;

Whereas 21-year-old Jermaine Starr and 33-year-old Vontarous Kelly, both of Moss Point, Mississippi, and who were passengers in the vehicle impacted by the bus, were also killed in the crash;

Whereas 2 other firefighters sustained injuries and were taken to the hospital; and

Whereas more than 30 additional individuals were injured: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the tragic loss of Chief Spencer Chauvin, Jermaine Starr, and Vontarous Kelly;

(2) recognizes the bravery, heroism, and dedication of the firefighters, State troopers, and civilians who quickly responded to attempt to save the lives of the injured;

(3) offers sincere condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of Chief Spencer Chauvin, Jermaine Starr, and Vontarous Kelly; and

(4) expresses hope that each individual who was injured in the accident makes a full and quick recovery.

SENATE RESOLUTION 610—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE FIRST FRIDAY IN OCTOBER 2016 AS “MANUFACTURING DAY”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BURR, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 610

Whereas according to the most recent data, manufacturers contribute \$2,170,000,000,000 to the United States economy;

Whereas that amount has steadily risen since 2009, when manufacturers contributed \$1,700,000,000,000 to the United States economy;

Whereas the manufacturing sector accounts for 12 percent of the gross domestic product (referred to in this preamble as “GDP”) of the United States;

Whereas for every \$1 spent in the manufacturing sector, another \$1.40 is added to the United States economy, the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector;

Whereas the manufacturing sector supports an estimated 18,500,000 jobs in the

United States, approximately 1 in 6 private sector jobs in the United States;

Whereas more than 12,300,000 individuals in the United States, 9 percent of the workforce, are employed directly in the manufacturing sector;

Whereas, in 2014, on average manufacturing workers in the United States earned more than the average worker in all other industries in the United States, including pay and benefits;

Whereas manufacturers in the United States are the most productive manufacturers in the world, far surpassing the worker productivity of any other major manufacturing economy, leading to higher wages and living standards;

Whereas manufacturers in the United States drive innovation more than any other economic sector in the United States, spending \$229,900,000,000 in 2014 on research and development, an 82 percent increase from 5 years earlier;

Whereas measured by GDP, the manufacturing sector in the United States would rank as the ninth-largest economy in the world; and

Whereas the first Friday in October 2016 would be an appropriate day to designate as "Manufacturing Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of the first Friday in October 2016 as "Manufacturing Day".

SENATE RESOLUTION 611—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 8, 2016, AS "40 YEARS OF WOMEN CADETS AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY DAY"

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 611

Whereas, in September 1972, the United States Air Force Academy (in this preamble referred to as the "Academy") became the first service academy to prepare for the arrival of female cadets when it issued Operational Plan 36-72, "Integration of Females into the Cadet Wing";

Whereas, on October 8, 1975, the day after President Ford signed the Department of Defense Appropriation Authorization Act, 1976 (Public Law 94-106; 89 Stat. 531), which authorized women to attend military service academies, the Academy announced that the first class of women would be admitted on June 28, 1976;

Whereas, on January 13, 1976, the first woman to enter the Academy Preparatory School arrived;

Whereas, on June 28, 1976, the Academy became the first service academy to admit women when 156 women arrived as part of the class of 1980;

Whereas the first African-American woman to attend the Academy arrived in 1976 and graduated in 1980;

Whereas the first Hispanic woman to attend any military service academy arrived at the Academy in 1976 and graduated in 1980;

Whereas, on August 15, 1979, a woman First Class Cadet from the Academy's class of 1980 became the first Academy woman to complete a solo flight in the T-41 training aircraft;

Whereas, on May 28, 1980, the first 97 women graduated from the Academy;

Whereas, in 1981, 4 women at the Academy were the first Academy women named as All-

Americans by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (in this preamble referred to as the "NCAA");

Whereas, on November 24, 1980, a woman cadet became the Cadet Wing Commander at the Academy for the first time;

Whereas, in 1981, a woman cadet at the Academy was selected as a Rhodes Scholar for the first time;

Whereas, in 1986, a woman cadet at the Academy received the Outstanding Cadet in Order of Graduation Award for the first time;

Whereas, in 1987, a woman graduate from the class of 1980 returned to the Academy as an Air Officer Commanding for the first time;

Whereas, on July 1, 1990, the women's athletic program of the Academy officially became a member of the Colorado Athletic Conference;

Whereas, on January 13, 1993, a woman from the United States Air Force, and a member of the Academy's class of 1980, flew into space for the first time aboard the space shuttle Endeavour;

Whereas, on April 14, 1994, a woman graduate of the Academy died in a combat zone and received the Purple Heart award for the first time;

Whereas, in January 1995, a member of the Academy's class of 1988 became the first woman to log United States Air Force fighter pilot combat time;

Whereas, in August 1996, women athletes at the Academy began their first year as NCAA Division I members;

Whereas, on June 25, 1998, an Academy graduate from the class of 1982 and a Rhodes Scholar became the first woman graduate of the Academy elected to Congress;

Whereas, in 1999, a member of the Academy's class of 1998 became the first African-American woman to serve as a combat pilot;

Whereas, in 2004, a 1988 graduate of the Academy took command of the 354th Fighter Squadron, becoming the first woman in the history of the United States to command a combat aviation unit;

Whereas, on October 1, 2004, a member of the Academy's class of 1983 became the first woman graduate of the Academy promoted to brigadier general and took office as Dean of the Faculty of the Academy;

Whereas, in November 2005, a member of the Academy's class of 1996 became the first woman member of the United States Air Force's aerial demonstration team, the Thunderbirds;

Whereas, in December 2005, a member of the Academy's class of 1980 was the first woman Academy graduate to become Commandant of Cadets;

Whereas, on September 7, 2006, a member of the Academy's class of 1980 became the first woman of Japanese descent from any military service to be promoted to flag officer;

Whereas, on June 19, 2008, a member of the Academy's class of 1982 became the first woman of Korean descent from any military service to be promoted to flag officer;

Whereas, in 2009, a member of the Academy's class of 2006 was the first woman Academy graduate killed by enemy action;

Whereas, on June 21, 2010, the Academy's first woman Vice Superintendent, and a member of the Academy's class of 1983, took office;

Whereas, on July 16, 2010, a graduate from the Academy's class of 1984 became the first woman of Hispanic descent in the United States Air Force to be promoted to flag officer;

Whereas, on June 5, 2012, a member of the Academy's class of 1980 became the first woman in the United States Air Force to attain the rank of 4-star general;

Whereas, in August 2013, a member of the Academy's class of 1981 became the first woman Superintendent of the Academy;

Whereas, in August 2014, a member of the Academy's class of 1993 became the first woman to command a United States Air Force bomb wing; and

Whereas, between 1976 and 2016, 5,381 women were commissioned through the Academy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 8, 2016, as "40 Years of Women Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy Day";

(2) commends the extraordinary accomplishments of the women cadets and graduates of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the service to the United States of those cadets and graduates; and

(3) honors past, present, and future women who serve in the United States Air Force.

SENATE RESOLUTION 612—RECOGNIZING THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DURING ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR ITS HISTORY OF REDUCING THE ENERGY COSTS OF FAMILIES WITH LOW INCOMES, MAKING LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS HEALTHIER AND SAFER, POSITIVELY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, AND SUPPORTING JOBS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 612

Whereas Congress has long recognized the disproportionate energy burden on families and individuals with low incomes;

Whereas, in 1976, Congress and the Department of Energy developed the Weatherization Assistance Program (in this preamble referred to as the "WAP") to increase the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income individuals, reduce the total residential energy expenditures of those individuals, and improve the health and safety of those individuals, especially low-income individuals who are particularly vulnerable, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and households with high energy burdens;

Whereas low-income households on average pay 7.2 percent of the income of those households on utilities, more than 3 times the amount that higher income households pay;

Whereas at least ¼ of low-income households in many regions experience an energy burden that is greater than 14 percent of household income;

Whereas nearly 9,000,000 families across the United States live in energy inefficient, unhealthy homes;

Whereas the WAP operates in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, 5 territories of the United States, and Indian tribal governments;

Whereas more than 7,400,000 homes have been weatherized since the inception of the WAP in 1976;

Whereas, in a typical year, the WAP produces more than \$300,000,000 in energy cost savings;

Whereas a typical low-income family saves between \$250 and \$450 per year after receiving weatherization services;

Whereas every dollar invested in weatherization returns \$4.10 to society in energy, health, and safety benefits;

Whereas children in households that receive weatherization services miss fewer days of school due to incidences of asthma, respiratory difficulties, and other health related issues;

Whereas investment in the WAP by the Federal Government and other sources supports more than 25,000 jobs across the United States in related industries;

Whereas the WAP decreases pollution and improves air quality;

Whereas the WAP has increased its impact through a strategic partnership with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (commonly known as the "LIHEAP") of the Department of Health and Human Services;

Whereas the WAP has implemented rigorous quality control standards and procedures;

Whereas the WAP has incorporated cutting edge technologies; and

Whereas, by decreasing the amount of personal income spent on home energy, the WAP makes housing more affordable, improves the quality of life for families with low incomes, reduces forced mobility, and increases the energy security of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Weatherization Assistance Program for 40 years of reducing the energy burden of families with low incomes, making low-income households healthier and safer, positively impacting the environment, and supporting jobs and new technology;

(2) encourages the Weatherization Assistance Program to continue performing essential weatherization services in the future;

(3) applauds the dedicated professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels who run the daily operations of the Weatherization Assistance Program; and

(4) congratulates the Weatherization Assistance Program on the 40th anniversary of the Weatherization Assistance Program being signed into law on August 14, 1976.

SENATE RESOLUTION 613—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI RURAL LEGAL SERVICES IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 613

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, originally called Lafayette County Legal Aid, was organized in 1966 as a training program for law students at the University of Mississippi School of Law;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services was organized to combine the provision of legal services with a teaching program to develop a law school curriculum with a focus on the legal problems of low-income individuals, and North Mississippi Rural Legal Services was subsequently incorporated as an independent nonprofit cor-

poration, receiving funds from the National Legal Services Corporation;

Whereas the mission of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services is to provide high-quality attorney representation and advocacy to ensure equal access to justice for vulnerable members of society through constant training, self-analysis, and community involvement;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services provides the highest quality of legal and technical assistance, which improves the daily quality of life for low-income individuals and contributes to the attainment of social, economic, and legal equality;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services is governed by a 25-member board of directors appointed by the Mississippi Bar, the Magnolia Bar, and local advisory committees;

Whereas North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has administrative offices in Oxford, Mississippi, and offices in Clarksdale, Greenville, and West Point, Mississippi, all of which strive daily to meet the unmet civil legal needs of low-income Mississippians;

Whereas there are more than 250,000 low-income individuals in the 39-county service area of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, which, as of 2015, has served more than 17,000 Mississippians, providing access to the legal system that might otherwise be unavailable to those individuals due to their economic situation;

Whereas over the last 50 years, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services has partnered with various funders, attorneys, friends, and corporate and individual supporters to provide thousands of low-income clients with habitable and affordable housing, safety, healthcare, economic security, and financial independence while ensuring that each client maintains inherent human dignity;

Whereas 50 years ago, the journey began to provide high-quality legal representation to low-income Mississippians to ensure equal access to the courts of the State of Mississippi;

Whereas in 2016, North Mississippi Rural Legal Services continues the quest for justice to serve individuals and families regardless of race, age, gender, and ethnicity; and

Whereas the partnership between North Mississippi Rural Legal Services and the University of Mississippi School of Law continues the work of educating law students to increase the number of attorneys in the State of Mississippi who are sensitive to the needs of low-income individuals and knowledgeable in the areas of the law that affect those individuals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes and commends outstanding acts of public service like those of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services;

(2) with great pride, joins in paying tribute to North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, a most effective and public-spirited organization, the advocacy of which on behalf of less fortunate Mississippians is a matter of record; and

(3) recognizes the 50th anniversary of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services in Oxford, Mississippi.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55—COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1916 OPENING OF THE TEXAS A&M COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND THE 2016 OPENING OF THE NEW TEXAS A&M VETERINARY & BIOMEDICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX IN COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 55

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has experienced 100 years of growth from a small school of veterinary medicine in 1916 to its present role as a major veterinary and biomedical educational, medical, and research center;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences—

(1) serves the great State of Texas and the United States through advances in animal and human health;

(2) supports the livestock industry;

(3) provides viable and diverse professional career paths for Texans;

(4) promotes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education;

(5) contributes to the economic viability and job opportunities of local communities;

(6) provides disaster and emergency response support for animals throughout the State of Texas; and

(7) advances the veterinary profession;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has continuously evolved with a changing world to become a modern, dynamic, and highly respected college of veterinary medicine and is one of the largest colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States;

Whereas, as of May 2016, the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences has graduated 7,576 veterinarians into the veterinary profession, contributing a \$4,000,000,000 economic benefit to the State of Texas;

Whereas, in 2015, Quacquarelli Symonds, an educational firm that ranks veterinary medicine schools, ranked the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences sixth in the world and third in the United States, which is testament to the hard work and dedication of generations of Aggie students, faculty, staff, and veterinarians;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences strives to improve the health and well-being of animals, humans, and the environment through—

(1) collaborative learning, discovery, and innovation in basic, applied, and translational research; and

(2) commercialization in biomedical sciences;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences offers research signature programs in biomedical genomics, toxicology and environmental health, infectious disease and biodefense, neuroscience, reproductive biology, cardiovascular sciences, and veterinary clinical research, with increasing strength in regenerative medicine;

Whereas one of the core values of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine

& Biomedical Sciences is service, and the Veterinary Emergency Team of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences—

(1) is the largest and most sophisticated veterinary medical disaster response team in the United States;

(2) provides cutting-edge emergency management education;

(3) develops new knowledge in emergency preparedness and response; and

(4) develops emergency preparedness plans for local communities throughout the State of Texas;

Whereas the faculty, staff, and students of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences contribute to ever-evolving societal needs through their mission of education, research, and service in the field of veterinary medicine;

Whereas, in addition to contributing to the veterinary workforce, the economic benefit of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences includes the protection of the \$18,000,000,000 animal agriculture industry and the \$7,000,000,000 wildlife industry of the State of Texas;

Whereas the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences is developing an integrated system that connects distant communities and regions of the great State of Texas through strategic partnerships with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center;

Whereas the strategic partnerships with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Center will leverage and synergize the strengths of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, the Texas A&M System, and constituencies—

(1) to advance animal, human, and environmental health throughout the State of Texas;

(2) to invest in the young people of the State of Texas as they seek professional careers in veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and related disciplines; and

(3) to contribute to the stability and growth of the economy of the State of Texas; and

Whereas the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex—

(1) will house state-of-the-art classroom and teaching laboratory space that will enhance the learning environment for veterinary and biomedical science students;

(2) combined with the expansion of the small animal hospital, will—

(A) provide opportunities for innovations in teaching; and

(B) nurture collaboration and creativity; and

(3) will enable the recruitment of the best students, faculty, and staff to the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress commemorates the 100th anniversary of the 1916 opening of the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and the 2016 opening of the new Texas A&M Veterinary & Biomedical Education complex in College Station, Texas.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5106. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural

items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally.

SA 5107. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5106. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the “Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution” or the “PROTECT Patrimony Resolution”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term “Native American” means—

(A) with respect to an individual, an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); and

(B) with respect to the cultural nature or significance of an item, right, or other object or concept, being of or significant to—

(i) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); or

(ii) a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in that section (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.—The term “tribal cultural item” has the meaning given the term “cultural item” in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) is necessary to deter illegal trading in tribal cultural items.

(10) Many Indian tribes and tribal organizations have passed resolutions condemning the theft and sale of tribal cultural items, including the following:

(A) The National Congress of American Indians passed Resolutions SAC-12-008 and SD-15-075 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(i) to address international repatriation; and

(ii) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(B) The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representative of 20 Pueblo Indian tribes—

(i) noted that the Pueblo Indian tribes of the Southwestern United States have been disproportionately affected by the sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally in violation of Federal and tribal laws; and

(ii) passed Resolutions 2015-12 and 2015-13 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(I) to address international repatriation; and

(II) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(C) The United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization comprised of 26 federally recognized Indian tribes, passed Resolution 2015:007, which calls on the United States to address all means to support the repatriation of tribal cultural items from beyond United States borders.

(D) The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, uniting the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, passed Resolution 12-07, which requests that the United States, after consultation with Native Americans, assist in international repatriation and take immediate action to address repatriation.

SEC. 4. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items;

(2) calls on the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to consult with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, in addressing the practices described in paragraph (1)—

(A) to take affirmative action to stop the practices; and

(B) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to Native Americans;

(3) supports the efforts of the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) to determine the scope of illegal trafficking in tribal cultural items domestically and internationally; and

(B) to discuss with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, relevant Federal officials, and other individuals and entities, as appropriate, the steps required—

(i) to end illegal trafficking in, and the export of, tribal cultural items; and

(ii) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans;

(4) supports the development of explicit restrictions on the export of tribal cultural items; and

(5) encourages State and local governments and interested groups and organizations to work cooperatively in—

(A) deterring the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items; and

(B) securing the repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans.

SA 5107. Mrs. FISCHER (for Mr. UDALL) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution H. Con. Res. 122, supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally; as follows:

Strike the preamble.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Regional Impact on Syria Conflict: Syria, Turkey, and Iraq."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 29, 2016, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Understanding the Millennial Perspective in Deciding to Pursue and Remain in Federal Employment."

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE, WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN GRANT ASSURANCES

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5944, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5944) to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5944) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

OMNIBUS TERRITORIES ACT OF 2015

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 583, S. 2360.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2360) to improve the administration of certain programs in the insular areas, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment, as follows:

(Strike the part in boldface brackets and insert the part printed in italic.)

S. 2360

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Omnibus Territories Act of 2015".

[SEC. 2. RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI.]

[The first proviso under the heading "TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS" under the heading "OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR" in chapter VIII of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1982 (Public Law 97-257; 96 Stat. 840), is amended by striking "in the Marshall Islands, principally on Kili and Ejit Islands".]

[SEC. 3. RELIABLE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.]

[Section 41703(c) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

[(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "or" at the end;

[(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

[(3) by adding at the end the following:

["(3) notwithstanding subsection (a)(1), the navigation under this subsection is necessary to provide and sustain air commerce in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a.".]

SEC. 2. RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI.

The matter under the heading "TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS" under the heading "OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR" in chapter VIII of title I of the Supple-

mental Appropriations Act, 1982 (Public Law 97-257; 96 Stat. 840), is amended by striking the first proviso and inserting "Provided, That such funds, including funds provided pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-446; 102 Stat. 1774), shall be available for the relocation and resettlement of the Bikini people living on Kili and Ejit Islands, on the condition that the Secretary of the Interior submits to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a resettlement plan developed in coordination with the Bikini Atoll leadership: Provided further, That for any fiscal year, annual expenditures from the Resettlement Fund established by this section and pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-446; 102 Stat. 1774) may not exceed an amount that is greater than 90 percent of the average annual earnings of the Fund for the preceding 5 years unless for resettlement purposes outside of the Marshall Islands:".

SEC. 3. RELIABLE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 40109(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

"(C) review the exemption at least every 30 days (or, in the case of exemptions that are necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a, at least every 180 days), to ensure that the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption still exist.";

and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) RENEWAL OF EXEMPTIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may renew an exemption (including renewals) under this subsection for not more than 30 days.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—An exemption that is necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu'a, may be renewed for not more than 180 days.

"(4) CONTINUATION OF EXEMPTIONS.—An exemption may continue for not more than 5 days after the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption cease.".

SEC. 4. DRIVERS' LICENSES AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 201(5) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended by striking "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands".

(b) EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL STATUS.—Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(x) is a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau who has been admitted to the United States as a non-immigrant pursuant to a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic or Federated States.".

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2360), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2360

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Omnibus Territories Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. RESETTLEMENT AND RELOCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF BIKINI.

The matter under the heading “TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS” under the heading “OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR” in chapter VIII of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1982 (Public Law 97-257; 96 Stat. 840), is amended by striking the first proviso and inserting “*Provided*, That such funds, including funds provided pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-446; 102 Stat. 1774), shall be available for the relocation and resettlement of the Bikini people living on Kili and Ejit Islands, on the condition that the Secretary of the Interior submits to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a resettlement plan developed in coordination with the Bikini Atoll leadership: *Provided further*, That for any fiscal year, annual expenditures from the Resettlement Fund established by this section and pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1989 (Public Law 100-446; 102 Stat. 1774) may not exceed an amount that is greater than 90 percent of the average annual earnings of the Fund for the preceding 5 years unless for resettlement purposes outside of the Marshall Islands.”.

SEC. 3. RELIABLE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA.

Section 40109(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) review the exemption at least every 30 days (or, in the case of exemptions that are necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu’a, at least every 180 days), to ensure that the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption still exist.”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) RENEWAL OF EXEMPTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may renew an exemption (including renewals) under this subsection for not more than 30 days.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—An exemption that is necessary to provide and sustain air transportation in American Samoa between the islands of Tutuila and Manu’a, may be renewed for not more than 180 days.

“(4) CONTINUATION OF EXEMPTIONS.—An exemption may continue for not more than 5 days after the unusual circumstances that established the need for the exemption cease.”.

SEC. 4. DRIVERS’ LICENSES AND PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) DEFINITION OF STATE.—Section 201(5) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note;

Public Law 109-13) is amended by striking “the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,”.

(b) EVIDENCE OF LAWFUL STATUS.—Section 202(c)(2)(B) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (49 U.S.C. 30301 note; Public Law 109-13) is amended—

(1) in clause (viii), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ix), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(x) is a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau who has been admitted to the United States as a non-immigrant pursuant to a Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Republic of Federated States.”.

UNITED STATES APPRECIATION FOR OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS ACT OF 2016

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5946, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5946) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5946) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE WATER RIGHTS QUANTIFICATION ACT OF 2010

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 651, S. 2959.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2959) to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italics.)

S. 2959

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. USE OF FUNDS IN WMAT SETTLEMENT FUND FOR WMAT RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

[Section]

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF WMAT RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—Section 307(a) of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291; 124 Stat. 3080) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “, (b)(2),” after “subsections (a)”.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 312(b)(2)(C)(i)(III) of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291; 124 Stat. 3093) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, including the [WMAT rural water system in accordance with subsection (e)(4)] planning, design, and construction of the WMAT rural water system, in accordance with section 307(a).”.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 2959), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2959

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. USE OF FUNDS IN WMAT SETTLEMENT FUND FOR WMAT RURAL WATER SYSTEM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF WMAT RURAL WATER SYSTEM.—Section 307(a) of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291; 124 Stat. 3080) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting “, (b)(2),” after “subsections (a)”.

(b) FUNDING.—Section 312(b)(2)(C)(i)(III) of the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-291; 124 Stat. 3093) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, including the planning, design, and construction of the WMAT rural water system, in accordance with section 307(a).”.

NEVADA NATIVE NATIONS LAND ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 2733, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2733) to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 2733) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ALYCE SPOTTED BEAR AND WALTER SOBOLEFF COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message from the House on S. 246, the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 246) entitled "An Act to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to concur in the House amendment be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CLASS OF WOMEN ADMITTED TO THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 579 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 579) recognizing the 40th Anniversary of the first class of women admitted to the Coast Guard Academy.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 579) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 26, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 600, S. Res. 601, and S. Con. Res. 55.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Chair lay before the Senate H. Con. Res. 166, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 166) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 166

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on any legislative day from Wednesday, September 28, 2016, through Friday, November 11, 2016, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, November 14, 2016, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. (a) The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time

as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

(b) After reassembling pursuant to subsection (a), when the House adjourns on a motion offered pursuant to this subsection by its Majority Leader or his designee, the House shall again stand adjourned pursuant to the first section of this concurrent resolution.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3464 AND H.R. 6094

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I understand there are two bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3464) to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

REPORTING AUTHORITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the Senate's adjournment, committees be authorized to report legislative and executive matters on Thursday, October 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior

Senator from Louisiana be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on Thursday, September 29, through Monday, November 14.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROTECT PATRIMONY RESOLUTION

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 122, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 122) supporting efforts to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in the United States and internationally.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Udall amendment to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Udall amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5106) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This concurrent resolution may be cited as the "Protection of the Right of Tribes to stop the Export of Cultural and Traditional Patrimony Resolution" or the "PROTECT Patrimony Resolution".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this resolution:

(1) NATIVE AMERICAN.—The term "Native American" means—

(A) with respect to an individual, an individual who is a member of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); and

(B) with respect to the cultural nature or significance of an item, right, or other object or concept, being of or significant to—

(i) an Indian tribe (as defined in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001)); or

(ii) a Native Hawaiian organization (as defined in that section (25 U.S.C. 3001)).

(2) TRIBAL CULTURAL ITEM.—The term "tribal cultural item" has the meaning given the term "cultural item" in section 2 of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Tribal cultural items—

(A) have ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to a Native American group or culture;

(B) cannot be alienated, appropriated, or conveyed by any individual; and

(C) are vital to Native American cultural survival and the maintenance of Native American ways of life.

(2) The nature and description of tribal cultural items are sensitive and to be treated with respect and confidentiality, as appropriate.

(3) Violators often export tribal cultural items internationally with the intent of evading Federal and tribal laws.

(4) Tribal cultural items continue to be removed from the possession of Native Americans and sold in black or public markets in violation of Federal and tribal laws, including laws designed to protect Native American cultural property rights.

(5) The illegal trade of tribal cultural items involves a sophisticated and lucrative black market, where the items are traded through domestic markets and then are often exported internationally.

(6) Auction houses in foreign countries have held sales of tribal cultural items from the Pueblo of Acoma, the Pueblo of Laguna, the Pueblo of San Felipe, the Hopi Tribe, and other Indian tribes.

(7) After tribal cultural items are exported internationally, Native Americans have difficulty stopping the sale of the items and securing their repatriation to their home communities, where the items belong.

(8) Federal agencies have a responsibility to consult with Native Americans to stop the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items.

(9) An increase in the investigation and successful prosecution of violations of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.) is necessary to deter illegal trading in tribal cultural items.

(10) Many Indian tribes and tribal organizations have passed resolutions condemning the theft and sale of tribal cultural items, including the following:

(A) The National Congress of American Indians passed Resolutions SAC-12-008 and SD-15-075 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(i) to address international repatriation; and

(ii) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(B) The All Pueblo Council of Governors, representative of 20 Pueblo Indian tribes—

(i) noted that the Pueblo Indian tribes of the Southwestern United States have been disproportionately affected by the sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally in violation of Federal and tribal laws; and

(ii) passed Resolutions 2015-12 and 2015-13 to call on the United States, in consultation with Native Americans—

(I) to address international repatriation; and

(II) to take affirmative actions to stop the theft and illegal sale of tribal cultural items both domestically and internationally.

(C) The United South and Eastern Tribes, an intertribal organization comprised of 26 federally recognized Indian tribes, passed Resolution 2015-007, which calls on the United States to address all means to support the repatriation of tribal cultural items from beyond United States borders.

(D) The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes, uniting the Chickasaw,

Choctaw, Cherokee, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, passed Resolution 12-07, which requests that the United States, after consultation with Native Americans, assist in international repatriation and take immediate action to address repatriation.

SEC. 4. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS.

Congress—

(1) condemns the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items;

(2) calls on the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General to consult with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, in addressing the practices described in paragraph (1)—

(A) to take affirmative action to stop the practices; and

(B) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to Native Americans;

(3) supports the efforts of the Comptroller General of the United States—

(A) to determine the scope of illegal trafficking in tribal cultural items domestically and internationally; and

(B) to discuss with Native Americans, including traditional Native American religious leaders, relevant Federal officials, and other individuals and entities, as appropriate, the steps required—

(i) to end illegal trafficking in, and the export of, tribal cultural items; and

(ii) to secure repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans;

(4) supports the development of explicit restrictions on the export of tribal cultural items; and

(5) encourages State and local governments and interested groups and organizations to work cooperatively in—

(A) deterring the theft, illegal possession or sale, transfer, and export of tribal cultural items; and

(B) securing the repatriation of tribal cultural items to the appropriate Native Americans.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 122), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5107) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the preamble)

Strike the preamble.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: October 3, at 10:30 a.m.; October 6, at 10:30 a.m.; October 7, at 2 p.m.; October 11, at 9 a.m.; October 13, at 2 p.m.; October 17, at 11 a.m.; October 20, at 3 p.m.; October 24, at 10:30 a.m.; October 27, at 10:30 a.m.; October 31, at 4:30 p.m.; November 3, at 2 p.m.; November 7, at 10:30 a.m.; November 10, at 10 a.m.; and November

14, at 5:30 p.m.; I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, November 14, it next convene at 4 p.m., Tuesday, November 15; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; I ask that following leader remarks, the

Senate be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2016, AT 10:30 A.M.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:32 p.m., adjourned until Monday, October 3, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM E. CURL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and salute the life of Dr. Samuel "Sam" E. Curl, who passed away August 2, 2016.

Sam grew up near Tolar, Texas, where he graduated from high school in 1955. After earning a junior college diploma at Tarleton State University in 1957, he continued on to Sam Houston State University where he received his bachelor's degree. Then he earned a master's degree in Animal Genetics from the University of Missouri and a Ph.D. in Animal Physiology from Texas A&M University. He earned the rank of Captain through his service in the United States Army.

After his service, Dr. Curl was a Special Assistant to the President and then President of Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and authored or co-authored three books and 95 scientific technical publications. Dr. Curl then moved to Texas Tech University, my alma mater, where he served a total 31 years, including three years as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Before that, he was Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources from 1979 to 1997. He moved to Oklahoma State University in 1997 to head their College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, as well as being the Director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. After retiring from working full time in 2004, Dr. Curl worked as a part-time consultant.

For all of his amazing accomplishments as a professional and an academic, I knew Sam as a loving father and grandfather who delighted in spending time with his family. He was an active member of Acton United Methodist Church. His passions for fishing, traveling, sports, and musical theatre were well known to his friends and family. I know that his wife, Mary, and his children Jane, Julia, Karen, and stepchildren Ryan and Shelly will miss him dearly, as will his grandchildren Rachel, Robert, Greyson, Avery, Robert, and Daisy.

Those who knew him, myself included, are better for having known Dr. Sam Curl, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this tribute to his wonderful life. He will be missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on September 22, 2016, and I missed votes in the House. If I had been present, I would have voted against the motion ordering the previous question on H. Res. 879 (the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5931, Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act), against the rule (H. Res. 879), and against final passage of the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act (H.R. 5719). I would have supported H.R. 5320, Social Security Must Avert Identity Loss (MAIL) Act, H.R. 5946, the United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act, H.R. 2285, the Preventing Trafficking in Cultural Property Act, and H.R. 5523, Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act.

I would have voted against ordering the previous question on the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5931 so that H.R. 4479, the Families of Flint Act, could have been made in order. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 4479, which would provide \$765 million to improve water infrastructure and provide resources to the residents of Flint, Michigan. I was disappointed that the House moved the previous question and blocked H.R. 4479 from coming to the House floor.

I would have opposed H. Res. 879, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 5931, because the rule limited amendments and did not provide for an open floor debate.

I would have opposed final passage of H.R. 5719, the Empowering Employees through Stock Ownership Act, because the bill did not include a critical amendment offered by Rep. CROWLEY that would have provided an offset to the \$1 billion in lost revenue created by the policy. Although I support efforts to promote employee ownership and reward employee's commitment to their companies, I was disappointed that the bill did not include Rep. CROWLEY's amendment.

H.R. 5320, the Social Security MAIL Act, provides an important privacy protection to anyone receiving Social Security documents through the mail. The bill restricts the Social Security Administration from sending documents that include an individual's complete Social Security number through the mail unless completely necessary. This common-sense policy will protect Americans from having their sensitive personal information compromised, and I would have supported this bill.

H.R. 5946, the United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act, updates a provision of the federal tax code that requires Olympians and Paralympians to declare their prize winnings and medals as income for tax purposes. Although I would have preferred

that this provision had been part of a comprehensive tax reform package, I would have supported this bill.

H.R. 2285, the Prevent Trafficking in Cultural Property Act, would bolster the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to protect against illegal trafficking of cultural property. The bill requires CPB and ICE to create a coordinated plan to update procedures and directive, and to train personnel in relevant laws and best practices for intercepting trafficked property. I support this bill and other efforts to ensure trafficked artifacts are not brought into the United States.

H.R. 5523, the Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act, would prohibit the IRS from engaging in civil asset forfeiture of more than \$10,000 without probable cause. Unfortunately, in recent years there have been many instances of small businesses having their money seized without probable cause, and they have struggled to recoup their losses. This bill provides important protections to individuals and small businesses, and I support its passage.

CONGRATULATING ASU-SEARCY ON 50 YEARS

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Arkansas State University-Beebe's Searcy Campus on its 50th anniversary.

Formerly Foothills Vocational Technical School, the Searcy campus opened in 1966 with 17 employees.

Dedicated in 1967 by Governor Winthrop Rockefeller, the focus of the campus was to provide its students with a skilled trade that would prepare them to enter the workforce upon graduation.

In 2003, Foothills Technical Institute merged with ASU-Beebe, forming its second technical campus.

Today, the Searcy campus serves both traditional and non-traditional students earning their GEDs, technical certificates, or associate degrees, providing many students with the skills, education, and training necessary to obtain employment and start a career.

I would like to extend my congratulations to ASU-Beebe's Searcy campus and wish it much continued success for generations to come.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

THE MEDIGAP CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Medigap plans currently provide supplemental coverage to approximately 11 million Medicare beneficiaries. However, many of the laws governing the Medigap market have remained largely unchanged since 1990. In particular, consumer protections are inadequate, leaving many beneficiaries subject to discriminatory practices by issuers, lacking sufficient information about their plan options, and often enrolled in lower quality coverage.

That is why, today, I am introducing the Medigap Consumer Protection Act. This important legislation will make a number of reforms to the Medigap market that will strengthen the health security of millions of Americans and significantly improve the beneficiary experience.

Most importantly, this bill ends discriminatory treatment of Medicare beneficiaries by extending guaranteed issue rights to the entire Medigap-eligible population.

Currently, federal law provides limited guaranteed issue rights to Medicare beneficiaries. As a result, issuers in many states are permitted to deny consumers access to Medigap policies based on preexisting conditions. This creates substantial barriers to coverage, particularly for individuals who qualify for Medicare due to disability or End-Stage Renal Disease. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, only 2 percent of beneficiaries who are under 65 and living with a disability are enrolled in a Medigap policy, and 21 percent have no supplemental coverage at all.

The Medigap Consumer Protection Act closes the holes in federal law that permit discriminatory treatment of consumers by extending guaranteed issue rights to the entire Medicare population, including beneficiaries who qualify for Medicare due to disability or End-Stage Renal Disease.

It also will protect a number of other populations, including beneficiaries who have enrolled in Medicare Advantage for more than one year and wish to switch back to traditional Medicare; dual eligibles who either lose their Medicaid coverage or who are only Medicaid-eligible with a Share of Cost; and individuals enrolled in COBRA coverage who wish to switch into Medicare.

The bill also makes a number of reforms that will strengthen access to quality plans and improve the beneficiary experience.

It calls on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to review loss ratio standards for Medigap plans and submit recommendations to the Secretary to update federal standards.

It reforms how issuers price their products by calling on the NAIC to update its Model Regulations to prohibit pricing discrimination based on age, and by requiring Medigap issuers to set premiums by county.

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the Medicare Plan Finder website to increase consumer access

to information regarding their coverage options through Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, and Part D. The public will be afforded opportunities to comment on and improve the presentation of this information.

It restores access to the most popular Medigap plan options, which under current law are scheduled to be eliminated for beneficiaries who become eligible for Medicare beginning in 2020 or later.

Finally, it provides consumers with additional information about potential conflicts of interest by requiring issuers to disclose payments made to brokers, agents, and other third parties selling Medigap policies. These disclosures will be available to consumers through the Open Payments Database maintained by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Mr. Speaker, Medicare beneficiaries deserve access to high-quality Medigap coverage. The reforms made by the Medigap Consumer Protection Act will correct many of the problems that continue to exist in the market, including discrimination by issuers and a lack of information available to consumers. These reforms are long overdue, and I urge my colleagues to move to enact this bill without delay.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LA PORTE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Porte Independent School District, which celebrates its 100th Anniversary on October 1, 2016.

In 1916, only 19 years after the first classroom opened in La Porte, the Independent School District was established to provide quality education to students from Lomax to Morgan's Point. These first students had the privilege of choosing both the District's mascot and colors—the bulldog, and the orange and white that the students of La Porte rally around to this day.

Over 7,000 students from across La Porte began their school year within the Independent School District just weeks ago, and will continue a proud legacy of learning and achievement that has stood for 100 years.

It is my distinct honor to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of La Porte ISD, and their enduring commitment to every student's success. Go Bulldogs.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD GEIGER FOR HIS LIFELONG SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Richard Gei-

ger, a champion for the environment. Mr. Geiger is widely recognized as one of the most committed advocates for the protection and stewardship of our natural resources in the Puget Sound region.

A graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA, Rich began his career by serving our country in the 82nd Airborne Division as an air defense officer. After serving for 13 years, during which time he was stationed in North Korea and Germany, he continued that commitment to service by dedicating his civilian career to protecting the environment.

First working for Mason County Public Works, and then for the last 15 years as a district officer at the Mason Conservation District, Rich helped to develop a wide range of small- and large-scale efforts to protect natural resources. Perhaps his greatest accomplishment during his tenure with the Conservation District was the leadership he provided on the development and implementation of the Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, a critical and comprehensive effort to restore the river and surrounding waters in Puget Sound that encompassed more than 50 different individual restoration projects.

Mr. Speaker, Richard was not only an environmental advocate and steward, he was also a leader in the community. He excelled at fostering collaboration and consensus among diverse community stakeholders, including private landowners, businesses, Native American Tribes, and local, state, and federal agencies, to achieve common goals.

Richard's lifetime of service, stewardship, care, and leadership all contributed to a stronger, healthier, and more vibrant community in Puget Sound. The contributions of Mr. Geiger embody the values that make our community and our country a great place to live.

Mr. Speaker, I stand on the House floor today to honor the life of Mr. Geiger and to extend my condolences to those who he is survived by. Our lives are enhanced by having known him, and he will truly be missed.

HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, in my District—North Carolina's 12th Congressional District—many people in my community struggle to consistently put food on the table.

According to Feeding America, Mecklenburg County has over 165,000 individuals that are considered food insecure, including over 49,000 children.

Overall, the 12th district ranks 11th in the nation and 2nd in the state for the most food insecure congressional districts.

Over the past year, the single biggest food insecurity issue that constituents share with my office is that SNAP benefits are not enough to help seniors and families in need put food on the table through the end of the month.

For this reason, in May of this year, I introduced H.R. 5215, the Closing the Meal Gap Act of 2016.

This legislation strengthens the SNAP program for seniors, families, and individuals looking for work.

This legislation has been endorsed by Feeding American, FRAC, Mazon, and the National Council on Aging.

As we observe Hunger Action Month, I would encourage all members to cosponsor this important piece of legislation to help those that are hungry in their community put food on the table each month.

RECOGNIZING THE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY ARISTOCRAT OF BANDS MARCHING BAND AND THE SOPHISTICATED LADIES MAJORETTES FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the Tennessee State University (TSU) Aristocrat of Bands marching band and the Sophisticated Ladies majorettes for their performance at the White House reception for the grand opening ceremony of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. TSU has an over 100-year-long history as a historically black university and, as the first historically black university band to appear on national television and the first to march in an Inaugural Parade for President John F. Kennedy, it was fitting for the Aristocrat of Bands to perform in Washington, DC during this historic event in our nation's history.

The TSU Aristocrat of Bands began in 1946 as a 100-piece ensemble. Since that time, the band has become world-renowned for its performances across the country. During the late 1940s, the marching band performed twice in Washington, DC in the Washington Classic, a national competition for top historical black colleges and universities. Under the direction of Frank T. Greer, the marching band became the first historically black university band to appear on television when it performed during the half-time show of a Chicago Bears and Los Angeles Rams football game. The band went on to perform during nine half-time shows between 1956 and 1978, including the New York Giants vs. the Chicago Bears National Championship in 1963 at Wrigley Field.

Between 1979 and 2014, the band was directed by Edward L. Graves—a former Aristocrat under Director Greer who marched during the 1961 inauguration of President Kennedy. Under his tutelage, the band continued to perform for half-time shows, had a spot in the 1981 CBS television movie *The Concrete Cowboy*, recorded for television ads and traveled abroad to perform in Tokyo, Japan. In 1993, the Aristocrat of Bands returned to Washington, DC to march in President Bill Clinton's Inaugural Parade.

The Aristocrat of Bands performed several songs for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture opening reception, including *No Problems* by Chance the Rapper, *Signed Sealed Delivered I'm Yours* by Stevie Wonder, *Gin and Juice* by Snoop Dogg and TSU's fight song, *I'm So Proud*. The Aristocrat of Bands and the Sophisticated Ladies represented TSU well and, like TSU students who are proud of their school and marching band, I was proud to watch the band perform on the South Lawn of the White House. I congratulate Director Dr. Reginald McDonald, the men and women of the Aristocrat of Bands, and the Sophisticated Ladies for being selected for this honor and putting on a performance worthy of the school's legacy.

TRIBUTE TO BP AGENT MANUEL "MANNY" ALVAREZ

HON. MARTHA MCSALLY

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Border Patrol Agent Manuel "Manny" Alvarez.

Agent Alvarez entered duty as a member of the Border Patrol Academy Class of 557 on July 17, 2003. He was a dedicated agent who strove to be his best each time he put on the uniform.

Agent Alvarez dutifully served our country in the Border Patrol for 13 years. During that time he became well known for his commitment to excellence, warm personality, and humble demeanor. He was a man who looked out for his fellow agents and did what was necessary to ensure the optimal performance of his team. He was always willing to take time to teach or train newer agents or share what he had learned.

On August 11, 2016 Agent Alvarez was killed while on duty on the Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation just south of Sells, Arizona. Even after over a decade of service, Manny's love and drive for his work was as strong as the day he entered the Border Patrol.

Agent Alvarez was only 37 at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Jeanine, and four children, Analysisia, Yaslyne, Julian, and Gabriel, and was deeply committed to his family. He also was an avid runner and had a natural talent for drawing.

There's no doubt that such a tragic loss is felt across our entire community and by the Border Patrol Agency to which he gave so much. On behalf of Southern Arizonans, I thank Agent Alvarez for his service to keep our country and communities safe, and I offer my sincere condolences to his family and friends on the loss of one of our community's finest.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Paul, Minnesota's Central High School on its 150th anniversary. Dedicated faculty and staff of Central have been educating and inspiring generations of Minnesota's future leaders since it was founded in 1866 as the first public high school in our state. As the largest public high school in Minnesota, Central is well-known not only for its rich history and traditions, but also for its commitment to academic excellence, diversity and inclusion.

Saint Paul Central High School was established in response to student-driven demand for a high school in Minnesota, to allow students to continue their education beyond elementary school. Since then, this commitment to students has remained a core part of Central's mission and identity. The first graduating class of Saint Paul Central High School consisted of two students who each received a hand-printed sheepskin diploma in 1870. As the years went on, the school began to grow, moving to a new space in 1872 and again in 1883. In 1912, it moved to a new location, where it stands today, and adopted the Minuteman as its mascot in recognition of its address on Lexington Avenue.

Throughout the years, many students who walked the halls of Central High School would go on to inspire, connect, and change our community and world. It has been the alma mater to the likes of Amelia Earhart, the first woman to pilot a trans-Atlantic flight, Charles M. Schulz, the creator of the beloved Peanuts gang, and Jawed Karim, co-creator of YouTube.

Today's Central High School students are no less impressive. Recent graduates have gone on to earn Rhodes Scholarships and win Olympic medals. Students come from racially and socioeconomically diverse backgrounds, and are supported by a dedicated community of teachers, parents, and friends. Their hard work, innovative thinking, and close community relationships lead to success, with the vast majority of students going on to attend college. By offering both International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement courses in addition to a plethora of extracurricular activities, it is little wonder that Central has earned rankings on "Best High School" lists and Blue Ribbon awards from the U.S. Department of Education. As a result, it has become widely recognized as a model for quality public education.

The story of Central High School is not limited to Saint Paul or to Minnesota. It embodies the spirit of our nation, one rich in historical tradition and a commitment to progress. It is the story of inspiring teachers and passionate students, blazing new trails and breaking down barriers. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise to honor 150 years of excellence in public education in Minnesota, and to the next 150 years of high quality education at Saint Paul Central High School.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN AND DENNY
ZIMMERMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Helen and Denny Zimmerman of Anita, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 14, 1966 at Prescott Methodist Church in Prescott, Iowa.

Helen and Denny's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, and grandchildren truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the very best.

HONORING DAN COHEN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dan Cohen for his service as a member of the Congressional Award Board of Directors.

The United States Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. It began as a bipartisan effort in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by the late Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the program. Since its inception, over 7 million hours of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Dan is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his

community and our nation's young people sets him apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of him as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Dan for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF PREPARE ALL
KIDS ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to reintroduce the Prepare All Kids Act—important legislation to strengthen the availability of high-quality prekindergarten for families across the country.

In my home city of New York, we have more children enrolled in full-day pre-K than 49 states as part of our effort to guarantee universal pre-K for all families. But across the country too few families have access to good prekindergarten programs that will help their children enter elementary school ready to learn and succeed.

That is why I have introduced the Prepare All Kids Act along with Senator BOB CASEY. This bill would authorize a Prekindergarten Incentive Fund to award grants to states that establish, expand, or enhance full-day pre-K programs. These grants will help states launch or expand high-quality programs that are proven to help children excel in school and help working families succeed.

I am proud of President Obama's commitment to these goals, by expanding Head Start and Early Head Start, and making early childhood education a priority. Congress must build on these efforts by passing legislation to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality prekindergarten.

IN HONOR OF PASTOR DANIEL
SIMMONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to Pastor Daniel Simmons, leader of my church home, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Pastor Simmons will be celebrating 25 years of outstanding ministry to Mount Zion Baptist Church on Sunday, October 9, 2016.

A native of Cairo, Georgia, Daniel Simmons was born to the late Mrs. Pinkie Norwood Simmons and the late Reverend Perry Simmons, Sr. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Albany State College, now University, in 1977. He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from the University of Georgia in 1985 and a Doctorate of Ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary

in Dothan, Alabama in 1991. Pastor Simmons worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Georgia Department of Rehabilitation Services for seventeen years. He also worked as a Community Development Specialist.

Pastor Simmons began preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in June 1984. He pastored Mountain Grove Baptist Church in Dawson, Georgia and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shingler, Georgia. In 1991, the Lord called him to lead Mount Zion Baptist Church. In his 25 years of leadership, Mount Zion has expanded its Ministry services, increased its membership tremendously to the point where a second worship service was added, and moved into its new state-of-the-art facility on 109 acres of land at 901 South Westover Boulevard in 2010.

But most importantly, Pastor Simmons has led Mount Zion Baptist Church to become a pillar in the community, known for ministering to those in need. Pastor Simmons welcomes anyone and everyone into the church and its members make it their duty to ensure that every soul is taken care of and prayed over. With a congregation of over 3,000 members and 54 ministries, including radio, television, and live-streaming, Mount Zion is truly "reaching the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

Mount Zion Baptist Church is celebrating another happy occasion—its 151st anniversary. The church was founded in 1865, the same year that the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery was passed by Congress and ratified by the States. Nearly a century later, many of the rallies during the Albany phase of the Civil Rights Movement were held at Mount Zion. To commemorate those struggles, the church donated the building to the Albany Civil Rights Museum which is currently housed there. Mount Zion has seen many ups and downs but God's will and our members' perseverance have shaped it into the expansive and successful place of worship it is today.

Jeremiah 3:15 says, "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Pastor Daniel Simmons is one such shepherd and a man of integrity who exudes the genuine principles and values of Christian discipleship. Over the 20 years I have been a member of the church, I am proud to call Mount Zion my church home and Pastor Daniel Simmons my pastor. As an ordained Deacon and Trustee, I have personally witnessed the unshakeable faith Pastor Simmons has for the Lord and the profound exegesis he conveys in his sermons. My wife, Vivian, and I are grateful that we can always count on Pastor Simmons' wise counsel and sage advice.

Pastor Simmons has achieved many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife and First Lady of the Church, Diane Davis Simmons, and his two children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in thanking Pastor Daniel Simmons for 25 outstanding years of service to Mount Zion Baptist Church and a lifetime of service in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

RECOGNITION OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Baptist Church of Republic, Missouri, for the celebration of their 50th anniversary on October 28, 2016.

Calvary Baptist has been an integral part of Republic, Missouri, since 1966. From very humble beginnings in an old schoolhouse to the large modern facilities, Calvary has been involved in enriching and aiding the people of Republic. Over the decades the small group that started Calvary Baptist has now grown to over 1,700 people that comprise the membership of Calvary Baptist Church.

Over the years, hundreds of men, women, and children have placed their faith in Christ through ministries of Calvary Baptist Church. For 50 years, Calvary has been a leader in the church community by reaching out to those in need physically and spiritually and by providing food, finances, and counseling as well as caring for the hurting, grieving, and lonely.

Calvary Baptist has been very involved in sharing the good news of Jesus with many in other countries as well. Every year several groups travel from Republic to other states and foreign countries to perform work-related projects on facilities, orphanages, and rehabilitation centers and to conduct Bible programs for children, teenagers and medical and sports camps.

Mr. Speaker, Calvary Baptist deserves this body's utmost respect for its desire to be an integral part of the Republic community and providing an outlet for so many to help others. I encourage my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending to the church our deepest appreciation for their efforts which have contributed so greatly to the people of southwest Missouri, other states, and around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LASKER 'LAS' BELL

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' greats in the entertainment industry, Lasker 'Las' Bell, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 88.

Las moved to Camden, Arkansas in search of work, and after an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army was hired to host El Dorados KJWH radio's first soul music radio show.

Moving to television, he pitched his American Bandstand-like show the Las Bell Variety Show that became part of the weekly lineup on KTVE. At the time, Las was the only Black television host between Memphis and Dallas, and became the first Black interviewer for Channel 10 News in Arkansas.

Las was also involved in the community, serving on the executive board for the Arkansas Council on Human Relations in Ouachita County. He was also appointed to the Human Resources Commission by Governor David Pryor, and reappointed under Governor Frank White.

Las left a lasting impact on our state and will be greatly missed by all of Arkansas.

I extend my respect, affection and prayers to his family and loved ones.

IN HONOR OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our Nation's farmers and the Farm Credit System as we mark its 100th anniversary.

Since Congress established the Federal Farm Loan Act in 1916, many farmers and producers have relied on the Farm Credit System for access to capital and financial opportunity.

With this incredible program comes more freedom, opportunity, and prosperity for the agriculture community across our nation. It's a critical piece of our duty to help ensure we can keep farmers on their farms.

Back home in North Carolina, we know how important it is to have a prosperous and productive agriculture industry. We respect and admire the men and women who toil our lands and work incredibly hard to provide food and products we depend on in our daily lives. The Farm Credit System is a vital part of this chain, and it ensures we can continue supporting the prosperity of agriculture producers of all sizes and types.

Across North Carolina, more than 14,800 farmers and producers rely on the Farm Credit System to borrow the capital they need to make their businesses successful and provide food and fiber to our communities. Many of these people are young and just starting out in the agriculture industry or are on small farms.

As we commemorate a century of service, we say thank you to our farmers and producers for their hard work to ensure our agriculture community remains strong, both now and for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to watching the Farm Credit System continue to serve our rural and agriculture communities for the next 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GRACE VANDERWAAL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Ms. Grace Vanderwaal, an inspiring young woman and this year's winner of America's Got Talent.

Grace is a 12-year-old singer-songwriter from Suffern, New York, who started writing music at the age of three when she would make up songs with her wireless microphone. She was introduced to ukulele music by a family friend, and then decided to use her birthday money from her 11th birthday to buy her own ukulele. A true musical prodigy, Grace mastered the ukulele within a year, now owning five ukuleles, as well as a piano and a saxophone.

Grace began performing at local establishments for small audiences, but had never played before a large crowd until this past summer. She shared her amazing talents with the world when she auditioned for Season 11 of America's Got Talent and played her original song, "I Don't Know My Name," a song about finding who you are and where you fit in, while playing the ukulele. Grace impressed the judges so much she was sent straight to the "Live Shows." Grace continued astonishing audiences, performing original pieces as she advanced in each round of the show, and on September 14, was crowned the first prize winner, taking home a \$1 million prize, a Las Vegas show date, and a record contract. Before the Las Vegas show, Grace will return home to Suffern for a Saturday, October 1 parade and celebration with her family, neighbors, and schoolmates.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my extremely talented constituent, Ms. Grace Vanderwaal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her on this achievement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY SMITH

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Betty Smith, who passed away on April 24, 2016.

Betty spent most of her life in Knightsen, California preserving the rich farming culture of East Contra Costa County.

She began contributing to her community at a young age. While attending Liberty High School, she co-wrote the lyrics to the school's anthem, which is still used by the Liberty Lions today. After high school, she studied at University of the Pacific in Stockton, and worked at Fiberboard in Antioch.

Betty continued her service by teaching preschool for many years and participating in the Knightsen Garden Club and 4-H Club.

Betty and her husband, William R. Smith, continued the family farm started by her parents. As a multi-generation family farm in Knightsen, Smith Family Farm is known for many varieties of stone fruits, tomatoes, zucchinis, apples and cruciferous greens. Each year, the Farm holds a Tomato Festival and Pumpkin Harvest Festival to celebrate the fresh crops of East Contra Costa County.

Over the last 25 years, Betty greeted visitors from near and far when they arrived at Smith Family Farm to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables during the U-pick season. She

engaged the visiting children with her barn show and taught them about farming, nature and local history using songs, stories, and music. Betty was the matriarch and heart of Smith Family Farm.

Betty showed devotion to her community through many years of service to the children and families that came to the farm. Her love of the arts, dedication to education, and commitment to others is an inspiration for our community.

It is for these reasons that I ask my Colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Betty Smith and her lifetime of service.

CELEBRATING THE DAYTON
RURITAN CLUB'S 75 YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, fellowship, good will, and community service. These are the characteristics that Ruritan National clubs across the nation strive to achieve, and the principles that the Dayton Ruritan Club has embodied for the past 75 years.

Chartered on September 30, 1941, the Dayton Ruritan Club is celebrating 75 years of service to the Dayton, Virginia, community. In rural areas across the country, neighbors look out for one another and help each other in good times and bad. Those principles are why the Dayton club came about—to help provide a hand up for friends and neighbors in need. A group of citizens saw a need in the community and worked to raise money and provide volunteer labor to help address those needs. Now, 75 years later, these men and women play an ever important role, having contributed over \$700,000 and 180,000 volunteer hours to their community.

In Dayton, Ruritan National Club Number 126 carries on this rich tradition of serving others and keeping it local. Every penny they raise through numerous fundraising events each year, including a bluegrass concert, pancake breakfast, and sandwich sales, goes towards projects to improve the place where they live. Whether it is providing dictionaries to every fifth grade student in Rockingham County or donating teddy bears for first responders to give to children, the projects have made a lasting impact on the community. Members are also actively working to mold the next generation of leaders by forming a Ruri-Teen Chapter at Turner Ashby High School and Wilbur Pence Middle School.

While much has changed around them over the years, the Dayton Ruritan Club remains committed to the community they call home. Seventy-five years of service is a remarkable achievement, and I applaud the members of the Dayton Ruritan Club for their devotion to service. On October 13, members and friends will come together to celebrate their accomplishments and this milestone at the 75th Anniversary Banquet. I wish them many more years of success as they serve the Town of Dayton.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDA AND SCOTT
SHOOK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brenda Shook and the late Scott Shook, of Guthrie Center, Iowa, for being selected as Guthrie County's 2016 inductees into the Iowa 4-H Hall of Fame.

Scott was an active leader for the Guthrie County 4-H program. He was known for his unwavering guidance during the 4-H Extension Office summer programs and was instrumental in the success of Farm Safety Days. For three years, he was a leader with the SESS Sport Group. An avid hunter, Scott believed children should respect wildlife, gun safety, and all the wonders of the great outdoors. Guiding members through livestock projects, his passion for the world of agriculture was the legacy he passed on.

Brenda grew up in 4-H and was an active member from elementary school through her high school years. She led the U.S. Sunshine 4-H group and was co-leader to the Trailblazers. Brenda served on the 4-H Youth Committee, spending countless hours educating the community about agriculture while helping children prepare exhibits for static judging and livestock projects.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Scott and Brenda's efforts exemplify the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Shook family for their outstanding achievements.

RECOGNIZING STAX MUSIC ACADEMY FOR ITS PERFORMANCE AT THE "FREEDOM SOUNDS: A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION" FESTIVAL FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the young men and women of the Stax Music Academy (SMA) in Memphis, Tennessee for their outstanding performance on the main stage at the "Freedom Sounds: A Community Celebration" festival on the National Mall for the grand opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Students from SMA have performed around the world and it was fitting for the school to be invited to perform in Washington, DC for this historic event in our nation's history.

The Stax Music Academy began in 2000 at Stafford Elementary School as a Soulsville Foundation after school and summer music

learning center. SMA is now located next to Stax Museum where the historic Stax Records was founded. Under Presidents and CEOs of the Foundation, including Memphian and celebrated jazz saxophonist, Kirk Whalum, SMA developed a program that has served more than 4,000 students in the studies of vocals, instruments, music writing, music theory and music production. SMA students have performed for and alongside world-renowned artists, including Isaac Hayes, Mavis Staples, Stevie Wonder, Brandford Marsalis, Ben Cauley of the Bar-Kays and many more. Additionally, SMA students have opened for BB King at his annual BB King Homecoming Festival and Concert, performed at the Levitt Shell in Memphis's Overton Park opening for Booker T. Jones and sang backup for Faith Hill during the 2008 Freedom Awards Dinner and Ceremony hosted by the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis.

Stax Music Academy students have also traveled the country and world sharing their talents for all to hear. Audiences have included Oprah Winfrey and President Bill Clinton as well as the U.S. Ambassador to Australia during performances in Australia and the U.S. Ambassador to Germany during the grand opening of the "Memphis Exhibition Berlin" in Berlin, Germany. SMA students have traveled to Porretta Terme, Italy for the Porretta Soul Festival in Rufus Thomas Park, performed at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC for a July 4th performance and participated in the Smithsonian Institute's Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in 2011. In addition to excelling in the performing arts, since 2008, every SMA senior has been accepted to a college or university.

I was very happy for Stax Music Academy when I learned that its students were scheduled to perform in Washington, DC for the opening festivities of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The students performed several legendary songs by Stax recording artists, including "I've Been Loving You Too Long" by Otis Redding and "Walking the Dog" by Rufus Thomas, and covered songs by Stax artists Sam and Dave and the Staple Singers as well as songs by Prince and Queen. The performers represented Stax Music Academy, the city of Memphis and Memphis's musical legacy well, and I am proud of this latest milestone in the Academy's storied history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on September 21, 2016, I returned home to Milwaukee to address the medical emergency of my son and, as a result, missed all votes on September 21 and 22, 2016.

Had I been present to vote, I would have voted the following way on the bills considered by the House for those days that I missed.

September 21, 2016.

Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. I would have voted NO.

H. Res. 875. I would have voted NO.
 Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. I would have voted NO.
 H. Res. 876. I would have voted NO.
 H.R. 3957. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5659. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5713. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5613. I would have voted YES.
 Cicilline Amendment. I would have voted YES.
 DelBene Amendment. I would have voted YES.
 Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 3438. I would have voted YES.
 Final Passage of H.R. 3438. I would have voted NO.
 Final Passage of H.R. 5461. I would have voted NO.
 H.R. 5859. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 6007. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5977. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 6014. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5147. I would have voted YES.
 September 21, 2016.
 Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule. I would have voted NO.
 H. Res. 879. I would have voted NO.
 Passage of H.R. 5719. I would have voted NO.
 H.R. 5320. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5946. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 2285. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5523. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5625. I would have voted YES.
 House Amendment to S. 1550. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 4419. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5963. I would have voted YES.
 Engel Amendment. I would have voted YES.
 Final Passage of H.R. 5931. I would have voted NO.
 H.R. 5037. I would have voted YES.
 H.R. 5798. I would have voted YES.

IN RECOGNITION OF LESLEY
 CHILLER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Lesley Chiller, who passed away Saturday, August 27, 2016, at the age of 40 as a result of complications from lupus.

Lesley was born July 30, 1976, in Boston and raised in Sharon, Massachusetts. She graduated from Sharon High School where she excelled in English and writing. Following a year at the University of New Hampshire, Lesley earned a BA in Economics from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and a Certificate in Graphic Design from Pima College.

An avid reader and music lover, Lesley enjoyed art, history, food anthropology, and politics where her deep passion for social justice was apparent. Family and friends knew Lesley to be wise and kind, but also armed with an unending sense of humor that was both intelligent and dry, even during the most trying times of her 10-year battle with lupus.

Mr. Speaker, I co-founded the Congressional Lupus Caucus because we have a re-

sponsibility to fight back against this cruel and debilitating illness. Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can force your immune system to destroy healthy tissue, which often leads to terrible pain that can manifest itself throughout the body. I ask that my colleagues join me in the fight against lupus by joining the Congressional Lupus Caucus, and further by helping us boost federal funding to fight this disease through the National Institutes of Health and other means. We owe that not only to the memory of Lesley Chiller but also the 1.5 million Americans suffering with this affliction every day.

**TWO MILLION AMERICANS ALIVE
 TODAY BECAUSE OF THE HYDE
 AMENDMENT**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Friday September 30 marks 40 years since the life-saving Hyde Amendment was first enacted. This annual appropriations amendment stops taxpayer dollars from being used to fund most abortions and abortion coverage through government programs like Medicaid.

Thanks to new analysis by the Charlotte Lozier Institute we now know that as many as 2 million children—some obviously much older now—are alive today because of the Hyde amendment.

Prior to enactment of Hyde, the Medicaid program paid for about 300,000 abortions annually. Research, including by the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, has long shown that stopping taxpayer funded abortion reduces the abortion rate. In an analysis released just this week, the Charlotte Lozier Institute estimates that the Hyde amendment saves as many as 60,000 lives each year.

I remember the day several years ago when my friend and author of the amendment, Henry Hyde of Illinois, first learned that about one million children were alive because of his amendment. He was overcome with joy knowing that a million mothers were spared the agony of post abortion pain, a million children were alive and well, growing up, going to school, playing sports, dating, marrying and having kids of their own. Today that number is estimated at two million—all because abortion subsidies have been prohibited by law.

Since the first bitter and protracted battles over this policy, the Hyde amendment has generally, if begrudgingly, been accepted as the status quo. President Bill Clinton—who supported partial-birth abortion—and President Barack Obama—who pledged to veto a bill protecting children born alive after abortion, both consistently signed the Hyde amendment into law.

Yet Hillary Clinton represents a new era of pro-abortion extremism.

Not only does she fall in party line with her opposition to the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, the ban on sex selection abortion, and the Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, she will have an abortion litmus-test for every judge and justice. And in a

new assault on innocent human life, she has vowed to decimate the Hyde Amendment and fund abortion on demand using taxpayer dollars.

In 1980 the Hyde amendment narrowly overcame a constitutional challenge in a 5–4 Supreme Court decision. If Hillary Clinton appoints just one justice, the Hyde amendment will be nullified.

Hillary Clinton is outside of the mainstream. Today, more Americans support the sanctity of life and oppose taxpayer funding for abortions than ever.

An ever-growing majority in America believes that our government should not fund abortion. A July 2016 Marist poll found that nearly two-thirds of Americans oppose taxpayer funding for abortion—including 45% of those who identify as “pro-choice.”

The Hyde Amendment is not extreme. Hillary Clinton is.

Hillary Clinton is so extreme and outside the mainstream that when MSNBC’s Chuck Todd asked her in an April 3rd interview: “When, and if, does an unborn child have constitutional rights?” Hillary Clinton fired back: “unborn persons don’t have constitutional rights . . .” Clinton acknowledges that unborn children are persons, but denies them their right to life and wants taxpayers to pay for their destruction.

When Hillary Clinton was awarded the Margaret Sanger award by Planned Parenthood in 2009, she said she was “in awe” of Margaret Sanger, the infamous founder of Planned Parenthood. Shockingly its American affiliate alone claims responsibility for the death of over seven million babies.

In her 2009 speech Clinton also said she admired Sanger for her vision and that Sanger’s work here in the United States and across the globe was not done. “Not done” means more abortions, paid for by the taxpayer, and an end to conscience rights for those who don’t agree.

If we lose the Hyde Amendment our country will be carrying out Sanger’s eugenic legacy—incinivizing the destruction of the poor and vulnerable by paying for their death.

There are nearly 60 million Americans missing from 43 years of legal abortion. 60 million lives with potential that have been snuffed out by state-sanctioned killing.

Let’s be clear. Hillary Clinton poses an existential threat to the welfare and wellbeing of unborn children and their mothers in the United States and around the world.

Rather than expand the culture of death and shred the Hyde amendment—as Hillary Clinton promises—women and men of conscience have a duty to protect the weakest and most vulnerable from the violence of abortion.

**REMEMBERING RODNEY ELLIS,
 CHAMPION OF EDUCATION**

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of Rodney Ellis of Mocksville, North Carolina, for his work

as a committed teacher and an advocate for educational opportunity and success for all students. Mr. Ellis passed away prematurely on September 10, 2016 at the age of 49. On behalf of my family and staff, I wish to extend our sympathy and good wishes to his family.

Mr. Ellis was raised by a single mother in Mocksville, North Carolina and Cleveland, Ohio. He returned to North Carolina to attend Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), graduating with a degree in teaching. While at WSSU, he met his wife Lisa, with whom he raised five children.

Mr. Ellis began his involvement with the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) as a student at WSSU, serving as president of the campus affiliate of the organization. He later served as president of the Forsyth County chapter. In 2008, Mr. Ellis became vice president of NCAE, and in 2012 he was elected President.

As an advocate and a leader, Rodney Ellis was energetic and effective, reflecting a passion for ensuring access to education for all students. He defended public investments in our schools at a time when they were under threat, first from the Great Recession and then from hostile political leadership.

Mr. Ellis stepped down from the NCAE presidency in July after serving the maximum two-year terms. He returned to Winston-Salem to spend more time with his family and teach middle school language arts to students of low-income families. He continued to be a committed educator of students of all socioeconomic backgrounds until the very end of his life.

Rodney Ellis leaves a legacy of dedication and commitment that saw North Carolina education through tough times. Both in the classroom and in statewide leadership, his work will benefit thousands of students for generations to come.

D.C. STATEHOOD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, D.C. statehood has just crossed another historic threshold. For the first time, the District of Columbia Republican Party now supports D.C. statehood, making D.C. statehood a bipartisan effort. Moreover, the upcoming "Statehood Yes" vote to put D.C. residents on the record on statehood is being led by a Republican resident, George Vradenburg, a retired AOL executive and philanthropist. D.C. Republicans have consistently supported equality for our citizens, including the bipartisan bill for a House vote and the recent budget autonomy referendum. It is now clear that D.C. statehood, including my bill, the New Columbia Admission Act, enjoys the support of D.C. residents, regardless of party.

On November 8 this year, D.C. residents will vote not only for a Member of Congress and Members of the D.C. Council, they will vote on whether they desire to become the 51st state, and, if so, on the constitution for the new state.

Making the District of Columbia our nation's 51st state would overcome the longest denial of democracy by our country to any of its citizens. Surely, 215 years of second-class status for the American citizens who live in the nation's capital can no longer be tolerated, especially today, when D.C. residents pay the highest federal taxes per capita in the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE WALTERS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Walters of Villisca, Iowa, for being selected as a 2016 Women Impacting the Land award recipient.

The Women Impacting the Land award showcases Iowa women for their contributions to managing farmland and livestock. While serving as the Page County Clerk of Court for the last 31 years, Julie has also worked on her family's cattle farm with her husband Dave. She attributes some of her extensive knowledge of cattle farming to courses she participated in over the years, like Annie's Project and Women Managing Cattle. Julie is constantly fine-tuning her family's cattle operation and making changes to improve their farm's productivity.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Julie for her hard work and dedication in improving and managing her family's farm. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Julie for her achievements and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING JEANETTE JAMES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Jeanette James, Professional Staffer for the House Armed Services Committee, on being awarded The Military Coalition's 2016 Freedom Award for her outstanding service and significant contributions to the military and veterans' community.

On September 22, 2016, The Military Coalition, an association of 32 military, veterans, and uniformed services organizations, recognized her for over a decade of dedicated work with the House Committee on Armed Services. During her tenure with the committee, she has been a crucial part of crafting important legislation and an exceptional asset for the Military Personnel subcommittee now chaired by Congressman JOE HECK of Nevada. She was previously recognized as a Freedom Award recipient in 2012.

I am grateful for her admirable service and dedication to the committee and our

servicemembers and military families. She has maintained the high standards of her predecessor, the late John Chapla.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a bipartisan resolution which recognizes the opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on Saturday, September 24, 2016. I am so proud that over 110 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle have joined me as original cosponsors.

This weekend will mark an historic moment in our Nation's history. Hundreds of thousands of people will convene in Washington, D.C. on the National Mall to celebrate and welcome this historic institution which is dedicated to documenting African American life, history, art, and culture. Many people in this body, across the nation, and around the world shall celebrate this great day.

Tonight, I applaud Dr. Lonnie Bunch, III, the Founding Director, Kinshasha Holman Conwill, the Deputy Director, Cheryl Johnson, Chief of Staff, and the hundreds and thousands of people who worked so hard to make this dream a reality. For over 10 years, they have toiled day in and day out to prepare for the opening and operation of the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

I know that the leadership and staff of the Museum have labored tirelessly for years and years—designing the building, raising funds, envisioning the exhibits, collecting artifacts, conducting research, and meeting with the many people across this country and around the world who are so excited about this historic moment. Mr. Speaker, I thank each and every one of them for their hard work, determination, and dedication to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of African American History and Culture took over 100 years to evolve from a dream to a reality in the Nation's Capitol on the National Mall. The most recent congressional effort began with the late former Congressman Thomas "Mickey" Leland from Texas who revitalized the legislation in 1985. I was proud to continue his work and fought for 15 years for the bill to pass the House and Senate before finally being signed into law by President George W. Bush.

It was a long, hard, labor of love, and there were so many wonderful Members on both sides of the aisle and the dome, who helped accomplish this mission, which spanned generations, decades, and movements. In 1993, the late Senator Paul Martin Simon from Illinois introduced a companion to the House legislation. Beginning in 2001, former Senator Sam Brownback from Kansas, former Senator

Max Cleland from Georgia, and former Senator Chris Dodd from Connecticut joined the House coalition which included Representatives William "Bill" Clay from Missouri, J.C. Watts, Jr. from Oklahoma, and Jack Kingston from Georgia who helped take this bipartisan, bicameral effort across the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not also thank some of the former congressional staff who worked for so many years to pass the legislation which authorized the Museum—Tammy Boyd in my office; Kerri Watson with former Rep. J.C. Watts; LaRochelle Young with former Sen. Sam Brownback; and Donni Turner with former Sen. Max Cleland. They refused to give up; they refused to give in, and we thank them for their hard work and service.

On the eve of this long-awaited day, I join with more than 110 of my colleagues in congratulating Smithsonian Institution's family, the countless staff, and many volunteers of the National Museum of African American History and Culture on their persistence, their determination, and—very, very soon—on their success.

Tonight, we should all be proud, and each and every one of us must take the necessary hours, days, weeks, and months to visit, learn, explore, and reflect on the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture and all that it signifies and entails.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good day; it is a great day.

HONORING THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAINT PAUL

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Junior League of Saint Paul (JLSP) as the organization marks 100 years of dedicated community service to the people of Saint Paul, Minnesota. Since 1917, the Junior League of Saint Paul has been an all-female volunteer organization committed to the work of its founder, Elizabeth Ames Jackson. For the past century, JLSP has forged coalitions and leveraged the talents and passions of volunteers to address our community's greatest challenges.

After working on behalf of the Red Cross and supporting the war effort in the 1920's, JLSP found a cause of their own to champion. Realizing that there was a need in the community for women to have a place to recover peacefully from surgery, they created a Convalescent Home for Women and Girls. This allowed women to have a place out of the hospital where they might regain their strength before returning to the stresses of work and family.

In 1933, the JLSP was approached by the Children's Hospital to create a needy-bed fund for children whose families could not afford medical care. The JLSP eagerly stepped in and started a city wide push for funds to support the hospital. Their success culminated in the creation of the Children's Hospital Association, which in later years has gone on to fund hospital initiatives and start-up programs.

The Children's Hospital Association is still providing for the healthcare needs of children in the Saint Paul area to this day in part because of the work of the JLSP.

Understanding that there were other challenges to address in the community, the JLSP shifted their focus to the development of recreational spaces for Saint Paul's youth. They partnered with the Neighborhood House and the Community Chest, which later became the United Way, to start Saint Paul Community Services. With the help of \$12,000 of seed money from the JLSP, Saint Paul Community Services, now known as Keystone Community Services, is still in operation today.

In the 1980s as Saint Paul welcomed an influx of Hmong refugees, the women of the Saint Paul Junior League saw a way that they may help their new neighbors. The JLSP saw the beauty and opportunity represented in the story cloths made by Hmong women. By helping to market these beautiful cloths for sale in the community, JLSP assisted in empowering their new neighbors to earn money and improve their English.

In the 1990s the JLSP pivoted to the issue of domestic violence and started the Minnesota chapter of Silent Witness; an organization that helped to bring awareness and honor the memory of women killed as a result of abuse. In the new century, members of JLSP worked with Women's Advocates in Saint Paul, the nation's first battered women's shelter. They helped to make the shelter more physically comfortable, inviting, and safe for women who were seeking refuge.

Over the course of a century, the JLSP has taken on daunting challenges in Saint Paul to create solutions to lift up those disadvantaged and struggling members of our community. Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the Junior League of Saint Paul on its 100th anniversary—and for the next century of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL WILDERNESS MONTH

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as National Wilderness Month.

This month we marked the 52nd anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964, which created our National Wilderness Preservation System and established the procedure for designating federal lands as wilderness by Congress.

Earlier this year, Congress was blessed with a visit from Pope Francis, who took his papal name from St. Francis of Assisi, the protector of the proper joyful balance in care for the earth. In his encyclical, the Holy Father notes St. Francis's request that "part of the friary garden was always left untouched," just like America's extraordinary wilderness.

Arkansas is home to 12 of these unique wilderness areas, including the Flatside Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest. In March, I was joined by Arkansas Rep. Rick

Beck, members of the Boy Scouts, the Ozark Society, the Sierra Club, and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service on a six mile hike through Flatside, enjoying the serene beauty of this area left wild.

During National Wilderness Month, we recognize these wilderness areas in our great country and the need to preserve them for future generations of Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. DOROTHY HYATT

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Dorothy Hyatt, on the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of Girls, Inc. of Columbus, Georgia.

A Columbus native, Dorothy Hyatt starting going to Girls, Inc. at an early age and continued her attendance throughout high school. Her mother worked many hours to support Dorothy and her four siblings so Dorothy would spend much of her time at Girls, Inc. where she would do arts and crafts, learn how to cook and sew, and play in the swimming pool. Her peers and mentors at Girls, Inc. encouraged her to attend college after her graduation from Jordan High School in 1972. She received a scholarship from Girls, Inc. and earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Rehabilitation from Troy State University in 1976 and a Master's in Criminal Justice from the same university in 1980.

Girls, Inc. had been such an integral part of her childhood and teenage years that it came as no surprise when Mrs. Hyatt returned to Girls, Inc. to work as Center Director of the Garrard Center in Columbus in 1976. In 1981, Mrs. Hyatt became the Executive Director of Girls, Inc. of Columbus and has served in this capacity ever since. There was no better candidate to run the organization than Mrs. Hyatt. Having been on the receiving side of the program, she knew the impact it could have on a young girl and the decisions she made during the most formative years of her life. Girls, Inc. can be the difference between a bright, successful future and a life of drugs, crime, or poverty. Mrs. Hyatt's understanding of the organization's mission on a personal level has helped to keep Girls, Inc. effective in mentoring girls and shaping them into strong, independent women.

In addition to her leadership of Girls, Inc., Mrs. Hyatt has proven to be an exceptional member of her community. She has served on the Columbus South Task Force and the Columbus Coalition of Children and Youth. She served as a board member of the Downtown Kiwanis Club and the St. Francis Hospital Advisory Committee for Women's Health. In 1996, Ms. Hyatt served as President of the United Way Directors Association. She is a 1993 graduate of Leadership Columbus and a 1998 graduate of Leadership Georgia.

Ms. Hyatt has been recognized numerous times for her professional and community

work. She is a recipient of the Girls, Inc. Southern Regional Professional of the Year Award; the Judge Aaron Cohn Community Service Award; the Keith Bissel Volunteer Award from the Kiwanis Club; the Gracious Lady Award, the Leadership Georgia Foundation Award, and the Governor Honors Award, among many others.

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays often said: "You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give." Not only has Mrs. Hyatt made her living at Girls, Inc. by mentoring and uplifting girls beyond their circumstances, but she has also made her life by giving back to the great city of Columbus in so many ways. We are all very grateful for her tireless advocacy in making our community stronger. A woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life's work truly special.

Mrs. Hyatt has accomplished much in her life but none of it would be possible without the love and support of her husband, Phil; her children, Emilee and Wynn; and her grandson, Harrison.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Mrs. Dorothy Hyatt upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career spanning four decades with Girls, Inc. of Columbus.

HONORING JON WOOD

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. DINGELL, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jon Wood for his service as a member of the Congressional Award Board of Directors.

The United States Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. It began as a bipartisan effort in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by the late Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the program. Since its inception, over 7 million hours

of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Jon is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and our nation's young people sets him apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of him as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Jon for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO KURTZ HARDWARE COMPANY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kurtz Hardware Company for their 150th year of business in the Des Moines metropolitan area.

L.H. Kurtz, a German immigrant, founded Kurtz Hardware Company in 1866, starting what is now one of the oldest companies in the community. At first selling hardware and tin items, the store evolved through the years, adding plumbing and heating products, and later sporting goods and houseware sections. A roof collapse in 1998, along with the competition of newer and larger hardware stores opening in the area, led current fifth generation owner Bob Kurtz to refocus the business to concentrate on commercial contracting. The Des Moines Register, in an article featuring the business, asked why Kurtz Hardware Company has lasted so long and endured such difficult times as the Great Depression, World War II, the farm crisis of the 1980s, and the rise of the big box stores. Bob Kurtz answered with a laugh, "It's just the old stubborn German in us, I guess."

As a testament to the longevity of Kurtz Hardware Company, the Des Moines Register noted that the company supplied materials for the Equitable Building, Des Moines' first skyscraper of the time, built back in 1924. Today, they are providing doors and hardware for that same Equitable Building as it is currently being renovated into residential living.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Kurtz Hardware Company in the United States Congress and I'm proud to recognize them for their 150 years of service to the Des Moines area. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Kurtz Hardware Company of Des Moines and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

HONORING SPECIALIST RICHARD ALLEN CABLE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to remember United

States Army Specialist Richard "Dickie" Allen Cable for his bravery and willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Cable was killed in action while defending his comrades during Operation Billings in Vietnam on June 14, 1967. It is my honor to sponsor H.R. 4887, a bill that would name the Post Office in Shelby, Indiana, after Specialist Cable, a hero who gave up his life in service of the nation he loved.

A resident of Shelby, Dickie graduated from Lowell High School in 1965 and is remembered by friends as an exceptional member of the community. Dickie was an outstanding athlete who loved softball, basketball, and track and field. His friends recall that Dickie was always captain and everyone always wanted to be on his team. Dickie was adopted and an only child. Following the death of his father Fred, when Dickie was only nine, he took on a variety of jobs to help support his mother, Grace, including working as a pin setter at the local bowling alley. After high school, Dickie got a job at Inland Steel in East Chicago, Indiana.

In 1966, Dickie was drafted into the United States Army and served as a rifleman assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Infantry Division, where he demonstrated bravery and courage. Specialist Cable and his team were on a mission when he spotted several Viet Cong in the jungle. He shouted a warning to his comrades and fired on the Viet Cong. Ignoring the heavy return fire, he engaged the enemy until his comrades reached cover. As he moved to rejoin his team, he spotted an enemy machine-gun team setting up. Realizing his fellow soldiers would be subject to vicious crossfire, Specialist Cable began a running assault toward the enemy position. Although he was wounded several times, he overran the position and killed the insurgents before he fell. He was only 20 years old. For his courage and sacrifice, Dickie was posthumously honored by the military with the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. In addition, Dickie was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar.

Dickie was survived by his mother, Grace, and a close-knit community of neighbors and friends in Shelby, who continue to honor his memory today. I would like to thank Mr. Richard Boettler, who first approached my office about dedicating the Shelby Post Office to Dickie's memory and organized a petition to advocate for this legislation with over 700 signatures from former and current Shelby residents. Additionally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the entire Indiana delegation for joining me in this effort. Finally, I would like to thank the local elected officials in Shelby for their advocacy, including Indiana State Senator Rick Niemeyer, Indiana State Representative Michael Aylesworth, Cedar Creek Township Trustee Alice Dahl, Lake County Councilman Eldon Strong, and Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in

honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Richard Allen Cable. Specialist Cable sacrificed his life in service to his country, and his death was a great loss to our Nation. Nearly 50 years after his passing, Specialist Cable remains a hero in the eyes of his loved ones and his Nation. Let us take this opportunity to honor the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID K. RAMEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is, in my opinion, the greatest legislative body in the history of the world. A large portion of the credit for that is due to the thousands of staff members who dedicate the better part of their adult lives to working within the halls of this democratic institution. For the past 24 years, I have been incredibly fortunate to have benefitted from the talented services of David Kirk Ramey.

Dave's tenure in the House dates back to before I was elected (when the Cold War existed and the Internet didn't), when he worked for my good friend and mentor, former Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-CA). Dave served Rep. Lewis from February 1985 through December 1992 as a Foreign Policy and Defense Analyst in the House Republican Conference, Policy Committee, and Research Committee. Months after being hired by Lewis, Dave welcomed to the Research Committee staff his good friend Flint Lewis (no relation to the Congressman). Alongside Jack Pitney, Guy Hicks, Kelly Cook Marcavage, Brenda Benjamin Reese, Todd Hauptli, Jim O'Malley, Frank Gregorsky, Paul Ritacco, Lee Raudonis, Ed Slevin and others, Dave served for eight years in the House Republican Leadership.

According to former Staff Director Bob Okun, who hired Dave and under whom Dave worked during most of those years, Dave "... distinguished himself as a top notch researcher and writer on Capitol Hill in the 1980s which served him so well through his thirty plus years on the Hill." Dave wrote for the 1988 Republican Platform Committee which was co-chaired by Rep. Lewis. Congressman Lewis told me that he has "... always been very proud of the quality of our personal staff. One of the greatest among them has been David Ramey. To our knowledge, the only mistake Dave ever made was to leave our staff and to go and work for my buddy KEN CALVERT."

After I was first elected in November of 1992, Dave was one of the first staff members I brought on board as my Legislative Director. My first Chief of Staff, Ed Slevin, said "Without a doubt, Dave is one of the best and the brightest. He was a great renaissance man for the Congressman." In 1997, Dave became my Chief of Staff when Ed left the Hill. Throughout his time in my office, Dave has demonstrated a tremendous gift for analyzing policies and finding solutions to complex legislative challenges. Many things have changed over

Dave's 32 years in the House, but his sense of punctuality and neatness were always a constant.

He has also mentored a great number of staff members and interns who have served in my office, sharing with them the tremendous knowledge he possesses about our government, Capitol Hill, history and life in general. I believe it's fair to say nobody who spent time working in our office left without bearing the imprint of Dave's wonderful leadership. Some of the staff's favorite Daveisms include: "Ounce for ounce, testosterone is more dangerous than plutonium," "If you want one thing, ask for two," "cc's are free," "What gets scheduled, gets done," "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds," "Don't go to law school," and the all-time favorite, "The six most important words in the English language are: 'I am sorry. I was wrong.'"

In addition to working in my office, Dave has served as the CRAP Master, the head of the California Republican Administrative Personnel group (CRAPs), as well as Co-Chairman of the bipartisan California State Society. He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1984 with a B.A. in International Relations and in 2010 received his Master of Arts with Highest Distinction from the Naval War College in National Security and Strategic Studies. When Dave steps down on October 31st to become a principal at Kadesh and Associates, it will mark the departure of the last staff member in my office who has served me since I was sworn into office in 1993. (The amount of file space that we will reclaim is practically unfathomable.) Dave's immeasurable contributions to my office, the constituents I have represented in Riverside and Orange Counties, and to our country are something for which we should all be very grateful. Personally, I have and will continue to value my friendship with Dave and wish him and his wife Jenny, their daughter Maddie and son Ben the very best and brightest future.

DYSTONIA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the month of September as Dystonia Awareness Month.

Currently, it is estimated that at least 300,000 individuals in North America suffer from dystonia, making it more common than Huntington's, muscular dystrophy, and ALS. Dystonia may be inherited or caused by specific factors such as trauma, certain medications, and additional medical conditions. For most people with dystonia, the cause remains unknown and there is currently no cure.

Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder that causes muscles to contract and spasm involuntarily. It affects men, women, and children. Dystonia can be generalized, affecting all major muscle groups, and resulting in twisting, repetitive movements and abnormal postures. It can also be focal, affecting a specific part of the body such as legs, arms, hands, neck, face, mouth, eyelids, or vocal

cords. Dystonia is not usually fatal, but it is a chronic disorder producing symptoms that vary in degrees of frequency, intensity, disability, and pain depending on the type of dystonia. The inability to predict or control the movements of the legs, arms, hands, neck, shoulders, face, eyelids, jaw, tongue, and/or vocal cords has a profound impact on an individual's life. Medical literature associates the onset of dystonia with traumatic injury, particularly traumatic head/brain injuries. Our men and women in uniform face a disproportionate risk of developing dystonia as a result of an injury sustained during their military service.

The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, which works to raise awareness of dystonia is a nationwide organization that serves the community. Beyond awareness, the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation provides the dystonia community with support, education, advocacy, and the promotion of research into the causes of and care of dystonia. I have long known the Farber family and have seen their contributions and passion for the support of dystonia related research and awareness.

I call on my colleagues to recognize the goals and ideals of Dystonia Awareness Month by supporting federal activities that improve lives of patients impacted by dystonia including research programs at the National Institutes of Health.

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRY WAY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Mr. Jerry Way as the Director of Public Works for the City of Sacramento. As his family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his many professional accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this exceptional individual whose 36 years of service have greatly benefited the City of Sacramento.

A graduate from California State University, Sacramento, Jerry began his career in Public Works in 1980. As the City Traffic Engineer and Streets Manager, Jerry led projects that greatly improved the infrastructure of the State Capital. He was appointed Sacramento's Director of Public Works in 2006. He managed over 400 employees and a \$100 million capital improvement budget, overseeing projects that greatly enhanced public safety, raised the quality of life of my constituents, and promoted environmental sustainability. His oversight also included the operations and maintenance of more than 3,000 road lane miles, 40,000 streetlights, and 10,000 parking spaces.

Jerry is well known throughout Sacramento for his ability to get things done in City Hall. In recent years, he took on some of the region's largest and most important projects, including the new downtown arena, the Downtown Sacramento Streetcar, and the Delta Shores and Railyards developments. His steady leadership, his sense of humor, and his perspective over the last decade have been instrumental in changing Sacramento for the better.

Because of his dedication to serving the public, Jerry was named as one of the Top 10 Public Works Leaders in North America by the American Public Works Association. Jerry served on the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Tree Foundation and for the River District; he also promoted environmental awareness in the Sacramento community through his many sustainability projects. Jerry's extraordinary commitment to raising the quality of life for the citizens of Sacramento has helped make the state capital a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Jerry Way as he celebrates his years of dedication to the City of Sacramento. I am sad to see him leave public service; my constituents will miss his commitment to improving their city. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Jerry's outstanding career and wishing him the best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY'S BODY SHOP

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Johnny's Body Shop of Essex, Iowa, for celebrating their 50th year in business. Johnny's Body Shop was founded by the late Johnny and Eileen Resh in 1966.

Johnny's Body Shop is currently owned by Hazel and Delaine Resh. They represent the third generation of Resh family ownership. Delaine spends most of his day doing the required insurance and written estimates for customers, and notes how dramatically the auto industry has changed over the years. Delaine and Hazel often state their gratefulness to the residents of Essex for supporting their family-run business for over a half century.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Hazel and Delaine Resh for their years of dedicated and devoted service to Essex and the surrounding area. The staff at Johnny's Body Shop make a difference by helping and serving others every day. It is with great honor that I recognize them today and I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this outstanding milestone and in wishing them and their entire family nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 557, and Yea on Roll Call No. 558.

"CHASSEURS VOLONTAIRES"

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of several hundred "Chasseurs Volontaires," or volunteer soldiers from Haiti who courageously fought for our independence during the Battle of Savannah in 1779.

The "Corps de Chasseurs-Volontaires de Saint-Domingue" was organized in the French colony of Saint-Domingue, now Haiti, to support French troops on their way to fight in the American Revolution. They later joined forces with American colonists and French troops to take part in the campaign to drive the British out of Savannah, Georgia.

During the siege that lasted for more than two weeks and ultimately ended in defeat, the Chasseurs Volontaires fought alongside their American and French counterparts and many bravely laid down their lives. As the siege ended and American forces retreated, it was the Chasseurs Volontaires who fought off British counterattacks, thus ensuring the safe evacuation of our troops from the area.

The Chasseurs Volontaires were the largest individual unit to serve during the Siege of Savannah, making up almost a third of the French force that fought in the battle. Their valiant efforts saved many American lives and contributed to our overall victory and independence. Upon their return to Haiti, the Chasseurs Volontaires played an important role in their own war for independence.

Mr. Speaker, we owe the Chasseurs Volontaires a great deal of respect. I join the many Haitian-Americans in my Congressional district in thanking the Chasseurs Volontaires for their courage and sacrifice, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing these unsung heroes.

CONGRESS SALUTES THE ARMY'S 65TH INFANTRY REGIMENT "THE BORINQUENEERS"

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 22, 2016, veteran soldiers of the Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers, will be recognized with replica Congressional Gold Medals in a ceremony organized by local businesses and by the Borinqueneer Congressional Gold Medal National Committee. Residents, families and military veterans will gather in Orlando, Florida to honor these American heroes.

Created by Congress in 1898 as an all-Puerto Rican military unit, the 65th Infantry Regiment was called upon to serve in World War I, World War II, and especially the Korean War, where they became known as "the Borinqueneers".

During the darkest days of the Korean War, the 65th Infantry Regiment fought some of the

fiercest battles under some of the harshest conditions; and they did so as the military's last segregated unit—a true testimony to their character.

It was at the now-famous Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, one of the greatest strategic withdrawals in modern military history, that the 65th Infantry Regiment fearlessly provided cover for the 1st Marine Division. The Borinqueneers are also recorded to be the last in U.S. Army history to conduct a battalion-sized bayonet charge.

For their extraordinary service in the Korean War, the Regiment earned a Medal of Honor, 9 Distinguished Service Crosses, approximately 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and more than 2,700 Purple Hearts. The Borinqueneers now join the ranks of the most intrepid American warriors who have received the Congressional Gold Medal.

Awarding the 65th Infantry Regiment with the Congressional Gold Medal is an opportunity for our nation to honor the sacrifices, and recognize the prejudices and injustices endured by these American heroes. It is fitting we celebrate our beloved Borinqueneers on the heels of Hispanic Heritage month.

The freedom we all enjoy today exists because of their courage, and their service to our nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting their service and their commitment to the cause of liberty and freedom.

HONORING PAUL KELLY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Kelly for his service as a member of the Congressional Award Board of Directors.

The United States Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. It began as a bipartisan effort in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by the late Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the program. Since its inception, over 7 million hours of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Paul is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and our nation's young people sets him apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of him as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Paul for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO LOGAN KINYON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Logan Kinyon of Orient, Iowa, on being crowned the 2017 Miss Rodeo Iowa.

Logan is the daughter of Jamie and Lori Kinyon of Orient, Iowa. She graduated from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri in December 2015 with a degree in Agriculture Business. During her years of participating in rodeo, Logan has competed in barrel racing, pole bending, goat tying, break-away roping and cutting. She became involved in rodeo pageants in 2012 and was crowned Miss Rodeo Lenox. Logan will now go on to compete at the 2017 Miss Rodeo America pageant in Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Logan for the hard work and determination she has displayed in earning this recognition. I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Logan on this outstanding achievement and in wishing her best of luck at the Miss Rodeo America Pageant in December.

TRIBUTE TO SAM KENNEDY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor former Tennessee Press Association president, judge, district attorney, newspaper editor, and publisher Sam Kennedy. He has become the 16th inductee into the State Open Government Hall of Fame. He will be the first Tennessean who has received this recognition.

Sam Kennedy is from Maury County, Tennessee. He worked as the General Sessions Judge and District Attorney for the 14th Judicial District. He was also elected as the Maury County Executive in 1992. Sam served as a member of the Tennessee State School Board and the Law Revision Commission.

The main focus of Sam Kennedy's career is journalism. Kennedy was the editor and publisher of the Columbia Daily Herald and a leader in the Tennessee Press Association. He served as the president and chaired its Government Affairs Committee for 30 years. He also served as a director for the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association.

Sam Kennedy has shaped much of what journalism is today. He has been an advocate for the First Amendment and took the lead to help pass the Tennessee Sunshine law. This law passed in 1974. It requires meetings of state, city and county government bodies to be open to the public and that any such governmental body must give adequate notice before the meeting. Through his influence, he fought to keep government as transparent as possible.

The Open Government Hall of Fame is a joint initiative of the National Freedom of Information Coalition (NFOIC) and the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). Inductees are recognized for their "long and steady effort to preserve and protect the free flow of information about state and local government that is vital to the public in a democracy."

Sam Kennedy has made an extraordinary impact in the state of Tennessee. His life's work and legacy will continue to benefit those who serve in government and journalism. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sam Kennedy.

IN RECOGNITION OF DON LEWIS

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Don Lewis of Pleasanton on recently receiving one of the 2016 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards. Through his renowned musical ability, innovative spirit, and enthusiasm for teaching, Don has brought joy to the people of the Bay Area and beyond.

Don began playing the piano as a high school student in Dayton, Ohio. As a student at the Tuskegee Institute, he sang with the Tuskegee Chorus and performed at freedom rallies led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Don became a pioneer in music technology by inventing the Live Electronic Orchestra, a synthesizer system that influenced the development of synthesizers and sounds modules for decades to come. He has performed at concerts worldwide and worked with many musical greats, such as the Newport Jazz Festival, Quincy Jones, Michael Jackson, and the Beach Boys.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Don is a passionate teacher and an involved member of our community. For nearly thirty years, his "Say Yes to Music!" school assemblies have motivated thousands of children across the United States and Canada to pursue their creative interests. He has engaged with Bay Area students at all levels to encourage their musical and artistic pursuits, organizing events where they can learn from each other and showcase their talents to the public. Don also actively participates in service projects as a member of the Rotary Club of Pleasanton.

Don's career is truly a testament to the power of music to inspire and bring joy to others. This week, Alameda County honors his outstanding achievements and contributions to our community. I want to congratulate Don on this tremendous honor.

UNTOUCHABLE NO MORE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a former prosecutor and county Judge, I am very concerned by the press conference held on July 15th the Director of the FBI, James Comey. The press conference was carried live on many news channels, and Director Comey spoke in great detail (over 2,300 words), regarding procedures in her use of a personal email server while working as Secretary of State.

During this press conference, Director Comey stated: "Although there is evidence of potential violations of the statutes regarding the handling of classified information, our judgment is that no reasonable prosecutor would bring such a case."

Not only did this press conference likely violate FBI procedure, such a public accounting of alleged misdeeds while not recommending charges made it nearly impossible for the Department of Justice to do their job in this case. The FBI is an investigating agency, not a prosecuting agency or a judge and jury. Such a public determination of a case is unprecedented and highly prejudicial. The FBI should investigate and research the facts; determining whether or not those facts constitute a crime is not their job.

It appears that Comey's statement was a violation of internal DOJ procedures. Per DOJ regulations, in federal cases, the prosecutor's decision to bring criminal charges is governed by the United States Attorney's Manual. USAM 9-27.000, titled "Principles of Federal Prosecution" contains the DOJ's written guidance to prosecutors about decisions to initiate or decline prosecution. Specifically, 9-27.220(A) instructs prosecutors to file criminal charges in all cases where there is a violation of federal law and the evidence is sufficient to obtain a conviction, unless one of three grounds exist:

Lack of a substantial federal interest;

The defendant is subject to prosecution in another jurisdiction; or

The existence of adequate non-criminal alternatives to prosecution.

It is not clear from the Comey statement which of these exceptions he thinks applies in this case. Regardless, the determination of whether or not to pursue charges in the case does not reside with an investigative agency like the FBI. By publicly making this statement, Director Comey made it practically impossible for DOJ to fully fulfill their duties under 27.220(A).

There is no provision or practice that permits the FBI (or any other federal law enforcement agency) to make recommendations to the prosecution in such a public manner. This statement violated practice and procedure and further shows that this investigation was flawed from the beginning. Secretary Clinton received different treatment than any rank and file employee at the State Department would have received in such an instance. A rank and file employee would have, at the very least, lost their security clearance had they engaged in conduct similar to that of Secretary Clinton.

In the FBI "Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines" section 1-2, a number of policies and procedures are laid out for how the FBI should behave and conduct criminal investigations. Specifically, section 1-2 (1) states: "The FBI is charged with the duty of investigating violations of the laws of the United States and collective evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest". In addition, section 1-2 (3) states: "Results of investigations are furnished to United States Attorneys and/or Department of Justice."

There is not a section in this manual that permits or directs the FBI to publicly state that the facts they investigated were not sufficient to warrant prosecution; in fact the manual clearly indicates that these facts should be turned over to either a US Attorney or the DOJ when there is sufficient evidence that a crime occurred. Director Conley stated that "there is evidence of potential violations of the statutes regarding the handling of classified information". Despite this finding, Director Comey appears to have veered from FBI procedures to make a public statement that no prosecution was warranted. It is unclear what legal standard was used to make this determination and appears to be far outside what is permitted under the policies and practice of the FBI. There was a time when the FBI was known as "The Untouchables" because they were above politics; those days are over.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING OFFICERS ANGEL
PADILLA AND PETER HAMMER
OF THE LINDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officers Angel Padilla and Peter Hammer of the Linden Police Department in Linden, New Jersey for their role in the apprehension of the New Jersey-New York bombing suspect.

Just days after we observed the 15th anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, multiple bombs were planted in New York City and in Seaside Park and Elizabeth, New Jersey.

On Monday, September 19, 2016, local law enforcement in my district apprehended the bombing suspect, Ahmad Khan Rahami, but not before a shootout injured two brave police officers, Angel Padilla and Peter Hammer.

That day, Padilla and Hammer were among officers who responded to a call of a man sleeping in the entrance of a tavern in Linden.

As he approached Rahami, whom he recognized as the bombing suspect, Padilla was shot in the torso. Fortunately, Padilla was wearing his bulletproof vest when he was struck.

During the shootout, Hammer, a 22-year veteran of the department, was hit in the head by bullet shrapnel.

Thankfully, both officers are expected to make full recoveries.

It is undeniable that Officers Padilla and Hammer, as well as the other officers involved in the apprehension of Rahami, are heroes.

They pursued the suspect not knowing whether he was armed or worse, putting themselves in harm's way to protect their community. Thanks to their outstanding work, Rahami was apprehended, our community was kept safe, and no lives were lost.

On behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I extend Officers Padilla and Hammer my deepest appreciation for their service and courage. I am honored to have such dedicated and selfless police officers serving in my district.

HONORING CHIEF OF STAFF,
JACQUELINE ELLIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a truly dedicated public servant and a great friend, Jacqueline Ellis.

I was heartbroken to learn of her recent passing. Jacqui was a trusted and devoted staffer to Congressmen AL GREEN, Congressman Major Owens, and the late Senator Howell Heflin. She was a longtime advocate and mentor for people of color, especially African American women, working on Capitol Hill.

The entire Capitol Hill family will miss her dearly, but we will treasure our fond memories that were created with her over her 30 years of selfless public service. I know my Chief of Staff also viewed Jacqui as a mentor and my entire staff will dearly miss her. We will remember the many gifts that Jacqui possessed, and we will miss her commitment to social justice, her gentle spirit, and her humbleness. Jacqui was a role model to many on Capitol Hill and a fierce advocate for people from all walks of life.

I extend my sincere condolences to Jacqui's family, loved ones, her colleagues in Congressman GREEN's office, and to all those who served with her over the years. She will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO MAIN STREET DANCE
STUDIOS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Iowa business, Main Street Dance Studios of Panora, Guthrie Center, Stuart and Nevada, Iowa, as they celebrate their 25th year in business.

Kristi Vance, owner of Main Street Dance Studios, began dancing at the age of seven. For the past 25 years, Kristi has been imparting her knowledge to many young students. The Main Street Dance Studios teach a range of dance classes including ballet, hip hop, acrobatics, and contemporary dance.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 25 years Main Street Dance Studios has left an indelible mark on the dance and youth communities of Iowa. I commend Kristi Vance and all the employees at the Main Street Dance Studios for a job well done. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring this company for their commitment to the arts in the state of Iowa and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today the U.S. House Representatives voted on an override of the President's veto of S. 2040. This bill narrows the scope of sovereign immunity by allowing U.S. Courts to hear cases against a foreign state involving injury, death and damages as a result of a tort. Very recently my husband's law firm has undertaken legal representation of a client who seeks to recover from a foreign state the value of claims previously paid. I believe that Rule III in conjunction with Rule XIII, clause 2, leads me to abstain from the vote on this subject to avoid even the impression of a conflict and to adhere to both the spirit and letter of the Rules.

IN RECOGNITION OF
PARALYMPIAN A.J. DIGBY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ostego High School graduate and Tontogany, Ohio, native A.J. Digby for his impressive performance at this summer's Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At the young age of 18 years old, A.J. held his own, placing fourth in the 400-meter race and fifth in the 200-meter race. Both of his times in these events were personal bests.

A.J. has not let any obstacle prevent him from reaching new track and field heights. Born without fibula bones in both calves due to a congenital order, A.J. began competing in sprinting competitions at the age of 14 with running blades.

His performance in Brazil has been an inspiration to the community as well, with over 50 family and friends gathering at Ostego High School recently to celebrate his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, to finish as well as A.J. Digby did at the Paralympics, it takes hard work, dedication, and a commitment to improving each and every day. I commend A.J. for his perseverance, and I speak for many when I say I'm excited to see what he will accomplish in the future. Congratulations, Paralympian A.J. Digby, on a job well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CADET
BRANDON T. JACKSON

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I recognize the life of my constituent, West Point Cadet Brandon T. Jackson, a brilliant young man who tragically passed away on September 11, 2016, in an automobile accident in Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

Brandon was born on April 17, 1996 in Flushing, Queens. He was a proud "A" student graduate of Holy Cross High School in Flushing and was an exceptional member of the U.S. Military Academy Prep School Class of 2015.

This bright young man was a proud member of West Point's Military Class of 2019, E Company, Second Regiment. His mother, Morna Davis, a veteran of the Iraq War, a member of the U.S. Army Reserves and a New York City Police Department Detective, inspired Cadet Jackson to commit his life to service to our country.

Brandon loved Army football from a young age and, beginning in his freshman year, earned a spot as a starting member of the Army football team in the position of corner back. Brandon excelled in his role as a defensive lineman, attained impressive stats, and played a key role in the team's victory over Rice University on Saturday, September 10.

Brandon was equally driven academically and was an exemplary student as a Management major in the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership. He was a member of West Point's Cultural Affairs Club and, in his free time, enjoyed playing chess and basketball.

Brandon is fondly remembered by all who knew him for his warm smile, engaging manner and quiet grace. He loved to help others, was a mentor to younger players and treasured his family, especially his mother. His short life was one of achievement and excellence and this proud member of the Long Gray Line exemplified the watch words of West Point—Duty, Honor, Country.

There is no way to measure our loss of this incredible young man with such great promise who was dedicated to a life of service to our great nation and its citizens. I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

HONORING PATRICK McLAIN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Patrick McLain for his service as a member of the Congressional Award Board of Directors.

The United States Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. It began as a bipartisan effort in both

the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by the late Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the program. Since its inception, over 7 million hours of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Patrick is one we all should strive for. His willingness to serve his community and our nation's young people sets him apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of him as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Patrick for his service and wishing him nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONOR FLIGHT
OF OREGON

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 42 World War II veterans from Oregon who will be visiting their memorial this Friday in Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight of Oregon. On behalf of a grateful state and country, we welcome these heroes to our nation's capital.

The veterans on this flight from Oregon are as follows: Russell Carter, Army; Carolyn Clark, Army; Robert Kakuska, Army; Henry Kreminski, Army; Milford McDougal, Army; William Osteen, Army; Carl Propes, Army; Richard Reeve, Army; Arthur Schlenther, Army; Carl Smith, Army; Richard Sowell, Army; Frank Spiegel, Army; Alvin Tesky, Army; Edward Usselman, Army; Walter McNeill, Army Air Corps; Gordon Sodorff, Army Air Corps; Shirley Wilson, Army Air Corps; Clarence Read, Army Air Forces; Walter Seaman, Army Air Forces; William Thompson, Army Air Forces; Robert Turkisher, Army Air Forces; Robert Lortie, Coast Guard; Nancy Songer, Coast Guard; Frank Gibson, Marine Corps; Owen Anson, Navy; Ellsworth Bell, Navy; Jack Clevinger, Navy; Leroy Colvin, Navy; Kenneth Harding, Navy; David Henthorne, Navy; Robert Jackson, Navy; Hugh Keavney, Navy; William Kragar, Navy;

Willis Marshall, Navy; William Miller, Navy; Melvin Probst, Navy; Margaret Ross, Navy; Leonard Tischler, Navy; Donald Quinn, Navy; Forrest Hall, Navy Reserve; Santo Regalbuto, Navy Reserve; and Patsy Seaman, Women's Army Corps.

These 42 heroes join the estimated 20,000 to 25,000 veterans who will travel to Washington, D.C. from their home states in 2016, adding to the over 150,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

Mr. Speaker, each of us is humbled by the courage of these brave Americans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS AND BILL
MATHENY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lois and Bill Matheny of Des Moines, Iowa, on their 50th wedding anniversary, celebrated on September 3, 2016.

Lois and Bill's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the very best.

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF
FLIGHT RESEARCH AT NASA
ARMSTRONG

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the 70th anniversary of NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, which was founded on September 30, 1946.

In 1946 a group of officials from NASA's predecessor organization, the NACA, set up an operations base for our nation's effort in the race to achieve supersonic manned flight. A year later, on October 14, 1947, Air Force Captain Chuck Yeager became the first pilot to break the sound barrier in the experimental Bell X-1 aircraft. This achievement, one of many incredible "firsts" in our history, inaugurated a national legacy of excellence in aerospace that defines American power today.

More X-planes followed the X-1, each building on our understanding of flight and projecting U.S. power further into air and space. Twenty years after Yeager, my father, Pete Knight, flew the X-15 at Mach 6.7. Even today that flight holds the world record for aircraft speed. What we learned from the X-programs was critical to our journey to the moon and paved the way for the Space Shuttle.

Today NASA Armstrong continues to play an important role in the advancement of American aeronautics. It is pursuing a new generation of X-planes that will validate technology for faster, cleaner, quieter, and safer air travel over the next ten years. These bold programs are not only an exciting next step for our nation's legacy in aviation pioneering, but a necessary one, to renew our technological and competitive edge in aviation for the 21st Century.

I congratulate the men and women of NASA Armstrong on their outstanding achievements over the past 70 years. Their unflinching pursuit of useful knowledge in atmospheric flight and airborne science is essential to the American scientific enterprise, as well as our engagement with international science community, the competitiveness of our private sector air and space companies, and our military's edge over potential adversaries. On behalf of the 25th Congressional District of California, I would again like to thank the NASA Armstrong team for all they do for our country.

CELEBRATING KEVIN CLINE AND HIS NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING HISTORY

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate educator Kevin Cline of Frankton Junior Senior High School, the winner of the 2016 National History Teacher of the Year Award given by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. It is well-deserved.

Kevin teaches United States History, American Government, World History, and several AP history courses at Frankton Junior Senior High School located in the town of Frankton in Madison County, Indiana. When asked why he loves teaching history he said "it's got the best heroes and the best villains". That quote shows the fun he brings to his role. I have been honored to be able to speak with Kevin and his students not only in his classroom but also in the Indiana State House where students had the opportunity to learn about the law making process at the state level. These students even had the chance to present their bill ideas to state legislators. I have seen firsthand his passion for teaching, history, and his students. Despite the hard work he has put in to achieve this honor, Kevin says that winning this award does not match the privilege he has of getting to work with his students every day. His dedication to his students and his innovation in the classroom are a gift to his students and our Hoosier community.

Kevin is also an innovator by integrating technology into the classroom. He believes technology is the best way to connect classroom content to individual students. I would like to share one of many examples of him going above and beyond in his job and incorporating innovation. Kevin worked with Indiana University's Center on Congress to develop the app "Freedom Summer." The app teaches students the relationship between the Civil Rights Movement and the passage of civil rights legislation in Congress in a game-based, interactive learning environment. Continuing to innovate and make history relevant to today's students will ensure our next generation can prepare for our future challenges by learning from the past. Kevin continually engages with my office to educate his students which inspires his students to become more active citizens of the United States.

In 2013, I had the honor of meeting with Kevin in D.C. to congratulate him on his 2012 American Civic Education Teacher Award. I am proud once again to congratulate Kevin on his 2016 National History Teacher of the Year award. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Kevin for his contributions to our schools, history education, and most importantly to our students. As the daughter, sister and mom of teachers, I know the difficult, yet rewarding, job he has. The very best teachers have a deep passion for their subject matter, devoting themselves to not only sharing wisdom but igniting enthusiasm and excitement in their pupils. In a time when there is concern for declining civic engagement Kevin Cline is guiding the next generation of Indiana students to be knowledgeable, passionate, and engaged members of their community and the United States. Congratulations Kevin, your award is well-deserved.

HONORING UPROSE ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to UPROSE, a pillar of social justice organizing in New York City and Brooklyn's oldest Puerto Rican/Latino community based organization. This year, UPROSE will celebrate five decades of fighting for progress and advancing the rights of New York's working families and people of color.

UPROSE was founded during the civil rights movement and has made significant strides over the last five decades. The organization has helped prevent polluting power plants from being located in lower income neighborhoods. It has impacted transportation policy, improving transit options for hardworking Brooklyn communities. The organization has made fighting climate change a centerpiece of its agenda. Indeed, it has sent three young people of color to Antarctica and one to the North Pole on scientific expeditions, to observe these environmental issues firsthand.

Likewise, UPROSE has been at the forefront of ensuring that our local industrial sector

continues to blossom, while providing good paying, union jobs for local residents in the community.

Centered near Brooklyn's Sunset Park, UPROSE has always stood for this neighborhood's diversity. With a thriving immigrant population and more affordable housing than many parts of Brooklyn, Sunset Park attracts new waves of working people every year. UPROSE has stood with them for generations, empowering these New Yorkers to improve and strengthen the neighborhood, borough and City that they call home.

Mr. Speaker, after five decades UPROSE remains an anchor in our community, fighting for justice and improving our community locally. I would ask all my colleagues to join me on their fifty years of progress and wish them the best for many more years of achievement and success.

HONORING THE SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA PROGRAM AND THE INAUGURAL SAFE COMMUNITIES AMERICA DAY IN DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Safe Communities America program and the inaugural Safe Communities America Day, which will take place in Dallas on October 5th. Safe Communities America is a program of the National Safety Council which recognizes communities that prioritize safety and take deliberate steps to improve the health and safety of its citizens. I am proud to say that the first Safe Communities Day will be celebrated in Dallas, which was the first U.S. city—and first urban city worldwide—to be accredited as an International Safe Community. In fact, the City of Dallas has proudly retained its accreditation since 1996.

The City of Dallas and its local partners have worked tremendously hard to improve the safety and security of our communities in Texas. For over 20 years, the City of Dallas has been implementing Operation Installation, a residential fire safety program. The Injury Prevention Center of Greater Dallas has teamed up with the Dallas Fire Rescue Department to go door-to-door, installing smoke alarms at homes in neighborhoods most impacted by fire-related deaths, resulting in a 74 percent decrease in fire deaths. Since its inception, this partnership has installed more than 30,000 smoke alarms, covering 42,000 residents.

More recently, Dallas Safe Communities has implemented PHOTOVOICE, a project that teaches middle school students how to use a camera and photographs to improve pedestrian safety in the Vickery Meadow area. Students are getting involved in their communities by taking photographs of broken sidewalks, absent sidewalks, damaged pedestrian signals and share their "story" with city officials to advocate for improved safety.

Our neighboring City of Fort Worth has also been an accredited Safe Community since

2013. A variety of services are being offered around the city in order to have a comprehensive approach to fall prevention, including free home safety evaluations to seniors via the local fire department, education to first-responders on home safety hazard recognition, Matter of Balance classes, an evidence based-approach to falls prevention, offered to older adults through multiple community partners, STEADI (fall screening and intervention) training for local physicians and medication management via pharmacists and Meals on Wheels. With one of the fastest growing elder populations in Texas, the Ft. Worth coalition is committed to keeping older adults injury free.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, in conjunction with local organizations, are taking the lead to promote safety within our communities. I would also like to reiterate my support for the Safe Communities America program, which has proven to be a tremendous initiative led by the National Safety Council. This program has helped to create safer environments in our neighborhoods while engaging local citizens and encouraging individuals of all ages to become active members of their communities.

COMMEMORATING MRS.
FRANCISCA MARTINEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Gold Star Mother and Laredoan Mrs. Francisca Martinez.

Mrs. Martinez was born September 3, 1911, in Linares, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to parents Jesus Jasso and Francisca Trevino Jasso. She immigrated to the United States when she was fourteen years old. Her family settled in Laredo, Texas, and she soon became a United States citizen. Mrs. Martinez later met Enrique Martinez who would become her husband in 1929.

Francisca was a proud mother of eight children, Estanislado, Guadalupe, Petra, Maria Antonietta, Enrique, Jesus, Antonio, and Maria Aurora. Five of her sons served in the United States Army. Her oldest son, Estanislado Martinez, was wounded in the Korean War and her second eldest, Sgt. First Class Guadalupe Martinez, a Green Beret, was killed in action during the Vietnam War. It is because of her son's brave service and sacrifice that she became a member of the American Gold Star Mothers Organization.

Francisca was affectionately called "Panchita" by those close to her, who remember her passion and commitment to serving the community. She instilled a sense of service and charity in all her children. Francisca spent her life caring for others, continuing to volunteer at the local food bank on a weekly basis even into her later years.

Mrs. Martinez is survived by her sons, Jesus and Antonio Martinez; her daughters, Petra Hill and Maria Aurora Gutierrez; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and countless friends. Her legacy will live on in Laredo and she will be remembered for the

countless lives that she touched in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the life of Francisca "Panchita" Martinez.

IN HONOR OF JACQUELINE A.
ELLIS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and outstanding citizen, Jacqueline A. Ellis. Sadly, Jacqui passed away last week. A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 30, 2016 at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Glenn Dale, Maryland. The homegoing service will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Union Missionary Baptist Church in Mobile, Alabama.

Jacqueline A. Ellis came into this world on October 22, 1957 in Mobile, Alabama. Growing up during the tumultuous times of the Civil Rights Movement, Jacqui spent her life and career working to advance the interests of African Americans and women. Jacqui worked on Capitol Hill for nearly three decades, and her list of accomplishments and successes reflects her dedication to public service and the citizens she served.

Jacqui attended Jarvis Christian College from 1976 to 1980. Later on in life, Jacqui was inducted into the Jarvis Christian College's Pioneers Hall of Fame. This honor highlighted her contributions to the school, and the positive recognition her career and successes brought to Jarvis Christian College. Her contributions to generations of students did not end there, however, as she also was a guest lecturer at the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University as well as a Co-Chair of the Bethune-DuBois Institute, Inc. Leadership Forum. The Bethune-DuBois Institute, named after two prominent African American educators, Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, strives to advance the interests and opportunities of African Americans through education and leadership development.

Jacqui was a former National Board Member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), a civil rights group founded in response to the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955. The SCLC is now a national organization focused on fighting for human rights around the world. The SCLC honored Jacqui with the Ella Baker Award. Ella Baker was one of the most important leaders in the Civil Rights Movement, as well as a founding member of the SCLC.

In addition, Jacqui was a National Board Member for the National Congress of Black Women; a founding member of the Organization of African-American Administrative Assistants and Chiefs of Staff; Chair of the Legislative Issues and Public Affairs Committee for the Links, Inc.; and Social Action Commissioner for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Jacqui spent 28 years working on Capitol Hill, where she had a smile or a word of ad-

vice for any Member, staffer, or visitor who needed it. On the Hill, she worked for former Congressman Major Owens of New York and former Senator Howell Heflin of Alabama, and she served as the Chief of Staff for Congressman AL GREEN of Texas. Having worked in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, Jacqui was lauded by many past and present elected officials for her institutional knowledge and her selfless dedication to public service.

In recognition of her altruistic spirit, Jacqui was awarded the Congressional Black Associates' Robert H. Ogle Trailblazer's Award for her mentorship and support of African-American staffers and Mobile, Alabama's NAACP Redeemer of the Dream Leadership Award.

Throughout her life, Jacqui always dedicated herself to causes that made a difference in the lives of others. George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are so grateful that Jacqueline Ellis gave her time and talents to serving on Capitol Hill. She touched the lives of so many in the halls of Congress, including my own. She was a dear friend of longstanding to me and my family. Truly, Capitol Hill shined a little brighter because of Jacqueline Ellis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and my wife Vivian in extending our deepest condolences to Jacqueline Ellis's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE SMITH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ernie Smith of Red Oak, Iowa, for being named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest active pilot in the world.

Ernie has been a licensed pilot since September 15, 1942. For the past 74 years, local friends have known that, if you cannot find Ernie nearby, he is probably up in the sky. In January 2016, Red Oak Airport Manager Kevin McGrew and other community leaders nominated him for the distinction of "oldest active pilot in the world." Later this spring, they videotaped a flight to authenticate his activity in the air. The official pronouncement from the Guinness Book of World Records came recently, confirming that Ernie Smith, 98, is officially "the oldest active pilot in the world," soaring beyond the previous record by five years.

Ernie told Omaha, Nebraska-based KMTV-TV last December why he likes to fly: "I say, well, I don't know how to tell you, but you come out some morning before daylight and go out and watch that sun come up over the horizon and you'll have your answer." Ernie still flies in a rented plane, usually two times a week. He even braved foggy weather conditions to celebrate his 98th birthday in the sky last December.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of lowans like Ernie that I'm proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE TOWN OF
CLARKSTOWN IN ROCKLAND
COUNTY, NEW YORK

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Clarkstown in Rockland County, New York, as it celebrates its 225th anniversary year. I am honored to represent this community with its richly diverse population, beautiful and thriving business districts, lovely homes and lush parks.

Clarkstown was created by an act of the New York State Legislature on March 18, 1791, during George Washington's first term as President. It was part of Orange County and then of Rockland County, which was created seven years later.

At Clarkstown's founding, the population had less than 2,000 residents. As New York built its early parkways and the Tappan Zee Bridge, the population grew rapidly and continues to grow. According to the United States Census, the town population now stands at more than 87,000. Its 41 square miles encompass the hamlets of Bardonia, Central Nyack, Congers, New City, Valley Cottage, West Nyack, Upper Nyack and portions of the Villages of Nyack and Spring Valley.

The town, like the county, was settled by farmers, and grew as businesses opened to serve the community. During the 19th century, ice was harvested from the pristine waters of Rockland Lake, now a park, and floated down the Hudson River to barges that would supply New York City. At the same time, local quarries provided material for new construction in the city.

Today, more than half of working residents are employed within the county. Most of Clarkstown's commercially zoned land exists along the town's state roadways, and within the town's hamlet centers. Residents also work at nearby pharmaceutical and tech companies that are moving into the area.

Clarkstown's residents included Jacob Vanderbilt, whose property is now the site of Germonds Park, a recreational facility owned by the town. Other resident families whose holdings remain important to the town include the Cropseys, whose farm dates back to 1893. The family retired and sold the land to Clarkstown in 2006 through Rockland County's Open Space Program. Rockland Farm Alliance then signed a lease to maintain the land, thus establishing the thriving Cropsey Community Farm.

The county and the town have long been a refuge for artists. Adolph Zukor, who was key to the burgeoning motion picture industry, bought property in New City on what is now called Zukor Road. The painter and muralist

Henry Varnum Poor, the playwright Maxwell Anderson, and the composer Kurt Weill and his wife, the actor Lotte Lenya, lived on South Mountain Road in New City. While the attraction was the bucolic nature of the county and its considerable distance from New York City, actors and other artists are now attracted not only because the county and its homesteads are beautiful, but because of its proximity to New York City, now a short ride on roadways, trains and bridges.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Town of Clarkstown on this special anniversary as its residents celebrate its distinguished past and look ahead to a strong future.

97TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFGHANISTAN
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Afghanistan, I rise to congratulate and extend best wishes to the people and Government of Afghanistan on the 97th anniversary of their independence.

It was 97 years ago, on August 19, 1919, that King Amanullah Khan declared Afghanistan's independence from the British Empire.

Afghanistan has faced many challenges for almost a century since its independence but through the perseverance and resilience of its people and their leaders, Afghanistan has forged strong relationships with the international community and with its neighbors.

In celebrating the 97th anniversary of Afghanistan's National Independence Day, I say to the people of Afghanistan that you have a friend and partner in the United States as you work to build a better future for your children and grandchildren.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
WILLIAM GARTH, SR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Mr. William Garth, Sr. is the Chairman of the Chicago Citizen Newspaper Group Inc., Garthco, Inc. and founder/chairman of the QBG Foundation as well as chairman of the Chatham Business Association. Mr. Garth is the guiding force behind what is known as the largest Black-owned ABC audited newspaper in America. There is no other respected audit better than ABC.

Having started with the Chicago Citizen Newspaper in 1969 as an advertising sales representative under the leadership of former Congressman Gus Savage, Garth purchased the Chatham Citizen, Southend Citizen and Chicago Weekend in 1980. He later added the South Suburban and the Hyde Park editions, and founded Garthco Publications, which also

published PUSH Magazine, a bi-monthly national publication for the Operation PUSH organization. With Chicago's population being nearly 50 percent Black, the Chicago Citizen Newspaper has effectively reached this market with its total circulation of 121,000 and weekly readership of over 400,000. The circulation areas cover Chicago's South and West sides as well as the South Suburbs.

As a tribute to his business acumen, Garth became the first Black person to be elected President of the Illinois Press Association (IPA). The IPA is the state's largest newspaper association and the office trade organization for Illinois' weekly and daily newspapers. Garth is the second Black person in the nation elected president of a statewide press association. He currently sits on the Board of the Government Affairs Committee, of the Illinois Press Association and has served as a board member for more than 15 years. In addition, he was elected a stockholder in the Cook County South Suburban Publishers Association and in 2009, was elected to become Chairman of the Cook County Publishers Association for 2010. His business savvy and knowledge in the publishing industry allowed him to also serve as a board member of the Midwest Black Publishers Association.

In December 1998, Garth received the honor of being appointed to Governor-elect George Ryan's Transition Team and was later appointed to the Board of Directors for the Illinois Inauguration 1998, Inc. In 1995, Garth founded the Quentis Bernard Garth Foundation, the benevolent arm of the Chicago Citizen Newspaper, in memory of his youngest son Quentis B. Garth, and is currently the chairman. The QBG Foundation provides scholarships to disenfranchised, inner city youths in the Chicagoland area. To date, the foundation has helped over 50 students and has disbursed over \$1.5 million in scholarship awards.

As chairman of the Chatham Business Association, Garth leads the organization in creating opportunities, inroads and programs to benefit and ensure the prosperity, economic strength and excellence of all businesses in the Chatham area and its surrounding communities.

A dedicated activist and leader in the business community, Garth maintains memberships and positions with several business organizations. He is the former president of the Midwest Region III of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Region III Advertising Representative with the NNPA, Transition Team for IDOT—Dan Ryan Project, board member of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, a life-time member of the NAACP and a member of the Chatham Lions Club. Garth has been the recipient of numerous local and national awards and honors; one of such honors bestowed upon him was to carry the torch in Chicago during the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, on September 20, 2016, I was away from the Capitol and was unable to vote on any legislative measures on this date.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 670, the Special Needs Trust Fairness and Medicaid Improvement Act, Roll Call Vote Number 521, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5785, Roll Call Vote Number 522, had I been present I would have voted yes.

On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 5690, the GAO Access and Oversight Act, Roll Call Vote Number 523, had I been present I would have voted yes.

COMMITTEE DEPARTURE OF
CAROLINE LYNCH**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS and myself, I rise in recognition of the chief counsel of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, Caroline Lynch, to bid her farewell as she leaves the House Judiciary Committee.

Effective House staff is indispensable. And such a description is certainly fitting for Caroline. Every action she takes as Chief Counsel proves her unwavering commitment to conservative principles and to the rule of law.

But after 15 years working on Capitol Hill, Caroline has decided to move back to her home state of Arizona to be close to her family, and to pursue the next steps in her career. Needless to say, we are very sad to see her go.

After graduating from law school at Arizona State University, Caroline came to Washington, D.C., to work for Congressman John Shadegg from Arizona. She served both in his personal office and for him as Chief Counsel of the House Republican Policy Committee.

In 2006 Caroline began as a Counsel on the Judiciary Committee's Crime Subcommittee, and it was quickly apparent that she had found her calling.

In 2008 Caroline became Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee. At the Committee, Caroline has had an enormous impact on the reform of our criminal and national security laws. In fact, few people in Washington have done as much to promote the safety of our communities.

Caroline has overseen the drafting, negotiation, and passage of critical legislation regarding the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, and the most sweeping set of reforms to government surveillance practices in nearly 40 years—the USA Freedom Act, among many other priority legislative initiatives.

Aside from that, she manages a Subcommittee staff that works on some of the most important topics in the country—from oversight of many of the federal law enforcement agencies, to issues such as criminal justice reform, child exploitation, cybersecurity, human trafficking and encryption.

Anyone who has met Caroline knows she is an immensely intelligent, hardworking, loyal and discerning Chief Counsel. And of course, those people she has negotiated with have found her to be a skillful and formidable but fair advocate.

Evidence of her dedication and influence as Chief Counsel can be seen by what some of her colleagues and former bosses have to say about her.

Former Judiciary Committee Chairman LAMAR SMITH says, “Caroline is a good person and a very knowledgeable attorney. As Chief Counsel of the Crime Subcommittee, she has been a dedicated, conscientious, and hardworking public servant. She has had a major influence on crime legislation and on keeping Americans safe and secure. Her wonderful attitude, legal expertise, and commitment to good government will be missed greatly.”

Judiciary Committee Chief of Staff and General Counsel Shelley Husband says, “When I first met Caroline, I was immediately struck by her intelligence, unparalleled grasp of criminal law, leadership ability and confidence, all attributes that I admire. Since that time, I have come to know Caroline's other virtues. In addition to being a brilliant lawyer, Caroline is immensely loyal, compassionate, honest and fair. And for that, she has earned my respect and affection. I am grateful every day that we are on the same side and if I'm going to be in the trenches on any issue, I want Caroline Lynch beside me.”

And Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel Branden Ritchie says, “Caroline's expertise in criminal and national security laws and her ability to achieve legislative victories are apparent to all who work with her. She is also—without question—a natural leader. But what I have come to admire and respect most about Caroline is that she truly cares for and nurtures those she leads, she is loyal to those she serves, and she is a truth teller who is dedicated to doing what is right.”

Former Judiciary Committee Staff Director Joseph Gibson says, “Caroline is an outstanding lawyer who knows her stuff and works tirelessly to get the policy right. She will be greatly missed.”

And another Former Judiciary Committee Staff Director Richard Hertling says, “Few staffers are indispensable and irreplaceable, but Caroline comes as close as any I know. She reflects the very best among us. She knows both the law and the facts, and she takes the time to understand the real-world effects of everything she does. The country is better off for her service.”

George Fishman, Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, says “Caroline cares so much about the job she is doing—keeping the American people safe and preserving our Constitutional liberties. Through her tireless work, Caroline's imprint is all over our nation's criminal statutes. She is the quintessential congressional staffer—dedicated, caring, knowledgeable, a

fierce advocate for her Member or Committee and yet respected by all.”

And Paul Taylor, Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee on Constitution and Civil Justice says, “Caroline is so dynamic, I've often thought there was both a Crime Subcommittee and a Caroline Subcommittee.”

Daniel Flores, Chief Counsel of the Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee says, “Caroline created a brighter world for all of her colleagues on Committee, and a safer world for all Americans.”

And Joe Keeley, Chief Counsel of the Subcommittee on Courts Intellectual Property and the Internet, says “The Judiciary Committee needs staff who understand the big picture and have an attention to detail while balancing numerous interests and priorities. Since Caroline so exceeded these requirements, her departure will leave very big shoes to fill. She will be missed by all.”

Andrea Loving, Deputy Chief Counsel of the Immigration Subcommittee, says, “Caroline's vast knowledge of criminal and national security law and policy commands a respect like none other I have seen on Capitol Hill. Her departure is truly a loss for America.”

Even Caroline's colleagues on the other side of the aisle recognize her expertise and are sad to see her leave Capitol Hill.

Perry Apfelbaum, the Committee's Minority Staff Director and Chief Counsel says, “I and our staff have very much enjoyed working with Caroline over the years. She has always been a great partner in accomplishing important work for our country. We will miss her and wish her the best.”

Bobby Vassar, former Democrat Chief Counsel of the Crime Subcommittee says “As a Chief Counsel for almost 20 years, I had the opportunity to work with several Republican Chief Crime Counsels. Caroline was the best ‘enemy’ I ever had. We often had diametrically opposed views to represent on some of the most controversial and contentious issues in the Congress, but were able to do so in a spirit of mutual respect that allowed us to disagree, vehemently at times, without being disagreeable.”

And Minority Oversight Counsel Aaron Hiller says, “In any project that involves protecting the country, its people, or the prerogatives of this Committee, there is no one—and I mean no one—whom I would rather have on my team than Caroline Lynch. We will miss her very much.”

Joe Graupensperger, Minority Chief Counsel for Crime and Criminal Justice, says, “The Crime staff on both sides of the aisle have worked together closely over the years to achieve many bipartisan successes, and Caroline was critical to each one of them. We have appreciated Caroline's openness and collegiality with her Democratic counterparts. She is a great lawyer, a strong advocate for making our nation safer, and will always be a valued friend.”

Of course, Caroline's team at the Subcommittee know her to be a determined leader and a steadfast friend.

Bobby Parmiter says, “Caroline is the definition of a ‘foxhole’ person—exceptionally talented, dedicated, and tough. It is no exaggeration to say the American people are safer

today than they would be had she not been doing this job over the past decade."

Chris Grieco says, "A tireless and dogged lawyer who has undoubtedly made the country a safer and more secure place because of her unparalleled knowledge of law enforcement and national security issues and her unwavering commitment to getting it right regardless of politics."

Ryan Breitenbach says, "Caroline is a dedicated public servant and Hill survivor, and one of the best bosses anyone can ask for. She is smart and nice, which in my opinion is the hopeful combination of any leader. Her love of her family draws her home, but not before she had given all she could to crafting our country's criminal and national security laws."

And Jason Cervenak says, "I met Caroline on her very first day working on the Judiciary Committee. In walked this petite red head with a smile from ear to ear and an infectious laugh. I immediately thought 'she's going to get eaten alive.' Well, I think we all know I couldn't have been more wrong."

We have appreciated Caroline's deep knowledge of criminal laws, the strength of her convictions, and her courage to speak the truth in a place where it is rarely convenient to do so.

We will miss Caroline immensely. We wish her well in her new endeavors and we thank her for her years of dedicated service to this Committee, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the American people.

HONORING LAUREL CALL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Laurel Call for her service as a member of the Congressional Award Board of Directors.

The United States Congress established the Congressional Award in 1979 to recognize initiative, achievement, and service in young people. It began as a bipartisan effort in both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives. The original bill was sponsored by the late Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and the late Congressman James Howard of New Jersey. Originally signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the legislation (Public Law 96-114) established the Congressional Award as a public-private partnership, which receives all funding from the private sector. Every president since, both Democratic and Republican, have signed legislation to continue the program.

The Congressional Award Board of Directors is comprised of 48 members and supports the work of the foundation by providing mission-based leadership and strategic governance. Every member of the Board serves as a volunteer to help make the program a national opportunity available in every congressional district.

During this past year, over 40,000 participants from all 50 states were actively working toward earning a Congressional Award and 5,000 new participants enrolled in the pro-

gram. Since its inception, over 7 million hours of service have been contributed to communities nationwide.

The example set by Laurel is one we all should strive for. Her willingness to serve her community and our nation's young people sets her apart as an outstanding individual, and I have been honored to serve alongside of her as Leader PELOSI's congressional appointee to the Board. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in thanking Laurel for her service and wishing her nothing but continued success.

IN MEMORIAM—HON. CAROLYN S. ALLEN, 1937–2016

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Arizona State Senator Carolyn Allen. Carolyn was born in Missouri but quickly grew to love Arizona in the warmer winter months with her husband, Jack. Carolyn became active in our community and was soon serving on local boards and commissions in the arts and in politics.

Prior to her first election to the AZ House of Representatives in 1994, she was Development Director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation and the Scottsdale Cultural Council. She served as Executive Director (and later President of the Board) of the Scottsdale Arts Center Association.

While serving 8 years in the AZ House, she was House Majority Leader as well as Chairman of the Health Committee and sponsored major legislation in mental health care, air quality and civil rights issues. She was later elected to the Arizona State Senate and there too, she chaired multiple committees. She often said she was most proud of passing legislation protecting the McDowell Mountain Preserve and her courageous "no" vote on controversial immigration legislation in 2010.

I had the honor of serving with Carolyn in the Legislature and I always admired her tenacity, honesty and integrity. She was the kind of public servant I aspire to be.

While serving in the Legislature, she also served numerous community organizations through board membership and volunteerism. There are too many to list them all, but Carolyn's passions benefitted medical research, women's health, environmental conservation, and prison reform.

Carolyn lived a brightly colored and productive life and gave so much to her community through thousands of volunteer hours for causes she championed. Despite suffering from crippling rheumatoid arthritis for more than 40 years, she soldiered on without complaint and set the bar very high for those who will follow. Her many friends will not forget her vibrant personality and determination. I miss my friend Carolyn Allen, but I am grateful that we were friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2016 VAN METER HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Van Meter High School Softball team for winning the Iowa Girls State Class 2A Softball Tournament on July 22, 2016.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Van Meter High School Softball team:

Players: Trinity Bottenfield, Bre Parkins, Meagan Blomgren, Dion Shirley, Clair Lauterbach, Olivia Prouty, Julia Rhoades, Shelby Tipling, Gwen Boston, Haley Forret, Abby Archer, Bailey Richards, Anna Tipling, Casey Jamison, Emma Durlinger, Lizzy Lyon, Hannah Mason, Paige Wyant, Bailey Harding, and Mackenzie Blomgren, and

Coaches: James Flaws, Josh Flaws, and Hillary Pennington.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the entire team for competing in this rigorous competition and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

IN HONOR OF LYDIA DE LA VIÑA DE FOLEY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to a great friend and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Lydia de La Viña de Foley. Lydia has served The Congressional Club for over four decades. She will be retiring on September 30, 2016.

Born and raised in La Paz, Bolivia, Lydia came to the United States as a student at Georgetown University in 1964. In 1967, she married John R. Foley III, whose father, John R. Foley II, had served the Sixth District of Maryland in the 86th Congress. As daughter-in-law of a former Member of Congress, Lydia became a member of The Congressional Club, and more recently a Lifetime Member. In 1992, she became a U.S. citizen.

The Congressional Club was founded in 1908 as a Federally-chartered club for spouses of sitting or former Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, and Members of the President's Cabinet. Associate membership is open to active members' adult children or spouses of adult children. Mrs. Foley has been an integral part of the bipartisan Club for over one-third of its existence.

Mrs. Foley's first project at the Club was illustrating its Bicentennial Cookbook in 1975. She performed secretarial duties part-time and by 1977 became the full-time Secretary to the

Club President. After many years, as her responsibilities expanded, Mrs. Foley was promoted to Administrative Assistant to the Club President and in 2010, she became the Executive Director of the Congressional Club, a position that reflected her assumption of a dual role as Clubhouse Manager.

Club Presidents serve for two years, alternating between Democratic and Republican Members. Mrs. Foley has served 20 of them. My wife, Vivian Creighton Bishop, served as President of the Congressional Club from 2007 to 2008 and was Chair of the First Lady's Luncheon in honor of First Lady Michelle Obama on May 12, 2016. In addition to the many demands of running the Club and the Clubhouse day in and day out, Mrs. Foley has played a vital role organizing the annual First Lady's Luncheon, as well as Diplomatic Luncheons, Chili Cook-offs, weekly Club luncheon programs, and other events too numerous to mention.

A familiar face at the Club, Mrs. Foley has been lauded by Members of Congress and their spouses as well as Presidents and First Ladies for her institutional knowledge, attention to detail, and welcoming nature. We are all so grateful that Mrs. Foley has given her time and talents to making The Congressional Club a place where the spouses of Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, and their families, can gather to offer support and enjoy each other's company.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Lydia de La Viña de Foley upon the occasion of her retirement from a career spanning forty-one years at the Congressional Club.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF MICHELE COATES

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Michele Coates of Loudoun County, Virginia, for her heroic actions on September 23rd, 2016. Michele has been driving school buses in Loudoun County for the past 14 years and recently demonstrated her commitment to the safety of her students.

During her usual route to Harmony Middle School in Hamilton, Virginia, Michele was confronted by a situation she never thought she would have to face. While driving on Berlin Turnpike, Michele and her students noticed an unusual odor circulating the bus cabin. After safely pulling the bus over to the side of the road, Michele put the lives of her students above that of her own and ensured that all 32 students evacuated the bus safely. When emergency personnel arrived at the scene, they immediately determined that the bus was suffering from a smoke and gas leak.

It was at this point that Michele realized that she did not feel well and was subsequently taken to the emergency room at Cornwall Inova for smoke inhalation. Even while she was in the ambulance, Michele's main concern

was the safety of her students. In all, seventeen students were taken to Cornwall Inova to receive treatment for their exposure to the toxic fumes. Had Michele not been so quick thinking and selfless, that day could have ended much worse.

Mr. Speaker, Michele Coates does not ask for recognition. She claims that her actions were not heroic, rather her duty. This is why I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Michele for her actions, which without a doubt saved the lives of those 32 schoolchildren on that bus. I applaud her for her willingness to endanger herself in order to protect her students. I wish her all the best in her recovery, as well as her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO CASS COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Cass County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Friday, October 7, 2016.

The county lies in the northeastern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. Cass County was established in 1838, and it was named for General Lewis Cass, the 2nd Territorial Governor of Michigan. Home to the Wabash River, for many years Cass County was a canal town. In 1855, however, the first locomotive made its way through the county seat of Logansport creating a permanent relationship between the town and trains. By the 1920s, over 225 trains passed through the county each day, and over 3,000 persons in the area were employed by the railroad.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the Legacy Projects throughout the county include the Logansport Children's Choir, Logan's Landing, Civic Players of Logansport, Logansport Rose Society, Cass County Arts Alliance, State Theatre Preservation Society Corporation, Cass County 4-H Association, Cass County Historical Society, William Pace Lodge, Cass County Dentzel Carousel, and the Trinity Episcopal Church. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Cass County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTON HOSPITAL CENTER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the 30th anniversary of the Reston Hospital Center. Established in 1986, the Reston Hospital Center has worked tirelessly to provide outstanding medical care to patients throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The hard work done by the men and women of Reston Hospital Center has helped to make high quality healthcare available to many of my constituents and ensure the good health of communities in both Loudoun and Fairfax counties. The Center's commitment to the community can be seen through their health screenings, blood drives, education programs, wellness events, and their financial assistance to thousands of people who struggle with their medical bills. Their close collaboration with the constituents of Virginia's 10th Congressional District is crucial to keeping our community healthy and strong.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Reston Hospital Center and thanking them for the hard work they do to help keep the men and women of the region safe and healthy. I know Reston Hospital Center will continue to provide excellent healthcare, and I wish them all the best.

TRIBUTE TO BENTON COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Benton County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

The county sits on the northwest part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District, and Fowler serves as the county seat. Benton County was established on February 18, 1840, and named for Thomas A. Benton, a U.S. Senator from Missouri. Though the land is fertile and agriculture is vital to the county economically, Benton County is also known for housing one of the largest windfarms in the United States. Its most famous resident may be Dan Patch, a Hoosier born horse legend who has held the title of "World's Champion Harness Horse" for over one-hundred years.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the Legacy Projects throughout the county include the Benton County Economic Development Department,

Otterbein Public Library, Benton County's Bicentennial Committee, Benton Central Junior-Senior High School, Benton County Public Library, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife, and the Benton County 4-H Council. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Benton County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

TOM BERTOLINO

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine who was recently awarded one of the highest honors in his industry.

Tom Bertolino, vice president of NorCal Kenworth, a multistore commercial truck dealer in Anderson, California which is located in my Congressional district, was named the 2016 Truck Dealer of the Year by the American Truck Dealers (ATD), Heavy Duty Trucking magazine and Procede Software.

Mr. Bertolino received this highest honor out of a select group of commercial truck dealers from around the country during the 53rd annual ATD Convention & Expo in Las Vegas in April. All of the nominees were selected by state, metro and national truck dealer association leaders. A panel of professors from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business analyzed the nominees' dealership performances, industry leadership and civic contributions and made their final selection.

Mr. Bertolino entered the dealer industry seventeen years ago when he left Kenworth Truck Company to pursue a dream to own a Kenworth dealership in Northern California. Tom and his business partner Mr. Harry Mamizuka have grown NorCal Kenworth into four locations—Anderson, San Leandro, Morgan Hill and Sacramento. As the largest Kenworth dealer organization in Northern California, NorCal Kenworth employs nearly 200 people and carries an extensive inventory of new and used trucks that feature the latest engineering and technological advancements. NorCal PacLease includes full-service lease, finance lease, contract maintenance, and short and long term truck rentals.

In his capacity as the 2016 Truck Dealer of the Year, Mr. Bertolino will serve as an Honorary Member of the ATD Board of Line Representatives and will serve as a national spokesman on industry issues impacting commercial truck dealers.

On behalf of all of my colleagues in the California Congressional delegation, please allow me to congratulate Tom Bertolino from NorCal Kenworth on this distinguished award as the 2016 Truck Dealer of the Year. This award demonstrates that Tom and his team are a proven example of the best in the truck retail industry and are providing exceptional service to my constituents.

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
TIM BRISTOL OF THE
BERRYVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Sergeant Tim Bristol of the Berryville Police Department. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Sergeant Bristol deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Sergeant Bristol began working for the Berryville police department in December of 2007. He previously worked for the Glasford Police Department in Illinois. Tim is the sergeant for the department as well as a field training officer, general instructor, and speed measurement instructor.

As the sergeant, Tim routinely makes sure that the department is running efficiently and that all officers are current on their required training. Maintaining and reviewing training records for compliance is a huge task in and of itself, yet Tim still finds the time to accomplish so much more and plans for the future of the department. Tim is a well-respected supervisor, promotes a professional image of the department, and is a confident leader.

During the past year Tim has spent countless hours in his role as a field training officer preparing new recruits and experienced officers new to the department for patrol in the community of Berryville. He takes this responsibility seriously and always looks for ways to improve the way training is delivered to those new to the career or department.

Tim is the right-hand man of the Chief of Police who could not ask for a better person to fill that role. It is abundantly clear to the Chief that Tim is wholly invested in making the Berryville Police Department an example of professionalism and dedication to community service. The Chief often wonders if his mind is ever focused on anything else aside from moving the department forward, which is a testament to his loyalty and dedication. He is truly a deserving recipient and a stellar example of a professional law enforcement officer.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sergeant Tim Bristol of the Berryville Police Department for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Clinton County, Indiana

as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on October 6, 2016.

The County sits on the eastern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1830 and named for DeWitt Clinton, the seventh Governor of New York State and architect of the Erie Canal. The county seat is located in Frankfort, famous for the Frankfort Hot Dog Festival. Clinton County is the birthplace of Lieutenant General James F. Record, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross three times for his gallantry during the Vietnam War.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Clinton County Chamber of Commerce and Frankfort Main Street. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Clinton County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

COMMEMORATING NICHOLE
FOLKMAN, FINALIST OF THE ILLINOIS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION 2017
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. DARIN LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Nichole Folkman, a 2017 Illinois State Board of Education Teacher of the Year finalist.

Mrs. Folkman teaches English at Hartsburg-Emden Community Unit School District 21 in Hartsburg, Illinois. Having taught high-schoolers for over a decade, Mrs. Folkman's passion for teaching, her students, and their success, makes her a most deserving top ten finalist out of a field of 250 nominees.

As a high school student, Mrs. Folkman recognized her desire to teach. Upon graduating from Milliken University, she began her career as an English teacher, focusing on how to effectively educate her students in the intricacies of the English language, journalism, and speech. Her approach in the classroom continues to engage and excite her students about the values of education within the language arts. Most importantly, because of Mrs. Folkman's ability to connect and inspire pupils within the classroom, Hartsburg-Emden students consistently look to her as a role model as they focus on their own futures.

It is an honor to represent teachers like Mrs. Folkman, who passionately invest their time teaching the children of our schools. Her devotion to teaching has positively impacted not only her students, but also her colleagues and our community. I wish her the best of luck at

the Those Who Excel banquet on October 22nd, where the highest teaching award in the state, the Illinois Teacher of the Year, will be presented.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY
MATT WATSON OF THE WIN-
CHESTER CITY SHERIFF'S OF-
FICE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Deputy Matt Watson of the Winchester City Sheriff's Office. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Deputy Watson deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Deputy Watson has been an auxiliary deputy with the Winchester City Sheriff's Office for two years. Although this is a relatively short time in his 16 year career, Deputy Watson has contributed an abundance of knowledge and talent to the office.

Deputy Watson has excelled in tactical training and has started his own business, tactical operations consulting (TOC). Deputy Watson has been instructing law enforcement, military and state department employees prior to their deployment into hostile areas in the world.

Even though Matt Watson keeps a very busy schedule, he has continued to volunteer his time here at the city sheriff's office. Deputy Watson approached the Sheriff about taking the existing emergency response team implemented there to provide knowledge and training to help create the first ever Special Response Team (SRT) in the city sheriff's office. The team is a part-time law enforcement special operations team that is designed to respond in a tactical manner to incidents in support of, or outside the capabilities of, the Winchester City Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Watson not only provides training for the SRT but for the entire staff. Being able to have someone like Matt who is certified as a tactical medic, defensive tactics and firearm instructor as part of this team is greatly beneficial. Again, I would like to point out that this is all on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Deputy Matt Watson of the Winchester City Sheriff's Office for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO WHITE COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute White County, Indiana as

the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on October 7, 2016.

The County sits on the northern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1834 and named for Isaac White of Equality, Illinois who died at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811. The county seat is located in Monticello, and is known as a tourist destination because it is home to the Indiana Beach amusement park and Lakes Shafer and Freeman.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the 16 Legacy Projects throughout the county are: City of Monticello, Wolcott Community Summer Festival Committee, White County Historical Society, Tom Fletcher, White County Commissioners. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize White County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM AND
THE BDS MOVEMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the troubling rise of anti-Semitism and to call for action against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement—a hateful weapon intended to delegitimize Israel and the Jewish community.

According to Pew Research Center, instances of anti-Semitism are at a 7-year high. It is getting worse everywhere, particularly in the Middle East, but also in Europe and even in the United States.

That's why I've cosponsored the Combating BDS Act of 2016 (H.R. 4514). This legislation clarifies that state and local governments have the authority to pass and enforce laws that prohibit public funding to institutions that engage in the odious BDS campaign, the purpose of which is to apply double standards that delegitimize and demonize Israel.

Thankfully, many states have responded to the BDS campaign by enacting legislation that denies public support to any organization engaged in the campaign—just last month my home state of New Jersey became the 11th state to enact such a law.

The boycott campaign against Israel is a complete discredit to its organizers—the government of Israel has by far the best record for human rights, democracy, rule of law, and general humanity toward both its own citizens and its neighbors' citizens, including the Palestinians—of any country in the Middle East. This despite the fact that some of its neighboring governments support or harbor terrorists whose goal is the genocidal annihilation of Israel.

Congress must not only commend Israel's record, and applaud those state and local governments that seek to withdraw public funding from the BDS campaign, we must also support and sustain the state and local initiatives.

Combating BDS Act does exactly that. I encourage my colleagues to support it and also encourage my colleagues to read the Simon Wiesenthal Center's report, "Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions Against Israel: An Anti-Semitic, Anti-Peace Poison Pill," which details the disgusting anti-Semitic record of the BDS movement, particularly making use of Natan Sharansky's "3Ds test for anti-Semitism."

IN RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
JASON M. HOUGH OF THE
CLARKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OF-
FICE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Sergeant Jason M. Hough of the Clarke County Sheriff's Office. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Sergeant Hough deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Sergeant Hough joined the Clarke County Sheriff's Office in June 2012. As a field deputy, he was always a top producer in the office. In June 2015 Jason assumed supervisory duties when he was promoted to sergeant. He has accepted the additional responsibilities and responded well to the additional duties.

On March 4, 2016, Sergeant Jason M. Hough responded to a house in the town of Berryville for a report of a possible overdose. When Sergeant Hough arrived on the scene, he found an unconscious male lying on a bed. Jason checked to see if the male was breathing and if he had a pulse. He discovered that although the male had a good pulse, he was not breathing. Sergeant Hough began to perform mouth to mouth resuscitation. Medics arrived shortly thereafter and provided Sergeant Hough with a bag valve mask so he could continue to provide respirations to the victim. The victim did breathe on his own several times, but quit after a few breaths. According to witnesses on the scene, the victim had overdosed on heroin.

The medics administered three rounds of Narcan through an IV. The victim regained consciousness and became very aggressive, screaming over and over. Sergeant Hough had to restrain the victim so that he could continue to receive medical care. The victim was taken to the ambulance. The victim had calmed down by this time, which allowed Sergeant Hough to tell him what had happened and that he was being taken to the hospital for overdosing. Without the actions of Sergeant Hough, the victim could have died.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Sergeant Jason M.

Hough of the Clarke County Sheriff's Office for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO CARROLL COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Carroll County, Indiana as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on October 6, 2016.

The County sits on the eastern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1828 and named for Charles Carroll, who was the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. The county seat is located in Delphi, home of the Wabash and Erie Canal. Built through the county in 1840 and operating until the early 1870s the Wabash and Erie Canal is among the county's most significant historical legacies.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the 32 Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Flora Depot Committee (Flora Community Club/Flora Main Street), Delphi Public Library, Flora-Monroe Township Public Library, Camden-Jackson Township Public Library, Town of Flora, Heartland Heritage, Inc., Carroll County Historical Society, Carroll County Museum, William Henry Harrison Sons of the American Revolution, Town of Camden, Promoting Wildcat Valley, Camden Women's Literary Club, Flora Mainstreet, Carroll County Veteran's Remembrance, VFW, Carroll County Wabash at Erie Canal, Inc., University of Indianapolis; Department of Anthropology, Delphi Opera House, Inc., Burlington American Legion Post 414, Wabash and Erie Canal Association Canal Park, Carroll County Wabash and Erie Canal and Old Settlers Association. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Carroll County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, WELDON, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary

of First Baptist Church, located in my congressional district in Weldon, North Carolina.

First Baptist Church takes pride in being one of the first Black Baptist churches in North Carolina. Founded in 1866, a year after the U.S. Congress passed the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery, Reverend Joseph Baysmore and several faith leaders devoted to spreading the word of God organized the Church. In the Church's early days, Reverend Baysmore and his small congregation gathered to worship under a bush arbor, which was later replaced by a wooden structure lacking ceilings and heat.

Mr. Speaker, much of First Baptist Church's growth over the years can be attributed to its dedicated leadership and congregation. In 1909, the Church moved into its current site under the leadership of Reverend John W. Faulk, Sr. During this time, the Church went from offering only second and fourth Sunday service to offering services every Sunday.

Even early on, the Church was active in civic engagement and served as the first meeting site for the Halifax County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the early 1940s. In the 1990s, the Church added a radio ministry to broadcast the Sunday morning worship on the local radio station.

Since 2002, First Baptist Church has been pastored by Reverend Quientrell L. Burrell, II. Under Rev. Burrell's leadership, the Church continues to prosper and serve its community. First Baptist Church has expanded its service to the community through health seminars, single parent clinics, and healthy relationship sessions. Today, First Baptist Church remains a pillar of the Weldon community and in the state of North Carolina.

With the theme "Rooted in Faith, Racing Toward the Future," this 150th anniversary observes the labor and sacrifices made over 150 years as well as the Church's promise for the future. Through its outstanding leadership and a devoted congregation, I am confident that First Baptist will continue to withstand the test of time for generations to come.

By the grace of God, First Baptist Church has survived the test of time with its strong faith and belief and it is still going strong today. Over the years, the Church has realized many notable accomplishments including significant growth in membership and ministry and continued outreach in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the rich legacy of First Baptist Church in Weldon, North Carolina and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Rev. Burrell, the congregation, and the residents of Weldon on this historic milestone.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER ANDREW SPECKSGOOR OF THE WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constitu-

ents, Officer Andrew Specksgoor of the Winchester Police Department. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Officer Specksgoor deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Officer Specksgoor is a member of the Community Response Team (CRT). One of his duties as part of the CRT is interacting with the kids who have been assigned to the CRT from the courts and schools. All these children have had significant trouble in school and with the police. As you can imagine, they are often very difficult and challenging to deal with. Despite these challenges, plus his many other duties, Officer Specksgoor deals with these kids and families in a very professional manner.

It has been noted that Andrew Specksgoor interacts with not only the children but also with their families to try to keep these kids out of future trouble. This is a job that many employees would shy away from, but Officer Specksgoor tackles this job with enthusiasm and professionalism. His supervisor has noted that he excels in mentoring these young people. He holds them accountable for good behavior while interacting with them each day in a positive fashion. This interaction includes taking kids on field trips and involving them in community service projects.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Officer Andrew Specksgoor of the Winchester Police Department for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO BOONE COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Boone County, Indiana as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

The county sits on the Eastern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1830 and named for Daniel Boone, the famous American frontiersman. The county seat is located in Lebanon, the largest city in Boone County. The Lebanon Courthouse is known for having the second largest stained glass dome in Indiana.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the 17 Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Boone County Senior Services, Inc., Zionsville Parks and Recreation Department, Zion Nature Center, CIRPCA, City of Zionsville, Boone County Indiana Bicentennial Time Capsule Committee, Lebanon Fire Department, Whitestown Parks

Department, Sugar Plain Friends Church, Friends of the Zion Nature Center, Friends of the Hussey-Mayfield Memorial Public Library, Mid States Living History Association, Whitestown Parks, Boone County Historical Society, Temple Sisterhood of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Edible Indy, Animalia, Inc., SullivanMunce Cultural Center, Indiana Gourd Society, Inc., and the Milledgeville United Methodist Church. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Boone County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARTIN AND ALICE VILMEK

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Martin and Alice Vilmeck, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 24th.

Martin and Alice met when she was a babysitter for his younger brother and have been married since September 24th, 1966. They have two children, their son Marty and their daughter Dawn, as well as four grandchildren.

Martin is a retired Bridgeview firefighter, but he continues to serve his community as the Village's Emergency Management Agency Director and through his work for the Illinois State Fair. In 2014, he was the recipient of the O.D. Troutman Emergency Management Coordinator of the Year Award. Alice is a member of the Library Board of Trustees of Bridgeview, and she holds her school district's record for the longest streak without missing a single day of work.

They are known throughout their neighborhood and beyond for the elaborate decorations they put up in their yard for holidays, including Christmas, Easter, and Halloween. Their displays have been featured in many newspapers and magazines. In his spare time Martin enjoys driving antique cars and has a 1946 fire truck that he drives in parades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Martin and Alice Vilmeck on their 50th wedding anniversary, and thank them for their decades of contributions to their community.

IN RECOGNITION OF DEPUTY TYLER A. RENNER OF THE FREDERICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the

10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Deputy Tyler A. Renner of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Deputy Renner deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

On August 14, 2015 Craig Dehaven became a victim of a burglary at his residence. Deputy Renner responded and processed the scene recovering latent prints and additional evidence that was located directly below a window that was entered during the incident. Deputy Renner collected the evidence and it was sent to the forensic lab for further processing. Results were received back from the lab on May 24, 2016 and a DNA match was found. The recovered evidence contained a DNA profile that matched a specific subject. On May 26, 2016 investigators were able to interview the subject and they obtained a full confession along with the location of the stolen items during this incident. The items were recovered and returned to the rightful owner, thanks to the diligent and thorough work performed by Deputy Renner. Had he not done this, the victim would not have had closure in this burglary. In addition several other incidents involved would also not have been cleared.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Deputy Tyler A. Renner of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO WARREN COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Warren County, Indiana as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Wednesday, October 12, 2016.

The county sits on the western part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1827 and named for Dr. Joseph Warren, who was killed in 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill. The county seat is located in Williamsport, home to Williamsport Falls, the highest free-falling waterfall in the state. The county's farmland is recognized as being among the most productive in Indiana.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the eleven Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Seeger High School Music Department, Warren County Historical Society, Warren County Master Gardeners, Illiana Antique Power Association, NICHES Land Trust, Wabash River Strings, and the Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Warren County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHAEFFER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church. Since it was built in 1885, the church has served as a place of worship, as well as a location for community activities and other gatherings.

I have had the pleasure of visiting the Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church and appreciate the rich history of the building. Since its founding so many decades ago, the church has grown into a place for the New River Valley African American community to worship and celebrate their history and heritage, as well as host events such as the Annual Memorial for Martin Luther King Junior.

The Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church is a brick building, described as Victorian Gothic style. The church is characterized by a tall tower in the southeast corner and its gable roof. Along with the Hill School and the Primary Annex, the buildings make up the Old Christiansburg Industrial Institute. In 2001, the complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The church was founded by Captain Charles S. Schaeffer, from Pennsylvania. After the War Between the States, he was assigned to Southwest Virginia to work for the Freedmen's Bureau. He worked to assist the African American community economically, and also worked to assist the community spiritually. He strived to provide education, technical skills, and knowledge of Christianity. He set up, organized, and managed several African American churches, which led to the baptism of hundreds. It is said that Captain Schaeffer was respected for practicing as he preached, and for truly living out the ideals he spoke of.

According to the records of the Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, the building was completed and dedicated as a "temple built unto the LORD on the mountaintop" on October 4, 1885. At the dedication service, Captain Schaeffer gave the trustees of the church a deed to the property.

I am proud to honor this historical site in Christiansburg, Virginia, and recognize all those who have found faith, comfort, and friendships as part of the Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church community since it was founded 150 years ago.

IN RECOGNITION OF SUPERVISORY
SPECIAL AGENT JAY PERRY OF
THE NORTHWEST VIRGINIA RE-
GIONAL DRUG TASK FORCE

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Supervisory Special Agent Jay Perry of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Special Agent Perry deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Special Agent Perry is the coordinator of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force and serves in many capacities as such. Special Agent Perry oversees the operations of the drug task force offices in Winchester, Front Royal, Shenandoah County and Page County. Special Agent Perry provides outstanding leadership to the local task force agents as well as to the communities we represent.

Special Agent Perry has been instrumental in helping to establish the new drug courts and in getting recent legislation passed to assist law enforcement in combating drug issues. Special Agent Perry works closely with community groups such as "The Road to Recovery", "The Heroin Coalition" and other community based groups to establish trusting and working relationships with not only the drug task force but with all law enforcement entities in the communities. Special Agent Perry, although extremely busy in his capacity as the task force coordinator, can still be found on the scene of drug arrests, search warrants and other investigations lending a hand and often guidance in these cases.

During the 2015/2016 year, Special Agent Perry has been responsible for building and maintaining a system to monitor drug overdoses and fatalities in the communities. This information has proven to be valuable to many local groups to include law enforcement, community groups, medical professionals and recovery groups. Special Agent Perry maintains a close working relationship with each drug task force team leader to assure that this information is updated regularly and shared within the partnerships that have been created to combat the current heroin epidemic we are battling.

Special Agent Perry has been actively involved with and continues to fight to have the region designated as a High Intensity Drug Area (HIDTA) in order for the local law enforcement partners to receive funding and support, which will allow us to continue to fight this current drug epidemic that we are experiencing in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Supervisory Special Agent Jay Perry of the Northwest Virginia Regional Drug Task Force for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Montgomery County, Indiana as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

The County sits in the central part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1822 and named for Richard Montgomery, an American Revolutionary War general killed in 1775 at the Battle of Quebec. The county seat is located in Crawfordsville, where Henry S. Lane resided. Mr. Lane, a former Senator, was an early leader of the Republican Party and influential in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln. The county is also known for being the residence of Lew Wallace, author of the popular nineteenth-century novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. While richly steeped in history, Montgomery County is home to my alma mater, Wabash College, and holds a special place in my heart.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the twenty three Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Crawfordsville Parks and Recreation Department, Montgomery County Historical Society, Westchester Public Library, DNR Division of Nature Preserves, Lew Wallace Study & Museum, DNR Division of State Parks & Reservoirs, American Legion Byron Cox Post 72, Crossroad of America, Boy Scouts of America, Amy Westphal, Jerald M. Jascoviak, and the Crawfordsville/Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Montgomery County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONSIDER
H.R. 1197, THE ACCELERATING
THE END OF BREAST CANCER
ACT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1197, the Accelerating the End of Breast Cancer Act. This legislation, which has over 270 bipartisan cosponsors, would establish the Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast Cancer with the goal of leveraging existing in-

vestments in cancer research and making true progress in curing breast cancer.

This year 40,450 women and 440 men will die of breast cancer in the United States. Despite government and private sector investments, we have not made adequate progress on improving breast cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality rates. The chance of a woman developing breast cancer in her lifetime has increased from 1 in 11 in 1975 to 1 in 8 today.

If enacted, H.R. 1197 would allow us to harness the full potential of existing research in order to end breast cancer. We must take advantage of this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women suffering from this disease. I strongly urge this chamber to take up H.R. 1197 and pass it before the end of this session.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER
THOMAS EAGAN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Officer Thomas Eagan of the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Officer Eagan deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Officer Eagan has been employed with the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center since October 2013. In his short time with the facility, he has proven to be an extraordinary employee who delivers outstanding performance. His attention to detail and level of integrity is unprecedented.

Officer Eagan was nominated for and received the Lifesaving Award for his heroic actions on September 9, 2015. While working overtime, he was the first to respond and to begin lifesaving tactics on an inmate who attempted to commit suicide. His steadfast personality and training led to the extension of life for the inmate. He has proven to be an extraordinary employee who delivers exemplary performance in all that he does. He also has a sense of humility that keeps him grounded and humble.

For all that he contributes to the facility his dedication does not go unnoticed. Officer Eagan received employee of the quarter in the summer quarter of July, August and September and was nominated for employee of the year for the facility. He is experienced in his field and still desires more. He constantly pursues extra training when afforded and has recently become a member of the crisis intervention training team. He is always looking and asking to assist with everything and strives to continuously advance his thirst for knowledge.

His professional demeanor and positive attitude are infectious to all those around him. He is a pillar in the eyes of other officers and is

a true depiction of what each officer should aspire to become. His level of dedication and camaraderie are unrivaled. It is his selflessness and hardworking outlook in all things he does that has earned him the respect of his peers.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Officer Thomas Eagan of the Northwestern Regional Adult Detention Center for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO HOWARD COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Howard County, Indiana as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on October 5, 2016.

The County sits on the northern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1844 and named for General Tilghman Howard in 1846, who was a U.S. Representative. The county seat is located in Kokomo. A significant number of technical and engineering innovations were developed in Kokomo; as a result, Kokomo became known as the "City of Firsts." Howard County was originally named Richardville for Jean Baptiste Richardville, who was a chief of the Miami.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the Legacy Projects throughout the county are: City of Kokomo, Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, Studebaker National Museum, Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum, Kokomo Automotive Museum, Kokomo Civic Theatre, Inc. and Howard-Miami Heritage Society. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Howard County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

KEITH ROMINGER LARRABEE

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary milestone of a Sacramento Valley native and Chico resident, Keith Rominger Larrabee, as he celebrates his 50th birthday on September 30, 2016.

Keith currently serves on the California Pecan Growers Association board. He runs a thriving agricultural operation, and has served

on various agricultural boards over the years, including as President of the Prune Bargaining Association, a member of the California Dried Plum Board, President of the Butte Creek Cajun Company, served on the Board of Levee District Three, been a member of the Butte City Volunteer Fire Department, and as a member of the Rotary Club of Chico.

Keith is also owner and partner of Larrabee Farms in Butte City, where he works alongside two of his brothers growing rice, pecans, walnuts and various row crops. Farming has been a part of Keith's entire life, being born in Chico and raised on a family farm his great-grandfather originally started in 1918. When asked why he was a farmer, Keith stated, "Growing up on a farm brought great joy and pleasure. While I thought about other professions, I always envisioned myself being a farmer."

Keith has been a leader in the development, research and promotion of the California dried plum and pecan industries. He's provided research opportunities, been a featured speaker at conferences, and promoted the benefits of dried plums and pecans to others. He's also a strong believer in the agricultural economy and started and has been a part of many agricultural based companies. Keith strongly believes in the benefits of small business in America.

A fourth generation Californian, Keith and his wife, Kim, are the proud parents of their two children—Olivia and Ryan. When he's not working, Keith enjoys spending time with his family and traveling California and the world. As a proud father and husband, his family is a strong pillar of his life and he's loved very much by his family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Keith on his special day, September 30, 2016, by wishing him a Happy 50th Birthday. May he continue to live a long and blessed life.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER
ANDREW SHERMAN

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the achievements of one of the 10th Congressional District's bravest constituents, Officer Andrew Sherman of the Mount Weather Police Department. This law enforcement officer's unwavering courage and dedication to protecting the community is a noble example of public service. Officer Sherman deserves the thanks of not only the communities in which he serves, but also that of his elected officials.

Officer Sherman routinely performs above and beyond his duties as a police officer by undertaking additional duties and tasks for improving the skills of his fellow police officers and the department as a whole. Officer Sherman, without hesitation, took on the responsibility of serving as the lead instructor for the department's protective service operations, which is required for the officers to be sworn in as special deputy, U.S. marshals. Additionally, Officer Sherman serves as one of the de-

partment's active shooter and non-lethal training instructors. He consistently develops creative and challenging training scenarios for improving the officers' skills in responding to and mitigating the impacts of an active shooter incident. He also was an instrumental part of the working group that created the Mount Weather emergency services division's tactical emergency casualty care policy, which dramatically improved the joint training and response of the Mount Weather police and fire departments during active shooter incidents.

Recently Officer Sherman assisted with improving the department's security mission in the areas of aircraft security screens and random security measures as part of the department's security posture levels. His proposal for changing the positioning of officers during aircraft arrivals led to more efficient and effective security screening operations, and his recommended security measures will improve the overall force protection of the facility.

Officer Sherman has continually shown himself as a professional police officer displaying the highest degree of competence, esprit de corps, and dedication to the mission of Mount Weather. The Mount Weather police department can think of no finer police officer more deserving of recognition than Officer Andrew Sherman.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Officer Andrew Sherman of the Mount Weather Police Department for protecting and serving the community day-in and day-out.

TRIBUTE TO FOUNTAIN COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Fountain County, Indiana as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Wednesday, October 12, 2016. I am honored to be one of the county's torch bearers as the torch journeys across our great state of Indiana.

The county sits on the western part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1826 and named for Major James Fontaine, who was killed during the Northwest Indian War in 1790. The county seat is located in Covington, birthplace of John Myers, who served as a U.S. Representative for nearly 30 years. The county is known for the Wabash River defining the northern and western borders.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging, and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the eleven Legacy Projects throughout the county are: City of Attica, NICHES Land Trust, City of Covington, Town Council of the Town of Newton, Fountain County Art Council, Inc., Fountain County Landmarks, Inc., The Fountain Trust Company, Wallace Homecoming Committee, Illiana

September 29, 2016

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS, Vol. 162, Pt. 10

14077

Antique Power Association, and the Covington-Veedersberg Public Library. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Fountain County

for the contribution of its residents to the past, present, and future of Indiana's history.

SENATE—Monday, October 3, 2016

The Senate met at 10:30 and 12 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

—————

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 3, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m., October 6, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:30 and 42 seconds a.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 6, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

SENATE—Thursday, October 6, 2016

The Senate met at 10:30 and 1 second a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 7, 2016, AT 2 P.M.**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m., Friday, October 7, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:30 and 30 seconds a.m., adjourned until Friday, October 7, 2016, at 2 p.m.

SENATE—Friday, October 7, 2016

The Senate met at 2:05 and 48 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TED CRUZ, a Senator from the State of Texas.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 7, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TED CRUZ, a Senator from the State of Texas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CRUZ thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 11, 2016, AT 9 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:06 and 20 seconds p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at 9 a.m.

SENATE—Tuesday, October 11, 2016

The Senate met at 9 and 2 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 11, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CAPITO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 13, 2016, AT 2 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 2 p.m., on Thursday, October 13, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9 and 34 seconds a.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 13, 2016, at 2 p.m.

SENATE—Thursday, October 13, 2016

The Senate met at 2 and 2 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 13, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
OCTOBER 17, 2016, AT 11 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Monday, October 17, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2 and 27 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, October 17, 2016, at 11 a.m.

SENATE—Monday, October 17, 2016

The Senate met at 11 and 22 seconds a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 20, 2016 AT 3 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11 and 57 seconds a.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 3 p.m.

SENATE—Thursday, October 20, 2016

The Senate met at 3 and 2 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

—————

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WICKER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Monday, October 24, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3 and 37 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, October 24, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

SENATE—Monday, October 24, 2016

The Senate met at 10:30 and 12 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

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**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 24, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENZI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 27, 2016, AT 10:30 A.M.**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:30 and 43 seconds a.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 27, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

SENATE—Thursday, October 27, 2016

The Senate met at 10:30 and 35 seconds a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF FLAKE, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

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**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 27, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF FLAKE, a Senator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. FLAKE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
OCTOBER 31, 2016**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 31, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:31 and 13 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, October 31, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

SENATE—Monday, October 31, 2016

The Senate met at 4:30 and 2 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable STEVE DAINES, a Senator from the State of Montana.

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**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 31, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE DAINES, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DAINES thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 3, 2016 AT 2 P.M.**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:30 and 35 seconds p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 2 p.m.

SENATE—Thursday, November 3, 2016

The Senate met at 2 and 6 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES M. INHOFE, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

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APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 3, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES M. INHOFE, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. INHOFE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—————

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 7, 2016, AT 10:30 A.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. on Monday, November 7, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2 and 39 seconds p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 7, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

SENATE—Monday, November 7, 2016

The Senate met at 10:30 and 1 second a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID PERDUE, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 7, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID PERDUE, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PERDUE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

—

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 10, 2016, AT 10 A.M.**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 10, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:30 and 28 seconds a.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 10 a.m.

SENATE—Thursday, November 10, 2016

The Senate met at 10 and 1 second a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 10, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 2016, AT 5:30 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 5:30 p.m., Monday, November 14, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10 and 37 seconds a.m., adjourned until Monday, November 14, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

SENATE—Monday, November 14, 2016

The Senate met at 5:30 and 48 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MITCH MCCONNELL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MITCH MCCONNELL, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MCCONNELL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 15, 2016, AT 4 P.M.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, 2016.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:31 and 21 seconds p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 4 p.m.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, November 14, 2016

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRIS COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

A full week later, we are thankful that we live in a nation where a peaceful change or readjustment of government is expected. There are many disappointed with the results of the election. May we all be mindful of the great history we have of coming together in the wake of contentious elections.

Bless the Members of this assembly as they return to the work facing them, work that needs to be done. Give them the wisdom they need and the charity they must possess to work together. Help them to make wise decisions in a good manner.

We ask Your blessing as well on those newly elected, or reelected, to this assembly. May they fully understand the trust that has been given them, to represent not only those whose votes they received, but those who did not vote for them as well. All are citizens, to be represented by the new Members of this people's House.

May Your blessing, O God, be with them and with us all this day and every day to come, and may all we do be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms.

MCCOLLUM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. MCCOLLUM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONGRATULATING COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF WILKES COUNTY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Communities In Schools of Wilkes County, which has been awarded a \$500,000 grant from AT&T to increase its assistance to underserved youths in Wilkes and Alexander Counties.

The funds will be used to expand the Increasing Intentionality Initiative into seven high-poverty, rural high schools in North Wilkesboro and Taylorsville. Of the more than 5,500 students in grades 9 to 12 who will be served by this expansion, more than 1,000 will receive individualized, case-managed services.

Growing up in the mountains of North Carolina, I learned firsthand how education plays a vital role in the success of individual Americans.

Education can change lives, especially when you have community support and a network of caring adults dedicated to helping all children reach their potential. That is what Communities In Schools is all about and why I am excited to see it expand in North Carolina's Fifth District.

DONALD TRUMP'S CAMPAIGN HAS DIVIDED OUR NATION

(Ms. MCCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump's hateful campaign has divided our Nation.

After the election, Mr. Trump promised Americans that he would "bind the wounds of division."

His appointment of Stephen Bannon as chief White House strategist is proof of the ugly direction Mr. Trump intends to take this country. Bannon built his media career catering to white supremacists and anti-Semites.

The fact that Republicans have been silent on Bannon's appointment is a disturbing sign. It shows that the Re-

publican Party has embraced Trump's campaign agenda of blatant sexism, racial bigotry, and religious intolerance. This is an un-American ideology, and it must be confronted, both here in the House and in our communities.

For millions of people, including families in my district, Trump's election means they are now living under a shroud of fear. In this House, and at home in Minnesota, I pledge to keep fighting to defend our fellow Americans from Trump's extreme agenda.

If we want a strong America where all families have the opportunity to succeed, then we must stand united and reject those who fan the flames of hate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

DON'T BELIEVE THE MEDIA

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the liberal media tried to destroy Donald Trump. Instead, they destroyed their own credibility. Their extreme bias is provable.

The network media's coverage of Mr. Trump was 91 percent negative, and 96 percent of campaign contributions from journalists went to Hillary Clinton.

By a 10 to 1 ratio, the American people felt the media were trying to elect Mrs. Clinton. A Gallup Poll found that the people's trust in the media has hit a record low.

Has the media learned any lessons? Will they show any humility? Will they now try to be objective? Not likely, given the last few days' headlines and commentaries.

Until news reporters give the American people the facts rather than expressing their own opinions, there is no reason to believe what they say or write.

EFFORTS TO DISMANTLE OBAMACARE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise serious concerns about the President-elect's plan to dismantle ObamaCare.

As an architect of the law, I am proud to report that the percentage of Americans uninsured is at a record low. More than 20 million additional Americans have health care, and a million additional enrollees are expected this year. The Affordable Care Act is, in fact, working.

Reports have surfaced that the President-elect's plan to dismantle ObamaCare would eliminate the subsidies that have enabled more than 70 percent of consumers to find plans at less than \$75 a month. Any effort to eliminate subsidies would lead to unsustainable cost increases and a loss of healthcare coverage for people nationwide.

There is also a threat to undo the Medicaid expansion under which almost 16 million Americans have been insured. With children representing about half of all Medicaid recipients, the elimination of that expansion would be disastrous for the most vulnerable Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats stand ready to work to improve and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, but we will continue to stand resolute against any effort to dismantle it. For the sake of the American people, we can't get this wrong.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP AND VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT MIKE PENCE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday the American people, with optimism, elected Donald Trump and Mike Pence to lead our country. I congratulate President-elect Trump and our friend and former House colleague Vice President-elect Pence, and Karen Pence, on their deserved victory.

This election clearly revealed, when presented with a choice of continuation of big government or change for limited government with expanded freedom, the American people stood up for the conservative values that would create jobs, lower taxes, and rebuild our military. The ideological conflict is alive and well, and conservative principles are proven to promote opportunity for all Americans. The American people have selected a brighter future for their children and grandchildren.

I look forward to working with President-elect Trump and Vice President-elect Pence, partnering with Speaker PAUL RYAN, to promote jobs for all Americans and reinforce our principles of limited government with expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions,

never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. God bless President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence.

IN RECOGNITION OF AL KENNICKELL

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Al Kennickell of Savannah, Georgia, for being named The Citadel Alumnus of the Year.

Mr. Kennickell graduated from South Carolina's prestigious military college in 1977 after attending on a football scholarship.

After graduation, he returned to Savannah to work in his family's printing business, Kennickell Printing Company. The business was originally founded by his grandfather in 1892. His hard work with the company led him to purchase it, and he further developed it into The Kennickell Group, which is now an award-winning printing company that does business internationally.

In addition to growing his business, Mr. Kennickell dedicates much of his time towards the Savannah community. One of his many impressive community achievements includes the role of bringing the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, a professional golf tournament, to Savannah and coordinating its volunteer program.

Currently, Mr. Kennickell is serving as president of the Brigadier Foundation of The Citadel, where his positive efforts are being felt throughout the foundation and the rest of the college.

Congratulations, Mr. Kennickell. We are proud of you in Savannah, Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY CORPORAL DONALD MATNEY

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Corporal Donald Matney, a native of Seymour, Missouri, and a Korean war veteran.

On July 20, 1950, Corporal Matney's unit attempted to delay enemy from capturing a town near Taejon, South Korea. Enemy infantry and armor units were able to force the division out of the town and block withdrawal routes.

Matney was reported missing in action following the attacks. After 56 long years, Corporal Matney's remains were identified and he has made his final trip home.

Corporal Matney fought in defense of America and the freedoms we cherish today. I am saddened thinking of the time lost, but also thankful the

Matney family can have that long overdue closure. As a nation, we are indebted to the sacrifice he made, and we are grateful for the freedoms he fought to preserve. His memory will live forever as one of honor and courage.

I am blessed to honor the life of Donald Matney today, and I thank him and all veterans for their noble service to our country. We must never forget that freedom is not free.

Welcome home, Corporal. Thank you for giving your all for us. We owe you a debt of service we will never be able to repay.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 29, 2016 at 1:07 p.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3004.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3937.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5147.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5883.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 29, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 29, 2016 at 3:45 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to with an amendment H. Con. Res. 122.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 166.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5944.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5946.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2733.

That the Senate concur in the House of Representatives Amendment to the bill S. 246.

That the Senate passed S. 2959.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 55.
That the Senate passed S. 2360.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Wednesday, September 28, 2016:

H.R. 5325, making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Thursday, September 29, 2016:

H.R. 2733, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission;

H.R. 3937, to designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the "Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse";

H.R. 5147, to amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities;

H.R. 5578, to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5883, to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5944, to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes;

H.R. 5946, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games;

S. 246, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes;

S. 3283, to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic".

□ 1415

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

NATIONAL CLINICAL CARE COMMISSION ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1192) to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1192

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Clinical Care Commission Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CLINICAL CARE COMMISSION.

Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 399V-7. NATIONAL CLINICAL CARE COMMISSION.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established, within the Department of Health and Human Services, a National Clinical Care Commission (in this section referred to as the 'Commission') to evaluate, and recommend solutions regarding better coordination and leveraging of, programs within the Department and other Federal agencies that relate in any way to supporting appropriate clinical care (such as any interactions between physicians and other health care providers and their patients related to treatment and care management) for individuals with—

"(1) a complex metabolic or autoimmune disease;

"(2) a disease resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance; or

"(3) complications caused by any such disease.

"(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall be composed of the following voting members:

"(A) The heads (or their designees) of the following Federal agencies and departments:

"(i) The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

"(ii) The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

"(iii) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(iv) The Indian Health Service.

"(v) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

"(vi) The National Institutes of Health.

"(vii) The Food and Drug Administration.

"(viii) The Health Resources and Services Administration.

"(ix) The Department of Defense.

"(B) Twelve additional voting members appointed under paragraph (2).

"(C) Such additional voting members as may be appointed by the Secretary, at the Secretary's discretion, from among the heads (or their designees) of governmental or nongovernmental entities that impact clinical care of individuals with any of the diseases and complications described in subsection (a).

"(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Commission shall include additional voting members appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with national medical societies and patient advocacy organizations with expertise in the care and epidemiology of any of the diseases and complications described in subsection (a), including one or more such members from each of the following categories:

"(A) Clinical endocrinologists.

"(B) Physician specialties (other than as described in subparagraph (A)) that play a role in diseases and complications described in subsection (a), such as cardiologists, nephrologists, and eye care professionals.

"(C) Primary care physicians.

"(D) Non-physician health care professionals, such as certified diabetes educators, registered dietitians and nutrition professionals, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

"(E) Patient advocates.

"(F) National experts in the duties listed under subsection (c).

"(G) Health care providers furnishing services to a patient population that consists of a high percentage (as specified by the Secretary) of individuals who are enrolled in a State plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act or who are not covered under a health plan or health insurance coverage.

"(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The voting members of the Commission shall select a chairperson from the members appointed under paragraph (2) from the category under paragraph (2)(A).

"(4) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at least twice, and not more than 4 times, a year.

"(5) BOARD TERMS.—Members of the Commission appointed pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), including the chairperson, shall serve for a 3-year term. A vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

"(c) DUTIES.—The Commission shall—

"(1) evaluate programs of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the utilization of diabetes screening benefits, annual wellness visits, and other preventive health benefits that may reduce the incidence of the diseases and complications described in subsection (a), including explaining problems regarding such utilization and related data collection mechanisms;

"(2) identify current activities and critical gaps in Federal efforts to support clinicians in providing integrated, high-quality care to individuals with any of the diseases and complications described in subsection (a);

"(3) make recommendations regarding the coordination of clinically-based activities that are being supported by the Federal Government with respect to the diseases and complications described in subsection (a);

"(4) make recommendations regarding the development and coordination of federally funded clinical practice support tools for physicians and other health care professionals in caring for and managing the care of individuals with any of the diseases and complications described in subsection (a), specifically with regard to implementation of new treatments and technologies;

"(5) evaluate programs described in subsection (a) that are in existence as of the date of the enactment of this section and determine if such programs are meeting the needs identified in

paragraph (2) and, if such programs are determined as not meeting such needs, recommend programs that would be more appropriate;

“(6) recommend, with respect to the diseases and complications described in subsection (a), clinical pathways for new technologies and treatments, including future data collection activities, that may be developed and then used to evaluate—

“(A) various care models and methods; and

“(B) the impact of such models and methods on quality of care as measured by appropriate care parameters (such as A1C, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels);

“(7) evaluate and expand education and awareness activities provided to physicians and other health care professionals regarding clinical practices for the prevention of the diseases and complications described in subsection (a);

“(8) review and recommend appropriate methods for outreach and dissemination of educational resources that—

“(A) regard the diseases and complications described in subsection (a);

“(B) are funded by the Federal Government; and

“(C) are intended for health care professionals and the public; and

“(9) carry out other activities, such as activities relating to the areas of public health and nutrition, that the Commission deems appropriate with respect to the diseases and complications described in subsection (a).

“(d) OPERATING PLAN.—

“(1) INITIAL PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after its first meeting, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary and the Congress an operating plan for carrying out the activities of the Commission as described in subsection (c). Such operating plan may include—

“(A) a list of specific activities that the Commission plans to conduct for purposes of carrying out the duties described in each of the paragraphs in subsection (c);

“(B) a plan for completing the activities;

“(C) a list of members of the Commission and other individuals who are not members of the Commission who will need to be involved to conduct such activities;

“(D) an explanation of Federal agency involvement and coordination needed to conduct such activities;

“(E) a budget for conducting such activities;

“(F) a plan for evaluating the value and potential impact of the Commission's work and recommendations, including the possible continuation of the Commission for the purposes of overseeing their implementation; and

“(G) other information that the Commission deems appropriate.

“(2) UPDATES.—The Commission shall periodically update the operating plan under paragraph (1) and submit such updates to the Secretary and the Congress.

“(e) FINAL REPORT.—By not later than 3 years after the date of the Commission's first meeting, the Commission shall submit to the Secretary and the Congress a final report containing all of the findings and recommendations required by this section. Not later than 120 days after the submission of the final report, the Secretary shall review the plan required by subsection (d)(1)(F) and submit to the Congress a recommendation on whether the Commission should be reauthorized to operate after fiscal year 2019.

“(f) SUNSET.—The Commission shall terminate at the end of fiscal year 2019.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1192, the National Clinical Care Commission Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from Texas, Representative PETE OLSON. It has been supported by 229 cosponsors.

H.R. 1192 establishes a clinical care commission to evaluate and recommend solutions regarding better coordinating and leveraging Federal programs that relate to complex metabolic or autoimmune disorders, such as diabetes. Metabolic disorders take a large toll on many Americans each year, and complications from these disorders can lead to catastrophic health outcomes.

Currently, there are various programs across the Federal Government that touch on metabolic disorders, some focusing on prevention, others focusing on treatment, but they lack coordination. Improving coordination of such efforts provides an opportunity to reduce costs while improving health outcomes.

This legislation received broad support from the Energy and Commerce Committee, passing through a full committee markup by voice vote. H.R. 1192 provides for no new spending by utilizing only existing funds at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the sponsors of the bill, Congressman OLSON and Congressman LOEBACK, for introducing this legislation. I am very proud to be one of the many cosponsors of the bill.

H.R. 1192 would help to improve Federal efforts to treat and prevent metabolic disorders, autoimmune diseases, and diseases resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance.

The most common metabolic disorder in the United States, of course, is diabetes, which affects more than 29 million Americans. Another 86 million Americans have prediabetes, a condition associated with an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Unfortunately, all too often, diabetes leads, as my colleague said, to avoidable complications such as blindness,

limb amputation, and kidney failure, and it costs our healthcare system an avoidable billions of dollars each year. That is why it is important to improve Federal efforts to prevent avoidable cases of these conditions and to ensure that Americans have the treatment and management services necessary to successfully manage them.

I am pleased that we were able to work together to pass this legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1192.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON), the author of the bill.

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 1192, the National Clinical Care Commission Act, a bipartisan bill which is cosponsored by over half of my House colleagues. It has this level of support because this Nation faces an epidemic. Diabetes or prediabetes affects over 100 million Americans. Nearly one in three of our neighbors are affected. Dr. Phil has diabetes. We met, and he is a strong proponent of this bill. This is in addition to all of the other Americans who have diseases that fall under complex metabolic, autoimmune, or insulin resistant diseases.

When I first came to Congress in 2009, it was crystal clear that we had a big problem. The benefits of all the Federal research dollars going into these diseases were simply not making their way to patients. The researchers at the NIH, the CDC, and even the EPA weren't sharing diabetes research. It was clear to me in 2009, and it is clear to me in 2016. We need a laser-like focus on improving patient care by pursuing a strong Federal focus on research.

My bill accomplishes that goal through the establishment of a national clinical care commission made up of doctors with specialties, such as endocrinologists, and other healthcare providers who work directly with patients and pharmacists.

This commission will have 3 years to strengthen the partnership between Federal stakeholders and health professionals who will bring hands-on, clinical experience to improve care. This is not a new, unending bureaucracy. After 3 years, this commission will sunset. In 3 years, it will be gone.

We have made a huge investment of taxpayer dollars in research. It is time for us to leverage that investment and translate that into meaningful prevention and effective treatment options.

So today, on World Diabetes Day, I ask my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1192 and help all those who suffer from diabetes and other complex metabolic and autoimmune disorders.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the truth is, in this country, if we were

able to actually get some control of diabetes—which, as the author of this bill said, affects over 100 million Americans—prediabetes or diabetes, we would be able to really get control of all healthcare costs. It is one of the biggest drivers of healthcare costs in our country.

So while this is a commission—and let's hope that the commission does its good work—we have to stay focused, as he said, on the issue of diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who is in support of the bill.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1192, the National Clinical Care Commission Act, which establishes within the Department of Health and Human Services the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission.

The commission will look into the dissemination of information and resources to clinicians on best practices for delivering high quality care and how best to effectively deploy new and emerging treatment and technologies.

As a pharmacist, I played an important role in diabetes care by screening patients who had a high risk for diabetes and educated patients to empower them to take better care of themselves.

I believe all of my colleagues would agree that making government work to help evaluate and recommend solutions regarding diabetes is important. The American Diabetes Association reports that there are almost 30 million people living with this disease.

With better coordination and leveraging of Federal programs that relate to clinical care for people with prediabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions caused by diabetes, we will begin to stem the tide of this awful disease.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation should be a priority for our country, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill that we are acting on today. I would remind the body that it passed on a strong vote through the full committee on a voice vote, and there are many things to recommend this bill. I urge an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Diabetes Day and to urge the passage of the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act (H.R. 1192), which would authorize a committee of experts to improve care for people with diabetes and associated conditions. I'd like to thank the original co-sponsors of the bill, Mr. OLSON and Mr. LOEBACK, as well as Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE, for all your

hard work in making sure this important legislation gets the attention it deserves.

World Diabetes Day helps raise awareness of the scope of this disease. In that spirit, I'd like to note for all our colleagues that the human and economic impact of diabetes in the United States is mammoth. More than 29 million people in the United States from all walks of life have diabetes. The Centers for Disease Control estimates as many as 86 million Americans have pre-diabetes.

This disease is a life-long reality that patients and their families must grapple with every day. As the mother of a child with type 1 diabetes, I know the toll it can take. But I'm also in awe of the bravery and strength exhibited by people who live with diabetes. For them, we must continue to support innovative and thoughtful solutions that address awareness, prevention and cures.

For health care problems of this magnitude, coordination is essential. Increased communication and planning between the many different federal agencies working to prevent and treat diabetes will make a difference for patients and help us spend taxpayer dollars in a more cost-effective way. The National Clinical Care Commission Act would help jump-start these efforts by facilitating dialogue and coordination between leaders in the federal government and experts from the field. The Commission would be tasked with reviewing the many different ways the government currently spends money on diabetes and coming up with a strategic plan on how to move forward effectively and efficiently.

I have no doubt that the House will pass H.R. 1192 today. I encourage the Senate to vote on this commonsense bill as soon as possible. Thank you.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1192, the "National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act," which amends the Public Health Service Act to establish the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission.

This bill directs the Commission to evaluate and recommend solutions regarding better coordination and leverage of federal programs that relate to supporting appropriate clinical care for people afflicted with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the resulting chronic diseases and conditions arising from these diseases.

As a member of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I understand the importance of diabetes prevention and care of patients.

We must address the devastating impact of diabetes as the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, affecting nearly 29,000,000 Americans.

Since 2011, 3 million Americans have been diagnosed with the disease and more than twice that, 7 million Americans, have been diagnosed as pre-diabetic.

In my home state of Texas, the numbers are even more worrisome.

According to a study performed by the Texas Department of State Health Services in 2013, 11 percent of adults in Texas suffer from diabetes and 8.1 percent of adults have pre-diabetes.

Of these percentages, minorities had the highest level of diabetes and pre-diabetes occurrences:

In Black adults, 12.9 percent had diabetes and 9.6 percent had pre-diabetes.

In Hispanic adults, 12.7 percent had diabetes and 6.2 percent had pre-diabetes.

In 2014 in Harris county, 8.5 percent of adults were diagnosed with diabetes.

A 2012 Centers for Disease Control study estimated diabetic medical treatments cost patients throughout the country an estimated \$245 billion.

The direct medical costs associated with diabetes diagnoses totaled \$176 billion.

These numbers are incredibly high, but I am encouraged by the commendable efforts of the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act.

H.R. 1192 takes a critical step in the direction of preventive medicine, shifting the focus of diabetes management from reactive to proactive by encouraging prevention.

Additionally, the establishment of the National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission within the Department of Health and Human Services would allow greater collaboration in research in the area of diabetes, pre-diabetes, and the health outcomes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1192, the "National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1192, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with a complex metabolic or autoimmune disease, a disease resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance, or complications caused by such a disease, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO MATERNITY CARE ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1209) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1209

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Access to Maternity Care Act".

SEC. 2. MATERNITY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TARGET AREAS.

Section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k)(1) The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, shall identify, based on the

data collected under paragraph (3), maternity care health professional target areas that satisfy the criteria described in paragraph (2) for purposes of, in connection with receipt of assistance under this title, assigning to such identified areas maternity care health professionals who, without application of this subsection, would otherwise be eligible for such assistance. The Secretary shall distribute maternity care health professionals within health professional shortage areas using the maternity care health professional target areas so identified.

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall establish criteria for maternity care health professional target areas that identify geographic areas within health professional shortage areas that have a shortage of maternity care health professionals.

“(3) For purposes of this subsection, the Secretary shall collect and publish in the Federal Register data comparing the availability and need of maternity care health services in health professional shortage areas and in areas within such health professional shortage areas.

“(4) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall seek input from relevant provider organizations, including medical societies, organizations representing medical facilities, and other organizations with expertise in maternity care.

“(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘full scope maternity care health services’ includes during labor care, birthing, prenatal care, and postpartum care.

“(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as—

“(A) requiring the identification of a maternity care health professional target area in an area not otherwise already designated as a health professional shortage area; or

“(B) affecting the types of health professionals, without application of this subsection, otherwise eligible for assistance, including a loan repayment or scholarship, pursuant to the application of this section.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, which I introduced with Representative CAPPS.

H.R. 1209 increases data collection by the Department of Health and Human Services to help better place maternity care providers through the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program. Currently, maternity care providers participate in the National Health Service Corps through the primary care designation, but they are not always placed where they are needed the most. H.R. 1209 will require in-

creased data collection on maternity care providers who will then be placed in geographic areas within existing health professional shortage areas where they are most needed.

This legislation enjoyed broad support on the Energy and Commerce Committee and passed through a full committee markup on a voice vote. H.R. 1209 provides no new spending.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act; and I want to thank Dr. BURGESS and my dear colleague, Lois CAPPS from California, for offering this important piece of legislation.

It would require the Health Resources and Services Administration, HRSA, to better identify areas with increased need for maternity care services. This will help ensure the placement of maternity care providers within the National Health Service Corps to areas with the most need for their services.

While global maternal mortality rates have fallen by more than one-third from 2000 to 2015, the maternal mortality rate in the United States has actually increased. In 2015, 25 women lost their lives during pregnancy or childbirth per 100,000 births in the U.S. compared to 23 women who did so in 2000.

It is clear that we must do more to reverse this troubling trend. Congress must make it a priority to ensure all women have access to the prenatal and maternity care services needed to prevent maternal mortality.

I support H.R. 1209 because it will help expand access to prenatal and maternity care services in the areas where there is the most need. I urge my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, sponsored by my good friend from Texas, and fellow OB/GYN physician, MIKE BURGESS.

As an obstetrician/gynecologist who spent 31 years practicing medicine, I find it unacceptable that there are pockets across the United States where women do not have access to needed OB/GYN care. There are a huge number of OB/GYNs who are nearing retirement age, and more still who are considering early retirement. This is oc-

curing while the female population is expected to increase 36 percent by 2050.

A decrease in available doctors, coupled with an increase in female population, will lead to severe shortages that could threaten many women's ability to receive timely prenatal, labor and delivery care. Every year, 1 million babies are born to mothers who did not receive adequate prenatal care. Without proper care, the babies born to these mothers are three times more likely to be born low birth weight and five times more likely to die than babies whose mothers received care.

I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation that would require the Health Resources and Services Administration to designate maternity healthcare professional shortage areas and target maternity care resources where they are most needed, helping to ensure healthier pregnancies and healthier babies.

It was my job as an OB/GYN physician to make sure mothers and their children were healthy during and after their pregnancy, and I still feel very strongly about that duty now that I am here in Congress. While this bill will not solve the entire shortage crisis, I think it is a meaningful start.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), my colleague and friend, who came to Congress the same 106th Congress, I believe, along with me, prior to that being a nurse and is now retiring from that seat, but not before she adds one more thing at least, maybe there will be more, to making our health system better and protecting so many lives.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, which I am proud to have coauthored with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

We know that healthy women make healthy moms, and healthy moms make healthy babies. To support these women throughout their lives, they need access to preconception, prenatal, postpartum, and interpartum care—interpartum being that time between one child and the next, should there be another child. But too many communities lack the skilled maternity care professionals who are able to provide these services, and that is what this bill would address.

H.R. 1209 would harness the power of the National Health Service Corps to better target maternity care to the communities that need this care the most. Maternity care professionals are already included in the program and

doing great work in communities across the country. But at present, these providers' placement is based on data related to primary care access shortages, without regard to the specific maternity care which may be needed.

So while they are doing important work, there is more that we can, and should, do to ensure that they reach the areas that would benefit most from high-quality maternity care. Our bill would start this process and ensure that the National Health Service Corps takes the steps to use data to help more accurately place maternity care professionals in the locations that have the greatest need.

H.R. 1209 would set up a process to identify communities in existing health professional shortage areas that most need maternity care. And then it would require action to get maternity care professionals into these targeted areas.

We know that the National Health Service Corps is one of our most effective programs which improves access to care in underserved areas. We just want to make sure that we don't leave any community behind, especially when it comes to the health of mothers and their babies.

I want to again thank my colleague, Dr. BURGESS, for partnering with me on this legislation. I thank Chairman UPTON, Ranking Member PALLONE, and all of the staff for helping us move this bill forward. And I want to thank my deputy chief of staff and health policy advisor, Adriane Casalotti, for her years of work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge full support of this legislation.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1209, the Improving Access to Maternity Care Act, which amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Health Resources and Services Administration to designate maternity care health professional shortage areas and review these designations at least annually.

The National Health Service Corps places providers in health professional shortage areas; however, there is no shortage area designation for maternity care. Across our country, there are major pockets of the U.S. where women have little or no access to needed OB/GYN care. Even in my own district, there are rural communities where women live more than 30 minutes away from a hospital or a clinic offering prenatal services.

With almost 1 million babies being born to mothers who did not receive adequate prenatal care, we must allow for new opportunities to target OB/GYNs to healthcare shortage areas. The National Health Service Corps of-

fers tax-free loan repayment assistance to support qualified healthcare providers who choose to take their skills where they are most needed. Why would we not try to give every woman the ability to receive timely prenatal and labor/delivery services?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman has no more speakers, let me just say how pleased I am to be a supporter of this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1209, the "Improving Access to Maternity Care Act."

This important measure will require the Health Resources and Services Administration to designate maternity care health professional shortage areas and review these designations at least annually.

A maternity care health professional shortage area is described as:

any area with a shortage of full scope maternity care health services; or
any geographical area home to a population group experiencing a shortage of such providers or facilities.

Full scope maternity care includes: (1) care during labor, (2) birthing, (3) prenatal care and (4) postpartum care.

H.R. 1209 will address the concern of shortages in provision of care, and improve access to maternal medical care for women in need.

Access to better maternal care will ensure a safer delivery for both mother and child, safeguarding the bedrock of the American family.

Approximately 34,000 women die each year in the United States from pregnancy-related complications—one every fifteen minutes.

The risk is two times greater for women living in high-poverty areas, than for women living in low-poverty areas.

African-American women are 3–4 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes, a travesty we cannot continue to allow to occur in 2016 in the United States.

In 2010, almost 50 percent of counties in the country did not have OB/GYNs who provided direct patient care to expecting mothers, and almost all of these counties had no certified nurse-midwives.

Limited access to maternity care providers has greatly extended wait and travel times for patients' appointments, and exacerbated capacities at prenatal care sites and birthing facilities.

Maternal medical care is among the top reasons for the hospitalization of women in the United States.

Hospitalization can be costly, in 2010 child delivery and newborn infant care cost American families \$111 billion.

The designation of maternity care health services professional shortage areas can help to reduce maternal care cost by allowing for greater access to prenatal care and giving women safe delivery options within their local communities.

For these reasons, I support H.R. 1209 the "Improving Access to Maternity Care."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1209, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TITLE VIII NURSING WORKFORCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2713) to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2713

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. SUPPORTING CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS.

(a) *ADVANCED EDUCATION NURSING GRANTS.—Section 811 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296j) is amended—*

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting "clinical nurse leaders," before "or public health nurses";

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

"(f) AUTHORIZED CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST PROGRAMS.—Clinical nurse specialist programs eligible for support under this section are education programs that—

"(1) provide registered nurses with full-time clinical nurse specialist education; and

"(2) have as their objective the education of clinical nurse specialists who will upon completion of such a program be qualified to effectively provide care to inpatients and outpatients experiencing acute and chronic illness."

(b) DEFINITION OF NURSE-MANAGED HEALTH CLINIC.—Section 801 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(18) NURSE-MANAGED HEALTH CLINIC.—The term 'nurse-managed health clinic' has the meaning given to such term in section 330A-1."

(c) NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE.—Section 851(b)(1)(A)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297h(b)(1)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking "and nurse anesthetists" and inserting "nurse anesthetists, and clinical nurse specialists".

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR NURSING PROGRAMS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (i)(1) of section 846 (42 U.S.C. 297n; loan repayment and scholarship programs), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007” and inserting “\$83,135,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”;

(2) in subsection (f) of section 846A (42 U.S.C. 297n–1; nurse faculty loan program), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting “\$26,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”;

(3) in subsection (e) of section 865 (42 U.S.C. 298; comprehensive geriatric education), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting “\$38,737,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”; and

(4) in section 871 (42 U.S.C. 298d; funding for carrying out parts B, C, and D), by striking “\$338,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2016” and inserting “\$119,837,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021”.

(b) *CONFORMING CHANGES.*—

(1) Section 831 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p) is amended—

(A) in subsection (g), by striking “,” and inserting “;,”; and

(B) by striking subsection (h).

(2) Section 831A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296p–1) is amended by striking subsection (g).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016, introduced by my colleague, Representative LOIS CAPPS, and supported by over 70 Members of the House.

H.R. 2713 reauthorizes the Title VIII program, which has been funded since 1964. This reauthorization will help many nurses, including advanced practice nurses, better serve acute and chronic patients through 2020. Title VIII also includes a National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice. Nurses are on the front lines of our healthcare system and interact with almost every patient who depends on them to provide quality care.

This legislation is CutGo compliant and enjoyed broad support in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act. This important public health bill would reauthorize nursing workforce programs that support education, training, recruitment, and retention efforts.

Title VIII nursing workforce programs are the primary source of Federal support for nursing education and training. These programs are needed to address the growing shortage of registered nurses which threaten to harm the quality of care that patients receive in the United States healthcare delivery system. These vital programs have endured widespread bipartisan support that I hope will continue today.

I want to thank Congresswoman CAPPS for her work on this bill and for her longstanding leadership in promoting Federal efforts that advance the nursing profession.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill in order to help ensure that we have the nursing workforce needed to meet our Nation's growing demand for nursing services.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act.

First, I want to thank my good friend and co-chair, LOIS CAPPS, for her hard work on this legislation.

As a husband of a nurse, I know how important nurses are to their patients and all aspects of care. Their leadership, compassionate care, and team approach to healthcare delivery is why nurses are the most trusted profession in America.

This legislation specifically helps sustain a nursing workforce with sufficient numbers to keep America's healthcare system running smoothly. It strengthens nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study, and provides support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

Reauthorizing Title VIII programs ensure that these key initiatives have an authorization for funding through fiscal year 2021. I believe Title VIII is a long-term investment which will help propel the nursing profession forward to meet the changing healthcare needs.

We must recruit, support, and train a strong nursing workforce, and this bill will ensure that happens. So, please, stand with me today in support of our nurses and this vital legislation.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), one of the nurses of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act, a bill I authored to strengthen our Nation's nursing workforce.

Nurses are there for the most intimate times of a person's life. They touch the lives of patients and their families every day, not only ensuring proper care but supporting them through difficult diagnoses and helping them navigate the many complexities of our healthcare system—and they do it well.

Time and time again, my colleagues here on the Hill will tell me about the excellent nursing care they or a family member received. In many ways, nurses are the backbone of the healthcare delivery system. We need to keep that backbone strong.

That is exactly what Title VIII has done for over 50 years. In fact, Title VIII is the primary program our Nation has to strengthen and grow the nursing workforce. And it does so through targeted investments in the recruitment, retention, and distribution of these highly educated professionals who comprise our Nation's nursing workforce.

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It bolsters nursing education at all levels, from entry-level preparation through graduate study. It helps nurses repay student loans in exchange for working in underserved areas. It provides support for institutions that educate nurses for practice in rural and medically underserved communities, with a special focus on ensuring nurses are ready and able to care for our Nation's aging population; and it provides support for nurse educators so that they will be there—ready and willing—to teach the next generation of nursing professionals.

It is also worth noting that title VIII has been incredibly successful. From 2006 to 2013 alone, title VIII supported more than 520,000 nurses and nursing students in getting them trained and into the field. H.R. 2713 would continue this impressive track record. Our bill is a bipartisan effort to ensure that these programs can continue while updating them to recognize advances in the profession. That is why it has the support from so many of my colleagues here in Congress as well as from over 50 nursing organizations.

I thank and acknowledge my Congressional Nursing Caucus co-chair, Representative DAVID JOYCE from Ohio, who joined me to lead this reauthorization effort. He has been a strong advocate for nurses and a great partner in

that effort. I again thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE and their staffs for moving this bill forward, and I thank my long-time health policy adviser, Adriane Casalotti, who has worked tirelessly with me, on behalf of this bill and the nursing profession, over the course of her career on Capitol Hill.

Now I hope the House would indulge me for a moment.

As a nurse myself before my coming to Congress and as cofounder and co-chair of the House Nursing Caucus, I could not be more proud that we are here today. As some of my colleagues may remember, in 2002, one of my earliest priorities in Congress—the Nurse Reinvestment Act—became law. It was an important update to the title VIII program to ensure that it would meet the most pressing needs of our healthcare system. The bill we are considering today is a continuation of that work I began so many years ago. Much has changed during this time in Congress, but our ability to come together to support nurses and the nursing profession in a bipartisan way has not changed.

I thank my colleagues on my behalf and all of our Nation's nurses for this commitment then, now, and in the years to come. Making the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act law is a critical way to fulfill this commitment, so I urge strong support for this bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2713, the Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2016, which reauthorizes the title VIII Nursing Workforce Development programs that are overseen by the Health Resources and Service Administration.

As integral members of the healthcare team, nurses serve in a wide variety of delivery settings and collaborate with other professionals to improve the quality of America's healthcare system. Registered nurses comprise the largest group of health professionals, with over 3 million licensed providers, and offer essential care to patients in a variety of settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, community centers, schools, workplaces, and patients' homes.

For many students, title VIII support means the difference between their ability to enter into the nursing profession and not. In 2014, title VIII funding brought nearly \$5 million to the State of Georgia to bolster nursing education at all levels—from entry level preparation through graduate study—and also to provide support for institutions and nurse faculty.

This legislation demonstrates a commitment to the future generations of

practicing nurses, nurse faculty, and researchers across the country. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this bill, and I am grateful to LOIS CAPPS and DAVID JOYCE.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support to H.R. 2713, the "Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015," which extends advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs.

Specifically, I am pleased that this legislation:

Includes clinical nurse leaders as advanced education nurses, thereby making clinical nurse leader education programs eligible for advanced education nursing grants. (Clinical nurse leaders are advanced generalist clinicians who apply research and coordinate care in order to improve outcomes for patients.);

Describes the clinical nurse specialist programs that are eligible for grants and federal aid;

Reauthorizes funding for nursing programs by extending loan repayments and programs through 2020.

H.R. 2713 will provide a general sum of money, as may be necessary, for the fiscal years 2016 through 2020, allowing Congress to appropriate funds as necessity arises.

Importantly, this bill also includes a focus on comprehensive geriatric education, helping to ensure that our parents and grandparents are treated by knowledgeable and well educated personnel.

Student debt has proven an increasing concern for nursing students as the price of programs grows steeper, while employment opportunities grow sparse.

Of recent nursing school graduates in 2012 and 2013, more than 1/3 of borrowing students in the field were unemployed upon graduation, despite a national increase in general recent graduate employment.

Additionally, 74 percent of recently graduated nursing students are straddled with loan repayment obligations, a number that is slightly higher than the 71 percent of all new recent graduates battling unsurmountable student debt.

Providing nursing students with additional time to repay these loans is incredibly important, and I am happy to see this aspect of the bill renewed and increased.

Within Houston, MD Anderson, Texas Children's Hospital, Memorial Hermann Hospital, and St. Joseph's are only a few of the medical centers in the city requiring skilled nurses.

In 2011, nearly 22,000 vocational and registered nurses practiced within the city of Houston, making it the largest employer in the state.

Supporting the nursing workforce in furtherance of advanced education is critical and I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 2713, the "Title VIII Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2015."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2713, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING PATIENT ACCESS TO EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4365) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4365

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.

Section 303 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 821 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

"(j) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES THAT ADMINISTER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.—

"(1) REGISTRATION.—For the purpose of enabling emergency medical services professionals to administer controlled substances in schedule II, III, IV, or V to ultimate users receiving emergency medical services in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, the Attorney General—

"(A) shall register an emergency medical services agency if the agency submits an application demonstrating it is authorized to conduct such activity under the laws of each State in which the agency practices; and

"(B) may deny an application for such registration if the Attorney General determines that the issuance of such registration would be inconsistent with the requirements of this subsection or the public interest based on the factors listed in subsection (f).

"(2) OPTION FOR SINGLE REGISTRATION.—In registering an emergency medical services agency pursuant to paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall allow such agency the option of a single registration in each State where the agency administers controlled substances in lieu of requiring a separate registration for each location of the emergency medical services agency.

"(3) HOSPITAL-BASED AGENCY.—If a hospital-based emergency medical services agency is registered under subsection (f), the agency may use the registration of the hospital to administer controlled substances in accordance with this subsection without being registered under this subsection.

"(4) ADMINISTRATION OUTSIDE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF MEDICAL DIRECTOR OR AUTHORIZING MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL.—Emergency medical services professionals of a registered emergency medical services agency may administer controlled substances in schedule

II, III, IV, or V outside the physical presence of a medical director or authorizing medical professional in the course of providing emergency medical services if the administration is—

“(A) authorized by the law of the State in which it occurs; and

“(B) pursuant to—

“(i) a standing order that is issued and adopted by 1 or more medical directors of the agency, including any such order that may be developed by a specific State authority; or

“(ii) a verbal order that is—

“(I) issued in accordance with a policy of the agency;

“(II) provided by an authorizing medical professional in response to a request by the emergency medical services professional with respect to a specific patient;

“(III) in the case of a mass casualty incident; or

“(IV) to ensure the proper care and treatment of a specific patient.

“(5) DELIVERY.—A registered emergency medical services agency may deliver controlled substances from a registered location of the agency to an unregistered location of the agency only if—

“(A) the agency designates the unregistered location for such delivery; and

“(B) notifies the Attorney General at least 30 days prior to first delivering controlled substances to the unregistered location.

“(6) STORAGE.—A registered emergency medical services agency may store controlled substances—

“(A) at a registered location of the agency;

“(B) at any designated location of the agency or in an emergency services vehicle situated at a registered or designated location of the agency; or

“(C) in an emergency medical services vehicle used by the agency that is—

“(i) traveling from, or returning to, a registered or designated location of the agency in the course of responding to an emergency; or

“(ii) otherwise actively in use by the agency.

“(7) NO TREATMENT AS DISTRIBUTION.—The delivery of controlled substances by a registered emergency medical services agency pursuant to this subsection shall not be treated as distribution for purposes of section 308.

“(8) RESTOCKING OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES VEHICLES AT A HOSPITAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (13)(J), a registered emergency medical services agency may receive controlled substances from a hospital for purposes of restocking an emergency medical services vehicle following an emergency response, and without being subject to the requirements of section 308, provided all of the following conditions are satisfied:

“(A) The registered or designated location of the agency where the vehicle is primarily situated maintains a record of such receipt in accordance with paragraph (9).

“(B) The hospital maintains a record of such delivery to the agency in accordance with section 307.

“(C) If the vehicle is primarily situated at a designated location, such location notifies the registered location of the agency within 72 hours of the vehicle receiving the controlled substances.

“(9) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A registered emergency medical services agency shall maintain records in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of section 307 of all controlled substances that are received, administered, or

otherwise disposed of pursuant to the agency's registration, without regard to subsection 307(c)(1)(B).

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—Such records—

“(i) shall include records of deliveries of controlled substances between all locations of the agency; and

“(ii) shall be maintained, whether electronically or otherwise, at each registered and designated location of the agency where the controlled substances involved are received, administered, or otherwise disposed of.

“(10) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—A registered emergency medical services agency, under the supervision of a medical director, shall be responsible for ensuring that—

“(A) all emergency medical services professionals who administer controlled substances using the agency's registration act in accordance with the requirements of this subsection;

“(B) the recordkeeping requirements of paragraph (9) are met with respect to a registered location and each designated location of the agency;

“(C) the applicable physical security requirements established by regulation of the Attorney General are complied with wherever controlled substances are stored by the agency in accordance with paragraph (6); and

“(D) the agency maintains, at a registered location of the agency, a record of the standing orders issued or adopted in accordance with paragraph (9).

“(11) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may issue regulations—

“(A) specifying, with regard to delivery of controlled substances under paragraph (5)—

“(i) the types of locations that may be designated under such paragraph; and

“(ii) the manner in which a notification under paragraph (5)(B) must be made;

“(B) specifying, with regard to the storage of controlled substances under paragraph (6), the manner in which such substances must be stored at registered and designated locations, including in emergency medical services vehicles; and

“(C) addressing the ability of hospitals, registered locations, and designated locations to deliver controlled substances to each other in the event of—

“(i) shortages of such substances;

“(ii) a public health emergency; or

“(iii) a mass casualty event.

“(12) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

“(A) to limit the authority vested in the Attorney General by other provisions of this title to take measures to prevent diversion of controlled substances; or

“(B) to override the authority of any State to regulate the provision of emergency medical services.

“(13) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) The term ‘designated location’ means a location designated by an emergency medical services agency under paragraph (5).

“(B) The term ‘emergency medical services’ means emergency medical response and emergency mobile medical services provided outside of a fixed medical facility.

“(C) The term ‘emergency medical services agency’ means an organization providing emergency medical services, including such an organization that—

“(i) is governmental (including fire-based and hospital-based agencies), nongovernmental (including hospital-based agencies), private, or volunteer-based;

“(ii) provides emergency medical services by ground, air, or otherwise; and

“(iii) is authorized by the State in which the organization is providing such services

to provide emergency medical care, including the administering of controlled substances, to members of the general public on an emergency basis.

“(D) The term ‘emergency medical services professional’ means a health care professional (including a nurse, paramedic, or emergency medical technician) licensed or certified by the State in which the professional practices and credentialed by a medical director of the respective emergency medical services agency to provide emergency medical services within the scope of the professional's State license or certification.

“(E) The term ‘emergency medical services vehicle’ means an ambulance, fire apparatus, supervisor truck, or other vehicle used by an emergency medical services agency for the purpose of providing or facilitating emergency medical care and transport or transporting controlled substances to and from the registered and designated locations.

“(F) The term ‘hospital-based’ means, with respect to an agency, owned or operated by a hospital.

“(G) The term ‘medical director’ means a physician who is registered under subsection (f) and provides medical oversight for an emergency medical services agency.

“(H) The term ‘medical oversight’ means supervision of the provision of medical care by an emergency medical services agency.

“(I) The term ‘medical professional’ means an emergency or other physician, or another medical professional (including an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant) whose scope of practice under a State license or certification includes the ability to provide verbal orders.

“(J) The term ‘registered location’ means a location that appears on the certificate of registration issued to an emergency medical services agency under this subsection or subsection (f), which shall be where the agency receives controlled substances from distributors.

“(K) The term ‘registered emergency medical services agency’ means—

“(i) an emergency medical services agency that is registered pursuant to this subsection; or

“(ii) a hospital-based emergency medical services agency that is covered by the registration of the hospital under subsection (f).

“(L) The term ‘specific State authority’ means a governmental agency or other such authority, including a regional oversight and coordinating body, that, pursuant to State law or regulation, develops clinical protocols regarding the delivery of emergency medical services in the geographic jurisdiction of such agency or authority within the State that may be adopted by medical directors.

“(M) The term ‘standing order’ means a written medical protocol in which a medical director determines in advance the medical criteria that must be met before administering controlled substances to individuals in need of emergency medical services.

“(N) The term ‘verbal order’ means an oral directive that is given through any method of communication including by radio or telephone, directly to an emergency medical services professional, to contemporaneously administer a controlled substance to individuals in need of emergency medical services outside the physical presence of the authorizing medical director.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4365, the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act, introduced by my colleagues from North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 4365 would update the DEA registration process for emergency medical services agencies with multiple locations, clarifying recordkeeping requirements related to the transportation and storage of controlled substances. Further, the bill would ensure that paramedics and other EMS professionals are able to continue to administer pain and antiseizure medications in emergency situations that are pursuant to standing or verbal orders when certain conditions are met.

H.R. 4365 has over 130 cosponsors. It was reported out of the Energy and Commerce Committee on a voice vote, and it is supported by over a dozen EMS and trauma care organizations. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4365.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 4365, the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016.

I thank Mr. HUDSON for his leadership, as well as Mr. BUTTERFIELD's.

This bill is the result of a bipartisan effort, and it reflects input from emergency medical services—EMS—professionals, hospitals, and law enforcement. The bill strikes the right balance of ensuring that EMS professionals have flexibility when responding to emergency situations while preserving the Drug Enforcement Agency's ability to effectively enforce U.S. laws and regulations that govern controlled substances.

H.R. 4365 would amend the Controlled Substances Act to, among other things, clarify that EMS personnel can administer controlled substances under a standing order from an EMS medical director who oversees emergency care. This would codify what is current practice across the U.S. and would help ensure that patients have access to important drugs during emergency situations. H.R. 4365 would also streamline the EMS registration process to allow for a single registration for an EMS agency in a State rather than requiring each EMS medical director or EMS agency location to register. In addition, H.R. 4365 makes EMS agencies responsible for receiving, storing, and tracking controlled substances to ensure that the DEA can better prevent the diversion or misuse of controlled substances.

I thank my colleagues Mr. BUTTERFIELD and Mr. HUDSON for their work on this important legislation, and

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4365.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), the primary author of the bill and a valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 4365, the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act.

What if your loved one were in a car accident or had a seizure, but the EMS responder who was trained to help couldn't give him the medicine he needed? Under current law, this could be a reality. This is a huge problem, especially in rural communities where access to a hospital is already a challenge.

That is why I introduced this commonsense bill with my colleague G. K. BUTTERFIELD—to clarify existing law and allow emergency medical responders to continue administering lifesaving medications. Without this bill, patients could suffer simply because Washington hasn't kept up with modern medicine. It is a prime example of government's getting in the way and of the exact type of problem I came here to fix.

While today's bill may not be flashy, it solves a problem and it saves lives. It is an example of how to get things done: finding common ground and advancing bipartisan solutions to the problems that face us. Congressional action is immediately needed, which is why I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

I thank my colleague and friend, Representative BUTTERFIELD, for working with me on this in a bipartisan way. I also thank Chairman BURGESS, Chairman UPTON, and the other leaders of the Energy and Commerce Committee who have helped us bring this bill to the floor.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4365, the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016, which amends the Controlled Substances Act and safeguards the dispensing of controlled substances by emergency medical services professionals.

In today's healthcare system, EMS providers often provide the first—and sometimes only—medical treatment that a patient receives in the event of an emergency. Due to their unique nature, there is routinely a clinical need for EMS providers to administer controlled substance medications in the practice of EMS medicine, ranging from pain narcotics to epinephrine. This response is critical to providing

timely and lifesaving care, and, often-times, patients cannot survive delays in the delivery of this care.

As the Representative of a rural district, many of my constituents continue to face the consequences of the Drug Enforcement Agency regulations that do not take into account the significant differences between EMS practice and that of other healthcare entities that are covered by the same regulations. H.R. 4365 would ensure that EMS personnel can administer these emergency medications in a timely manner and provide the needed care to patients.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors and supporters.

I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of the bill for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 4365 the bipartisan "Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016."

H.R. 4365 would authorize a medical director, physician, and physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse to authorize Emergency Medical Service, EMS, personnel to dispense controlled substances such seizure medications, narcotic painkillers and other controlled substances under an order from a registered doctor or agency.

This bipartisan bill was passed by both the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Health, each by unanimous consent.

I support this bipartisan bill because it provides a vital solution for our emergency management personnel to provide lifesaving care to those requiring unique medical attention, such as in cases substance abuse overdose.

Under this bill the Justice Department would be directed to approve the registration of qualified EMS agencies under the Controlled Substances Act and is empowered to deny registration based on an applicant's conviction record and other factors that could affect public health and safety.

The bill authorizes emergency service providers to store substances in ambulances and other EMS vehicles and partner with local hospitals to restock medications and supplies.

Each emergency services provider would be responsible for complying with requirements including recordkeeping and physical security.

In Houston, Texas in 2015 alone, over 289,907 citizens relied upon the critical care emergency services of medical personnel, such as nurses, paramedics and technicians.

Our EMS personnel throughout the nation must be equipped with every tool necessary to provide critical lifesaving measures during patients' most dire time of need.

During the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11th, the lifesaving skills of our EMS providers were vital to saving countless American lives.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4365 the "Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016" because it provides emergency medical personnel with a broad range of tools to provide lifesaving care to persons in need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4365, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONCRETE MASONRY PRODUCTS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND PROMOTION ACT OF 2015

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 985) to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 985

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to authorize the establishment of an orderly program for developing, financing, and carrying out an effective, continuous, and coordinated program of research, education, and promotion, including funds for marketing and market research activities, that is designed to—

(1) strengthen the position of the concrete masonry products industry in the domestic marketplace;

(2) maintain, develop, and expand markets and uses for concrete masonry products in the domestic marketplace; and

(3) promote the use of concrete masonry products in construction and building.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to provide for the control of production or otherwise limit the right of any person to manufacture concrete masonry products.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act:

(1) BLOCK MACHINE.—The term "block machine" means a piece of equipment that utilizes vibration and compaction to form concrete masonry products.

(2) BOARD.—The term "Board" means the Concrete Masonry Products Board established under section 5.

(3) CAVITY.—The term "cavity" means the open space in the mold of a block machine capable of forming a single concrete masonry unit having nominal plan dimensions of 8 inches by 16 inches.

(4) COMMERCE.—The term "commerce" includes interstate, foreign, and intrastate commerce.

(5) CONCRETE MASONRY PRODUCTS.—The term "concrete masonry products" refers to a broader class of products, including concrete masonry units as well as hardscape products such as concrete pavers and segmental retaining wall units, manufactured on a block machine using dry-cast concrete.

(6) CONCRETE MASONRY UNIT.—The term "concrete masonry unit" means a concrete masonry product that is a manmade masonry unit having an actual width of 3 inches or greater and manufactured from dry-cast concrete using a block machine. Such term includes concrete block and related concrete units used in masonry applications.

(7) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The term "conflict of interest" means, with respect to a member or employee of the Board, a situation in which such member or employee has a direct or indirect financial or other interest in a person that performs a service for, or enters into a contract with, for anything of economic value.

(8) DEPARTMENT.—The term "Department" means the Department of Commerce.

(9) DRY-CAST CONCRETE.—The term "dry-cast concrete" means a composite material that is composed essentially of aggregates embedded in a binding medium composed of a mixture of cementitious materials (including hydraulic cement, pozzolans, or other cementitious materials) and water of such a consistency to maintain its shape after forming in a block machine.

(10) EDUCATION.—The term "education" means programs that will educate or communicate the benefits of concrete masonry products in safe and environmentally sustainable development, advancements in concrete masonry product technology and development, and other information and programs designed to generate increased demand for commercial, residential, multi-family, and institutional projects using concrete masonry products and to generally enhance the image of concrete masonry products.

(11) MACHINE CAVITIES.—The term "machine cavities" means the cavities with which a block machine could be equipped.

(12) MACHINE CAVITIES IN OPERATION.—The term "machine cavities in operation" means those machine cavities associated with a block machine that have produced concrete masonry units within the last 6 months of the date set for determining eligibility and is fully operable and capable of producing concrete masonry units.

(13) MANUFACTURER.—The term "manufacturer" means any person engaged in the manufacturing of commercial concrete masonry products in the United States.

(14) MASONRY UNIT.—The term "masonry unit" means a noncombustible building product intended to be laid by hand or joined using mortar, grout, surface bonding, post-tensioning or some combination of these methods.

(15) ORDER.—The term "order" means an order issued under section 4.

(16) PERSON.—The term "person" means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other entity.

(17) PROMOTION.—The term "promotion" means any action, including paid advertising, to advance the image and desirability of concrete masonry products with the express intent of improving the competitive position and stimulating sales of concrete masonry products in the marketplace.

(18) RESEARCH.—The term "research" means studies testing the effectiveness of market development and promotion efforts, studies relating to the improvement of concrete masonry products and new product development, and studies documenting the performance of concrete masonry.

(19) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(20) UNITED STATES.—The term "United States" means the several States and the District of Columbia.

SEC. 4. ISSUANCE OF ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) ISSUANCE.—The Secretary, subject to the procedures provided in subsection (b), shall issue orders under this Act applicable to manufacturers of concrete masonry products.

(2) SCOPE.—Any order shall be national in scope.

(3) ONE ORDER.—Not more than one order shall be in effect at any one time.

(b) PROCEDURES.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OR RECEIPT OF PROPOSED ORDER.—A proposed order with respect to the generic research, education, and promotion with regards to concrete masonry products may be—

(A) proposed by the Secretary at any time; or

(B) requested by or submitted to the Secretary by—

(i) an existing national organization of concrete masonry product manufacturers; or

(ii) any person that may be affected by the issuance of an order.

(2) PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED ORDER.—If the Secretary determines that a proposed order received in accordance with paragraph (1)(B) is consistent with and will effectuate the purpose of this Act, the Secretary shall publish such proposed order in the Federal Register not later than 90 days after receiving the order, and give not less than 30 days notice and opportunity for public comment on the proposed order.

(3) ISSUANCE OF ORDER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—After notice and opportunity for public comment are provided in accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall issue the order, taking into consideration the comments received and including in the order such provisions as are necessary to ensure that the order is in conformity with this Act.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—If there is an affirmative vote in a referendum as provided in section 7, the Secretary shall issue the order and such order shall be effective not later than 140 days after publication of the proposed order.

(c) AMENDMENTS.—The Secretary may, from time to time, amend an order. The provisions of this Act applicable to an order shall be applicable to any amendment to an order.

SEC. 5. REQUIRED TERMS IN ORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Any order issued under this Act shall contain the terms and provisions specified in this section.

(b) CONCRETE MASONRY PRODUCTS BOARD.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The order shall provide for the establishment of a Concrete Masonry Products Board to carry out a program of generic promotion, research, and education regarding concrete masonry products.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—

(i) NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—The board shall consist of not less than 15 and not more than 25 members.

(ii) APPOINTMENT.—The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Secretary from nominations submitted as provided in the order.

(iii) COMPOSITION.—The Board shall consist of manufacturers. No employee of an industry trade organization exempt from tax under paragraphs (3) or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)) representing the concrete masonry industry or related industries shall serve as a member of the Board and no member of the Board may serve concurrently as an officer of the board of directors of a national concrete masonry products industry trade association. Only two individuals from any single company or its affiliates may serve on the Board at any one time.

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF APPOINTMENTS.—

(A) REPRESENTATION.—To ensure fair and equitable representation of the concrete masonry products industry, the composition of the Board shall reflect the geographical distribution of the manufacture of concrete masonry products in the United States, the types of concrete masonry products manufactured, and the range in size of manufacturers in the United States.

(B) ADJUSTMENT IN BOARD REPRESENTATION.—Three years after the assessment of concrete masonry products commences pursuant to an order, and at the end of each 3-year period thereafter, the Board, subject to the review and approval of the Secretary, shall, if warranted, recommend to the Secretary the reapportionment of the Board membership to reflect changes in the geographical distribution of the manufacture of concrete masonry products and the types of concrete masonry products manufactured.

(3) NOMINATIONS PROCESS.—The Secretary may make appointments from nominations by manufacturers pursuant to the method set forth in the order.

(4) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Secretary fails to make an appointment to the Board within 60 days of receiving nominations for such appointment, the first nominee for such appointment shall be deemed appointed, unless the Secretary provides reasonable justification for the delay to the Board and to Congress and provides a reasonable date by which approval or disapproval will be made.

(5) ALTERNATES.—The order shall provide for the selection of alternate members of the Board by the Secretary in accordance with procedures specified in the order.

(6) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The members and any alternates of the Board shall each serve for a term of 3 years, except that members and any alternates initially appointed to the Board shall serve for terms of not more than 2, 3, and 4 years, as specified by the order.

(B) LIMITATION ON CONSECUTIVE TERMS.—A member or an alternate may serve not more than 2 consecutive terms.

(C) CONTINUATION OF TERM.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), each member or alternate shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the Secretary.

(D) VACANCIES.—A vacancy arising before the expiration of a term of office of an incumbent member or alternate of the Board shall be filled in a manner provided for in the order.

(7) DISQUALIFICATION FROM BOARD SERVICE.—The order shall provide that if a member or alternate of the Board who was appointed as a manufacturer ceases to qualify

as a manufacturer, such member or alternate shall be disqualified from serving on the Board.

(8) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Members and any alternates of the Board shall serve without compensation.

(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—If approved by the Board, members or alternates shall be reimbursed for reasonable travel expenses, which may include per diem allowance or actual subsistence incurred while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Board.

(C) POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD.—The order shall specify the powers and duties of the Board, including the power and duty—

(1) to administer the order in accordance with its terms and conditions and to collect assessments;

(2) to develop and recommend to the Secretary for approval such bylaws as may be necessary for the functioning of the Board and such rules as may be necessary to administer the order, including activities authorized to be carried out under the order;

(3) to meet, organize, and select from among members of the Board a chairperson, other officers, and committees and subcommittees, as the Board determines appropriate;

(4) to establish regional organizations or committees to administer regional initiatives;

(5) to establish working committees of persons other than Board members;

(6) to employ such persons, other than the members, as the board considers necessary, and to determine the compensation and specify the duties of the persons;

(7) to prepare and submit for the approval of the Secretary, before the beginning of each fiscal year, rates of assessment under section 6 and an annual budget of the anticipated expenses to be incurred in the administration of the order, including the probable cost of each promotion, research, and information activity proposed to be developed or carried out by the Board;

(8) to borrow funds necessary for the start-up expenses of the order;

(9) to carry out generic research, education, and promotion programs and projects relating to concrete masonry products, and to pay the costs of such programs and projects with assessments collected under section 6;

(10) subject to subsection (e), to enter into contracts or agreements to develop and carry out programs or projects of research, education, and promotion relating to concrete masonry products;

(11) to keep minutes, books, and records that reflect the actions and transactions of the Board, and promptly report minutes of each Board meeting to the Secretary;

(12) to receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the order;

(13) to furnish the Secretary with such information as the Secretary may request;

(14) to recommend to the Secretary such amendments to the order as the Board considers appropriate; and

(15) to provide the Secretary with advance notice of meetings to permit the Secretary or the Secretary's representative to attend the meetings.

(d) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS; BUDGETS; EXPENSES.—

(1) PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The order shall require the Board to submit to the Secretary for approval any program or project of research,

education, or promotion relating to concrete masonry products.

(B) STATEMENT REQUIRED.—Any educational or promotional activity undertaken with funds provided by the Board shall include a statement that such activities were supported in whole or in part by the Board.

(2) BUDGETS.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—The order shall require the Board to submit to the Secretary for approval a budget of the anticipated expenses and disbursements of the Board in the implementation of the order, including the projected costs of concrete masonry products research, education, and promotion programs and projects.

(B) TIMING.—The budget shall be submitted before the beginning of a fiscal year and as frequently as may be necessary after the beginning of the fiscal year.

(C) APPROVAL.—If the Secretary fails to approve or reject a budget within 60 days of receipt, such budget shall be deemed approved, unless the Secretary provides to the Board and to Congress, in writing, reasonable justification for the delay and provides a reasonable date by which approval or disapproval will be made.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

(A) INCURRING EXPENSES.—The Board may incur the expenses described in paragraph (2) and other expenses for the administration, maintenance, and functioning of the Board as authorized by the Secretary.

(B) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—Expenses incurred under subparagraph (A) shall be paid by the Board using assessments collected under section 6, earnings obtained from assessments, and other income of the Board. Any funds borrowed by the Board shall be expended only for startup costs and capital outlays.

(C) LIMITATION ON SPENDING.—For fiscal years beginning 3 or more years after the date of the establishment of the Board, the Board may not expend for administration (except for reimbursement to the Secretary required under subparagraph (D)), maintenance, and functioning of the Board in a fiscal year an amount that exceeds 10 percent of the assessment and other income received by the Board for the fiscal year.

(D) REIMBURSEMENT OF SECRETARY.—The order shall require that the Secretary be reimbursed by the Board from assessments for all expenses incurred by the Secretary in the implementation, administration, and supervision of the order, including all referenda costs incurred in connection with the order.

(e) CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The order shall provide that, with the approval of the Secretary, the Board may—

(A) enter into contracts and agreements to carry out generic research, education, and promotion programs and projects relating to concrete masonry products, including contracts and agreements with manufacturer associations or other entities as considered appropriate by the Secretary;

(B) enter into contracts and agreements for administrative services; and

(C) pay the cost of approved generic research, education, and promotion programs and projects using assessments collected under section 6, earnings obtained from assessments, and other income of the Board.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each contract or agreement shall provide that any person who enters into the contract or agreement with the Board shall—

(A) develop and submit to the Board a proposed program or project together with a budget that specifies the cost to be incurred to carry out the program or project;

(B) keep accurate records of all of transactions relating to the contract or agreement;

(C) account for funds received and expended in connection with the contract or agreement;

(D) make periodic reports to the Board of activities conducted under the contract or agreement; and

(E) make such other reports as the Board or the Secretary considers relevant.

(3) **FAILURE TO APPROVE.**—If the Secretary fails to approve or reject a contract or agreement entered into under paragraph (1) within 60 days of receipt, the contract or agreement shall be deemed approved, unless the Secretary provides to the Board and to Congress, in writing, reasonable justification for the delay and provides a reasonable date by which approval or disapproval will be made.

(f) **BOOKS AND RECORDS OF BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The order shall require the Board to—

(A) maintain such books and records (which shall be available to the Secretary for inspection and audit) as the Secretary may require;

(B) collect and submit to the Secretary, at any time the Secretary may specify, any information the Secretary may request; and

(C) account for the receipt and disbursement of all funds in the possession, or under the control, of the Board.

(2) **AUDITS.**—The order shall require the Board to have—

(A) the books and records of the Board audited by an independent auditor at the end of each fiscal year; and

(B) a report of the audit submitted directly to the Secretary.

(g) **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Board shall not engage in any program or project to, nor shall any funds received by the Board under this Act be used to—

(A) influence legislation, elections, or governmental action;

(B) engage in an action that would be a conflict of interest;

(C) engage in advertising that is false or misleading;

(D) engage in any promotion, research, or education that would be disparaging to other construction materials; or

(E) engage in any promotion or project that would benefit any individual manufacturer.

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Paragraph (1) does not preclude—

(A) the development and recommendation of amendments to the order;

(B) the communication to appropriate government officials of information relating to the conduct, implementation, or results of research, education, and promotion activities under the order except communications described in paragraph (1)(A); or

(C) any lawful action designed to market concrete masonry products directly to a foreign government or political subdivision of a foreign government.

(h) **PERIODIC EVALUATION.**—The order shall require the Board to provide for the independent evaluation of all research, education, and promotion programs or projects undertaken under the order, beginning five years after the date of enactment of this Act and every three years thereafter. The Board shall submit to the Secretary and make available to the public the results of each such evaluation.

(i) **OBJECTIVES.**—The Board shall establish annual research, education, and promotion objectives and performance metrics for each

fiscal year subject to approval by the Secretary.

(j) **BIENNIAL REPORT.**—Every two years the Board shall prepare and make publicly available a comprehensive and detailed report that includes an identification and description of all programs and projects undertaken by the Board during the previous two years as well as those planned for the subsequent two years and detail the allocation or planned allocation of Board resources for each such program or project. Such report shall also include—

(1) the Board's overall financial condition;

(2) a summary of the amounts obligated or expended during the two preceding fiscal years; and

(3) a description of the extent to which the Board's objectives were met according to the metrics required under subsection (i).

(k) **BOOKS AND RECORDS OF PERSONS COVERED BY ORDER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The order shall require that manufacturers shall—

(A) maintain records sufficient to ensure compliance with the order and regulations; and

(B) make the records described in subparagraph (A) available, during normal business hours, for inspection by employees or agents of the Board or the Department.

(2) **TIME REQUIREMENT.**—Any record required to be maintained under paragraph (1) shall be maintained for such time period as the Secretary may prescribe.

(3) **CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential reported to, or otherwise obtained by the Board or the Secretary (or any representative of the Board or the Secretary) under this Act shall not be disclosed by any officers, employees, and agents of the Department or the Board.

(B) **SUITS AND HEARINGS.**—Information referred to in subparagraph (A) may be disclosed only if—

(i) the Secretary considers the information relevant; and

(ii) the information is revealed in a judicial proceeding or administrative hearing brought at the direction or on the request of the Secretary or to which the Secretary or any officer of the Department is a party.

(C) **GENERAL STATEMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS.**—This paragraph does not prohibit—

(i) the issuance of general statements based on reports or on information relating to a number of persons subject to an order if the statements do not identify the information furnished by any person; or

(ii) the publication, by direction of the Secretary, of the name of any person violating any order and a statement of the particular provisions of the order violated by the person.

(D) **PENALTY.**—Any officer, employee, or agent of the Department of Commerce or any officer, employee, or agent of the Board who willfully violates this paragraph shall be fined not more than \$1,000 and imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

(4) **WITHHOLDING INFORMATION.**—This subsection does not authorize the withholding of information from Congress.

SEC. 6. ASSESSMENTS.

(a) **ASSESSMENTS.**—The order shall provide that assessments shall be paid by a manufacturer if the manufacturer has manufactured concrete masonry products during a period of at least 180 days prior to the date the assessment is to be remitted.

(b) **COLLECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Assessments required under the order shall be remitted by the manufacturer to the Board in the manner prescribed by the order.

(2) **TIMING.**—The order shall provide that assessments required under the order shall be remitted to the Board not less frequently than quarterly.

(3) **RECORDS.**—As part of the remittance of assessments, manufacturers shall identify the total amount due in assessments on all sales receipts, invoices or other commercial documents of sale as a result of the sale of concrete masonry units in a manner as prescribed by the Board to ensure compliance with the order.

(c) **ASSESSMENT RATES.**—With respect to assessment rates, the order shall contain the following terms:

(1) **INITIAL RATE.**—The assessment rate on concrete masonry products shall be \$0.01 per concrete masonry unit sold.

(2) **CHANGES IN THE RATE.**—

(A) **AUTHORITY TO CHANGE RATE.**—The Board shall have the authority to change the assessment rate. A two-thirds majority of voting members of the Board shall be required to approve a change in the assessment rate.

(B) **LIMITATION ON INCREASES.**—An increase or decrease in the assessment rate with respect to concrete masonry products may not exceed \$0.01 per concrete masonry unit sold.

(C) **MAXIMUM RATE.**—The assessment rate shall not be in excess of \$0.05 per concrete masonry unit.

(D) **LIMITATION ON FREQUENCY OF CHANGES.**—The assessment rate may not be increased or decreased more than once annually.

(d) **LATE-PAYMENT AND INTEREST CHARGES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Late-payment and interest charges may be levied on each person subject to the order who fails to remit an assessment in accordance with subsection (b).

(2) **RATE.**—The rate for late-payment and interest charges shall be specified by the Secretary.

(e) **INVESTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.**—Pending disbursement of assessments under a budget approved by the Secretary, the Board may invest assessments collected under this section in—

(1) obligations of the United States or any agency of the United States;

(2) general obligations of any State or any political subdivision of a State;

(3) interest-bearing accounts or certificates of deposit of financial institutions that are members of the Federal Reserve System; or

(4) obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

(f) **ASSESSMENT FUNDS FOR REGIONAL INITIATIVES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The order shall provide that no less than 50 percent of the assessments (less administration expenses) paid by a manufacturer shall be used to support research, education, and promotion programs and projects in support of the geographic region of the manufacturer.

(2) **GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS.**—The order shall provide for the following geographic regions:

(A) **Region I** shall comprise Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

(B) **Region II** shall comprise Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

(C) Region III shall comprise Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

(D) Region IV shall comprise Arizona, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

(E) Region V shall comprise Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

(3) ADJUSTMENT OF GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS.—The order shall provide that the Secretary may, upon recommendation of the Board, modify the composition of the geographic regions described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 7. REFERENDA.

(a) INITIAL REFERENDUM.—

(1) REFERENDUM REQUIRED.—During the 60-day period immediately preceding the proposed effective date of the order issued under section 4, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among manufacturers eligible under subsection (b)(2) subject to assessments under section 6.

(2) APPROVAL OF ORDER NEEDED.—The order shall become effective only if the Secretary determines that the order has been approved by a majority of manufacturers voting who also represent a majority of the machine cavities in operation of those manufacturers voting in the referendum.

(b) VOTES PERMITTED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each manufacturer eligible to vote in a referendum conducted under this section shall be entitled to cast one vote.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a manufacturer shall be considered to be eligible to vote if the manufacturer has manufactured concrete masonry products during a period of at least 180 days prior to the first day of the period during which voting in the referendum will occur.

(c) MANNER OF CONDUCTING REFERENDA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Referenda conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted in a manner determined by the Secretary.

(2) ADVANCE REGISTRATION.—A manufacturer who chooses to vote in any referendum conducted under this section shall register with the Secretary prior to the voting period, after receiving notice from the Secretary concerning the referendum under paragraph (4).

(3) VOTING.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for voting in any referendum conducted under this section. The ballots and other information or reports that reveal or tend to reveal the identity or vote of voters shall be strictly confidential.

(4) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days before a referendum is conducted under this section with respect to an order, the Secretary shall notify all manufacturers, in such a manner as determined by the Secretary, of the period during which voting in the referendum will occur. The notice shall explain any registration and voting procedures established under this subsection.

(d) SUBSEQUENT REFERENDA.—If an order is approved in a referendum conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct a subsequent referendum—

(1) at the request of the Board, subject to the voting requirements of subsections (b) and (c), to ascertain whether eligible manufacturers favor suspension, termination, or continuance of the order; or

(2) effective beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of the approval of the order, and at 5-year intervals thereafter, at the request of 25 percent or more of the total number of persons eligible to vote under subsection (b).

(e) SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION.—If, as a result of a referendum conducted under subsection (d), the Secretary determines that suspension or termination of the order is favored by a majority of all votes cast in the referendum as provided in subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the referendum, suspend or terminate, as appropriate, collection of assessments under the order; and

(2) suspend or terminate, as appropriate, programs and projects under the order as soon as practicable and in an orderly manner.

(f) COSTS OF REFERENDA.—The Board established under an order with respect to which a referendum is conducted under this section shall reimburse the Secretary from assessments for any expenses incurred by the Secretary to conduct the referendum.

SEC. 8. PETITION AND REVIEW.

(a) PETITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person subject to an order issued under this Act may file with the Secretary a petition—

(A) stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order, is not established in accordance with law; and

(B) requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order.

(2) HEARING.—The Secretary shall give the petitioner an opportunity for a hearing on the petition, in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

(3) RULING.—After the hearing, the Secretary shall make a ruling on the petition. The ruling shall be final, subject to review as set forth in subsection (b).

(4) LIMITATION ON PETITION.—Any petition filed under this subsection challenging an order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order, shall be filed not less than 2 years after the effective date of the order, provision, or obligation subject to challenge in the petition.

(b) REVIEW.—

(1) COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION.—The district courts of the United States in any district in which a person who is a petitioner under subsection (a) resides or conducts business shall have jurisdiction to review the ruling of the Secretary on the petition of the person, if a complaint requesting the review is filed no later than 30 days after the date of the entry of the ruling by the Secretary.

(2) PROCESS.—Service of process in proceedings under this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(3) REMANDS.—If the court in a proceeding under this subsection determines that the ruling of the Secretary on the petition of the person is not in accordance with law, the court shall remand the matter to the Secretary with directions—

(A) to make such ruling as the court shall determine to be in accordance with law; or

(B) to take such further action as, in the opinion of the court, the law requires.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—The pendency of proceedings instituted under this section shall not impede, hinder, or delay the Attorney General or the Secretary from obtaining relief under section 9.

SEC. 9. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) JURISDICTION.—A district court of the United States shall have jurisdiction to enforce, and to prevent and restrain any person from violating, this Act or an order or regulation issued by the Secretary under this Act.

(b) REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.—A civil action authorized to be brought under

this section shall be referred to the Attorney General of the United States for appropriate action.

(c) CIVIL PENALTIES AND ORDERS.—

(1) CIVIL PENALTIES.—A person who willfully violates an order or regulation issued by the Secretary under this Act may be assessed by the Secretary a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each violation.

(2) SEPARATE OFFENSE.—Each violation and each day during which there is a failure to comply with an order or regulation issued by the Secretary shall be considered to be a separate offense.

(3) CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDERS.—In addition to, or in lieu of, a civil penalty, the Secretary may issue an order requiring a person to cease and desist from violating the order or regulation.

(4) NOTICE AND HEARING.—No order assessing a penalty or cease-and-desist order may be issued by the Secretary under this subsection unless the Secretary provides notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the record with respect to the violation.

(5) FINALITY.—An order assessing a penalty or a cease-and-desist order issued under this subsection by the Secretary shall be final and conclusive unless the person against whom the order is issued files an appeal from the order with the appropriate district court of the United States.

(d) ADDITIONAL REMEDIES.—The remedies provided in this Act shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available.

SEC. 10. INVESTIGATION AND POWER TO SUBPOENA.

(a) INVESTIGATIONS.—The Secretary may conduct such investigations as the Secretary considers necessary for the effective administration of this Act, or to determine whether any person has engaged or is engaging in any act that constitutes a violation of this Act or any order or regulation issued under this Act.

(b) SUBPOENAS, OATHS, AND AFFIRMATIONS.—

(1) INVESTIGATIONS.—For the purpose of conducting an investigation under subsection (a), the Secretary may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel the attendance of witnesses, take evidence, and require the production of any records that are relevant to the inquiry. The production of the records may be required from any place in the United States.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS.—For the purpose of an administrative hearing held under section 8(a)(2) or section 9(c)(4), the presiding officer may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel the attendance of witnesses, take evidence, and require the production of any records that are relevant to the inquiry. The attendance of witnesses and the production of the records may be required from any place in the United States.

(c) AID OF COURTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of contumacy by, or refusal to obey a subpoena issued under subsection (b) to, any person, the Secretary may invoke the aid of any court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which the investigation or proceeding is conducted, or where the person resides or conducts business, in order to enforce a subpoena issued under subsection (b).

(2) ORDER.—The court may issue an order requiring the person referred to in paragraph (1) to comply with a subpoena referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) FAILURE TO OBEY.—Any failure to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt of court.

(4) **PROCESS.**—Process in any proceeding under this subsection may be served in the United States judicial district in which the person being proceeded against resides or conducts business, or wherever the person may be found.

SEC. 11. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION.

(a) **MANDATORY SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION.**—The Secretary shall suspend or terminate an order or a provision of an order if the Secretary finds that an order or provision of an order obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the purpose of this Act, or if the Secretary determines that the order or a provision of an order is not favored by a majority of all votes cast in the referendum as provided in section 7(a)(2).

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION.**—If, as a result of a referendum conducted under section 7, the Secretary determines that the order is not approved, the Secretary shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after making the determination, suspend or terminate, as the case may be, collection of assessments under the order; and

(2) as soon as practicable, suspend or terminate, as the case may be, activities under the order in an orderly manner.

SEC. 12. AMENDMENTS TO ORDERS.

The provisions of this Act applicable to the order shall be applicable to any amendment to the order, except that section 8 shall not apply to an amendment.

SEC. 13. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

This Act shall not affect or preempt any other Federal or State law authorizing research, education, and promotion relating to concrete masonry products.

SEC. 14. REGULATIONS.

The Secretary may issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the power vested in the Secretary under this Act.

SEC. 15. LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Funds appropriated to carry out this Act may not be used for the payment of the expenses or expenditures of the Board in administering the order.

SEC. 16. LIMITATIONS ON OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In each fiscal year of the covered period, the Board may not obligate an amount greater than the sum of—

(1) 73 percent of the amount of assessments estimated to be collected under section 6 in such fiscal year;

(2) 73 percent of the amount of assessments actually collected under section 6 in the most recent fiscal year for which an audit report has been submitted under section 5(f)(2)(B) as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which the amount that may be obligated is being determined, less the estimate made pursuant to paragraph (1) for such most recent fiscal year; and

(3) amounts permitted in preceding fiscal years to be obligated pursuant to this subsection that have not been obligated.

(b) **EXCESS AMOUNTS DEPOSITED IN ESCROW ACCOUNT.**—Assessments collected under section 6 in excess of the amount permitted to be obligated under subsection (a) in a fiscal year shall be deposited in an escrow account for the duration of the covered period.

(c) **TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS IN ESCROW ACCOUNT.**—During the covered period, the Board may not obligate, expend, or borrow against amounts required under subsection (b) to be deposited in the escrow account. Any interest earned on such amounts shall be deposited in the escrow account and shall

be unavailable for obligation for the duration of the covered period.

(d) **RELEASE OF AMOUNTS IN ESCROW ACCOUNT.**—After the covered period, the Board may withdraw and obligate in any fiscal year an amount in the escrow account that does not exceed 1/5th of the amount in the escrow account on the last day of the covered period.

(e) **SPECIAL RULE FOR ESTIMATES FOR PARTICULAR FISCAL YEARS.**—

(1) **RULE.**—For purposes of subsection (a)(1), the amount of assessments estimated to be collected under section 6 in a fiscal year specified in paragraph (2) shall be equal to 62 percent of the amount of assessments actually collected under such section in the most recent fiscal year for which an audit report has been submitted under section 5(f)(2)(B) as of the beginning of the fiscal year for which the amount that may be obligated is being determined.

(2) **FISCAL YEARS SPECIFIED.**—The fiscal years specified in this paragraph are the 9th and 10th fiscal years that begin on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) **COVERED PERIOD DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered period” means the period that begins on the date of the enactment of this Act and ends on the last day of the 11th fiscal year that begins on or after such date of enactment.

SEC. 17. STUDY AND REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.

Not later than 5 years and 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a study and submit to Congress and the Secretary a report examining—

(1) how the Board spends assessments collected;

(2) the extent to which the Board's reported activities help achieve its annual objectives;

(3) any changes in demand for concrete masonry products relative to other building materials;

(4) any impact of the Board's activities on the market share of competing products;

(5) any impact of the Board's activities on the overall size of the market for building products;

(6) any impact of the Board's activities on the total number of concrete masonry related jobs, including manufacturing, sales, and installation;

(7) any significant effects of the Board's activities on downstream purchasers of concrete masonry products and real property into which concrete masonry products are incorporated;

(8) effects on prices of concrete masonry products as a result of the Board's activities;

(9) the cost to the federal government of an increase in concrete masonry product prices, if any, as a result of the program established by this Act;

(10) the extent to which key statutory requirements are met;

(11) the extent and strength of federal oversight of the program established by this Act;

(12) the appropriateness of administering the program from within the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and the appropriateness of administering the program from within any division of the Department of Commerce, including whether the Department has the expertise, knowledge, or other capabilities necessary to adequately administer the program; and

(13) any other topic that the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

SEC. 18. STUDY AND REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare a study and submit to Congress a report examining the appropriateness and effectiveness of applying the commodity check-off program model (such as those programs established under subchapter II of chapter 101 of title 7, United States Code) to a non-agricultural industry, taking into account the program established by this Act and any other check-off program involving a non-agricultural industry.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous materials in the **RECORD** on the bill.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

□ 1500

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act, introduced by Mr. GUTHRIE from Kentucky.

H.R. 985 enjoys strong support from industry and has nearly 250 cosponsors. Concrete product manufacturers are local businesses, and this promotion program will be run by the industry and will support jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 985.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in support of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Product Research, Education, and Promotion Act, which establishes a checkoff program to promote concrete masonry products.

The bill on the floor today is itself the product of good, bipartisan work in the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee and the full Energy and Commerce Committee.

During markup, we adopted changes to make sure the checkoff program runs efficiently, transparently, and accountably. We took into account feedback from the Government Accountability Office based on our experience with previous checkoff programs.

We made the program fair for small manufacturers by giving each manufacturer a single vote on the board instead of giving most of the influence to the

largest manufacturers. We added a study to explore the feasibility of checkoff programs for other building materials. We have now also ensured that this bill will be budget neutral.

Thanks to the bipartisan work of the committee to strengthen this legislation, we were able to advance the bill by voice vote in subcommittee and full committee, and I look forward to passing it on the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), the author of the bill.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015, which I was a proud coauthor with Congresswoman KATHY CASTOR.

Because of the nature of concrete products and the difficulty of transporting them, concrete masonry businesses tend to be small, local, and deeply entwined in their communities; and virtually every congressional district is home to at least one. Often, these small businesses do not have the resources needed for research and development of safer and more durable products to use in building construction.

H.R. 985 was developed with extensive constituent involvement and is before us today because of the widespread support of the industry in all corners of the country. We wouldn't be here today if it was not for their support and the bipartisan support of 247 cosponsors.

Two dozen similar industries have benefited from similar programs, which allow commodity industries to pool resources for research, education, and promotion of their nonbranded products. You may be familiar with the "Got Milk?" and "Pork, the Other White Meat" campaigns, the result of commodity checkoff programs. These programs, which are enormously helpful to individual industries, require congressional approval.

H.R. 985, however, is different from previous checkoff programs. The bill mandates transparency and accountability through many layers of auditing and reporting, as well as giving every producer—no matter their size—an equal vote in the referendum. We have incorporated a number of changes to further improve the bill, including an update from CBO that ensures the bill will result in absolutely no cost to taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 985, which will have a positive impact in every congressional district.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the author for explaining so clearly what I was not able to explain; that what this bill does is it makes the program fairer for small manufactur-

ers. Each one of them has a single vote on the board instead of giving most of the influence to the largest manufacturers. So that was an important change.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act, which is authored by my good friend and colleague, Representative BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is the product of years of hard work by Members from both sides of the aisle. I am so glad to see it come before the House today.

This legislation presents a unique opportunity for the concrete masonry industry to join together for critical research and education. Not just that, it also empowers the industry to fairly and effectively promote the sale of their products. It will lead to better consumer awareness, higher quality and safer building materials, and more jobs.

The best part is that this legislation comes at no cost to the taxpayer. These zero-cost opportunities that empower the private sector to come together to do what they do best are just the solutions we need to spur job growth and economic development.

I thank Mr. GUTHRIE for his tireless work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank the bill sponsors, Representative GUTHRIE and Representative CASTOR, for working with us to improve this legislation.

I am proud to serve as the ranking Democrat on the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee, which Mr. BURGESS is the chair of. I also want to thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE on the full committee and Chairman BURGESS who serves with me, as I said, on the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee.

This bill is the product of productive negotiations and it reflects the hard work of Members and staff to advance legislation through bipartisan cooperation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 985.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015, because this bill makes great strides in promoting and supporting

the concrete industry to allow for fair market competition.

By passing this legislation, we will reduce research and education costs while ensuring our infrastructure projects benefit from cost-effective market approaches and additional job growth.

Our country's most productive times were reflected in a robust infrastructure development effort that revolutionized the way we build things.

This bill ensures a forward-leaning approach to concrete masonry while doing so without any Federal funding. It creates an environment that encourages members of the industry to work together through a generic education program, training and safety programs, and promotion of the market. This is all done by establishing an assessment rate on each concrete masonry unit sold.

I commend my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for their efforts to better the safety and research done in such a vital industry. With this bill, we can move our Nation forward while strengthening our workforce and promoting job growth.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 985, and I commend Congressman GUTHRIE on his hard work and diligence.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 985, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. AMASH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

OUTDOOR RECREATION JOBS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4665) to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4665

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) **ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a joint memorandum with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and the effects attributable to such economy on the overall economy of the United States.

(b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In conducting the assessment required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce may consider employment, sales, and contributions to travel and tourism, and such other contributing components of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the assessment required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce shall consult with—

(1) the heads of such agencies and offices of the Federal Government as the Secretary considers appropriate, including the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Federal Recreation Council, the Director of the Bureau of the Census, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

(2) representatives of businesses, including small business concerns, that engage in commerce in the outdoor recreation economy of the United States.

(d) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(2) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(e) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “small business concern” has the meaning given such term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(f) **NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4665, the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016. The outdoor recreation industry encompasses activities and sports such as bicycling, camping, hunting, fishing, off-roading, and wildlife viewing, and is enjoyed by consumers of all ages, all ethnicities, all income levels.

This industry has become a significant engine for economic growth and job creation in the United States. Despite the growing contributions made by the outdoor recreation industry to the United States economy, the industry's full economic impact has not been measured and not accounted for like other economic sectors.

H.R. 4665 would ensure that the outdoor recreation economy is measured and is accounted for by the Federal Government as part of the country's gross domestic product, as it has done for many other economic sectors.

The work that is directed to be done by the Department of Commerce, in consultation with other Federal agencies, would not require new employees and would use existing funds within that agency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 4665.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4665, the Outdoor REC Act, recognizes the important contributions of outdoor recreation to our economy. Outdoor recreation provides an estimated 6 million direct jobs, including an estimated 200,000 jobs in my home State of Illinois. It promotes travel and tourism. Ultimately, getting Americans outside to enjoy our Nation's natural wonders promotes an appreciation for our environment.

This bill would build on efforts at the Department of Commerce to understand the economic impact of outdoor recreation by directing a report to Congress, helping inform policy and industry.

I want to thank Representatives Beyer, Reichert, Welch, and McMorris Rodgers for their work to advance this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4665, the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016.

The REC Act would allow for the first ever economic analysis of the outdoor recreation industry. Over 140 mil-

lion Americans participate in outdoor activities each year, such as biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and boating, to name just a few.

Studies have shown that outdoor recreation is a driving force in our economy and that the industry is continuing to grow. I have seen this firsthand in my district, which is home to 100 miles of coastline and beaches, a large tourism sector, and endless opportunities to go outside and enjoy our beautiful landscape.

Yet, despite the estimated billions in annual consumer spending on outdoor recreation and millions of jobs created, there is a lack of data on the full economic impact of the industry. For instance, there is a large manufacturing component that goes hand in hand with the outdoor recreation industry. Much of the gear and apparel used in outdoor activities is made and sold right here in the United States to the tune of millions of dollars.

The REC Act would ensure that this data and the entire outdoor recreation industry is fully studied so that we can make informed policy and business decisions.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4665.

□ 1515

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4665 is indeed a bipartisan bill, which my colleagues Congressman DAVE REICHERT, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, Congressman PETER WELCH, and I introduced.

The bill would direct the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to measure, analyze, and report on the full economic impact attributable to the outdoor recreation economy. In the United States, this economy is a major driver of job creation and growth. Hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, kayaking, climbing, BASE jumping, you name the outdoor sport, it is generating revenue for our country.

In northern Virginia, we are blessed with great outdoor opportunities like the W&OD Trail and the Mount Vernon Trail, and we are very excited by the recent development of the Capital Trails Coalition, which is looking at how to foster increased interconnectedness of all the trails in the national capital region.

Mr. Speaker, as an avid hiker, this is very personal to me. I am now at 1,435 miles out of the 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and over those 1,435 miles, I often experience the outdoor economy firsthand with the number of backpacks, sleeping bags, stoves, water filters, diners, small motels, the many, many ways we find to spend money while on the trail.

Beyond the recharge of just being outside, I love getting to know the small towns and the forest communities along my hikes from Georgia to Maine. I know that my time spent there puts a lot more tax dollars back into these communities and into the local businesses, boosting the economy.

According to an estimate by the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation economy generates more than \$646 billion in consumer spending and, we have already heard, more than 6 million jobs. Unlike other major sections of the U.S. economy, however, the Federal Government, until this year, did not track the contributions of the outdoor recreation sector to economic growth, and that left policymakers and business leaders in the dark. This data is going to help quantify the economic importance of outdoor recreation and help inform the decisions that affect the businesses and the 142 million Americans who play and work outside each year.

We deeply believe that no child should be left inside, and H.R. 4665 will ensure that our policymakers, our decisionmakers have the data to understand how we can best make this part of our economy flourish. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for his over 1,000 miles traveled on the trail, so he is clearly an expert on this topic.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4665, the "Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions (REC) Act of 2016."

H.R. 4665 will direct the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce to collect, analyze and report information relating to the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and its economic impact on the nation's overall economy.

Outdoor recreation generates \$646 billion each year in consumer spending and creates 6.1 million American jobs.

Outdoor recreation has a significant impact on the economy, generating three times as many jobs as the oil and gas industries.

The state of Texas offers many amazing outdoor recreation services at treasured attractions such as Big Bend National Park and Garner State Park.

Studies show that at least 51 percent of Texans participate in outdoor recreation each year.

This activity generates approximately \$28.7 billion in consumer spending.

In addition, the outdoor recreation industry in Texas, generates \$1.9 billion in state and local tax revenue each year, and provides 277,000 direct jobs resulting in approximately \$8.9 billion in wages and salaries.

The passage of this bill will generate objective, federal data and statistics that policymakers, at either the local, state or federal level, can use to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the outdoor recreation industry.

Protecting and securing public lands and space for outdoor recreation is crucial for the future success of the American economy and the environment.

Outdoor recreational activities contribute significantly to the physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness of individuals.

Federal lands contribute significantly to the preservation of nature-based outdoor recreational opportunities.

Federal recreation resources generate vast amounts of economic enterprise from tourist activity, recreation visitors, and the increased property value and business attraction gained from natural amenities.

The preservation and growth of the Outdoor Recreation Industry depends on the informed decision of lawmakers, and the Outdoor REC Act of 2016 will be pivotal in providing this vital information.

For these reasons I support H.R. 4665 the "Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contribution Act of 2016."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4665, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING RURAL CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2566) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2566

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.

Part II of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 262. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.

"(a) REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS.—An intermediate provider that offers or holds itself out as offering the capability to transmit covered voice communications from one destination to another and that charges any rate to any other entity (in-

cluding an affiliated entity) for the transmission shall—

"(1) register with the Commission; and

"(2) comply with the service quality standards for such transmission to be established by the Commission under subsection (c)(1)(B).

"(b) REQUIRED USE OF REGISTERED INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS.—A covered provider may not use an intermediate provider to transmit covered voice communications unless such intermediate provider is registered under subsection (a)(1).

"(c) COMMISSION RULES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—

"(A) REGISTRY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall promulgate rules to establish a registry to record registrations under subsection (a)(1).

"(B) SERVICE QUALITY STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall promulgate rules to establish service quality standards for the transmission of covered voice communications by intermediate providers.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In promulgating the rules required by paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

"(A) ensure the integrity of the transmission of covered voice communications to all customers in the United States; and

"(B) prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of covered voice communications.

"(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REGISTRY.—The Commission shall make the registry established under subsection (c)(1)(A) publicly available on the website of the Commission.

"(e) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of this section shall apply regardless of the format by which any communication or service is provided, the protocol or format by which the transmission of such communication or service is achieved, or the regulatory classification of such communication or service.

"(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the regulatory classification of any communication or service.

"(g) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to preempt or expand the authority of a State public utility commission or other relevant State agency to collect data, or investigate and enforce State law and regulations, regarding the completion of intrastate voice communications, regardless of the format by which any communication or service is provided, the protocol or format by which the transmission of such communication or service is achieved, or the regulatory classification of such communication or service.

"(h) EXCEPTION.—The requirement under subsection (a)(2) to comply with the service quality standards established under subsection (c)(1)(B) shall not apply to a covered provider that—

"(1) on or before the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, has certified as a Safe Harbor provider under section 64.2107(a) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation; and

"(2) continues to meet the requirements under such section 64.2107(a).

"(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COVERED PROVIDER.—The term 'covered provider' has the meaning given the term in section 64.2101 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

"(2) COVERED VOICE COMMUNICATION.—The term 'covered voice communication' means a voice communication (including any related signaling information) that is generated—

"(A) from the placement of a call from a connection using a North American Numbering Plan resource or a call placed to a connection using such a numbering resource; and

“(B) through any service provided by a covered provider.

“(3) *INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER.*—The term ‘intermediate provider’ means any entity that—

“(A) enters into a business arrangement with a covered provider or other intermediate provider for the specific purpose of carrying, routing, or transmitting voice traffic that is generated from the placement of a call placed—

“(i) from an end user connection using a North American Numbering Plan resource; or

“(ii) to an end user connection using such a numbering resource; and

“(B) does not itself, either directly or in conjunction with an affiliate, serve as a covered provider in the context of originating or terminating a given call.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today in support of H.R. 2566, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016. This bill addresses a serious problem that impacts so many of our rural constituents: telephone calls that are not completed or, if they are, they are of poor quality.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce has spent a great deal of time over the past 5 years looking to the future of technology, all the great and innovative things it will bring, all the ways in which it will change lives. While these new and exciting offerings are an important piece of the future, we can't ignore the very real technological problems that exist today. As we talk about 5G service and the Internet of Everything, let's not forget that for some folks the big technological advancement they are hoping for is to be actually able to receive all of their voice calls.

The problem for rural customers comes when someone tries to call them but something goes wrong. Somewhere in the handoff and the delivery of traffic, calls to rural customers are being dropped or degraded. The caller continues to hear ringing on their end, but the call never makes it to the intended recipient. As our witnesses told us during the committee's consideration of the bill, this isn't just an inconvenience for them—it results in lost business or much worse.

The simplest explanation for what happens is that the long-distance and voice traffic starts with one provider,

who then hands off the call to a third-party router, who will ultimately deliver it to the end provider serving the person who is being called. This process is typically seamless, typically high quality, and is typically transparent to the American consumer. However, in rural and hard-to-serve areas, it can be expensive to move traffic to remote customers, so the provider who originates the call will look for the least expensive option for delivering the call. In some cases, these least-cost routers simply cut corners to offer the lowest prices, which means that the call can be low quality or not connected at all.

This is a national problem affecting all of our constituents. So many of my colleagues shared letters that they received or stories that their constituents shared about how call failure or poor call quality has impacted their businesses or their lives.

One of our witnesses operated a telephone company that serves rural customers in Ohio, and he has told us that he has lost customers over call completion issues. When his customers don't receive their calls, they get angry with him, even though he typically doesn't have any control over the path that the call must take to get to the network. In fact, he has made major network upgrades to improve his service to his customers, but when his customers miss a call, who do they contact? Not the least-cost router who abandoned the call traffic somewhere along the line. They call the provider or they find a new provider. In his case, he has lost a major business client because of call completion issues despite the fact he had not done anything wrong.

The committee also heard from a witness who discussed another very real consequence of a call not going through. When a family tries to reach relatives in a rural area, particularly elderly relatives, they are unable to do so because the calls aren't completed. Understandably, this causes serious concern to the callers, who often turn to the local police department for help. As a result, the police must take time out of their day to check on the intended call recipient, who is typically fine other than the fact that their phone service is failing them.

Today we consider the legislation authored by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG). We have an opportunity to make a significant step forward in the fight to ensure that rural customers get the same high-quality voice service that others simply take for granted. By requiring the network providers in the middle to adhere to service standards, we also greatly improve the likelihood that calls are delivered to where they are supposed to go. By requiring these intermediate providers to register with the Federal Communications Commission, we deter fraudulent and bad actors that abuse the system and drop or degrade calls.

I was very pleased to hear of the strong bipartisan support for this measure, and I am optimistic we can make a big difference in the way rural consumers receive their telephone calls.

I do want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG) for his work on behalf of his constituents and the rural consumers across the country.

Reliable access to communications networks is a cornerstone of our telecommunications policy, and this bill takes steps to ensure that every person gets their telephone calls completed. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also rise to support H.R. 2566, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016, a bipartisan piece of legislation introduced by Representative DAVID YOUNG and cosponsored by a host of people, including members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Representatives WELCH and LOEBSACK. This bill has a basic goal: ensuring that all Americans' phone calls go through.

Several years ago, the Federal Communications Commission found that telephone customers were having significant problems with call completion in rural areas. Consumers were reporting false busy signals, calls not arriving, or long pauses after dialing the number. This matters not just for rural Americans, but also for people like my constituents in the Chicago area who want to reach loved ones across the country. We need reliable telephone service to keep us all connected.

Call completions are often related to intermediate providers, the middleman hired to route calls. H.R. 2566 requires intermediate providers to register with the FCC and comply with service quality standards. This is a very important step to make sure that we can stay connected to one another. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG), the principal author of the bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in support of the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act I introduced in a bipartisan manner with my colleague from Vermont, Representative PETER WELCH.

Each month as I meet with Iowans in each of the 16 counties making up the great Third District of Iowa, I hear how rural America is struggling. The recent economic downturn has led to people leaving rural areas to seek opportunities elsewhere.

In my home State of Iowa, rural communities are working to reverse these trends by attracting new businesses and amenities and opportunities for their residents. Now, communication is key to any business' success in reaching customers; yet in our rural communities across America, calls are not getting through or the connection and the quality are poor.

Telephone companies often rely on intermediate providers to route calls from large networks to local service providers, sometimes to mixed results. But dropped, looped, poor-quality calls do not just hurt small businesses and consumers; they also hurt our families in need of emergency assistance and public services.

Mr. Speaker, a family facing an emergency must be able to trust they will be able to reach assistance no matter where they live. Improving rural call completion rates and quality is essential to ensuring families in rural America have access to the services and amenities offered in large urban areas. These services are important to ensuring the survival of small towns and granting Americans the choice to live and thrive in whatever community is best for them and their family—rural or urban.

H.R. 2566, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act, would help fix this significant problem facing rural America from dropped, poor-quality calls. The bill requires providers to register with the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission, in order to meet quality standards that ensure reliable phone service in rural areas. It also prohibits providers from using intermediary routing services not registered with the Federal Communications Commission.

By addressing these problems, Congress can help provide Iowans and others and all Americans in rural communities with reliable phone service to conduct business, respond to emergencies, and live their lives.

I thank Chairman UPTON, Ranking Member PALLONE, and the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member ESHOO for their attention to this important matter. Again, I want to thank my colleague from Vermont, Representative PETER WELCH, for his bipartisan leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bill to help our citizens living in rural America.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2566, the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016, because it addresses an issue I hear about frequently: call quality in rural areas.

□ 1530

As the Representative for the First District of Georgia, I know the challenges that people living in rural areas face when it comes to the quality of their phone calls.

With telecommunications infrastructure being focused in larger and more urban areas, people living in rural parts of the country are often forced to deal with spotty and inconsistent service. This bill makes great strides in shoring up the communications infrastructure in rural areas and encourages great stability with phone services to people living in those areas.

This bill will help those who are underserved and will have a positive ripple effect on everything from public services and public safety. Call completion in rural areas has been an issue for years, and with this legislation, the FCC is giving a clear message that we can and will do more for a large population of the United States.

I applaud Chairman UPTON, Chairman WALDEN, and the rest of the Energy and Commerce Committee for their continued dedication in shoring up America's telecommunications needs in a positive and growth-oriented manner.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2566, and I commend my good friend, Congressman YOUNG, for his work on this legislation.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the authors of this bill for bringing it forward. It is an important concept and one that deserves our attention. I urge all Members to vote "aye" on the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2566, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2669) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2669

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. SPOOFING PREVENTION.

(a) *EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING PROHIBITION ON MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—*

(1) *COMMUNICATIONS FROM OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1)) is amended by striking "in connection with any telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service" and inserting "or any person outside the United States if the recipient is within the United States, in connection with any voice service or text messaging service".*

(2) *COVERAGE OF TEXT MESSAGES AND VOICE SERVICES.—Section 227(e)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(8)) is amended—*

(A) *in subparagraph (A), by striking "telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service" and inserting "voice service or a text message sent using a text messaging service";*

(B) *in the first sentence of subparagraph (B), by striking "telecommunications service or IP-enabled voice service" and inserting "voice service or a text message sent using a text messaging service"; and*

(C) *by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:*

"(C) TEXT MESSAGE.—The term 'text message'—

"(i) means a message consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information that is transmitted to or from a device that is identified as the receiving or transmitting device by means of a 10-digit telephone number or N11 service code;

"(ii) includes a short message service (commonly referred to as 'SMS') message and a multimedia message service (commonly referred to as 'MMS') message; and

"(iii) does not include—

"(I) a real-time, 2-way voice or video communication; or

"(II) a message sent over an IP-enabled messaging service to another user of the same messaging service, except a message described in clause (ii).

"(D) TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE.—The term 'text messaging service' means a service that enables the transmission or receipt of a text message, including a service provided as part of or in connection with a voice service.

"(E) VOICE SERVICE.—The term 'voice service'—

"(i) means any service that is interconnected with the public switched telephone network and that furnishes voice communications to an end user using resources from the North American Numbering Plan or any successor to the North American Numbering Plan adopted by the Commission under section 251(e)(1); and

"(ii) includes transmissions from a telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to a telephone facsimile machine.".

(3) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 227(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)) is amended in the heading by inserting "MISLEADING OR" before "INACCURATE".*

(4) REGULATIONS.—

(A) *IN GENERAL.—Section 227(e)(3)(A) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(3)(A)) is amended by striking "Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009, the Commission" and inserting "The Commission".*

(B) *DEADLINE.—The Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this subsection not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.*

(5) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date that is 6 months after the date on which the*

Commission prescribes regulations under paragraph (4).

(b) CONSUMER EDUCATION MATERIALS ON HOW TO AVOID SCAMS THAT RELY UPON MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission, in coordination with the Federal Trade Commission, shall develop consumer education materials that provide information about—

(A) ways for consumers to identify scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and

(B) existing technologies, if any, that a consumer can use to protect against such scams and other fraudulent activity.

(2) CONTENTS.—In developing the consumer education materials under paragraph (1), the Commission shall—

(A) identify existing technologies, if any, that can help consumers guard themselves against scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, including—

(i) descriptions of how a consumer can use the technologies to protect against such scams and other fraudulent activity; and

(ii) details on how consumers can access and use the technologies; and

(B) provide other information that may help consumers identify and avoid scams and other fraudulent activity that rely upon the use of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(3) UPDATES.—The Commission shall ensure that the consumer education materials required under paragraph (1) are updated on a regular basis.

(4) WEBSITE.—The Commission shall include the consumer education materials developed under paragraph (1) on its website.

(c) GAO REPORT ON COMBATING THE FRAUDULENT PROVISION OF MISLEADING OR INACCURATE CALLER IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the actions the Commission and the Federal Trade Commission have taken to combat the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and the additional measures that could be taken to combat such activity.

(2) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the study under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall examine—

(A) trends in the types of scams that rely on misleading or inaccurate caller identification information;

(B) previous and current enforcement actions by the Commission and the Federal Trade Commission to combat the practices prohibited by section 227(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(e)(1));

(C) current efforts by industry groups and other entities to develop technical standards to deter or prevent the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and how such standards may help combat the current and future provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information; and

(D) whether there are additional actions the Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and Congress should take to combat the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,

Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the findings of the study under paragraph (1), including any recommendations regarding combating the fraudulent provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section, or the amendments made by this section, shall be construed to modify, limit, or otherwise affect any rule or order adopted by the Commission in connection with—

(1) the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-243; 105 Stat. 2394) or the amendments made by that Act; or

(2) the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.).

(e) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016.

This bill prohibits the malicious use of misleading or inaccurate caller ID information for text messages, addressing the problem of consumers being tricked into providing sensitive information because they are led to believe that a text is being sent from someone it actually isn't. This is more than a nuisance. Consumers can be targeted with scams, and they can be targeted with malicious activity.

The bill seeks to extend the protections of the Truth in Caller ID Act to include text messages. This is the second time that this committee has looked at this legislation that will provide additional protection for consumers, and I am hopeful that this time we will see it successfully land on the President's desk.

As widespread use of text messaging becomes more prevalent, it is important that we ensure consumers do not fall victim to spoofing attacks where bad actors falsify phone numbers, often to trick the recipient into providing personal information.

Over the last two Congresses, we have spent a lot of time considering antispoofing legislation. This is, in part, because of the importance of this bill to consumers and the way it impacts them, but also because of the complexity of the issue that we are trying to address.

As technology is evolving, it becomes more and more challenging to precisely craft legislation that accurately reflects the way that the technology works. To that end, the committee has worked diligently to come up with language that strengthens this bill and protects consumers without any unintended consequences for messaging services.

One witness at the legislative hearing on this bill earlier this year perhaps explained this effort best by saying:

The bill addresses a clear, demonstrated problem with carefully drafted provisions that find the often elusive sweet spot between permitting innovation, avoiding undue burden on providers, respecting privacy concerns, and providing for vigorous consumer protection.

I want to thank the bill's sponsors, Representative JOE BARTON, Representative LEONARD LANCE, and Representative GRACE MENG for being the champion of consumers and staying the course through multiple Congresses to get this done.

I thank the minority for working so closely with us on this bill, and I am confident that we now have a bill that will ensure this legislation captures the state of technology while still protecting consumers from the harmful effects of text message spoofing.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act, introduced by Representative MENG, along with Representative BARTON of Texas and Representative LANCE of New Jersey.

Consumers should have confidence that the caller ID information they see is accurate. However, fraudsters have long targeted consumers, falsifying caller ID numbers to trick consumers into divulging sensitive information.

Americans, from young people to senior citizens, are tricked into thinking they are being connected to a trusted institution because of what the caller ID shows. This practice, known as spoofing, contributes to the millions of identity theft cases in our country each year.

It is already illegal to use misleading caller ID information for regular voice calls. What this legislation does is expand the ban on deceptive caller ID information to text messages and communication originating overseas.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for consumers and strengthen spoofing protection. It is time to pass the Anti-Spoofing Act.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New

Jersey (Mr. LANCE), the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, my thanks to Chairman BURGESS and Ranking Member SCHAKOWSKY for shepherding this bill through the subcommittee. This is an important bill to the consumers of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act, which I am proud to offer with my colleagues GRACE MENG, a Democratic Member from the great Borough of Queens in New York State, and JOE BARTON, Republican of Texas, the chairman emeritus of the full House Energy and Commerce Committee. This bill cracks down on the national problem of caller ID spoofing.

Caller ID spoofing occurs when a scammer calls and attempts to disguise his or her identity by manipulating the recipient caller's caller ID display. The scammer may be posing as an IRS agent, a police officer, or a representative from another governmental agency. After tricking people into picking up the line, the criminal then attempts to entice the other person into sharing personal information. To date, hundreds of thousands—might I suggest millions—have been defrauded, including veterans, immigrants, and senior citizens.

In Somerset County, New Jersey, a county in which I represent the majority of the residents, scammers cloned the phone number of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and impersonated the sheriff's staff in an effort to steal residents' personal information. I pay tribute to Sheriff Provenzano of Somerset County, New Jersey. He has been one of the leading advocates across the Nation regarding this legislation.

The problem has gotten out of control. Millions of Americans continue to get ripped off by con artists and scammers who perpetrate this despicable crime. This disgraceful practice must end, and this consumer protection legislation goes a long way toward accomplishing that critical goal.

The audacity of these criminals is eclipsed only by their ability to adapt to changing technologies. Unfortunately, since Congress passed the Truth in Caller ID Act in 2009—of course, all of us supported that—new technologies have enabled these criminals to scam consumers with increased ease and efficiency. This legislation is one step forward to ensure that governmental policies keep up with new technologies and keep up with these criminals.

In the last 2 years since this legislation passed the House of Representatives unanimously, it appears that the problem has gone from one of a simple nuisance to a borderline epidemic. It is time to stop this disgraceful practice, and this legislation is aimed to do that. I believe it is a critical goal.

The committee on which we all serve, the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. Speaker, is the most productive in the House of Representatives. More legislation reaches the floor of this House from the Energy and Commerce Committee than any other committee in the House of Representatives, and more legislation reaches the President's desk from our committee than any other committee in either House of the Federal Congress.

We on the committee, and certainly on the subcommittee chaired by Dr. BURGESS, work in a bipartisan capacity. And I am so proud of this subcommittee and of the full committee. The American people want us to work together on the critical issues that confront the Nation, including the issue we are discussing now: ID spoofing. That is why I predict that this legislation will pass unanimously here and why I predict that this legislation will reach the President's desk 2.2 miles west down Pennsylvania Avenue.

I want to thank those in the administration who support this legislation. I want to thank all of the members of the subcommittee and all of the members of the full Energy and Commerce Committee. I am confident that this legislation is in the best interest of the consuming public of the United States.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from the great State of New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for his leadership on this important consumer protection legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016, because it addresses the issue of call spoofing and the impact that these deceitful callers are having on Americans.

Every day, millions of Americans are hit with calls using a fraudulent caller ID profile and with impersonators on the other end of the line. These con artists disguise their real numbers in an effort to convince unsuspecting victims that they are a representative from a government agency, financial company, healthcare system, or other organizations that may request information or contact someone.

For example, a common call is someone saying they are calling from the IRS and are seeking personally identifiable information or money as a result of it. This has got to stop.

Representatives MENG, BARTON, and LANCE have introduced this legislation to improve the Truth in Caller ID Act and to prevent those criminals from further victimizing hardworking Americans. We have a real opportunity to

combat this growing tactic and protect those in our communities who are the most vulnerable.

I applaud the Energy and Commerce Committee for their continued efforts to protect Americans from criminal behavior and in updating such important policy measures. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2669 because we have an opportunity to fix a growing problem in our country.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we are considering this today, and I hope the Senate will quickly do that for this important consumer protection legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard the testimony from a number of Members testifying on this bill. It is important work. It is important that it get done. It is important that it get completed and down to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, we have done a number of bills this afternoon, and I do want to just thank the Energy and Commerce Committee both on the minority and majority side and all of the subcommittee staff that were involved in preparing these bills and getting them ready for this afternoon's consideration. It has indeed been an impressive body of work that has come through the Energy and Commerce Committee today.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill we have before us. I urge Members to vote "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2669, the "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2015".

I am honored to have authored this bill with Congressman BARTON and Congressman LANCE, and thank Amy Murphy and Ryan Farrell of their respective staffs for working so closely with mine—particularly my former Legislative Director, Michael Fleischman, who first brought this problem to my attention.

This legislation seeks to combat "spoofing", which is when phone call recipients are tricked into answering the phone due to inaccurate caller ID information. Criminals have used this technique to scam thousands of Americans, and steal millions of dollars. Recent spoofing attempts have included scam artists pretending to be sheriff's offices, hospitals, and even the IRS. The bill before us this evening expands spoofing protections to calls that originate outside of the country, as well as text messages.

It is often stated that a measure of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable. Almost every day, I receive new reports of spoofing that harm the most vulnerable in my district, including immigrants, seniors, veterans, and those in need of help from law enforcement. That is why this legislation is endorsed by

senior citizen, law enforcement, and consumer protection groups.

The "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2015" is a bipartisan bill. It passed the Energy and Commerce Committee by voice vote less than two months ago, and in the 113th Congress H.R. 3670, the "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2014" passed the House by voice vote under suspension of the rules. It is my hope that this bill will continue to be non-controversial, and that we will do everything in our power to combat telephone scams against our constituents.

In closing, I wish to thank Representatives BURGESS and SCHAKOWSKY for their support this afternoon, as well as Energy and Commerce Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALLONE. Without their support, as well as the support of Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman WALDEN and Ranking Member ESHOO, we would not be here today. I urge the Senate to quickly take up this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues in this Chamber to support it once more.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2669, the "Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016," which amends the Communications Act of 1934, to make it unlawful to cause a caller identification service to knowingly transmit inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to: defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value.

Spoofing is a practice in which a phone number shown on a phone or caller identification device deliberately is falsified.

Spoofing is a commonly used tool for a number of illegal practices, including "phishing" for personal information and "swatting"—calling in a fictitious crime in progress in order to generate a police response.

The Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009 prohibits spoofing of voice caller identification information; however, as communications methods and consumer habits continue to evolve, so do the attempts by third parties to gain personal information for criminal use.

The Subcommittee on Communications and Technology considered H.R. 2669 during a markup on September 13, 2016, passing the legislation by voice vote and the Subcommittee agreed to continue working on technical changes before it was brought before the full Committee.

The Committee expects to consider an AINS aimed at making those technical changes to the definition of a text message.

Many Americans now rely on text messaging to stay connected.

According to CTIA, in 2015, Americans sent over 156 billion text messages per month.

H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act, will extend the provisions of the Truth in Caller ID Act to include text messaging and text messaging services.

The legislation adds a definition of "spoofing service" to the statute, addressing the growth of services that allows a user to knowingly transmit misleading or inaccurate caller identification information.

In addition, it extends the prohibitions to any person or service placing an international call to a recipient within the United States.

Additionally, H.R. 2669 will revise the definitions of "caller identification information" and "caller identification service" to include text messages sent using a text messaging service.

It defines "text message" as real-time messages consisting of text, images, sounds, or other information transmitted from or received by a device identified by a telephone number.

It also includes in the definition both, real-time and two-way voice or video communications, addressing the emerging law enforcement issue of "swatting" by which people can purposefully misdirect valuable, police efforts and resources.

This bill takes the right approach targeting behavior, while protecting innovations that are important to the digital economy.

As the ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, I understand the vital need to safeguard against caller identification spoofing.

For example, Women's Abuse Shelters and law enforcement officers working undercover have a need to protect their clients' identities.

This bill seeks to target those who have the intent to cause harm or commit a crime.

I support this legislation because it protects the consumer from criminal behavior, while protecting our fundamental right to privacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2669, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 985, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2669, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

CONCRETE MASONRY PRODUCTS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND PROMOTION ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 985) to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 355, nays 38, not voting 38, as follows:

[Roll No. 575]

YEAS—355

Abraham	Conaway	Graves (GA)
Adams	Connolly	Graves (LA)
Aderholt	Conyers	Graves (MO)
Aguilar	Cook	Grayson
Allen	Cooper	Green, Al
Amodei	Costa	Green, Gene
Ashford	Costello (PA)	Griffith
Barletta	Courtney	Guinta
Barr	Cramer	Guthrie
Barton	Crawford	Hahn
Bass	Crenshaw	Hanna
Beatty	Crowley	Hardy
Becerra	Cuellar	Harper
Benishek	Cummings	Hartzler
Bera	Curbelo (FL)	Hastings
Beyer	Davis (CA)	Heck (NV)
Billirakis	Davis, Danny	Heck (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Davis, Rodney	Hensarling
Bishop (MI)	DeFazio	Hice, Jody B.
Bishop (UT)	DeGette	Higgins
Black	Delaney	Himes
Blackburn	DeLauro	Holding
Blum	DeBene	Honda
Bost	Dent	Hoyer
Boustany	DeSaulnier	Hudson
Boyle, Brendan	DesJarlais	Huelskamp
F.	Deutch	Huffman
Brady (PA)	Diaz-Balart	Huizenga (MI)
Brady (TX)	Dingell	Hunter
Brooks (IN)	Doggett	Hurd (TX)
Brown (FL)	Dold	Hurt (VA)
Brownley (CA)	Donovan	Israel
Buchanan	Doyle, Michael	Issa
Bucshon	F.	Jackson Lee
Burgess	Duckworth	Jeffries
Bustos	Duffy	Jenkins (KS)
Butterfield	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (WV)
Byrne	Duncan (TN)	Johnson (GA)
Capps	Edwards	Johnson (OH)
Capuano	Ellison	Johnson, E. B.
Cárdenas	Ellmers (NC)	Johnson, Sam
Carney	Engel	Joyce
Carson (IN)	Eshoo	Kaptur
Carter (CA)	Esty	Katko
Carter (TX)	Farenthold	Keating
Cartwright	Fincher	Kelly (IL)
Castor (FL)	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Castro (TX)	Flores	Kelly (PA)
Chabot	Fortenberry	Kennedy
Chu, Judy	Foster	Kildee
Ciçilline	Frankel (FL)	Kilmer
Clark (MA)	Franks (AZ)	Kind
Clarke (NY)	Frelinghuysen	King (IA)
Clay	Fudge	Kinzinger (IL)
Cleaver	Gabbard	Kirkpatrick
Clyburn	Galleo	Kline
Coffman	Garamendi	LaHood
Cohen	Gibbs	LaMalfa
Cole	Gibson	Lamborn
Collins (GA)	Goodlatte	Lance
Collins (NY)	Gowdy	Langevin
Comstock	Graham	Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
LoBiondo
Loeback
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham
(NM)
Luján, Ben Ray
(NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes

Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmuter
Perry
Peters
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus

NAYS—38

Amash
Babin
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Calvert
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Culberson
Davidson
Emmer (MN)
Fleming

NOT VOTING—38

Blumenauer
Bonamici
Denham
DeSantis
Farr
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Granger
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Herrera Beutler
Hinojosa
Hultgren

□ 1851

Messrs. GARRETT, WEBER of Texas, and BABIN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Welch
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

Mulvaney
Palmer
Paulsen
Polis
Pompeo
Ratcliffe
Royce
Sanford
Sensenbrenner
Stutzman
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup

Poe (TX)
Reed
Rohrabacher
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta
Schrader
Tipton
Trott
Tsongas
Waters, Maxine
Westmoreland
Wilson (FL)

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Mr. Scott T. Nago, Chief Election Officer, State of Hawaii, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held November 8, 2016, the Honorable Colleen Wakako Hanabusa was elected Representative to Congress for the First Congressional District, State of Hawaii.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

STATE OF HAWAII,
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS,
Pearl City, HI, November 9, 2016.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, for Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District of Hawaii, show that Colleen Wakako Hanabusa received 129,041 or 60.5% of the total number of votes cast for that office. Please see enclosed results.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Colleen Wakako Hanabusa was elected as Representative in Congress from the First Congressional District in Hawaii. To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Please feel free to contact Kristen Uyeda, Ballot Operations Section Head, if you require additional information or have any further questions.

Very truly yours,

SCOTT T. NAGO,
Chief Election Officer.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 10, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a let-

ter received from Ms. Mary Sue Helm, Executive Director, Kentucky Office of Elections, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held November 8, 2016, the Honorable James Comer was elected Representative to Congress for the First Congressional District, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
November 10, 2016.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the attachment provides a listing by county of the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 for U.S. Representative in Congress, 1st Congressional District, unexpired term.

The time has expired for a recanvassing of the votes cast for the unexpired term for U.S. Representative in Congress, 1st Congressional District and no recanvass request was filed with the Office of Secretary of State.

As soon as the official results are certified on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 by the KY State Board of Elections, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,
MARY SUE HELM,
Executive Director, Office of Elections.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 9, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a facsimile copy of a letter received from Jonathan Marks, Commissioner, Bureau of Elections, and Legislation, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, indicating that, according to the preliminary results of the Special Election held November 8, 2016, the Honorable Dwight Evans was elected Representative to Congress for the Second Congressional District, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,
CLERK.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUREAU
COMMISSIONS, ELECTIONS AND LEGISLATION,
Harrisburg, PA, November 9, 2016.

Hon. KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. HAAS: This is to advise you that the unofficial election night results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, for Representative in Congress from the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania, show that Dwight Evans received 270,246 or 90.39% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial election night results that Dwight Evans has been elected as Representative in Congress from the Second Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by all counties involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely

JONATHAN MARKS,
Commissioner.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE COLLEEN HANABUSA, OF HAWAII, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Hawaii, the Honorable COLLEEN HANABUSA, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Hawaii?

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE JAMES COMER, OF KENTUCKY, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Kentucky, the Honorable JAMES COMER, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE DWIGHT EVANS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the Honorable DWIGHT EVANS, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the Representatives-elect please present themselves in the well.

Ms. HANABUSA of Hawaii, Mr. COMER of Kentucky, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations. You are now Members of the 114th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE COLLEEN HANABUSA TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally congratulate and welcome back to Congress my colleague from Hawaii, COLLEEN HANABUSA, as she is sworn in to the 114th Congress today to fill the remaining term of our dear friend MARK TAKAI.

COLLEEN has a decades-long history of service to the people of Hawaii. As a respected labor lawyer, COLLEEN was first elected to represent the leeward coast of Oahu in the Hawaii State Senate in 1998, where she served as the chairwoman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, majority leader, and eventually became the first female Senate president. She was elected to serve Hawaii's First Congressional District in 2010, serving in both the 112th and 113th Congress.

Most recently, COLLEEN served the community in many different capacities, including as the board chairwoman for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, overseeing the multibillion dollar rail project on the island of Oahu.

I had the pleasure of serving with COLLEEN during my first term in Congress, where we worked together to ensure Hawaii's voice was heard here in Washington, and I look forward to continuing that work to address the many important issues that lie before us to serve Hawaii once again.

Congratulations, COLLEEN, and welcome back.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HANABUSA).

□ 1900

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Madam Minority Leader and, of course, my colleague from the Second Congressional District of the wonderful State of Hawaii.

Being here today among all of you, many of you welcoming me so warmly, is bittersweet. I am here because our

good colleague and friend, Mark Takai, unfortunately, passed just too early. However, before he passed, he asked that I seek the election of my old seat again so that we can continue to do the work for the people of the State of Hawaii, and it is an honor to be here and to do that.

I can't end without saying I came in 2010, when we were the noble nine. My noble nine colleagues are here. I can't tell you how important it is for me to see them again. That is what it is all about: everyone in Congress. It is the relationships that we build, and it is the friendships that are there forever and ever. That is what makes this, the people's House, the greatest institution around.

So, as we say in Hawaii, mahalo for this wonderful opportunity to serve with all of you again. Mahalo and aloha.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE JAMES COMER TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, the Kentucky delegation and I have the distinct honor and great personal pleasure of introducing you to the newest First District Congressman in the U.S. Congress from Kentucky, JAMIE COMER.

JAMIE, but for the loss in the primary last year in the Governor's race by 93 votes, would be tonight sitting as the Governor of Kentucky. But their loss is our gain. He is bright. He is committed. He will be a great asset for this body, for the country, and for his home State.

JAMIE started a family farm after college. He served 11 years in the State legislature. He then served statewide as the elected agriculture commissioner, where he quickly got a reputation as the mortal enemy of waste, fraud, and abuse, and was a great success in that role.

But his resume only tells you half the story. He has got strong family values. That is obvious because his 9-year-old son, Harlan, and his beautiful daughter are here with him on the floor this evening. In fact, Harlan's namesake, JAMIE's grandfather, was a very close friend of mine. In fact, Harlan Comer was with us in this very Chamber when President Reagan delivered his final State of the Union address, and I was proud to call Harlan, Sr., a friend.

I am proud to call JAMIE a colleague. He will be a great asset to this body.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Third District of Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have won the arm wrestling match among Kentucky Democrats to welcome JAMIE COMER to the House tonight.

JAMIE and I have worked together on a number of issues through the years, and I can say without hesitation that, no matter what the issue is, JAMIE will work to put Kentucky interests and the interests of his citizens and constituents first. So I am proud to welcome him to the House of Representatives and look forward to working with him to move the Commonwealth and the country forward.

Welcome, JAMIE COMER.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Kentucky is recognized.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the dean of the majority party, the minority party, and the great State of Kentucky.

I want to begin by recognizing my guests from Kentucky. They are on each side of the gallery here today. I thank them for their support and friendship over the years and for making the long drive to D.C. tonight.

Next, I want to recognize my lovely wife, T.J., in the gallery and my daughter, Aniston. I am also blessed to have my two oldest children, Reagan and Harlan, here today.

It is the honor of a lifetime to join membership in this great legislative body, the greatest in the history of the world. Yet, at this particular time that I speak to this historic body, our Nation is deeply divided. We need statesmen. I pledge to be a statesman who wants to get things done.

I will work with any Member of this body to try to accomplish things, especially to create an environment where every American can have access to a good-paying job. I pledge to be a strong voice for rural Kentucky, rural America, and family farmers.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. I thank the people of the great State of Kentucky. And I believe with all my heart that we can work together and make America great again.

Thank you all very much.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE DWIGHT EVANS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would invite all of the Pennsylvania delegation to come forward.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome our newest colleague. DWIGHT EVANS is a lifelong resident of Phila-

delphia, and he comes to the House after decades of service to his community and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

After graduating from La Salle University, he taught school and worked as a community activist before he was elected to the Pennsylvania State Legislature in 1980. He has represented the 203rd legislative district in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives for the last 36 years and was chairman of the Appropriations Committee in that body.

Representative EVANS has worked successfully to redevelop and revitalize neighborhoods in Philadelphia. He has worked tirelessly to fight hunger, increase public investments in education, improve public safety, and promote economic development across Pennsylvania.

I am pleased to welcome such a dedicated public servant to this legislative body. I look forward to working with him and our colleagues in the Pennsylvania delegation to serve the Commonwealth in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS), my good friend who is the dean of the Pennsylvania Republican delegation.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to congratulate and welcome my good friend, DWIGHT EVANS, to the floor of the House.

Before I served here in Congress for the last 20 years, I served in the statehouse of Pennsylvania for 24 years. In the last 8 years of my service in the Pennsylvania Legislature, I was the appropriations chairman. All 8 of those years, DWIGHT EVANS was my ranking member. I served with him and worked with him very well. We worked in a bipartisan manner to accomplish a lot of things.

And so this is a little bittersweet for me. I won't get to serve with DWIGHT here in Congress. I will miss that. I am sorry about that. I am sure he will be a good voice, an eloquent voice for the people of Philadelphia, and will be someone who will want to work in a bipartisan manner concerning the issues that face our country.

With that, I am very pleased to yield to the gentleman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my colleagues from the Pennsylvania delegation, and I want to thank the leader, Congressman DOYLE, as well as my good friend, Chairman PITTS.

As I am prepared to take this congressional seat, I want to share with you one overriding sentiment that has held true for me in the course of working with six mayors, seven Governors, and eleven State House speakers and the ever-changing cast of elected officials.

The best work that we did, we did together. In each case, the people won. I

understand our differences. I am not naive. But I know that when we put aside those differences, when we listen to each other, we make great strides.

The stakes are often high in a democracy, and it demands robust debate. And the fact of the matter is that we must work together. I understand that, before any party or State, we are Americans first.

Democracy demands that we commit to listening to one another, even on days when we want to shout over each other. Democracy demands we don't win as individuals or as a party. It demands that we win as the people.

I am humbled that the voters in the Second Congressional District have elected me to this seat. I pledge to remind myself each day that it belongs to the people. I believe that, by keeping this in mind, the people will win.

This is really an honor, and I say to all of you that this is an absolute pleasure. I have told people that, although I may be new to this process, I am not new to working together.

As you just heard from Mr. DOYLE and Mr. PITTS, in the 36 years that I was in the legislature, I worked with everyone. At the end of the day, I tried to make a difference. I want to come here and do the same thing. Believe it. I want to be on the people's side.

Thank you very much.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from Hawaii and the gentlemen from Kentucky and Pennsylvania, the whole number of the House is 435.

ANTI-SPOOFING ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2669) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 5, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 576]

YEAS—382

Abraham	Aderholt	Allen
Adams	Aguilar	Amodio

Ashford	Donovan	Lamborn	Rigell	Sessions	Van Hollen
Babin	Doyle, Michael F.	Lance	Roby	Sewell (AL)	Vargas
Barletta		Langevin	Roe (TN)	Sherman	Veasey
Barr	Duckworth	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (AL)	Shimkus	Vela
Barton	Duffy	Larson (CT)	Rogers (KY)	Shuster	Visclosky
Bass	Duncan (SC)	Latta	Rokita	Simpson	Wagner
Beatty	Duncan (TN)	Lawrence	Rooney (FL)	Sinema	Walberg
Becerra	Edwards	Lee	Ros-Lehtinen	Sires	Walden
Benishek	Ellison	Levin	Roskam	Slaughter	Walker
Bera	Ellmers (NC)	Lewis	Ross	Smith (MO)	Walorski
Beyer	Emmer (MN)	Lieu, Ted	Rothfus	Smith (NE)	Walters, Mimi
Bilirakis	Engel	LoBiondo	Rouzer	Smith (NJ)	Walz
Bishop (GA)	Eshoo	Loeb sack	Roybal-Allard	Smith (TX)	Wasserman
Bishop (MI)	Esty	Lofgren	Royce	Smith (WA)	Schultz
Bishop (UT)	Evans	Long	Ruiz	Speier	Watson Coleman
Black	Farenthold	Loudermilk	Ruiz	Stefanik	Weber (TX)
Blackburn	Fincher	Love	Ruppersberger	Stewart	Webster (FL)
Blum	Fleischmann	Lowenthal	Russell	Stivers	Welch
Bost	Fleming	Lowe y	Ryan (OH)	Stutzman	Wenstrup
Boustany	Flores	Lucas	Salmon	Swalwell (CA)	Westerman
Boyle, Brendan F.	Fortenberry	Luetkemeyer	Sánchez, Linda T.	Takano	Wilson (SC)
Brady (PA)	Foster	Lujan Grisham (NM)	Sanford	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Brady (TX)	Fox x	Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)	Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Brat	Frankel (FL)	Lummis	Scalise	Thompson (PA)	Woodall
Bridenstine	Franks (AZ)	Lynch	Schakowsky	Thornberry	Yarmuth
Brooks (AL)	Frelinghuysen	MacArthur	Schiff	Tiberi	Yoder
Brooks (IN)	Fudge	Maloney, Carolyn	Schweikert	Tipton	Yoho
Brown (FL)	Gabbard	Maloney, Sean	Scott (VA)	Titus	Young (AK)
Brownley (CA)	Galleo	Marchant	Scott, Austin	Tonko	Young (IA)
Buchanan	Garamendi	Marino	Scott, David	Turner	Young (IN)
Buck	Garrett	Matsui	Sensenbrenner	Upton	Zeldin
Bucshon	Gibbs	McCarthy	Serrano	Valadao	Zinke
Burgess	Gibson	McCaul			
Bustos	Goodlatte	McClintock			
Butterfield	Gosar	McCollum			
Byrne	Gowdy	McGovern			
Calvert	Graham	McHenry			
Capps	Graves (GA)	McKinley			
Cárdenas	Graves (LA)	McMorris			
Carney	Graves (MO)	Rodgers			
Carson (IN)	Grayson	McNerney			
Carter (GA)	Green, Al	McSally			
Carter (TX)	Green, Gene	Meadows			
Cartwright	Griffith	Meehan			
Castor (FL)	Grothman	Meeks			
Castro (TX)	Guinta	Meng			
Chabot	Guthrie	Messer			
Chaffetz	Hahn	Mica			
Chu, Judy	Hanabusa	Miller (FL)			
Cicilline	Hanna	Moolenaar			
Clark (MA)	Hardy	Mooney (WV)			
Clarke (NY)	Harper	Moulton			
Clawson (FL)	Harris	Mullin			
Clay	Hartzler	Mulvaney			
Cleaver	Hastings	Murphy (FL)			
Clyburn	Heck (NV)	Murphy (PA)			
Coffman	Heck (WA)	Nadler			
Cole	Hensarling	Napolitano			
Collins (GA)	Hice, Jody B.	Neal			
Collins (NY)	Higgins	Neugebauer			
Comer	Hill	Nolan			
Comstock	Himes	Norcross			
Conaway	Holding	Nunes			
Cannolly	Honda	Olson			
Conyers	Hoyer	Palazzo			
Cook	Hudson	Pallone			
Cooper	Huelskamp	Palmer			
Costa	Huffman	Pascarell			
Costello (PA)	Huizenga (MI)	Paulsen			
Courtney	Hunter	Payne			
Cramer	Hurd (TX)	Pearce			
Crawford	Hurt (VA)	Perlmutter			
Crenshaw	Issa	Perry			
Crowley	Jackson Lee	Peters			
Cuellar	Jeffries	Pingree			
Culberson	Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger			
Cummings	Jenkins (WV)	Pitts			
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Pocan			
Davidson	Johnson (OH)	Poliquin			
Davis	Johnson, E. B.	Polis			
Davis (CA)	Johnson, Sam	Pompeo			
Davis, Danny	Joyce	Posey			
Davis, Rodney	Kaptur	Price (NC)			
DeFazio	Katko	Price, Tom			
DeGette	Katko	Quigley			
Delaney	Kelly (IL)	Rangel			
DeLauro	Kelly (MS)	Ratcliffe			
DelBene	Kelly (PA)	Reed			
Dent	Kennedy	Reichert			
DeSaulnier	Kildee	Renacci			
DesJarlais	Kilmer	Rice (NY)			
Deutch	Kind	Rice (SC)			
Diaz-Balart	King (IA)	Richmond			
Dingell	Kinzinger (IL)				
Doggett	Kirkpatrick				
Dold	LaHood				
	LaMalfa				

NAYS—5

NOT VOTING—47

□ 1920

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Monday, November 14, 2016. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 575 and 576.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5711, PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO IRAN; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5982, MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT OF 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-818) on the resolution (H. Res. 921) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5711) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for “midnight rules”, and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 18, 2016, through November 28, 2016, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PERMISSION TO DISPENSE WITH MORNING-HOUR DEBATE ON TOMORROW

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the House of January 5, 2016, regarding morning-hour debate not apply tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

HONORING MITCHELL KAPLAN

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in recognition of Mitchell Kaplan, a gentleman who has contributed so much to our south Florida community.

Born in Miami, Mitch began his career as a high school English teacher. He went on to open Books & Books, an extraordinary bookstore located in my congressional district that has now expanded throughout south Florida and even the Cayman Islands.

As time passed, Mitch organized many community events and local book fairs, growing larger and larger by the year.

Miami Dade College President Eduardo Padron worked with Mitch to

create the Miami Book Fair International, a world-renowned book fair that is taking place right now in my congressional district in downtown Miami.

Mr. Speaker, Mitch Kaplan is an inspiration to Floridians and for people across the Nation.

Thank you, Mitch, for your tireless work and dedication to all of us book lovers everywhere.

MANY AMERICANS ARE UNDER CLOUD OF FEAR AND ANXIETY

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, many Americans woke up today and after the elections under a cloud of fear and anxiety. There are children who, for perhaps the first time in their lives, are wondering if this country welcomes and respects them.

I rise today to remind my colleagues, the incoming administration, and the American people that millions of our veterans and servicemembers have made incredible sacrifices in defense of a single powerful idea: no matter where you come from, what you believe, or who you love, you deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

On Veterans Day, we expressed our enduring gratitude to those men and women—Latinos and Muslims, Christians and Jews, African Americans and all others—who put on the uniform to defend that idea. But our words are not enough. We must honor their service by protecting the rights and freedoms of every American, and we must keep our pledge to promote liberty and justice for all.

Thank you again to all our veterans. We will honor your service.

VETERANS DAY 2016

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend our Nation celebrated Veterans Day, a day to recognize and thank those who selflessly serve in the face of danger to protect our Nation and our way of life. Throughout history, beginning with the Revolutionary War, our veterans have earned and protected the freedom which we often take for granted.

Originally established as Armistice Day in 1919, November 11 was renamed Veterans Day in 1954 in order to include the many Americans who honorably served during World War II and in Korea.

Today, we continue that tradition and honor the dedication, the service, and the sacrifices that our veterans made in World War I, World War II,

Korea, Vietnam, and, more recently, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, and Coast Guard will continue this legacy of service to protect our country, and they deserve our utmost respect.

God bless our veterans, and thank you for your service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DEPUTY JACK HOPKINS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, as the House reconvenes and gets back to business, we are reminded that public safety is a 24-hour business.

I rise tonight, sadly, in memoriam of Deputy Jack Hopkins of Modoc County in northeastern California. He was killed in the line of duty while responding to an early morning call.

When I heard of this tragic killing, I was stunned for many reasons, part of which, Modoc County is a very quiet, rural place, about as far as you can go in California and still be in California. It just doesn't seem like the place to keep adding to the story of our officers being killed in the line of duty all over this country.

Deputy Hopkins began working with the Sheriff's Office in 2015, and previously had worked for the Alturas Police Department in Modoc County. He was born in Livermore, California, named after his grandfather, who was the first mayor of Rolling Hills Estates.

He grew up in Montague, which is in neighboring Siskiyou County, with his five siblings: Samuel, Christina, Amanda, Josh, and David Cooksey. Also, he is survived by his parents, Lance and Carol; his grandmother, Twila; his wife, Janet; and three children.

He attended Butte College, my alma mater, in their Law Enforcement Academy, along with his brother Sam. Hopkins also earned a black belt in karate and won a world championship title in 2011.

He is honored by hundreds of law enforcement and emergency personnel, local residents, and many, many others who recognized his sacrifice in a procession from Alturas to Reading, and then another one from Reading up to his final resting place in the Yreka area in Siskiyou County.

What this points out is that our sheriffs and our officers in rural areas often patrol hundreds of miles alone, with the closest backup, at times, maybe even being hours away. Indeed, a lot of times they are working alone.

In memory of Deputy Jack Hopkins, we need to do much better as a country in supporting them and stop this rhetoric that is against our officers.

God bless him. God bless his fine family.

HONORING OUR VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, I was pleased to join my many friends and colleagues honoring our veterans, our soldiers, and their families. We stood in front of the Houston City Hall with many, many veterans and their families, local elected officials and Members of Congress, United States Senate, and many, many soldiers and veterans. And we simply said thank you, thank you to them for putting on the uniform.

A number of us mentioned that it was only days away from a contentious election, and I specifically said how grateful I am that I live in a nation that allows a contentious election but yet to have the right to peacefully transfer power.

Let me also take note of some of the seismic changes that we faced in Texas. I am excited about the newly elected officials in Harris County, the new district attorney, the new sheriff, tax assessor, the new judges that will come, all of them elected by the people.

To my community, from Dallas to San Antonio, Galveston and Beaumont, with a new sheriff, the first African American woman, I say that this is democracy. In an hour or two, I will discuss some of the elements that undermined democracy.

But I celebrate our soldiers, Mr. Speaker. I honor them for wearing the uniform to give me a sense of freedom and to allow democracy to work.

□ 1930

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: CBC TO REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP—DO YOUR JOB

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUM). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials relevant to the subject matter of the discussion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening along with my coanchor of the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour, with my classmate and my colleague, Congressman HAKEEM JEFFRIES from the Eighth District of New York. It is an honor for me to stand here and be a coanchor with him.

Tonight's topic, Mr. Speaker, is the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour entitled "Unfinished Business: Congressional Black Caucus to Our Republican Leadership—Do Your Job."

As the Congressional Black Caucus comes to the House floor this evening as voices to be heard on unfinished congressional business, let me pause for a moment first to pay respect to Gwen Ifill, who passed away earlier today.

Ms. Ifill, an award-winning television journalist for NBC and PBS, helped pave the way for both women and men and African Americans in the field of journalism. Her voice will be missed. Her voice was a voice that we listened to as members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, today, the House of Representatives returned for the first day of the lameduck session of the 114th Congress. As the conscience of the Congress, the Congressional Black Caucus is committed to advocating for change to policies that adversely impact African American communities. Yet, Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 years, the 114th Congress has been highly unproductive, passing one partisan bill after another, which then languishes with no chance of being passed by the Senate or being signed into law by President Obama. In fact, as of November 2 of this year, only 244 bills have been signed into law, and only 20 of those bills have been significant pieces of legislation.

The American people really deserve more from their elected representatives. But the 114th Congress is not over, and we should use the remaining time wisely. The list of legislative items that this House should consider before going home for the year is robust—legislation to fully fund the government's fiscal year 2017 for one. The American people deserve a fully funded government that invests resources in people, reduces poverty, and safeguards the social safety net programs.

We are currently operating under a continuing resolution, Mr. Speaker, as you know, through December 9. While the current funding mechanism has been keeping the Federal Government doors open, it fails to fully recognize the importance of investment in programs which would benefit not just a few, but all Americans.

In addition to the omnibus, we should bring to the floor legislation providing reform for the criminal justice system, voting rights, and gun violence prevention, just to name a few.

You are going to hear from several members of the Congressional Black Caucus who have spent an inordinate amount of time crafting legislation, sitting in their committees, and going back home to their district and making promises that the American people are asking for.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity starting today to use the last

few weeks of the 114th Congress in a productive way to stand up for the constituents and to pass bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, how many times have we been in this Chamber and someone in that chair has said that we are going to work together for the good of the country or our constituents?

That is what our constituents expect us to do.

So let me just briefly take a moment to remind you, Mr. Speaker, why it is so important that we have a fully funded Federal Government and provide funding for critical programs—critical programs—like those that address ethnic and racial health disparities by improving diversity in the healthcare workforce and increasing the number of health professions in underserved communities, for example.

Mr. Speaker, we have my colleague and friend who has served as our Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust chair, Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY, who is with us today and has fought tirelessly for health care. You are going to hear from her tonight.

It is well known that poverty and social economic status and health disparities are closely linked and latched together. Many of these gaps are shaped by generations of cultural biases, injustices, and inequality. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

Mr. Speaker, for years, I have had the honor of serving on the American Heart Association Board where researchers have shared the alarming statistics of how African Americans are 30 percent more likely to die of heart disease and 60 percent more likely to be diabetic than white Americans. The cost of these types of health disparities is simply too high. Estimates indicate that health disparities cost our Nation as much as \$300 billion a year, which results in too many Americans suffering unnecessarily because they do not have access to the care they need.

Statistics such as these illustrate the increased need to address healthcare disparities by continued investment in Federal programs such as the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at NIH.

We cannot shortchange these important Federal programs by putting them in neutral or on pause, Mr. Speaker. We must enact a fully funded omnibus spending bill for fiscal year 2017 before leaving Washington—a real simple request of doing your job. This has to stop, Mr. Speaker.

I am privileged to be joined this evening by so many members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I am

joined by my coanchor, as I mentioned, and you will hear from him shortly.

At this time, it gives me great pleasure to have the privilege of yielding to Congressman G. K. BUTTERFIELD. He is the Congressional Black Caucus chair from the First District of North Carolina. He is someone whose history and past leadership in fighting for justice and against disparities are far too long for me to appropriately say tonight. So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I yield to Congressman G. K. BUTTERFIELD.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by thanking the gentlewoman so very much for yielding time tonight. I thank the gentlewoman for her friendship. Most of all, I thank the gentlewoman for her extraordinary leadership here in the Congress. I have been observing the gentlewoman's work since the first day that she came to this House, and I can tell my colleagues that she has worked relentlessly on behalf of the people of the Third Congressional District of Ohio. I thank the gentlewoman for anchoring this Special Order hour tonight.

Mr. Speaker, before I get into the other part of my remarks tonight, I just want to digress for a moment to recognize a great American that we lost today. I recognize the life and legacy of a dear friend, a friend of the Congressional Black Caucus and a personal friend of mine, Gwen Ifill. She was one of the Nation's leading journalists, regarded as one of the most prominent African American journalists in the country, and indeed a prominent journalist among all journalists.

Mrs. Ifill began her career in the 1970s during a time when there were very few African Americans and very few females in journalism. Gwen was a trailblazer in her profession. She was a bestselling author and moderator of two vice presidential debates. Gwen Ifill was among the Nation's finest political correspondents as she was gracious and poised when addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our country. Her voice will be missed in the media, but her legacy—her legacy—will continue to have a lasting impact on how we view news broadcasts. We offer our sincere condolences to Ms. Ifill's family, her friends, her followers, and colleagues all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, we are at a crossroads right now in our great country. That is undisputable. But I want my colleagues to know that the Congressional Black Caucus is up for the challenge. The CBC is poised in the 115th Congress to have a record number of 49 Members of Congress. Currently we have 46. Their number will go to 49. The CBC vows to continue to be the voice of our communities, representing more than 30 million Americans.

We will continue to have conversations in all of our communities, and we will zealously represent our constituents. We will stand strong as a caucus.

We will stand strong against any Republican effort to reverse the progress that we have made over the past few decades. We are facing some tough times ahead, Mr. Speaker, but we are going to continue to be clear on our priorities.

We are going to continue to talk emphatically about promoting economic growth that will create jobs and stability in our communities. We are going to continue to talk about the need—the critical need—for criminal justice reform. We will continue to debate and talk about and to legislate on creating educational opportunities and reducing student debt.

Don't you think that we have forgotten about the Voting Rights Act. We will continue fighting for the full restoration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, this was the first election that we have had without the protection—the full protection at least—of the 1965 Voting Rights Act since it was implemented. Finally, we are going to continue to ensure diversity in the corporate arena, the workforce, and even in classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, there are peaceful protests taking place in many communities across America.

□ 1945

As I drove into Washington, D.C. this afternoon, I even saw some here in Washington. We understand the protests, we understand the pain, and we understand the pain in all of our communities due to the negativity and the division that they have seen over the last 12 months.

We say to House Republicans that our communities are reeling with discontent and you need to understand this discontent. Now is the time to take up legislation that will help to lift those around the country that need us desperately to act. We have unfinished business presently before this Congress. Let us act and let us move legislation that will help those that need our voices the most.

Mr. Speaker, we have the capacity to do this. Congresses in past years have worked in a bipartisan manner, and they have succeeded. We can do the same. We must work together as Democrats and Republicans on behalf of the American people. Compromise, Mr. Speaker, is not a bad word.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD not only for his words but for his leadership as our chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), another member of the Congressional Black Caucus, who stands strong and surefooted with us as we talk about our unfinished business, a member who has no problem coming to the mic and sharing her intellect and giving us a direction of where we should go. It is, indeed, my

honor to yield to Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, a leader on criminal justice reform and judiciary issues, from Texas' 18th Congressional District.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for her leadership and dynamic message she gave this morning when we were discussing in the district and the area of our colleague Congressman HANK JOHNSON and JOHN LEWIS the issue of economic empowerment and economic empowerment as it relates to women, and particularly women of color. Let me thank the gentlewoman for that, and as well for leading today, along with Mr. HAKEEM JEFFRIES of New York, this very important Special Order of unfinished business.

Let me say that all of us, and you will hear certainly this repetitive refrain, have been challenged in this last election. Now, let me be very clear for those of our colleagues who may be listening or those who may be hearing, I am by no means whining. What I do speak to, of course, however, is, and will be over a period of time, whether or not there were fractures in the Democratic process that were driven not by candidates, for candidates can say and do, as much as you may be offended by them saying or doing, but whether or not there were actually systems that undermined the voting process. Starting first, of course, with the Supreme Court's extinguishing of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act and the long, how should I say, journey of members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Democratic Caucus and others of goodwill to restore section 5 or, in essence, a fix to section 5, and the long period of time that we had, Congresswoman BEATTY, to fix it, but it never got fixed before the election, which means that there are a number of jurisdictions that face a high mountain of trying to be able to vote. People were purged off of lists in a number of States. Individuals, unfortunately, had challenges with respect to what local officials may have been doing.

We will get all of this out in the wash, but we would have been much better off if we had section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. In my own jurisdiction, even though it ultimately was fixed under the auspices of they were not ADA compliant, we consolidated and closed a lot of precincts that we had to correct because on election day people were going to their home precincts and they didn't exist.

So clearly fixing section 5, fixing the Voting Rights Act, is not unfinished business. It is a requirement. It is adamantly necessary to do. Let me quickly say that we only did one out of the 12 appropriations bills, so Agriculture is not done, Commerce-Justice is not done, Defense, Energy and Water, Financial Services. All of these impact the lives of Americans.

We are still in the dilemma of the Flint water crisis. We have gone to Flint. We as members of the Congressional Black Caucus have spoken to those people who are hurting. They have various ailments—one woman with a rash, hair loss, children with cognitive issues—and we have still not resolved that. Protecting children with disabilities, access to public education.

My State alone has been an embarrassment for they were only providing for 7 to 8 percent of children with disabilities as opposed to the national average of 13 to 14 percent. We need to make sure that we ensure that those children are protected under Federal law. My State says they are immediately stopping the capping, but I prefer that we have it institutionalized into law and make sure it works.

Immigration reform. We have to worry about the DACA young people who are working in our economy and now with the potential that they may be on the deportation list.

Funding for the Louisiana flooding is crucial, whether those dollars have gotten—after our colleague, Congressman RICHMOND, worked so hard and told us of the trillions of dollars of flooding that occurred in his constituency. They need help, and we must get them help.

Funding for the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew. That is, of course, in Princeville, North Carolina, areas that I remember going to with my colleague, the Honorable G. K. BUTTERFIELD, the great chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and, nonetheless, improving cybersecurity of the Nation's critical infrastructure.

I finish on this point, and that is on criminal justice, which I know a number of members will speak of. As the ranking member on the Criminal Justice Committee, I want to thank all of the many members who have offered legislation and thank the members on the Judiciary Committee, particularly under the leadership of JOHN CONYERS and certainly those who have worked with the chairman. We must pass police reform and accountability, the law enforcement trust and integrity bill. We must pass the sentencing reduction bill that will codify some of the work that needs to be done, prison reform that will turn prisons into true institutions of rehabilitation, and also a new matrix in juvenile justice to stop punishing our young people, but to provide a corrective rehabilitative approach, which is reauthorization of the juvenile block grant legislation, along with antibullying and bullying intervention.

We must do these things because the American people have sent us here to do our job. We must do these things because they are right. We must do these things because the American people need this legislation. We must simply do these things because, Mr. Speaker, we must do our job.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), from New York's Fifth Congressional District. There are so many things that I could say about him. I am honored that I serve with him on the Financial Services Committee. I am honored that he is a soldier in the battle. When I think of some of the words that President Barack Obama said, it reminds me of Congressman MEEKS when President Obama said, "Justice is not only the absence of oppression, it is the presence of opportunity."

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Black Caucus is often called the conscience of the Congress—the conscience of the Congress. They don't say we are just the conscience of Black people. They don't say we are just the conscience of some people. We say that we are the conscience of the entire Congress because we want to work to help all of Americans, particularly the least of these. Many of us run around and we talk about our various religious beliefs. And no matter what your religious belief is, it teaches us that we need to take care of those who do not have.

So we are here in what we call the people's House, and one of the things that we should make sure that happens with the people's House taking the lead is that we end poverty. Poverty does not discriminate. Poverty does not look at which section of the country you are in or what religion you have. You can find poverty in rural America and urban America. We should be here to do our jobs to help all Americans.

When, in fact, you have individuals who are still drinking bottled water, we need to pass a water resources bill, not only for a small section of individuals but for everyone. Because when we look at what is taking place now, we see and we are finding—we even found it right here in the United States Capital—a problem with water. Water equals life, and everybody's life is important. Why we have got to pass this budget is so that we can make sure that everybody has certainty that they receive the items that they need.

What are the most basic needs of any human being? You cannot live without health care. So we have got to continue to make sure that we are providing for health care. I know some were talking about eliminating ObamaCare, but 20 million Americans who did not have any health care at all now for the first time in their lives have the same or have access to health care. We cannot end that.

Education. We know today that education is more important than ever before. We must pass this budget that has education at its core to make sure that every American has a chance to live up to her or his dreams.

Criminal justice reform. We have got to make sure that it is fair and equitable for everyone.

When you think about this budget, stability is important. The government relies on stability. We must fund the government so that we don't have short-term uncertainty. We have got to take care of our military. We have got to take care of emergencies like storms that hit my district. We are still recovering from Sandy. There must be stability in the budget and not these short-term things that we continue to do so our country can move and prosper.

So let's stay and do the job that the American people have elected us to do. Let us understand, even though this election, that there has to be, as Chairman BUTTERFIELD said, compromise because the majority of the American people voted one way, the electoral college had another decision, which means that we have got to all work together to move this country forward. We can do that, and we will be stronger doing that together.

So I want to thank Congresswoman BEATTY for engineering this evening because we must meet with our voices louder. We know the members of the Congressional Black Caucus will talk loudly and clearly to make sure that we represent the people that vote for us every 2 years, but we know that we are the conscience of the Congress and that we have a responsibility to the American people.

And I say to my Republican friends, you too have a responsibility, and that responsibility is to come and let's pass this budget so that we can keep this government moving and keep it stable moving forward. We can do that because this Congress is stronger if we work together.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GREG MEEKS for lending his voice to tonight's Special Order hour.

□ 2000

It is now my honor to ask Congressman DONALD PAYNE from New Jersey to come and lend his voice tonight. He is someone who brings a message to us. He is someone who advocates for our financial needs; he advocates for our children; he is a father; he is a husband; and he is someone who understands, in the time that we are having now, the value of quality education and the value of removing our children from poverty because he understands that all lives matter.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for this opportunity to speak during this Special Order hour and to also thank my other classmate, the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES from New York, for this opportunity to speak at this time on unfinished business.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my great honor to represent the 10th Congres-

sional District of the State of New Jersey for the past two Congresses, and I have seen a great deal of angst. I have seen some accomplishment, but not as much as the American people are due.

We come here week after week. We get here on Monday nights, like tonight. We come in and meet with our staffs, and then we are told of the proposed votes that we have that evening. On most nights, it is two. Now, I understand it is a night of travel and of making sure all Members have the opportunity to get here; but what does it say about Tuesday when there could possibly be two or about Wednesday morning when there will only be two votes? There is unfinished business, Mr. Speaker, in the House of Representatives. There are so many issues that we could discuss, and I think they are all being hit by my colleagues.

Zika is a frightening prospect for this Nation in its moving forward. Yet and still we are unable to get the level of funding that the President has asked for to try to understand and stop this disease, to do the research needed to figure out what is going on or how to prevent it. We just go home for recess. Not until it enters the continental United States or certain Members' States will they take it seriously. There is the whole issue around gun control, of commonsense gun legislation—unfinished business.

My colleague Mr. MEEKS spoke about the issue of water, the most basic necessity of life. We traveled to Flint as the Congressional Black Caucus, along with Leader PELOSI and Mr. HOYER. We talked to that community about what they were going through, about how they didn't know who to trust anymore because their elected officials had misled them to believe that something with a brown discoloring was drinkable. We found out, Mr. Speaker, that it was not drinkable. In fact, it was poisonous. How do we do that to American citizens? We are given the obligation to stand in the gap for them, to make sure that we take care of them at every turn; but yet and still, because it was cheaper to use another water source, it was done to these people.

I traveled back to my district in Newark, New Jersey, and I talked to several mayors in my district.

I said: You know what I saw in Flint? You need to pay attention to what is going on with your water source.

That was on a Friday evening. By Tuesday morning, they had found lead in 88 schools in Newark, New Jersey, so they had to switch over to bottled water. The testing continued, and more schools were involved. I created legislation for testing for lead in school systems around the country, because it is not legislated anywhere in the country to test for lead in school systems. I moved forward on that legislation, but one wouldn't know it because the majority wouldn't allow it to hit the floor.

So here we are, going back to our offices in the Cannon House Office Building, frustrated with this issue in our knowing that it is just going to continue to grow. Lo and behold, 5 months after my legislation is suggested, we find there is lead in the water in the Cannon House Office Building, where the Members of Congress' offices are; so now there is bottled water, and water fountains have been sealed off. This is something that we need to understand, that needs to be addressed—unfinished business.

I could just go on and on and on. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to raise these issues for as long as it takes. We are part of this body, and we are not going anywhere. Our voices will be heard on the unfinished business of this House.

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank so much the gentleman—my classmate and colleague—from New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, it is, indeed, my honor to yield to Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY from the Second District of Illinois. We have heard that common creed that says, "I am my brother's keeper." She is my sister's keeper. When I think about her work, I am always so happy because I admire her. I remember the day that she sat down when we stood up. She reminds me of what Rosa Parks did in 1955 when she decided, if she sat down, it would start a movement. ROBIN KELLY sat down on the House floor because she said we should do more than just stand up when someone loses his life to gun violence. So it is, indeed, a great honor for me to yield to Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. I thank Congresswoman BEATTY and Congressman JEFFRIES because they have held it down for a long time now and have made us proud to be members of the Congressional Black Caucus because of how they present themselves in the Special Order hours and how they have taken on the responsibility. I thank both of them so very much.

When I think about unfinished business, one knows where I am going. I think about the gun violence that is still occurring in, what I represent, the Chicagoland area. We are up to 618 deaths and 3,273 shootings. Now, I don't know about today, because it is occurring every day. I know it is not just about the legislation, but we do need background checks; we do need a national straw purchasing bill and bills that pass; we need gun trafficking bills.

We need to improve, as you have heard, police-community relations, but we also need to invest in people. We need to invest in underserved communities; we need to make sure that people have decent housing, decent educations, that they get the job skills they need so that they can have jobs. There are too many who are still un-

employed, and that is why the violence occurs. We need more mentors.

I have a bill like my past colleague just said, the Urban Progress bill. The bill was presented, but it never went anywhere, which was just like the background check bill. It is a bipartisan bill—190 cosponsors—but the bill never gets called to the floor. We have spent time—I believe 68 times—in trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act, but we have never sat down to see: What are the problems? Where do you think it should be improved? No. We just tried to repeal everything. There are great things about that bill. There are so many more people covered who would not have been covered.

I am the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust. African Americans die from 8 of the top 10 diseases, and that is because of a lack of access to places. The Affordable Care Act has definitely helped in that arena, but we need to do more. We need to send funding to NIH, and we can do more.

We are the wealthiest country in the world, yet we have the amount of homelessness we have and the amount of violence we have. We have a lack of affordable college education. Our students are suffering. They cannot live the American Dream because we are not doing the right thing in Congress—so much unfinished business. We talk about people pulling themselves up by the bootstraps, but they have to have the straps on the boots to be able to pull themselves up. It seems like we don't have the American heart, that we don't have the caring.

Immigration—there was a bill we could have passed in the House, but we just don't call the bills to the floor. We are just, really, ignoring so many things, and I don't see how we could feel proud when we go back to our districts when there are so many things that we haven't done. I hope in this, as we call it, lameduck session it is not too late and we can call some of these bills to the floor. We can save lives by calling bills to the floor.

In Flint, they can drink clean, quality water if we do what we are supposed to do. We cannot sit and rest on our laurels. When we go into 2017, if we want cooperation and if we want the spirit of unity, we need to see that cooperation and unity now, not just in 2017.

I thank the gentlewoman for giving me the opportunity. Let's do our jobs.

Mrs. BEATTY. I thank so much Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN from New Jersey's 12th District. I am so honored to serve with her. She stands in this same space as the Special Order hour chair for our Progressive Caucus.

Earlier today, I benefited from her wisdom as she said to me: I am used to being in charge and I like being in

charge, so I am going to stay tonight and lend my voice to the Special Order hour on our unfinished business.

□ 2015

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to be here and standing with Congresswoman BEATTY and with Congressman JEFFRIES as you bring forth truth to power here in what you speak of. It is definitely a timely topic to be discussing unfinished business, what we can do.

People need to realize that we have but 15 legislative days left in this congressional session, and there are so many things that need to be done that haven't been appropriately addressed.

I want to associate myself with the comments that were made by those who came before me as it relates to gun safety. I want to remind us that back in 2012, in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, someone went in there and killed 20 children and 6 adults and killed himself. Since that time, there have been at least 1,100, close to 1,200 mass shootings, at least 1,300 deaths, and at least 4,700 that have been wounded; and that is just since November 6th.

There are so many commonsense gun safety bills that are just waiting to be voted on. I know that, if given the opportunity, the majority in this House would vote appropriately and properly, taking into consideration the safety and security they represent to our communities.

There are other things that we need to be thinking about. We need to ensure that we are protecting the environment; that we are protecting the environment against unnecessary fracking and unnecessary pipelines. We need to make sure that we are reforming criminal justice, that we are educating, not incarcerating; that we are putting our resources where we get the best value.

We need to increase the minimum wage so that people can have a livable wage, raise their families, take care of their homes, and ensure that they have a little bit of money to spend so that they can churn up this economy.

We need to restore the Voting Rights Act. We need to ensure that voting is accessible; that people have the opportunity and the encouragement to vote when they are supposed to and when they could.

Finally, one last thought from me, we need to look at the kinds of protections that we have had in our banking system, protect just everyday families with their investments. We need to make sure that we are investing in the 21st century Glass-Steagall Act. Those are the things that the people, everyday working families, look for us to do our work. Together, we can do those things and make it better for each and every one of us.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor to yield to my coanchor, my classmate, my friend, the Congressman from the Eighth Congressional District of New York.

I wanted to pause for a moment and think about what I would say as he will come as the coanchor, an individual who serves in this Congress, one of Congress' best orators.

When I think about him, I thought I would introduce him this way, Mr. Speaker: He is brave and brilliant. He is strong and strategic. He is always prepared and persistent.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), my coanchor.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and good friend from the Third Congressional District (Mrs. BEATTY). She is always elegant, eloquent, and effervescent, an erudite, anchor of the CBC Special Order who has made us all proud in the manner in which she has conducted herself on behalf of the people that she represents, as well as the entire Congressional Black Caucus and, of course, the class of 2012.

Once again, it is my honor and my privilege to stand on the House floor and participate in the Congressional Black Caucus' Special Order hour where for 60 minutes we have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about issues of great significance. I can think of no more profound moment by which we need to address the people throughout this country, who we are privileged to represent, than in the aftermath of the most recent election.

I think it is important first to reflect upon the fact that in this country we already have made significant progress over the last 8 years. A lot of folks—some of our friends on the other side of the aisle—they don't want to acknowledge that fact. The reality of the situation quantitatively is very different.

Under 8 years of George W. Bush, this country lost 650,000 jobs. In almost 8 years of Barack Obama, we have gained more than 15 million private-sector jobs, 79 consecutive months of private-sector job creation. The deficit has been reduced by more than a trillion dollars under the Presidency of Barack Obama.

When President Barack Obama came into office, the unemployment rate was at 10 percent. Now, it is at 5 percent. When Barack Obama took office, the stock market was at 6,000. Now it is over 18,000. More than 20 million Americans who were previously uninsured now have health coverage, and more than 300 million Americans don't have to worry about being denied health coverage because of a preexisting condition, all as a result of the Presidency of Barack Obama. I could go on and on,

but America is a better place today because of the 44th President of the United States of America.

Of course, now we find ourselves in a situation where we have to continue to address the issues of great importance to the American people. In this democratic republic, time marches on. As Abraham Lincoln once referenced, we are in a constant march toward a more perfect union.

So the question, of course, is: Well, what are some of the issues where we can find common ground here today?

In the aftermath of one of the most divisive elections in our Nation's history, let me suggest that there are a few CBC priorities where some of my good friends on the other side of the aisle seemingly should take interest in addressing.

The first thing, of course, relates to poverty. Despite what we have heard from the President-elect throughout the campaign, poverty is not simply an inner-city problem. Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY is a testament to the fact that so many folks who live in great cities like Columbus are incredibly professional, built wonderful lives, pursued the American Dream.

Poverty is not an inner-city problem; it is an American problem. In fact, a majority of persistently poor counties in this country—parenthetically, that is defined as counties where 20 percent or more of the population has lived below the poverty line for 30 or more years—are represented by House Republicans. I don't know if the President-elect realizes that.

So poverty and making sure that every single person in America has an opportunity to pursue the American Dream isn't a Democratic issue or a CBC issue. It is an American issue. Maybe we can figure out a way collectively to deal with this problem because it doesn't just impact the people I represent back home in Brooklyn.

The second issue that I think we can find common ground on, hopefully, is criminal justice reform. The House Judiciary Committee has already passed bipartisan legislation unanimously to deal with our unjust sentencing laws, as well as to make sure that everyone has an opportunity for a second chance in life once they have paid their debt to society.

There has been great cooperation from many of my friends on the other side of the aisle, leaders on criminal justice reform, people like JASON CHAFFETZ, TREY GOWDY, and RAÚL LABRADOR. These are people where there may be issues that we don't have a lot in common, but who recognize, along with a whole host of other folks, that we have an overcriminalization problem in America when we have 5 percent of the world's population, but 25 percent of the world's incarcerated individuals.

We incarcerate more people in this country than any other country in the

world. And if you take China and Russia's population combined, it is in excess of a billion individuals. Yet, we incarcerate more than those two countries put together.

I would say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: I think that dealing with mass incarceration in America fits squarely within your philosophical approach to a whole bunch of things. I am not asking you to become a Progressive Democrat.

Fiscal Conservatives should object to the fact that we spend 80-billion-plus dollars a year wasting economic resources, opportunity, and human capital, as States in places like Texas, Kentucky, Georgia, and Louisiana have done, not blue States like New York or California; red States who recognize that the fiscally conservative thing to do without sacrificing public safety is to deal with overcriminalization in America.

I would also suggest that many of my friends, Christian Conservatives—I am a Conservative, I guess, in the sense that I am a proud member of the Cornerstone Baptist Church. I don't know what the distinction is, but Christian Conservatives, I guess, is the lingo and the language that is often used—all of us who believe in some form of religion, particularly those, of course, who define themselves as Christian Conservatives should embrace the notion that you should have a second chance in life. Because theologically underpinning your religious beliefs is the notion of redemption, that we are all sinners in the eyes of God, with the exception of one person who has walked this Earth. And once you pay your debt to society, you shouldn't have a permanent scarlet letter that prohibits you from being able to experience the American Dream.

So I think criminal justice reform fits squarely within the philosophy of my fiscal Conservative friends, my Christian Conservative friends. I would also suggest that my Libertarian friends, as RAND PAUL and RAÚL LABRADOR have already illustrated, should also object to the mass incarceration problem that we have got in America.

I understand you don't like overtaxation. We can argue about what is the appropriate rate. I understand you don't like overregulation. This is all about government overreach. You should have a problem with overcriminalization because there is no area where the government can do more damage than when they have the ability to take away your life or your liberty.

So we stand here as members of the CBC talking about unfinished business, not urging you to cross over and adopt our philosophy. Adopt your philosophy and apply it to criminal justice reform.

The last issue I would suggest as we talk about unfinished business is the notion of the Voting Rights Act having

been decimated. I am disappointed that so many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle think that this should be a partisan issue. If there is a Republican advantage, let's be honest, that is why we don't want to do anything to fix it. Because when you look at the proud history of the Voting Rights Act, it has always been bipartisan in nature. It would not have passed this Congress without support from moderate Republicans in the House and in the Senate. That is a fact. There were Members of the Democratic Party, so-called Dixiecrats, that opposed it with everything they had. It would not be law today without Republicans.

Every time the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized, it was signed back into law by a Republican President: 1970, Richard Nixon. 1975, Gerald Ford. 1982, Ronald Reagan. 2006, George W. Bush.

We are not asking you on the House floor to act like Progressive Democrats. Just act like Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush, who recognized that voting rights is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue; it is an American issue.

So, with that, I would just conclude by saying this: It would be a mistake for my friends on the other side of the aisle to interpret too much from this election. I am trying to figure out what exactly is the mandate when it appears that more than 2 million Americans will have supported, in terms of the popular vote margin, the candidate who lost.

□ 2030

And it was a mistake when others interpreted too much from an electoral college victory. Hubert Humphrey won the popular vote in 1968. The electoral college sent us Richard Nixon, and we got Watergate. Al Gore won the popular vote in 2000, and I think there was too much of a mandate interpretation. We got two failed wars and the worst economy since the Great Depression.

So the question is: Are you going to learn from recent history or are you just going to celebrate this unexpected victory where you lost the popular vote? I would suggest let's just find common ground, maybe on some of the areas that we have laid out here today.

We are not asking you to change your philosophy, change your ideology; but in areas like poverty where you have got just as much at stake based on your constituents as we do, or criminal justice reform where your philosophy is consistent with dealing with mass incarceration and overcriminalization in America, or the Voting Rights Act, which has a proud bipartisan history, let's start there and see what we can do as it relates to addressing the business of the American people as we go into the next Congress.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, let me just end with these words. This may be

my last time as the lead anchor, so I cannot leave this Chamber without saying thank you, thank you to President Barack Obama for giving us 8 years of changing this country; thank you to President Barack Obama, whose legacy 10 or 20 years from now will go down in history as one of our greatest Presidents for making change.

Mr. Speaker, let me now say thank you to Congressman JEFFRIES for reminding me of where we are now. If we really are going to finish our unfinished business, the President-elect, who said, as I paraphrase, gangs roaming the streets, African American communities being decimated by crime, you walk down the streets and you get shot, well, Mr. Speaker, we could take care of that in the 114th if we really believed that. We could do a crime bill; we could do a voters' rights bill; we could do 10–20–30.

Mr. Speaker, as my time comes to an end, I include in the RECORD statements from Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL and Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with just sixteen legislative days remaining during the 114th Congress, there is still plenty of work that the Republican leadership must accomplish during the lame duck session. The House and Senate will need to finish its work on the FY2017 Omnibus before the continuing resolution expires on December 9. However, this Congress can also work to pass comprehensive gun violence prevention measures, pass tax reform legislation, or tackle the ever-important criminal justice reform bills that this Congress has pledged to consider.

Serious criminal justice reform in the United States is long overdue and I fear that with the new administration, our opportunity to pass real reforms is closing fast. I do not believe that it is in the national interest to doom many of our people to a lifetime of suffering and condemnation for one or two poor life choices. Effective criminal justice reform will focus on reintegrating people back into society and reducing recidivism rates across the country. Instead, the United States has one of the highest per capita incarceration rates in the world.

The costs to our society are too great. It is not only the financial burden on our country to put people in jail, it is the opportunity costs and futures that we are denying to our youths and others. Even more alarming is the fact that mass incarceration has been shown to disproportionately impact minority populations. For example, African Americans are incarcerated for drug offenses at a rate ten times greater than that of whites. This is in spite of the fact that both segments of our population—blacks and whites—use drugs at roughly the same rates. Today, roughly half of the 205,000 inmates currently in federal prison are serving there due to drug offenses. This is bad policy.

Mr. Speaker, true systemic reform will be multifaceted in its approach. This includes not only reforming our criminal justice system, but

also community resources and education available to individuals. The Republican Congress has an opportunity not only to address these issues now during the lame duck, but will also be uniquely positioned during the 115th Congress to make good faith efforts and bring about real reform across our country.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues to demand that the Republican Leadership do its job and prioritize the needs of the American people.

The criminal justice system is desperately in need of reform, gun violence has become an epidemic problem in America, the FY2017 Omnibus is inexcusably incomplete and the American vote is still not protected.

I have only begun to name the extensive amount of work that has been left undone by the Republican Leadership and the American people are suffering because of it. The people of this country who rely on this Congress to fight for them will continue to suffer because of the inaction, indifference and insolence of the Republican Party.

Congress has repeatedly failed to pass legislation to help make the citizens of this country feel safe from violence and secure in their rights and liberties. We need greater investment in higher education and our HBCUs. We need more anti-poverty programs and we need to address the problems of the rise of drug costs and access to healthcare facilities.

There is simply too much incomplete work that cannot be ignored. There has been too much suffering, sadness, blood and tears—and we need action now.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. famously said, "The time is always right to do what is right." Now is the time to take action to unite as one great nation and work together to secure liberty and justice for all Americans. Unfinished business cannot become "business as usual."

REMEMBERING THE LATE, HONORABLE STEVE LATOURETTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to honor our late colleague Steve LaTourette, who served in this body for 18 years, and who, sadly, passed away after a heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. He died on August 3. Steve will be sorely missed by those of us who had the pleasure and the honor to work with him and to know him.

Steve and I were elected to Congress together in 1994 as part of the Republican Revolution, or so it was called in

those days. It was the year of the Contract with America. We were two of the four Republicans from Ohio who were first elected that year. The other two were Frank Cremeans, who has also passed away a number of years ago, and Bob Ney. Steve and I served the longest and worked here together for 16 years, and over that time we became good friends.

While Steve was an esteemed colleague, respected by both sides of the aisle, I will always remember him as one of those people who was truly a great person on a human level. He had a gregarious personality, a very wry sense of humor, and he shared it with us many times, those of us in this body, again on both sides of the aisle. We are a better institution because Steve LaTourette served here among us. He will be greatly missed and long remembered.

Steve LaTourette had the rather endearing ability to take his job and his responsibilities very seriously while at the same time poking fun at himself. Perhaps most importantly, I think Steve will be remembered because of how much he believed in bipartisanship. He truly did not care which party you belonged to. If you had a good idea, he would support it, and he would get into the trenches with you and fight to get that idea enacted into law.

Sadly, it was the lack of bipartisanship that affected his decision to retire back in 2012. In his parting speech on this floor, he said:

For a long time now, words like “compromise” have been considered to be dirty words. I have always believed that the art of being a legislator is finding common ground.

When Members from both sides of the aisle paid tribute to him upon his departure, The Plain Dealer reported that Steve, in his characteristic humor, joked that it was fitting that bipartisanship would only break out when he had decided to leave. I hope that Steve is looking down on us here this evening so that he will know that he has truly brought us together in a bipartisan manner because we have a number of our colleagues here on the other side of the aisle who would also like to speak in his memory and in his honor.

I hope that we make Steve proud here this evening when he sees the bipartisanship that is going to be taking place on this floor, and maybe, just maybe, we can bring a little of this bipartisan spirit with us into the next Congress. We could certainly use it, considering the challenges that this institution and we as a nation face after a very divisive—let’s face it, very divisive—election where about half the people were ecstatic and about half the people are very depressed right now.

So it is certainly a time for us to come together. It is going to be a little bit tougher to come together because Steve is not with us, but we can keep

in mind what he would have done, what he would have said, and how he could have brought us together. So I think it is fitting that we join together in a bipartisan manner in this tribute to our former colleague Steve LaTourette this evening.

I would like to yield at this time to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the longest serving Member from the Ohio delegation.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHABOT for yielding. It is really a pleasure to be here with him this evening and to pay tribute to a wonderful, wonderful Congressman, Steve LaTourette, from the great State of Ohio.

Obviously, we return here this evening to Congress following an election in which new depths of feverish partisanship were reached in the country, and I feel humbled to speak in tribute to our late Republican colleague and friend, Ohio Congressman Steve LaTourette.

He was a lawyer’s lawyer. He was very, very intelligent and a very effective lawmaker, and he remained a loyal Republican. But at the same time, he exemplified, as Congressman CHABOT has said, the importance of compromise and negotiation to the political process for the sake of the Republic and the American people.

He always prioritized his constituents over partisan concerns, and he built alliances with House Members of all stripes in pursuit of the common good. He always conducted himself with a warm smile and a witty manner throughout, and he always had a good word. I remember how he sort of looked at you from above his glasses when he would get out of a committee meeting, always with a broad smile.

It was an honor and a privilege to have served for so many years in the same Ohio delegation as Steve. He exhibited so much love for our State and endeavored to help all Ohioans, even those not in his constituency. In many ways, he was not just a representative for the 19th and then the 14th District of Ohio, but a representative for all of Ohio, as he effectively worked on our Committee on Appropriations.

One of my fondest passions has been to champion the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that focuses on the Great Lakes region, and it often brought us together to work to promote investment in the world’s largest freshwater ecosystem, with 95 percent of our Nation’s freshwater and serving over 30 million Americans; 1½ million jobs, and \$62 billion in wages are generated in this Great Lakes nation each year. Steve understood the immense environmental and economic importance of the Great Lakes to the region and our Nation because he came from northern Ohio. It was a real pleasure to work with Steve to champion our Great Lakes issues.

I recall on another front, in 2005, following cuts to the Pentagon’s budget, it was announced that 1,200 jobs at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service in the Federal office building in Cleveland, Ohio, were to be cut and shipped out to Indianapolis. Steve was able not only to successfully lobby the Defense Department to preserve the jobs, but with his great chutzpah, he secured an expansion of the office’s size by over 600 jobs the following year. Many of those employees are now my constituents, and I know they retain, as I do, a deep gratitude for Steve’s vital intervention. He put the same type of effort into so many projects: the Inner Belt Bridge in Cleveland, the Port of Cleveland, and so much more in northeastern Ohio and throughout our State.

These local examples are demonstrative of the ideals and goals that motivated Steve in the wider, national political context, prioritizing the public interest and working with anyone and everyone to get things done. The list is extensive. Steve was one of just seven Republicans to vote against stripping the National Public Radio of all public funding. He had courage. He advocated for a mixed and pragmatic approach to deficit reduction. He blocked legislation aimed at weakening worker protection, and he voted in favor of an increase in unemployment benefits as the Great Recession began to bite. The list goes on.

He was a loyal Republican, but he also represented his region. Yet Steve was critical and, frankly, heartsick about the stark political divide now found in the House and also of the tone in which that divide and debate is conducted. I was filled with an immense sense of regret and sadness upon his decision not to seek reelection in 2012, especially because of his reason. He had “reached the conclusion that the atmosphere” in the House “no longer encourages the finding of common ground.”

His comments remain highly resonant today: If this Chamber was not able to create a space and forge an environment in which Representative LaTourette felt able to serve, then how can we expect to pursue the public good to help the people of this great Nation? Steve’s tragic and courageous death must serve as a calling to us all to constantly recall America’s promises and for what purpose we serve in this great House.

When Steve passed away, a leading light of bipartisanship was extinguished. As we embark upon a new political chapter in Washington, let us all do our best to rekindle that fire in his memory.

I thank Congressman CHABOT for yielding to me and for arranging for this Special Order in tribute to our dear friend, Steve LaTourette.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman for her

very kind remarks, and I think she is absolutely right. He was somebody who did work in truly a bipartisan way, and that is one of the things I think we will all remember him for as much or more than anything else.

I would now like to yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE). He took Steve's place and is now the current Member who represents the 14th District of Ohio.

□ 2045

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CHABOT very much for the opportunity to be here.

It is a pleasure to see in the gallery tonight Steve's loving family: his beautiful wife, Jennifer; Emma; Henry. And for those who are at home: Sarah, Sam, and the twins. You need to know one thing very clearly: your father loved you very much.

I had the pleasure of first meeting your father in 1988. I was appointed the prosecutor in Chardon in Geauga County. He was running for election in Lake County. His favorite saying was: no muss, no fuss. Don't worry about this, DAVIE. We have got this.

We worked together for many years, and I can tell you just a few things because I will be brief. Your father cared. He cared deeply about you, he cared deeply about his friends and his family. Whenever you would run into him, he would always ask about the family, the kids. If he knew someone was ill, he always inquired about how they were. He always inquired about people first. The job came later.

Secondly, he was loyal. He was somebody you could always count on. If he gave you his word, it was money in the bank. And the beauty of that, no matter what was going on in his life, he made you feel like you were the only one there and your issues were so important to him.

Believe me, he was competitive. Whether it was in a courtroom or in the Halls of Congress, he was one who would fight for you day in, day out. He cared deeply about his country and wanted only the best for it. That is why he fought for it.

But remember one thing: when it came to softball, your father was something else. We have our annual summer prosecutors' softball game and his team was, unfortunately, defeated 2 years in a row. Then he made it part of his hiring practice that anybody who was coming into the prosecutor's office also had to excel as a softball player because he was not going to let a loss like that occur a third year in a row on behalf of his beloved Lake County.

I know you have many fond memories of him. I do, too, but I think the most important part is to remember how much he loved his country and that he was one person you could truly call a legislative gentleman and a scholar.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER).

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man.

I was privileged to attend the memorial service in Falls Church. Mr. TIBERI delivered an awesome eulogy on that day. The synagogue was full. What was perhaps most remarkable was that there was almost an equal number of Republican Members and Democratic Members. That is indeed rare, and it is sad that it is rare in this day and age.

We all respected, admired, and loved Steve LaTourette because he was a great Member. Eighteen years of service is a good long time and he did wonderful things, I am sure, for Ohio.

We heard from MARCY KAPTUR about many of the projects he was involved in, but I want to reflect for a moment on a project that I think could have and should have benefited the entire United States. It was a huge lost opportunity, but he put body and soul into it in 2012, which turned out to be his last year in Congress.

Back then, there was a bipartisan commission appointed by President Obama, headed up by Republican Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming and also by the former Clinton White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles. It was called the Simpson-Bowles Commission. It was tasked with finding a bipartisan solution to our Nation's debt and deficit problems.

Back then, in 2012, we thought the debt was astronomical. It was \$15.6 trillion. Now, 4 years later, it is \$19.6 trillion. It is \$4 trillion higher, \$4 trillion of extra burden on future generations, including Steve's own children.

The irony of the Simpson-Bowles package is that it was about a \$4 trillion package to reduce our debt by about \$4 trillion. Steve had the courage to engineer a plan to bring it to the House floor. We got it to the House floor. We had, according to Steve's estimate, almost 100 commitments for support. We didn't expect to win, but we thought we would at least put up a good showing. When the votes were counted, we had a whopping 38 Members who were willing to stand up for bipartisan debt and deficit reduction. Thirty-eight Members out of a body of 435.

I am not faulting people who didn't vote for it that day, who reneged on their commitment to Steve. I am proud of those—sometimes called the brave 38—that stood by that commitment. There was plenty in that bill to hate. It is easy to criticize, but it is hard to perform. But Steve LaTourette was a rare Member who was interested in being brave to help his country, and he was willing to sacrifice to do it. I admire that. I admire that because it takes courage and I admire that because it is increasingly rare. Too many

members are only looking to be popular and perpetuate their career instead of putting their country first.

Steve LaTourette put his country first. I hope that people will learn from his example. I hope they will follow his example. I hope they will do it in the wonderful, humorous style that he had where he could be serious as all get out, but also have that twinkle in his eye. He made friends, he made alliances, but he also built a bridge to the future for us all.

It is not too late to pay attention to deficit reduction. Sadly, it was largely ignored in this most recent Presidential campaign by both candidates, but there are plans now to make our debt \$5 trillion and \$10 trillion worse even than it is today.

So we are not going in the direction of Simpson-Bowles or Cooper-LaTourette, as the legislation was called. We seem to be going in the opposite direction. I don't want interest on the Federal debt to be the largest, fastest-growing new Federal program, but that is the way it is headed, especially if interest rates tick up.

We have got a lot of work to do in this body. The next Congress we will have to tackle these Steve LaTourette problems that he was not willing to duck. I hope that this coming Congress will not duck them. He was a brave man and a good man and we need to learn from his example.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TIBERI), who probably knew Steve as well as any other Member in this House did and was as close a friend of Steve's as I think anybody here.

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I ran into a guy back during the campaign in my district who was a prosecutor when Steve LaTourette was a prosecutor. He called him a prosecutor's prosecutor. I guess I shouldn't be surprised because when Steve LaTourette came to this Congress 6 years before I came, he became a legislator's legislator.

And to Henry and Emma and to his children at home: that corner back there became Steve's corner. It was a corner that we spent a lot of time in. Two of the people who spent a lot of time in that corner with your dad were MIKE SIMPSON, a Congressman from Idaho, and FRANK LOBIONDO from New Jersey. They apologize they could not be here tonight, but wanted me to tell you they miss him dearly, just as you do.

Part of what I am going to say, I said at the memorial, but I want to say it again. Steve was a unique guy and not a guy that I would have thought that I would have become friends with because he was a University of Michigan guy and I am an Ohio State guy. But despite that, we did become friends.

Not only did we become friends, my daughters had a tremendous amount of respect for him. When I asked them

after Steve passed to give me a word or a phrase that reminded them of Steve, they came up with these four words or four sayings. One said, Funny. Steve could be brutally funny with a wicked sense of humor. Another said, Kind. Another said, Nice man. And, finally, the fourth said, Christlike.

I laughed at that inside because I knew Steve would laugh at that. But then I looked up Christlike and I got words that fit Steve to a T: gentle, kind, unselfish, generous. It was really an amazing thing and I never thought one of my daughters could see that in a guy, with the words that have been described by our colleagues who loved him. They loved him dearly because his heart was always in the right spot of trying to get things done. No matter who it came from or whose idea it was, Steve was always about helping the little guy.

As MARCY KAPTUR from Ohio said, he not only saved jobs in Cleveland, he added to them. He helped Lake Erie. He was passionate about it. He was passionate about helping his constituents. Whether it was repairing a bridge or building a road, transportation and infrastructure issues were just amazingly important to him. He became an expert in the field. Whether it be something about a railroad or an airport, a seaport, Steve knew it. Trucking, he was on it.

I miss Steve back in that corner. He was an amazing counsel and a friend. He was a mentor. As my daughter said, he was one of the funniest, kindest, and yes, nicest and most Christlike human beings I have ever met.

Take comfort in knowing that the world is a better place because of your dad.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON), from the Sixth Congressional District.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank my colleague, STEVE CHABOT, for putting this on tonight and giving us this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the finest human beings that I personally ever met.

I was elected in 2010, and had no background in public service. I had no idea what I was getting myself into. There was so much to learn and so little time to learn it in. Fortunately, for me, Steve LaTourette was in our Ohio delegation.

It didn't take me long to figure out that, if you had a question on anything, Steve LaTourette was the guy to go to. Whether it was a legislative issue or a procedural issue or a political issue, Steve was a wealth of knowledge and was always willing to take time out of his personal schedule to sit down and have a conversation with you.

I don't think I ever met anyone while I served with him for two terms that didn't call Steve a friend, whether that

was on the Republican side of the aisle or on the Democrat side of the aisle.

□ 2100

Steve had the uncanny ability to smile that smile, to brush away all of the dust of confusion, and get to the core of the matter. And when you walked away from a conversation with Steve, you thought: Well, why didn't I think of that?

I so much appreciated his guidance, his mentorship, and his friendship. I got to know the expertise and the professionalism of the man by watching him work.

But the thing that impressed me most about Steve LaTourette was the heart of the man because I saw him with his family. I saw the way he treated his wife and his children. And there was no mistaking that whatever was swirling around the House, you knew where Steve's priorities were. Steve's priorities were at home, and I will always remember Steve for that.

People call him colleague, people call him former Member; Jennifer, I am just proud to call him friend. God bless you and the family, and thanks so much for letting me share a few moments.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHABOT for organizing this Special Order tonight so that we could pay tribute to our colleague, Steve LaTourette.

And Jennifer, I hope that you and the children are being comforted by the words that you are hearing here tonight.

I want to associate myself with all the comments that I have been able to hear tonight about Steve. He truly was a dedicated public servant and a champion for his constituents in Ohio for 18 years.

As we mourn the loss of Steve, we remember a Representative who stood for what is right and who fought on behalf of what makes America great.

I had the privilege of standing in the back corner a lot of times with Steve, and I can certainly testify to his quick-wittedness, his sense of humor, but also his ability to discern, again, the heart of the matter, as has been mentioned here.

I learned a great deal from Steve by listening to him. He was a man of great principle. And as I thought tonight about coming here and sharing a few comments to pay tribute to Steve, the poem by John Donne, "For Whom the Bell Tolls," kept coming back to me. So I am going to share that poem tonight because I do think that it epitomizes how we should think about Steve and his presence here and his absence.

"No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent,

a part of the main. If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were: any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

We are all diminished by the loss of Steve, but we are all the better for having known him, and I feel very blessed to have known and worked with him.

God bless you, Jennifer, and your family.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from Dayton, Ohio (Mr. TURNER.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman CHABOT for hosting this important opportunity for us to come to the House floor to speak about our good friend, Steve LaTourette.

Ohio has lost a great advocate and a public servant. And to Jennifer and to Mr. LaTourette's children, I want to add my voice and comments to those who have spoken before.

We have heard words such as bipartisan, mentor, substantive, inspirational and fighter, and I want to add my voice to underscore how those words were so important in this body and so important for the legacy of Steve LaTourette.

Bipartisan: As we all know, standing outside off the House Chamber is the Speaker's lobby where the press stands, and I was stopped many times by the press asking me this simple question. The press would approach and say that they had been speaking to the Members of the House and asking them who is the most bipartisan Member of the House, and frequently, on both sides, people would mention Steve LaTourette, and they would want to know how he did that and how he would accomplish that. Where is the work that would have a Member be identified as the most bipartisan?

But we all knew it to be true. Whether it be on substantive issues reaching across the aisle or fighting for what was right, Steve looked not at what side of the aisle people were on but what was the outcome, and everyone in this body saw it.

Mentor: Like BILL JOHNSON, I came here having not served as a legislator before. Steve LaTourette was willing to sit down, assist me in understanding how this body works, how an office works, how to make certain that you are successful, how Congress operates, and how a new Member can become an important part of it.

Substantive: Congressman PAT TIBERI was saying that this corner over here was Steve LaTourette's. But what is important about that corner, not just that Steve LaTourette was there but the line of people that would form to speak to Steve because they were seeking that bipartisan voice, his mentoring, but also his substantive comments.

Steve LaTourette was always the individual who knew more about what was happening on this floor across all subjects than anyone else. It wasn't just his committee or his bills. It was everything that was going on. He knew what was happening, and he had advice for everyone who would stop by to take it.

Inspirational: Steve always had a cause. When you would stop by and talk to him, it wasn't just what was happening on the House floor, it was what other issue needed to be addressed, what other issue needed to be righted, and he would call many people to the cause for that inspiration.

And he was a fighter. He was always on the right side. MARCY KAPTUR was speaking about the fight of BRAC. When Ohio was facing a BRAC, and we had many military facilities that were at risk, DFAS and NASA in Cleveland were facing significant cuts and effects to them. NASA would have been secondarily affected by the cuts in the Department of Defense.

Steve LaTourette singularly stood forward and went directly to the data that the Department of Defense was using, substantively attacked it, substantively repackaged it, and won on the argument that these facilities needed not to be closed or impacted but they needed to be sustained. It was that fighter aspect, it was that substantive aspect that allowed him to be successful and allowed him to be a leader for many.

He will be strongly missed, but, by all those who had an opportunity to learn from him and his mentorship, he lives on in the inspiration he has provided to us in do the right thing, work hard, substantively focus, and make certain that you work and honor all of the Members of the body of Congress, not just those who are of your party.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GIBSON).

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for pulling this Special Order together to give tribute and to really reflect on the remarkable life of Steve LaTourette.

For me, Steve was a role model. He was a teacher. He taught me so much about this institution, and he was a great friend. He was somebody who was fun to be around.

So many things that I could address but, in the interest of time, I will make two points. The first is that Steve and I shared a passion for seeing this body lead and to get our country back to a balanced budget, believing that this is not only an economic imperative, it is a moral imperative.

We have today Steve's family who are with us. He felt so deeply about his family. He loved Cleveland and his entire district, and he knew that this was an issue that we had to go all in to make happen.

That was certainly one of the main motivations why I retired from the Army after 29 years total, including 24 years in the regular Army, is to help move us back to a balanced budget. And working together over the past 6 years, inspired by Steve and others' work, we have closed the deficit by almost 70 percent, but we are not there. We are not back to a balanced budget, and we need to get back to a balanced budget. Steve helped lead the way.

Our first work together was actually a substitute amendment in 2011 brought to the floor here in the early morning hours in March of 2011, and I still remember watching Steve; didn't know him real well at the time but liked everything I saw. And I remember the debate, as it was moving from about 2:30 to 3 a.m., and the speaker right before Steve was, quite frankly, criticizing this substitute amendment that Steve and I had authored before the House and said: Well, we really don't have time to debate Mr. LaTourette's amendment, given this hour.

So when Mr. LaTourette—when Steve got to the floor and he was recognized, he said: Excuse me? We don't have time? Moments ago, we debated cutting off the plumbing to the White House. I think we have got plenty of time to talk about issues that are very important to my constituents in Cleveland.

He gave an impassioned set of remarks that I think was very thoughtfully constructed about how we could guide ourselves back to a balanced budget, but do it in a way that also brings people together, that can do it in a way that we can gain bipartisan support for that.

He stood up for things that were very important for people in Cleveland like the arts, like NPR, and education. And I thought he gave a very summoning set of remarks, and I was proud to be associated with that.

Then a year later, as Mr. COOPER mentioned, I was one of those who joined Mr. LaTourette. We thought our numbers were more formidable, but we brought forward this bipartisan budget that, as Mr. COOPER pointed out, was a missed opportunity because, had we actually adopted that pro-growth, we were closing loopholes and lowering rates for Americans. And also fiscally conservative, we had smart, spending limits on the Federal departments, it was not sequestered. These were livable, sustainable levels that would ultimately get our discretionary spending under control, and it made a commitment to addressing the mandatory spending programs as well.

Had we actually enacted that budget, that Cooper-LaTourette budget today, we would be back at a balanced budget. Given the fact that we did overperform, we saw some Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac money come in, and we came in

lower than we thought in terms of deficits. In fact, at one point here we got the deficit down to 352 B, which is still too high, but represented a 70 percent reduction from the nearly \$1.5 trillion that we were at in 2010.

That budget, I believe, ultimately, we are going to end up having to do that at some point anyway because staring at close to \$20 trillion of debt, we can no longer sit and wait on a Napoleonic-style battle that is going to ultimately clear the field and allow for one party to implement everything that they want on the budget.

We now are going to have unified government, and I am looking forward and excited about those prospects. But we still have issues where we need to get support. There are votes that are needed in the Senate, thresholds that have to be met. So, ultimately, I think that that Cooper-LaTourette budget will come back, and I hope that we can get this done for our Nation. I want to thank Steve for his leadership for that.

The second point was actually an interesting one, a little bit tough to go through, but I am better for it. This was also in 2011.

I saw Steve, and everybody knows the incredible sense of humor, the dry, rapier-like wit that Steve can have. I saw Steve one day, around noon or so, and he said: GIBSON, yesterday.

Yeah, Steve.

He goes: You were in the chair. You were acting Speaker.

Yeah, yeah, I was.

He goes: That jacket, don't ever wear that jacket again.

And I am thinking, okay, I was an Army guy, you know. For the time I was on Active Duty, okay, true, we would get up in the morning and say: I think I will wear something green today, you know. And that did make life easier. But I thought, you know, I have got pretty good taste in clothing.

□ 2115

So I went back to my staff, and I said: Steve LaTourette seemed pretty serious. He said, "Don't ever wear that jacket again."

They said: Well, why don't you do this? How do you feel about it?

I said that I kind of like it.

They said: Why don't you watch it? Why don't we bring it up?

So here is my staff all standing around the computer. We bring it up, and all of a sudden I said: Oh, man, what was I thinking?

I never wore that jacket again, Steve. I want you to know that. I am going to be donating this jacket to the Library of Congress in honor of Steve LaTourette's incredible taste and my lack thereof.

I do want to show it, though, one final time for the RECORD. Somehow, I think it just looks worse on TV than it does when I actually look at it.

Steve, thank you. God bless you. You were an incredible role model for me, a

great friend, an amazing husband and father, and you are missed every day in these Halls. God bless you.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I say to Congressman GIBSON, as usual, Steve LaTourette was right, although I think it is a fine jacket.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for yielding. I thank him for leading this hour this evening. It is entirely appropriate that we gather this evening and remember our friend, Steve LaTourette.

Steve was a friend, and you know what they say about friends in Washington, but Steve was a friend. I arrived here in 2003 and had never served in a legislative body before. I was on Steve's subcommittee, on one of the Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittees, and I will never forget how he ran his subcommittee. It was so even, so evenhanded, no partisanship. I try to carry that with me today, even now, 14 years later, in other subcommittees where the subject matter can get a little bit more contentious, just remembering the respect with which he treated Members of both sides of the dais. It was almost as if Steve didn't even have a dog in the fight, as we say back in Texas, but of course he did.

Steve would give you the shirt off his back. I got kind of put in a tight spot. I needed a speaker for a transportation summit I was doing back in Texas—I mean in Denton, Texas, for crying out loud. Nobody in Ohio even knows where that is. This was in 2012. He had actually had his last election. He wasn't coming back. But I implored upon him: Steve, you have got such a great transportation mind, come and talk to the leaders in transportation in Denton, Texas. He didn't hesitate. He did it.

Steve taught me something that day. He got to Ronald Reagan Airport without his wallet. You actually can get on a flight in the United States of America without an ID. I guess it helps having been a subcommittee chairman on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and perhaps an appropriator in the transportation area. But I was so worried when I got word that Steve had gotten to the airport without his wallet that he wouldn't be able to make it down to Dallas/Fort Worth, but indeed he did. He gave a great presentation. People still talk about it today.

Steve did have that wit. He had that wit that we all experienced at one time or another. He had a way of really bringing you back to earth with his turn of phrase and with his humor.

Steve, we do miss you. The fact that there is a recalcitrant cancer out there that can still claim the lives that it does is something this body should focus on. That is something this body should work on. We can do that. We

have had legislation, really, for a year and a half to try to improve and speed those discoveries. It is held up over in the Senate right now. I am still optimistic we can get it back over here to the House and get it done this year, get it done before this term ends. I would like to do that for Steve.

What a great friend. We miss you.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CHABOT.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from the great State of Ohio.

This is an opportunity that is bittersweet for me and bittersweet for the American people to be able to honor somebody that I got to know as a friend and never had a chance to serve with in this great institution, but somebody who cared about the issues that were important to governing this country and governing America.

America, the greatest country in the history of the world, has been served by public servants like Steve LaTourette for hundreds of years, but not many were like Steve LaTourette. Steve was somebody who focused on how we actually bring both sides of this institution together to move policies forward that are going to benefit every single American. His work on transportation and infrastructure was part of the reason why I sought a seat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee when I got to Congress in 2013.

Getting a chance to know Steve through his efforts at the Main Street Republican Committee and getting to know Steve through many friends that I got to know in the great State of Ohio proved to me what I had heard about Steve for the years before I got here: that he is somebody who actually wants to make America the greatest country in the history of the world.

Steve LaTourette was somebody whom I looked up to. Steve LaTourette was somebody that America should look up to.

Steve, I know you are looking down upon all of us, and especially your family, but I want you to know that what you did and the difference you made in this great institution will never be forgotten. You are an institution yourself, and your family and history will show all of us and this great country that.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I know that we are rapidly approaching that time in which our time has lapsed for this Special Order here, and I think it is fitting that we had Members from both sides of the aisle who came to give a testament to how much Congressman Steve LaTourette meant to this institution—to the House of Representatives—that he loved so much.

I know personally that Speaker John Boehner depended on Steve LaTou-

rette. They were friends, but I know that Speaker Boehner relied upon Steve LaTourette in a lot of the tough decisions that one has to make as Speaker of the House of Representatives. That is something that wasn't necessarily known to the public, but I think it is important that his family know that—Jennifer, his wife; Emma, Henry, and all his children, his whole family. I know they know this, but it is important that they realize how important Congressman LaTourette was to this institution and how much he meant to us.

It was also mentioned by some of our colleagues the rapier wit that he had. I had heard the term “knuckleheads” before—I probably called people that before and maybe was called that myself—but I had never heard the term “chuckleheads” before. That was something that Steve called some Members of this institution with whom he disagreed. I always thought that that was kind of humorous and something that will live in the annals of this institution.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention there were a number of Members on both sides of the aisle that wanted to be with us this evening but who had other things that they just couldn't get done with. We are back in session. We just, obviously, had a national election and this is the first time that Congress has been back in session since that election, so there are a lot of things happening all over the Hill this evening. I know that, for example, Congressman JIM RENACCI and Congressman STEVE STIVERS, among others, have put written speeches in the RECORD which will appear along with the speeches that we have heard here this evening.

Let me just conclude by letting the family know, Jennifer and the kids, that Steve LaTourette will be long remembered in this institution. He will really be missed. He is one who really made a difference, and he is somebody that I am honored to say that I was able to serve in the United States House of Representatives with, our friend, our colleague, Congressman Steve LaTourette.

God bless him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember a dear friend and highly respected colleague, the Honorable Steve LaTourette. He left us too soon, and will never be forgotten.

It is an honor for me to speak about Steve. To the LaTourette Family—Sara, Scott, Grandson Matthew, Emma, Henry, and Jennifer—we share in your great sorrow for someone we all knew and loved. Your brother, your father, your husband, and our friend and colleague brought us joy.

Yesterday I was on a plane flying to Washington, D.C. I sat next to a nice, young woman. We exchanged pleasantries and then

kept to ourselves. I started to rework my remarks for today, and I was going at it pretty intensely—write, scratch, write—and at one point, I stopped, and the woman asked me what I was working on so hard. I told her it was a eulogy for a good friend's funeral, and that I had never delivered a eulogy before. She said she was sorry to hear of my loss.

I went back to writing and she went back to her iPad. Several minutes later, I paused again to look out the window. At that point, I could feel this overwhelming emotion welling up inside of me. I had no outward sign of emotion—no tears, no noise—just strong internal emotion; that lump in your throat. At that point, without saying a word, the young woman put her hand on my shoulder and squeezed it a few times. I turned to her and said thanks. She told me it would be okay.

I turned to look out the window again and thought to myself, “that must have been Steve’s doing,”—a simple act of kindness to reassure a friend. I was 30,000 feet in the air, closer to Heaven, where I know Steve is but the more I thought about it, I changed my conclusion. And it brought a smile to my face. The same smile Steve always brought to my face. It wasn’t that I was close to Heaven and that Steve’s spirit was with me. It was because I was on a mode of transportation. It wouldn’t have mattered which mode—plane, train, car, bus, or boat—Steve’s spirit would have been with me because we shared that interest and passion. Whenever I work on these issues, Steve’s spirit will always be with me.

Steve was a great friend, a dear friend. But he was also a mentor to me, both in Congress and in life. He was bright, compassionate, and hardworking. He was someone you could count on, and he was funny. That humor often carried the day, in good times, intense times, and bad times. He could always light up the room with his wit and humor.

I first learned about Steve from my father, who served with Steve. During my first term in Congress in 2001, I asked my father which members I could look to for good, sound advice. He gave me four to five names but the first name was Steve LaTourette. He said, “You can trust Steve. You may not always agree on the issue but he will always shoot straight.”

Steve was a member’s member. He cared about the people he worked with and the institution. He also cared deeply about finding solutions, which always had him working in a bipartisan manner. He would reach across the aisle to find a path forward.

My father gave me a piece of advice for serving in Congress: You must learn the rules of the institution, become an expert on an issue, and keep your word. Steve excelled at all three.

First, learn the rules. Few if any members knew the rules of the U.S. House of Representatives and Congress better than Steve. You could watch him in action when he was in the chair, presiding over the chamber during debate. He was in the chair frequently, and especially when a bill or debate was expected to be challenging. Steve was given those assignments because his knowledge of the rules. He was always able to act quickly and forcefully because of his knowledge.

Second, become an expert on an issue. Steve demonstrated his expertise on financial

services issues time and time again. In debate or verbal combat with another highly intelligent legislator, Barney Frank, it was always educational and insightful. Few could go toe-to-toe with Barney but Steve was one. And on transportation and infrastructure issues, Steve’s knowledge was always impressive. It didn’t matter the mode of transportation, whether it was highway transit, railroad, aviation, maritime, or even public buildings, Steve knew his stuff. Transportation and infrastructure issues were where his heart really was. That was fortunate for me because he taught me so much.

Finally, keep your word. Steve’s word was always solid. Regardless of if you were on the same side of an issue or he opposed you, you could count on his word. But if you opposed him, it could be a very, very long day. In Congress, your word is critical to success. It is the coin of the realm, and Steve LaTourette’s word was gold.

As I thought about what to say today, I thought what I might have said to Steve if we had exchanged places on the last day I saw him—me in bed and he by my bedside. It was the Friday before the GOP Convention in his beloved Cleveland. What came to me was the final scene from one of my favorite movies, *The Outsiders*. Johnny was in a hospital and beside was his friend, Ponyboy. Throughout the movie, they referred to the Robert Frost poem, “Nothing Gold Can Stay.” At that point in the movie, Johnny whispers into his friend’s ear, “Stay gold, Ponyboy . . . stay gold.” Steve LaTourette was gold and will forever be gold.

Steve, we love you, and you will be missed, my friend.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Ohioans and colleagues in recognizing the life and work of Steve LaTourette, a good friend and an outstanding public servant.

Steve served nine terms in Congress. Though they say Washington changes you, he remained extremely thoughtful and completely authentic throughout his tenure. And regardless of the circumstances, Steve always did what he thought was the right thing.

He came to Congress after serving as a public defender and Lake County prosecutor. He knew the law inside and out and could argue a point passionately, but he also had a great sense of humor.

In fact, during his first term, he famously delivered a speech written by humorist Dave Barry on the House floor, poking fun at his chosen profession: “The vast majority of lawyers . . .” he read “. . . are responsible professionals as well as, in many ways, human beings.”

Steve LaTourette was a great human being. Though Cancer took him away from us way too soon, he leaves a legacy of service that has had a tremendous impact on his family, his colleagues, and especially, for Northeast Ohio.

My thoughts and prayers are with Jennifer and the entire LaTourette family. I know Steve was looking down proudly as his daughter Sarah was elected to a leadership position in the Ohio House of Representatives this month. There is no question that Steve lives on through his children and through each one of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the life and service of United States Congressman Steve LaTourette. As a colleague, Congressman LaTourette was many things at once—formidable, smart, and considerate. Whatever the context, whether an argument or an agreement, he remained open-minded and friendly, always paying attention to his constituents and their needs, while adapting in a changing political climate, and remaining keenly himself. This delicate balancing act is why Steve was so admired and will remain forever respected. It is a shame that the horrific disease of pancreatic cancer cut his life short, but that fact will never outweigh the richness of his life.

Congressman LaTourette was an Ohio man through and through. After graduating from the University of Michigan, he returned to the state he loved to study law at Cleveland-State University. His life-long career in politics began when he was elected County Prosecutor of Lake County, Ohio. In this capacity, he prosecuted the famous Kirtland mass murders. His desire to serve urged him to run for and win a seat in Congress representing his 19th Congressional District in 1994.

Congressman LaTourette’s career spanned from 1995 until 2013, when he retired. In this time, he was known as a strong presence on the House Appropriations Committee. But more than anything else, he was known as a bright and independent mind that was committed to serving his constituents in Ohio. I was sad to see him retire, and now I am sad to see him leave this earth.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman LaTourette was a great United States Representative but an ever better man. May this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show he will be forever loved and never forgotten.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of former Congressman Steve LaTourette from Ohio who passed away in August.

I had the pleasure of serving with Steve throughout his time in the House and worked closely with him while we both sat on the Transportation Committee. Steve was a great legislator, and I admired his relentless dedication to cutting through the gridlock that often plagues D.C.

After leaving the House, Steve continued to be a voice of reason as he led the Republican Main Street Partnership. Steve’s profound understanding of Congress as an institution and the dynamics we face as members will be missed.

Steve was a fine soul. He was never without a smile on his face, and I always enjoyed his rapier wit. I am glad to have counted him a friend.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the late Congressman Steven LaTourette. Congressman LaTourette was a dedicated public servant and talented legislator . . . who understood the value of compromise and the importance of finding common ground.

During his eighteen years serving the people of Ohio in the House of Representatives . . . Congressman LaTourette carried himself with humor . . . and always stayed true to who he was. He was a friend to many . . . and always was willing to reach across the aisle to get things done on behalf of his constituents.

We should all follow the example of principled legislators like Congressman LaTourette.

I wish his family well during this difficult time . . . and am grateful to have the opportunity to honor his legacy with my fellow colleagues.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I ask for Unanimous Consent to address the House for the purpose of a one-minute speech to honor the life of former Ohio Representative Steve LaTourette—who we lost too soon earlier this year.

Steve LaTourette served this body well for 18 years and was known around the People's House as someone who worked hard, knew the rules of this institution, and always had a hand reaching across the aisle because he was dedicated to governing, and getting things done. Steve was also well-renowned for his quick wit. But most of all, Steve was a humble public servant, dedicated to the craft of governing. He loved the nitty gritty of getting common-sense legislation through the pipeline and into law.

Now, most folks know that I am a passionate Michigan Wolverine fan, and even though Steve hailed from Ohio, he was a pretty smart guy evidenced by his degree from the University of Michigan. Steve and I were buddies and caught many games together through the years in Ann Arbor. In fact, Steve was one of my very dear friends. When Steve first got elected in 1994, we sensed a kindred spirit in one another and quickly teamed up on a host of issues important to our Midwest communities.

His passionate work on behalf of the Great Lakes and environmental issues was particularly impressive.

And the Republican Main Street Partnership was better for his tireless leadership and advocacy.

He knew his neck of the woods in Ohio better than anyone, and worked hard as a fearless advocate for their needs. And with Steve, you always knew where you stood. He was a straight shooter, and no matter how difficult the topic, he was always honest.

This body lost a great man when he retired. His wife Jennifer, and his six children, lost a great man with his untimely passing.

Today, we stand together in remembering Steve LaTourette. We remember his passion, his grace, his humor, and his mantra of bipartisanship that—now more than ever—should be part of the fabric of this great institution.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor a statesman and friend, Congressman Steve LaTourette.

For 18 years, Steve served the constituents of Ohio's 14th and 19th Congressional District with distinction. He was tenacious, shrewd, thoughtful, but more importantly, he was always eager to listen and find common ground.

Steve was an expert in parliamentary procedure. His interest in the occurrences on the floor went well beyond his own priorities or personal interests. I had the honor of working with him to protect and preserve one of the most beautiful natural resources we have here in America, the Great Lakes. He understood that along with protecting the environment of these majestic waters, millions of Americans depend on these lakes for their livelihood. Over those 18 years, Steve became more

than a colleague, he became a friend. I fondly remember sneaking up to the chair and passing the gossip of the day with him. I don't think you could find a single member when he retired that wasn't sad to see him go.

There was one thing that he loved more than Congress, his family; he was a devoted husband and father. As we look to the end of this Congress and the start of a new, let us remember Steve as a man who always sought common ground and practical solutions, all with a smile and laugh.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, on August 2nd, the House of Representatives lost a bit of its humanity with the passing of my friend and former colleague Steve LaTourette.

Steve's life was a life lived well and lived fully. It brought to mind that old adage, "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."

There certainly was a lot of life in Steve LaTourette's years.

Simply put, he was a great member—respected and admired. He served for eighteen years in this House, and in doing so, made this chamber a more effective, more responsible and more compassionate body.

He cared deeply about this institution and recognized that we all—Republicans and Democrats—were sent here to find solutions to tackle the nation's challenges.

The headline on his obituary in the "New York Times" of August 4 referred to him as "Congressman Who Despised Gridlock." In his daily battle to get things done for the people of Ohio and the United States, he was never reluctant to reach across the aisle to find a path forward.

Personally, Steve was more than a classmate, a fellow appropriator and colleague. He was a great friend. I found him bright, thoughtful and incredibly hardworking. And his keen sense of humor could lighten any situation.

I think often of Steve and his wife, Jennifer, and also of his children Emma, Henry, Sarah, Sam, Clare and Amy. I hope they will be comforted in the knowledge that Steve LaTourette, above all, always strived to do what he thought was the right thing, no matter the circumstances, obstacles or consequences.

That is the definition of courage. Moreover, that is the essence of service.

Steve's passing is a tremendous loss for all of us and for the state of Ohio. Of course, the loss is most acute for his family but also by the colleagues he left behind in this House. He will not be forgotten.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, October 21, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 3(b) of H. Res. 676 of the 113th Congress, as continued by section 3(f)(2) of H. Res. 5 of the 114th Congress, I write with the following enclosure which is a statement of the aggregate amount expended on outside counsel

and other experts on any civil action authorized by H. Res. 676.

Sincerely,

CANDICE S. MILLER,
Chairman,
Committee on House Administration.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS

(H. Res. 676)

July 1–September 30, 2014	\$0.00
October 1–December 31, 2014	42,875.00
January 1–March 31, 2015	50,000.00
April 1, 2015–June 30, 2015	29,915.00
July 1–September 30, 2015	21,000.00
October 1–December 31, 2015	45,707.67
January 1–March 31, 2016	15,124.00
April 1–June 30, 2016	0.00
July 1–September 30, 2016	0.00
Total:	\$204,621.67

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

July 6, 2016:

H.R. 3114. An Act to provide funds to the Army Corps of Engineers to hire veterans and members of the Armed Forces to assist the Corps with curation and historic preservation activities, and for other purposes.

July 15, 2016:

H.R. 636. An Act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3766. An Act to direct the President to establish guidelines for covered United States foreign assistance programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4372. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 Rochester Street, Bergen, New York, as the Barry G. Miller Post Office.

H.R. 4960. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 525 N Broadway in Aurora, Illinois, as the "Kenneth M. Christy Post Office Building".

July 22, 2016:

H.R. 4875. An Act to establish the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5588. An Act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2016, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

July 29, 2016:

H.R. 2607. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7802 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights, New York, as the "Jeanne and Jules Manford Post Office Building".

H.R. 3700. An Act to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing Programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3931. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Central Avenue Suite 1A in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, as the

“Chief Petty Officer Adam Brown United States Post Office”.

H.R. 3953. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4122 Madison Street, Elfers, Florida, as the “Private First Class Felton Roger Fussell Memorial Post Office”.

H.R. 4010. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 522 North Central Avenue in Phoenix, Arizona, as the “Ed Pastor Post Office”.

H.R. 4425. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 110 East Powerhouse Road in Collegeville, Minnesota, as the “Eugene J. McCarthy Post Office”.

H.R. 4747. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6691 Church Street in Riverdale, Georgia, as the “Major Gregory E. Barney Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4761. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 61 South Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre, California, as the “Louis Van Iersel Post Office”.

H.R. 4777. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1301 Alabama Avenue in Selma, Alabama as the “Amelia Boynton Robinson Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4877. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3130 Grants Lake Boulevard in Sugar Land, Texas, as the “LCpl Garrett W. Gamble, USMC Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4904. An Act to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a directive on the management of software licenses, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4925. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 West Main Cross Street, in Findlay, Ohio, as the “Michael Garver Oxley Memorial Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4975. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5720 South 142nd Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the “Petty Officer 1st Class Caleb A. Nelson Post Office Building”.

H.R. 4987. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3957 2nd Avenue in Laurel Hill, Florida, as the “Sergeant First Class William ‘Kelly’ Lacey Post Office”.

H.R. 5028. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10721 E Jefferson Ave in Detroit, Michigan, as the “Mary E. McCoy Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5722. An Act to establish the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

September 23, 2016:

H.R. 3969. An Act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Laughlin, Nevada, as the “Master Chief Petty Officer Jesse Dean VA Clinic”.

September 29, 2016:

H.R. 2615. An Act to establish the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission.

H.R. 5252. An Act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at 1400 Lower Island Road in Tortilla Texas, as the “Marcelino Serra Port of Entry”.

H.R. 5325. An Act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5936. An Act to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into certain leases at the Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Campus in Los An-

geles California, to make certain improvements to the enhanced-use lease authority of the Department, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5937. An Act to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to acquire, operate, and maintain the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial in Marnes-la-Coquette, France, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5985. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the Senate of the following titles:

July 15, 2016:

S. 2845. An Act to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014.

July 20, 2016:

S. 1252. An Act to authorize a comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

July 22, 2016:

S. 524. An Act to authorize the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to address the prescription opioid abuse and heroin use crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 2840. An Act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds for active shooter training, and for other purposes.

July 29, 2016:

S. 764. An Act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2893. An Act to reauthorize the sound recording and film preservation programs of the Library of Congress, and for other purposes.

S. 3055. An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

S. 3207. An Act to authorize the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide playback equipment in all formats.

September 23, 2016:

S. 1579. An Act to enhance and integrate Native American tourism, empower Native American communities, increase coordination and collaboration between Federal tourism assets, and expand heritage and cultural tourism opportunities in the United States.

September 30, 2016:

S. 1878. An Act to extend the pediatric priority review voucher program.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. POE of Texas (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2959. An act to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 2733. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3004. An act to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

H.R. 3937. An act to designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the “Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 5147. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities.

H.R. 5325. An act making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5578. An act to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5893. An act to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5944. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5946. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or award won in competitions in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature on Thursday, September 29, 2016, to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 246. An act to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 3283. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the “PFC James Dunn VA Clinic”.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on September 28, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 1475. To authorize a Wall of Remembrance as part of the Korean War Veterans

Memorial and to allow certain private contributions to fund that Wall of Remembrance.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on September 29, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 5325. Making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2017, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2494. To support global anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported that on October 3, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 5946. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

H.R. 2733. To require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5944. To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3004. To amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

H.R. 3937. To designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the “Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 5147. To amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities.

H.R. 5883. To amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5578. To establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at noon.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the

United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 114th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

COLLEEN HANABUSA, First District of Hawaii.

JAMES COMER, First District of Kentucky.

DWIGHT EVANS, Second District of Pennsylvania.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second and third quarters of 2016, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO SOUTH AFRICA, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 15 AND JULY 21, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Katherine Meyer	7/15	7/21	South Africa		365		19,869.16		1,148.75		21,382.91
Martin Reiser	7/15	7/21	South Africa		365		19,869.16		1,148.75		21,382.91
Committee total					730		39,738.32		2,297.50		42,765.82

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KATHERINE MEYER, Sept. 26, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, NORWAY, AND ITALY, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 28 AND SEPT. 4, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Hon. Peter Welch	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Hon. Kristi Noem	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Hon. Mimi Walters	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Hon. Rodney Davis	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Natalie Buchanan	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Barrett Karr	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Jeff Dressler	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	8/29	8/31	United Kingdom		1,595.00		(3)				1,595.00
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Peter Welch	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Kristi Noem	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Mimi Walters	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Rodney Davis	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Richard Hudson	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Natalie Buchanan	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Barrett Karr	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Jeff Dressler	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	8/31	9/1	Norway		374.00		(3)				374.00
Hon. Kevin McCarthy	9/1	9/4	Italy		1,460.00		(3)				1,460.00
Hon. Mac Thornberry	9/1	9/4	Italy		1,460.00		(3)				1,460.00
Hon. Peter Welch	9/1	9/4	Italy		1,460.00		(3)				1,460.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, NORWAY, AND ITALY, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 28 AND SEPT. 4, 2016—
Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Kristi Noem	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Hon. Mimi Walters	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Hon. Rodney Davis	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Hon. Richard Hudson	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Natalie Buchanan	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Barrett Karr	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Jeff Dressler	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Dr. Brian Monahan	9/1	9/4	Italy .....	.....	1,460.00	.....	(³)	.....	.....	.....	1,460.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36,124.00	.....	7,068.00	.....	.....	.....	43,192.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY, Oct. 4, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO JAPAN, EXPENDED BETWEEN SEPT. 1 AND SEPT. 4, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Edward R. Royce	9/1	9/4	Japan .....	.....	1,410.42	.....	3,087.36	.....	.....	.....	4,497.78
Thomas P. Sheehy	9/1	9/4	Japan .....	.....	1,345.42	.....	3,523.36	.....	.....	.....	4,868.78
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,755.84	.....	6,610.72	.....	.....	.....	9,366.56

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Oct. 26, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
BG Wright	6/26	6/28	Estonia .....	.....	317.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	6/28	6/29	Latvia .....	.....	258.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	6/29	7/1	Ukraine .....	.....	164.19	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,858.36	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & embassy transportation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	441.84	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cornell Teague	6/27	6/29	Latvia .....	.....	342.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	6/29	7/1	Ukraine .....	.....	255.64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,065.96	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & embassy transportation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	424.06	.....	.....	.....	.....
Becky Leggieri	6/27	6/29	Latvia .....	.....	342.75	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	6/29	7/1	Ukraine .....	.....	255.64	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,065.96	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & embassy transportation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	368.41	.....	.....	.....	.....
Megan Milan	6/26	6/28	Belgium .....	.....	405.78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	6/28	7/1	Ukraine .....	.....	725.53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,284.25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & embassy transportation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	776.03	.....	.....	.....	.....
Collin Lee	6/26	6/28	Belgium .....	.....	405.78	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	6/28	7/1	Ukraine .....	.....	725.53	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,284.25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & embassy transportation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	810.94	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Barbara Lee	7/17	7/22	Durban .....	.....	706.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Delegation costs .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	44.18	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,788.86	.....	.....	.....	.....
Donna Shahbaz	7/17	7/27	United Kingdom .....	.....	3,543.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,187.40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & train .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	847.40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dale Oak	7/17	7/27	United Kingdom .....	.....	3,547.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,713.40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & train .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	814.53	.....	.....	.....	.....
Perry Yates	7/17	7/27	United Kingdom .....	.....	3,550.39	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,187.40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi & train .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	848.84	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taunja Berquan	7/17	7/27	United Kingdom .....	.....	3,523.52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Commercial airfare .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,187.40	.....	.....	.....	.....
Taxi .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	789.85	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hon. Rodney Frelinghuysen	7/16	7/17	Qatar .....	.....	777.30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	7/17	7/17	Iraq .....	.....	11.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	7/18	7/20	Kuwait .....	.....	396.33	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—
Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	7/20	7/20	Afghanistan		15.00						
Commercial airfare	7/20	7/21	Qatar				8,414.26				
Embassy air transportation							1,725.00				
Delegation costs									347.96		
Susan Adams	7/20	7/27	Rwanda		1,762.00		12,402.36		837.75		
Commercial airfare											
Delegation costs											
Betsy Bina	7/20	7/27	Rwanda		1,762.00		12,402.36		837.75		
Commercial airfare											
Delegation costs											
Tom O'Brien	7/24	7/26	Chile		1,091.00						
Commercial airfare	7/27	7/29	Argentina		1,313.00						
Delegation costs							13,106.00				
Andrew Cooper	7/24	7/26	Chile		1,091.00				343.00		
Commercial airfare	7/27	7/29	Argentina		1,313.00						
Delegation costs							13,106.00				
Elizabeth King	7/24	7/26	Chile		1,091.00				343.00		
Commercial airfare	7/27	7/29	Argentina		1,313.00						
Delegation costs							13,106.00				
Hon. Harold Rogers	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Hon. Ken Calvert	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Hon. John Carter	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Hon. Henry Cuellar	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Hon. Steve Womack	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Hon. Evan Jenkins	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
William Smith	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
Commercial airfare	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Delegation costs							833.40				
Ann Marie Chotvacs	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15		2,273.73		846.27		
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Rebecca Leggieri	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
BG Wright	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Jennifer Hing	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Matt Leffingwell	7/29	7/31	Spain		507.15						
Delegation costs	7/31	8/4	Italy		1,799.49						
	8/4	8/7	Ireland		1,489.47						
Cornell Teague	8/7	8/10	Norway		557.63						
Taxi & embassy transportation							193.87				
Commercial airfare							5,801.26				
Chris Bigelow	8/7	8/10	Norway		543.29						
Taxi & embassy transportation							178.00				
Commercial airfare							5,801.26				
Hon. Andy Harris	8/24	8/30	Italy		1,081.63				296.05		
Commercial airfare							1,816.66				
Hon. Charles Dent	8/12	8/14	Morocco		501.00						
Returned per diem	8/14	8/15	Czech Republic		389.89						
Delegation costs	8/15	8/17	Ukraine		737.26						
	8/17	8/18	Estonia		235.49						
	8/18	8/19	Iceland		383.00						
James Kulikowski	8/1	8/6	Ukraine		1,604.72				18.82		
Delegation costs	8/6	8/9	Georgia		1,020.00						
Train & rental car							292.59				
Commercial airfare							8,076.71				
Shalanda Young	8/1	8/6	Ukraine		1,604.72				795.74		
Delegation costs	8/6	8/9	Georgia		1,020.00						
Train & rental car							292.59				
Commercial airfare							11,279.46				
David Bortnick	8/1	8/6	Ukraine		1,604.72						
Delegation costs	8/6	8/9	Georgia		1,020.00				795.74		
Train & rental car							292.59				
Commercial airfare							10,925.46				

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—
Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Kay Granger	8/14	8/16	Latvia		412.19						
	8/16	8/17	Germany		268.63						
	8/17	8/19	Kuwait		859.50						
	8/19	8/19	United Kingdom		78.75						
Delegation costs											
Taxi & embassy transportation											
Commercial airfare							299.87				
							16,382.86				
Hon. Steve Womack	8/14	8/16	Latvia		412.19						
	8/16	8/17	Germany		268.63						
	8/17	8/19	Kuwait		859.50						
	8/19	8/19	United Kingdom		78.75						
Delegation costs											
Taxi & embassy transportation							256.66				
Commercial airfare							16,454.96				
Rob Blair	8/14	8/16	Latvia		412.19						
	8/16	8/17	Germany		268.63						
	8/17	8/19	Kuwait		859.50						
	8/19	8/19	United Kingdom		78.75						
Delegation costs											
Taxi & embassy transportation											
Commercial airfare							227.07				
							11,820.66				
Hon. Robert Aderholt	7/29	8/2	Haiti		778.00						
Commercial airfare							1,294.66				
Hon. Jeff Fortenberry			Egypt		534.01						
			Italy		1,098.70						
Delegation costs											
Commercial airfare							9,382.26				
Committee total					\$95,590.99		\$256,401.42		\$20,280.68		\$372,273.09

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. HAROLD ROGERS, Chairman, Oct. 28, 2016.

(AMENDMENT) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Tom Price	3/31	4/2	Philippines		605.84		(³)				605.84
	4/2	4/7	Australia		1,631.00		(³)				1,631.00
Hon. Ted Lieu	5/29	6/2	Taiwan								
	6/2	6/5	South Korea								
					842.14		2,838.66				3,680.80
Hon. Alex Mooney	6/24	6/30	Jordan		699.00		24,443.92				25,142.92
Committee total					3,777.98		27,280.58				30,790.56

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. TOM PRICE, Chairman, Nov. 3, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Marlin Stutzman	7/15	7/16	Azores		61.00		(³)				926.00
	7/17	7/17	Israel		138.00		(³)				
	7/18	7/19	Jordan		282.00		(³)				
	7/20	7/20	Georgia		105.00		(³)				
	7/21	7/21	Romania		90.00		(³)				
	7/22	7/22	Lithuania		250.00		(³)				
Hon. Bruce Westerman	7/15	7/16	Azores		61.00		(³)				926.00
	7/17	7/17	Israel		138.00		(³)				
	7/18	7/19	Jordan		282.00		(³)				
	7/20	7/20	Georgia		105.00		(³)				
	7/21	7/21	Romania		90.00		(³)				
	7/21	7/22	Lithuania		250.00		(³)				
Committee total					1,913.00		(³)				1,852.00

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. TOM PRICE, Chairman, Sept. 29, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Fred Upton	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)		7,223.72		7,810.65

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ed Whitfield	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)		5,210.60		5,716.77
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)		5,489.02		6,043.02
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
Hon. John Shimkus	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
Hon. Greg Walden	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/30	7/2	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/28	6/30	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
Hon. Pete Olson	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
Hon. Morgan Griffith	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
Thomas Hassenboehler	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
Tim Pataki	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
Theresa Gambo	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
Jeff Carroll	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/26	6/28	Japan		586.93		(³)				586.93
Hon. Richard Hudson	6/28	6/30	China		506.17		(³)				506.17
	6/30	7/2	South Korea		554.00		(³)				554.00
	6/30	7/4	Georgia		896.67		3,640.50				4,537.17
	7/4	7/5	Italy		634.28		(³)				634.28
Ben Lieberman	7/18	7/24	Austria		2,221.55		13,151.96				15,373.51
Hon. Richard Hudson	7/28	7/30	Germany		589.75		(³)				589.75
Peter Spencer	7/30	8/2	Sweden		813.00						813.00
	8/2	8/5	Slovakia		511.00						511.00
	7/31	8/2	Lithuania		642.67		8,597.16				9,239.83
	8/3	8/6	Georgia		1,115.00				695.62		1,810.62
John Ohly	7/31	8/2	Lithuania		642.67		7,819.06				8,461.73
	8/3	8/16	Georgia		1,115.00						1,115.00
	7/31	8/2	Lithuania		642.67		7,739.06				8,381.73
	8/3	8/16	Georgia		1,115.00						1,115.00
Hon. Joseph Pitts	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)		19,027.12		19,963.12
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82				3,446.50		4,157.32
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00				8,591.34		9,375.34
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
Hon. Marsha Blackburn	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		660.00		(³)				660.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		428.82						428.82
Hon. Bill Flores	8/10	8/12	Italy		510.00						510.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
Hon. Larry Bucshon	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
Hon. Gene Green	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
Heidi Stirrup	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
Karen Christian	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
Andrew Souvall	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
	8/10	8/12	Italy		784.00						784.00
	8/6	8/8	Israel		936.00		(³)				936.00
	8/8	8/10	Jordan		710.82						710.82
Committee total					48,395.64		40,947.74		49,683.92		139,087.30

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. FRED UPTON, Chairman, Oct. 28, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Tonia Smith	8/16	8/24	UK		2,148.73		1,004.96				3,153.69
Tamar Nedzar	8/16	8/24	Canada		450.26		482.94				933.20
	8/16	8/24	UK		2,148.73		1,609.66		90.00		3,848.39
Karena Dees	8/16	8/24	Canada		675.38		441.90				1,117.28
	8/16	8/24	UK		2,148.73		1,609.66				3,758.39
Patrick McMullen	8/16	8/24	Canada		675.38		441.90				1,117.28
	8/16	8/24	UK		2,148.73		1,105.66				3,254.39
Nadia Konstantinova	8/16	8/24	UK		1,718.99		1,294.16		163.94		3,177.09
Committee total					12,114.93		7,990.84		253.94		20,359.71

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES W. DENT, Chairman, Oct. 11, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Michael Fitzpatrick	7/1	7/4	Georgia		751.51		(³)				751.51
	7/4	7/5	Italy		552.06		(³)				552.06
Hon. David Schweikert	7/1	7/4	Georgia		888.00		(³)				888.00
	7/4	7/5	Italy		579.98		(³)				579.98
Committee total					2,771.55						2,771.55

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation

HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Ted Deutch	7/17	7/19	South Korea		670.98		(³)				670.98
	7/19	7/20	Philippines		274.00		(³)				274.00
	7/20	7/23	Japan		1,323.24		(³)				1,323.24
Casey Kustin	7/17	7/19	South Korea		610.98		(³)				610.98
	7/19	7/20	Philippines		224.00		(³)				224.00
	7/20	7/23	Japan		1,163.24		(³)				1,163.24
Thomas Alexander	9/26	9/28	Bosnia-Herzegovina		346.05		3,741.06				4,087.11
Leah Campos	9/26	9/28	Bosnia-Herzegovina		346.05		3,741.06				4,087.11
Scott Cullinane	7/31	8/2	Uzbekistan		606.00		5,727.59				6,333.59
	8/2	8/6	Kyrgyzstan		1,012.80						1,012.80
Philip Bednarczyk	7/31	8/2	Uzbekistan		618.00		5,727.59				6,345.59
	8/2	8/6	Kyrgyzstan		1,027.80						1,027.80
Mark Iozzi	7/31	8/2	Uzbekistan		603.00		5,758.16				6,361.16
	8/2	8/6	Kyrgyzstan		1,017.80						1,017.80
Hon. Christopher Smith	8/26	8/27	South Sudan		22.55		14,757.08				14,779.63
Gregory Simpkins	8/26	8/27	South Sudan		20.00		14,757.08				14,777.08
Hon. Dana Rohrabacher	6/25	6/27	Egypt		534.00		14,306.96				14,840.96
	6/27	6/30	Jordan		1,060.56						1,060.56
	6/30	7/2	Turkey		621.28						621.28
Paul Behrends	6/25	6/27	Egypt		534.00		11,430.56				11,964.56
	6/27	6/30	Jordan		1,060.56						1,060.56
	6/30	7/2	Turkey		621.28						621.28
Philip Bednarczyk	6/25	6/27	Egypt		534.00		6,024.46				6,558.46
	6/27	6/30	Jordan		1,170.00						1,170.00
Hunter Strupp	8/21	8/26	Burma		1,576.00		11,561.06				13,137.06
Joan Condon	8/21	8/26	Burma		1,566.00		12,728.26				14,294.26
Sajit Gandhi	8/21	8/26	Burma		1,571.00		11,561.15				13,132.15
Hon. Eliot Engel	8/31	9/2	Albania		568.05		11,428.86				11,996.91
	9/2	9/6	Italy		1,816.44						1,816.44
Kyle Parker	8/31	9/2	Albania		568.05		4,272.96				4,841.01
	9/2	9/6	Italy		1,816.44						1,816.44
Thomas Alexander	8/15	8/17	Bosnia-Herzegovina		360.58		4,004.86				4,365.44
	8/17	8/19	Germany		655.61						655.61
Leah Campos	8/15	8/17	Bosnia-Herzegovina		360.58		4,004.86				4,365.44
	8/17	8/19	Germany		655.61						655.61
Hon. Karen Bass	8/7	8/10	Senegal		675.46		(³)				675.46
	8/10	8/12	Liberia		557.76		(³)				557.76
	8/12	8/14	Nigeria		1,525.60		(³)				1,525.60
	8/15	8/16	Spain		234.60		(³)				234.60
Hon. Jeff Duncan	7/17	7/20	Brazil		1,147.46		1,976.99				3,124.45
Leah Campos	7/17	7/20	Brazil		1,147.55		1,112.49				2,260.04
Gregory Simpkins	7/17	7/20	Burundi		524.00		5,410.38	(*)		1,170.42	7,104.80
	7/20	7/23	Rwanda		840.00			(*)		172.62	1,012.62
Margot Sullivan	7/17	7/20	Burundi		510.12		5,410.38				5,920.50
	7/20	7/23	Rwanda		844.49						844.49
Lesley Warner	7/17	7/20	Burundi		561.00		6,226.38				6,787.38
	7/20	7/23	Rwanda		555.50						555.50
Piero Tozzi	7/30	8/2	Haiti		798.00		716.16				1,514.16
Thomas Hill	8/7	8/9	Azerbaijan		531.76		4,901.06				5,432.82
	8/9	8/11	Lithuania		643.79						643.79
	8/11	8/13	Czech Republic		621.99						621.99
Timothy Mulvey	8/7	8/9	Azerbaijan		531.76		4,901.06				5,432.82
	8/9	8/11	Lithuania		643.79						643.79
	8/11	8/13	Czech Republic		621.99						621.99
Hon. Reid Ribble	7/16	7/17	Portugal		295.00		(³)				295.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00		(³)				498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		711.00		(³)				711.00
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00		(³)				305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		221.00		(³)				221.00
	7/22	7/24	Lithuania		324.00		5,737.56				6,061.56
Committee total					43,407.15		181,926.07	(*)		1,343.04	226,676.26

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

* Indicates Delegation Costs.

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2016.

November 14, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE, Vol. 162, Pt. 10

14141

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, Chairman, Sept. 30, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

Richard Cappelto	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,037.66				4,013.89
Jen Daulby	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,072.66				4,204.87
Nick Hawatmeh	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,037.66				4,101.39
Maximilian Engling	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,037.66				4,83.89
Courtney Joseph	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,037.66				4,101.39
Amanda Anger	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,037.66				4,018.18
Matthew DeFreitas	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,072.66				4,211.89
Kimberly Stevens	8/16	8/21	United Kingdom		2,148.73		* 2,072.66				4,209.14
Richard Cappelto	8/21	8/24	Canada		1,367.17		(*)				1,194.67
Jen Daulby	8/21	8/23	Canada		450.26		(*)				433.74
Nick Hawatmeh	8/21	8/24	Canada		675.38		(*)				590.38
Maximilian Engling	8/21	8/24	Canada		675.38		(*)				572.88
Courtney Joseph	8/21	8/24	Canada		675.38		(*)				590.38
Amanda Anger	8/21	8/24	Canada		675.38		(*)				507.17
Matthew DeFreitas	8/21	8/23	Canada		450.26		(*)				440.76
Kimberly Stevens	8/21	8/23	Canada		450.26		(*)				438.02
Committee total					22,609.31		16,406.28				37,712.64

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

* Travel All inclusive.

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman, Oct. 27, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

HON. ROB BISHOP, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Oct. 4, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

Hon. Donna F. Edwards	7/17	7/19	South Korea		730.74		(3)				730.74
	7/19	7/20	Philippines		294.00		(3)				294.00
	7/20	7/23	Japan		1,423.24		(3)				1,423.24
Committee total					2,447.98		\$0		\$0		2,447.98

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. LAMAR SMITH, Chairman, Oct. 20, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Steve Chabot	8/10	8/12	Azerbaijan		361.00		10,601.96				
	8/12	8/14	Georgia		341.00						
	8/14	8/16	Armenia		240.00						
Hon. Kevin Fitzpatrick	8/10	8/12	Azerbaijan		361.00		11,185.96				
	8/12	8/14	Georgia		341.00						
	8/14	8/16	Armenia		240.00						
Committee total					1,884.00		21,787.92				23,671.92

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. STEVE CHABOT, Chairman, Oct. 24, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Julia Brownley	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Eric Burgeson	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Carlos Louis Curbelo	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00		914.26		1,583.26
Hon. Jeffrey John Denham	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. John James Duncan Jr.	6/25	6/27	Panama		360.00		198.00		745.65		1,303.65
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Donna Fern Edwards	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Lois Jane Frankel	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Garret Neal Graves	6/24	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00		1,172.66		1,841.66
	6/26	6/27	Panama		180.00		99.00		959.51		1,796.51
Hon. Duncan Duane Hunter	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00		1,951.81		2,230.81
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Fleming Michael Legg	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Ward McCarragher	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Stephen Collin McCune	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. John Frederick Miller	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Reid J. Ribble	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Marshall Clement Sanford	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. William Franklin Shuster	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. William Robert Woodall	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Hon. Helena Zyblikewycz	6/26	6/27	Panama		540.00		297.00				837.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia		455.00		214.00				669.00
Delegation expenses	6/26	6/27	Panama						2,785.00	10,266.00	13,051.00
	6/27	6/29	Colombia						3,062.00	8,552.00	11,614.00
Committee total					16,915.00		8,687.00		11,590.89	18,818.00	56,010.89

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BILL SHUSTER, Chairman, Sept. 15, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

HON. JEFF MILLER, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Pat Meehan	7/16	7/17	Portugal		330.00		(3)				330.00
	7/17	7/18	Israel		498.00		(3)				498.00
	7/18	7/20	Jordan		710.82		(3)				710.82
	7/20	7/21	Georgia		305.00		(3)				305.00
	7/21	7/22	Romania		220.00		(3)				220.00
	7/22	7/23	Lithuania		647.35		(3)				647.35
Hon. Pat Meehan	8/13	8/14	Morocco		501.00		(3)				501.00
	8/14	8/15	Czech R		389.89		(3)				389.89
	8/15	8/17	Ukraine		737.26		(3)				737.26

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—
Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	8/17	8/18	Estonia		235.49		(³)				235.49
	8/18	8/19	Iceland		383.00		(³)				383.00
Committee total					4,957.81						4,957.81

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. KEVIN BRADY, Chairman, Oct. 3, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND
SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Michael Ellis	7/15	7/17	Europe		178.00		³		380.08		558.08
Hon. Mike Quigley	7/15	7/17	Europe		165.00		³		380.08		545.08
	7/17	7/18	Asia		628.00				842.79		1,470.79
	7/18	7/20	Asia		710.82		165.94		190.99		1,067.75
	7/20	7/21	Europe		305.00				135.21		440.21
	7/21	7/22	Europe		220.00				266.08		486.08
	7/22	7/24	Europe		647.35				265.45		912.80
Hon. Devin Nunes	7/15	7/19	Europe		2,137.05				204.45		2,341.50
Commercial aircraft							1,056.66				1,056.66
George Pappas	7/15	7/19	Europe		1,961.49				204.46		2,165.95
Commercial airfare							1,056.66				1,056.66
Robert Minhart	7/17	7/23	Asia		4,885.00				617.50		5,502.50
Commercial airfare							14,998.86				14,998.86
Andrew House	7/17	7/23	Asia		4,885.00				617.50		5,502.50
Commercial airfare							14,998.86				14,998.86
Shannon Stuart	7/17	7/19	Europe		985.90						985.90
	7/19	7/21	Europe		581.00				250.00		831.00
	7/21	7/23	Africa		682.06						682.06
Commercial airfare							7,107.48				7,107.48
Carly Blake	7/17	7/19	Europe		985.90						985.90
	7/19	7/21	Europe		581.00						831.00
	7/21	7/23	Africa		682.06						682.06
Commercial airfare							7,107.48				7,107.48
Michael Ellis	7/19	7/21	Europe		581.00						831.00
Commercial airfare	7/21	7/23	Africa		682.06						682.06
							6,625.08				6,625.08
Michael Bahar	7/23	7/27	Asia		1,090.00				184.20		1,274.20
	7/27	7/29	Asia		1,068.86				1,031.06		2,099.92
Commercial airfare							15,626.96				15,626.96
Thomas Eager	7/23	7/27	Asia		1,090.00				184.20		1,274.20
	7/27	7/29	Asia		1,068.86				1,031.06		2,099.92
	7/29	7/30	Asia		278.00				37.66		315.66
Commercial airfare							15,675.86				15,675.86
Timothy Bergreen	8/2	8/4	Europe		637.10						637.10
	8/4	8/6	Europe		436.00						436.00
	8/6	8/8	Europe		347.66				164.15		511.81
	8/8	8/9	Europe		330.02				62.42		392.44
Commercial airfare							11,524.96				11,524.96
Linda Cohen	8/2	8/4	Europe		637.10						637.10
	8/4	8/6	Europe		436.00						436.00
	8/6	8/8	Europe		347.65				164.14		511.79
Commercial airfare							11,524.96				11,524.96
Hon. Devin Nunes	8/4	8/6	Europe		503.71				115.49		619.20
	8/6	8/8	Europe		624.20				254.78		878.98
	8/8	8/11	Europe		685.00				8.20		693.20
	8/11	8/12	Europe		176.50				706.30		882.80
	8/12	8/14	Europe		802.86		319.82		132.75		1,255.43
	8/14	8/16	Europe		538.82				419.92		958.74
	8/16	8/18	Europe		575.81						575.81
	8/18	8/18	Europe						2.95		2.95
Commercial airfare							19,289.46				19,289.46
Hon. Frank LoBiondo	8/4	8/6	Europe		503.71				115.49		619.20
	8/6	8/8	Europe		624.20				254.78		878.98
	8/8	8/9	Europe		155.00				8.20		163.20
Commercial airfare							11,516.26				11,516.26
Hon. Mike Quigley	8/12	8/14	Europe		802.86		319.82		132.75		1,255.43
	8/14	8/16	Europe		538.82				419.92		958.74
	8/16	8/17	Europe		365.81						365.81
Commercial airfare							12,009.36				12,009.36
George Pappas	8/4	8/6	Europe		503.71				115.49		619.20
	8/6	8/8	Europe		616.61				254.78		871.39
	8/8	8/11	Europe		665.00				8.20		673.20
	8/11	8/12	Europe		176.50				706.30		882.80
George Pappas	8/12	8/14	Europe		802.86		319.82		132.75		1,255.43
	8/14	8/16	Europe		538.82				419.92		958.74
	8/16	8/18	Europe		575.81						575.81
	8/18	8/18	Europe						2.95		2.95
Commercial airfare							18,086.86				18,086.86
Scott Glabe	8/04	8/06	Europe		503.71				115.49		619.20
	8/06	8/08	Europe		605.19				254.78		859.97
	8/08	8/11	Europe		665.00				8.20		673.20
	8/11	8/12	Europe		176.50				706.30		882.80
	8/12	8/14	Europe		802.86		319.82		132.75		1,255.43
	8/14	8/16	Europe		538.82				419.92		958.74
	8/16	8/18	Europe		575.81						575.81
	8/18	8/18	Europe						2.95		2.95
Commercial airfare							18,086.86				18,086.86
Robert Minehart	8/04	8/06	Europe		503.71				115.49		619.20
	8/06	8/08	Europe		616.61				254.78		871.39

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
	8/08	8/11	Europe		665.00				8.20		673.20
	8/11	8/12	Europe		176.50				706.30		882.80
	8/12	8/14	Europe		802.86		319.82		132.75		1,255.42
	8/14	8/16	Europe		538.82				419.92		958.74
	8/16	8/18	Europe		575.81						575.81
	8/18	8/18	Europe						2.95		2.95
Commercial airfare							18,086.86				
Hon. Chris Stewart	8/08	8/10	Asia		136.00				37.47		173.47
	8/10	8/13	Europe		1,439.00				47.33		1,486.33
Commercial airfare							15,952.22				15,952.22
Geoffrey Kahn	8/08	8/10	Asia		136.00				37.47		173.47
	8/10	8/13	Europe		1,439.00				47.33		1,486.33
Commercial airfare							20,311.25				20,311.25
Stephen Keith	8/08	8/10	Asia		136.00				37.47		173.47
	8/10	8/13	Europe		1,439.00				47.33		1,486.33
Commercial airfare						20,311.25				20,311.25	61,554.12
Damon Nelson	8/17	8/19	Europe		550.00						550.00
	8/19	8/20	Europe		486.00						486.00
Commercial airfare							13,546.16				
Chelsey Campbell	8/17	8/19	Europe		550.00						550.00
	8/19	8/20	Europe		486.00						486.00
Commercial airfare							13,546.16				13,546.16
Angela Hooper	8/17	8/19	Europe		550.00						550.00
	8/14	8/20	Europe		486.00						486.00
Commercial airfare							13,546.16				13,546.16
Carly Blake	8/17	8/19	Europe		550.00						550.00
	8/19	8/20	Europe		486.00						486.00
Commercial airfare							13,546.16				13,546.16
Hon. Jackie Speier	8/19	8/22	Asia		1,050.00				692.38		1,742.38
	8/22	8/24	Asia		558.59						558.59
Commercial airfare							8,626.36				8,626.36
Linda Cohen	8/19	8/22	Asia		1,050.00				692.38		1,742.38
	8/22	8/24	Asia		558.59						558.59
Commercial airfare							9,569.31				9,569.31
Hon. Chris Stewart	8/20	8/22	Asia		1,036.00		³		2,518.32		3,554.32
	8/22	8/24	Europe		535.87		27.76		23.98		587.61
	8/24	8/24	Europe .....		.00		.00		70.03		70.03
	8/24	8/26	Europe		538.29		.00		58.79		597.08
Hon. Jeff Miller	8/23	8/25	Asia		531.00		.00		.00		531.00
	8/25	8/28	Asia		781.54		.00		29.27		810.81
	8/28	8/28	Europe .....		.00		.00		103.67		103.67
Commercial airfare							16,827.86				16,827.86
George Pappas	8/23	8/25	Asia		531.00		.00		.00		531.00
	8/25	8/25	Asia		781.54		.00		29.27		810.81
	8/28	8/28	Asia .....		.00		.00		103.67		103.67
Commercial airfare							16,156.56				16,156.16
Amanda Rogers-Thorpe	8/23	8/25	Asia		531.00				531.00		531.00
	8/25	8/28	Asia		781.54				29.27		810.81
	8/28	8/28	Europe						103.67		103.67
Commercial airfare							16,156.56				16,156.16
Hon. Mike Pompeo	8/28	8/31	Europe		547.00						547.00
	8/31	9/1	Europe		725.00						725.00
	9/1	9/4	Europe		809.84						809.84
	9/4	9/4	Europe						75.00		75.00
	9/4	9/5	Europe		984.00		736.50		224.50		1,945.00
Commercial airfare							15,320.06				15,320.06
Scott Glabe	8/28	8/31	Europe		820.50						820.50
	8/31	9/1	Europe		725.00						725.00
	9/1	9/4	Europe		809.84						809.84
	9/4	9/4	Europe						75.00		75.00
	9/4	9/5	Europe		984.00		736.50		224.50		1,945.00
Commercial airfare							2,893.06				2,893.06
					73,293.89		403,957.40		20,514.28		497,762.57
Committee total					73,293.89		403,957.40		20,514.28		497,762.57

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.³ Military air transportation.

HON. DEVIN NUNES, Chairman, Oct. 31, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.☐											

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. KEVIN BRADY, Vice Chairman, Oct. 7, 2016.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Chris Smith	6/30	7/5	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95						1,530.95
Hon. Robert Aderholt	6/30	7/5	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95						1,530.95
Hon. Randy Hultgren	6/30	7/5	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95						1,530.95

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2016—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Mark Milosch	6/30	7/5	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,530.95
Alex Tiersky	6/30	7/6	Georgia	Lari	1,381.67	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,381.67
Robert Hand	6/30	7/6	Georgia	Lari	1,791.66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,791.66
Nathaniel Hurd	6/30	7/6	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,530.95
Allison Hollabaugh	6/30	7/5	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,530.95
.....	9/5	9/9	Germany	Euro	1,178.56	.....	1,786.26	.....	.....	.....	2,964.82
Paul Massaro	6/30	7/5	Georgia	Lari	1,530.95	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,530.95
.....	7/23	7/30	United Kingdom	Pound	2,666.25	.....	3,909.46	.....	.....	.....	6,575.71
.....	9/12	9/17	Czech Republic	Koruna	2,080.00	.....	2,508.06	.....	.....	.....	4,588.06
Mischa Thompson	9/4	9/7	Germany	Euro	957.00	.....	1,734.06	.....	.....	.....	2,691.06
.....	9/24	9/28	Poland	Zloty	942.00	.....	3,406.96	.....	.....	.....	4,348.96
Janice Helwig	9/6	9/9	Germany	Euro	1,276.00	.....	1,400.20	.....	.....	.....	2,676.20
.....	8/22	9/30	Austria	Euro	13,377.00	.....	1,961.26	.....	.....	.....	15,338.26
Scott Rauland	9/7	9/24	Belarus	Ruble	3,806.00	.....	4,507.86	.....	.....	.....	8,313.86
Orest Deychakivsky	9/7	9/22	Belarus	Ruble	3,471.00	.....	4,751.36	.....	.....	.....	8,222.36
Everett Price	9/19	9/28	Poland	Zloty	2,448.00	.....	3,407.96	.....	.....	.....	5,855.96
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46,091.79	.....	29,373.44	.....	.....	.....	79,465.23

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, Chairman, Oct. 30, 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7048. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Revision of Optimum Supply Requirements and Establishment of Inventory Release Procedures [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-15-0047; FV15-930-2 FR] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7049. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Pistachios Grown in California, Arizona, and New Mexico; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No.: AMS-SC-16-0076; SC16-983-2 IR] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7050. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Relaxation of Container and Pack Requirements [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0021; SC16-906-1 FIR] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7051. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the Definition of "Condition" and Prerequisite Requirement for Shell Eggs Eligible for Grading and Certification Stated in the Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Shell Eggs [Doc. No.: AMS-LPS-15-0044] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7052. A letter from the Secretary, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Clearing Requirement Determination under

Section 2(h) of the Commodity Exchange Act for Interest Rate Swaps (RIN: 3038-AE20) received October 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7053. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No.: AMS-SC-16-0084; SC16-987-1 IR] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7054. A letter from the Chief, GAMB, Financial Management and Agreements Division, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Administrative Policy for Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements (RIN: 0518-AA06) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7055. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — EZ Guarantee Program and Micro Lender Program (MLP) Status (RIN: 0560-AI34) received October 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7056. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-16-0059; SC16-906-2 FR] received November 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7057. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget's Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (RIN: 0584-AE42) received October 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7058. A letter from the Acting Legislative Affairs Director, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Agricultural Conservation Easement Program [Docket No.: NRCS-2014-0011] (RIN: 0578-AA61) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7059. A letter from the Administrator, Specialty Crops Program, Promotion and Economics Division, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Softwood Lumber Research, Promotion, Consumer Education and Industry Information Order; Revision of Time Frame for Continuance Referenda [Document Number: AMS-SC-16-0054] received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7060. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter reporting multiple violations of the Antideficiency Act, Army case number 15-02, involving FY 2012 Operations and Maintenance, Army, Overseas Contingency Operations funding in the Military Intelligence Program, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Appropriations.

7061. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting Designation of Funding for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism, pursuant to Sec. 401 of Division A and Sec. 114(c) of Division C of the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and the Zika Response and Preparedness Act, and Sec. 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended (H. Doc. No. 114-180); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7062. A letter from the President Of The United States, transmitting Designation of Funding as an Emergency Requirement, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and the Zika Response and Preparedness Act, also pursuant to Sec. 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as

amended (H. Doc. No. 114-181); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7063. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting FY 2017 Budget amendments for national security activities at the Department of Defense, the Department of State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development to fund Overseas Contingency Operations (H. Doc. No. 114-178); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7064. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress on the Merger of The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs and The Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, pursuant to Public Law 114-92, Sec. 332; (129 Stat. 791); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7065. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter waiving the application of full-up, system-level survivability and lethality tests to the Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization aircraft, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2366(c)(1); Public Law 99-500, Sec. 101(c) (as amended by Public Law 99-591, Sec. 101(c)); (100 Stat. 3341-144); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7066. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a review of the Next Generation Operational Control System program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433a(b); Public Law 111-23, Sec. 206(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 111-383, Sec. 1075(b)(35)); (124 Stat. 4371); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7067. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's semiannual report titled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account", for the period ending March 31, 2016, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2608(e); Public Law 101-403, Sec. 202(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 112-81, Sec. 1064(7)); (125 Stat. 1587); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7068. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Robert L. Thomas, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7069. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Admiral Cecil E. D. Haney, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7070. A letter from the Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing sixteen officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7071. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the

approved retirement of Lieutenant General Mark O. Schissler, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7072. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of the Army, transmitting a letter providing notice to Congress of the anticipated use of Selected Reserve units that will be ordered to active duty, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 12304b(d); Public Law 112-81, Sec. 516(a)(1); (125 Stat. 1396); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7073. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Department of Defense (DoD)'s Defense Industrial Base (DIB) Cybersecurity (CS) Activities [DOD-2014-OS-0097] (RIN: 0790-AJ29) received October 12, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7074. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Network Penetration Reporting and Contracting for Cloud Services (DFARS Case 2013-D018) [Docket: DARS-2015-0039] (RIN: 0750-A161) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7075. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Identification (ID) Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Dependents, and Other Eligible Individuals [Docket ID: DoD-2015-OS-0069] (RIN: 0790-AJ37) received October 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7076. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Display of Hotline Posters (DFARS Case 2016-D018) [Docket DARS-2016-0016] (RIN: 0750-A194) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7077. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Organizational Charters [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0102] (RIN: 0790-AJ53) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7078. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Enhancing the Effectiveness of Independent Research and Development (DFARS Case 2016-D002) [Docket DARS-2015-0070] (RIN: 0750-A181) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7079. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, De-

partment of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contiguous United States (DFARS Case 2016-D005) [Docket DARS-2016-0036] (RIN: 0750-AJ09) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7080. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Pilot Program on Acquisition of Military Purpose Nondevelopmental Items (DFARS Case 2016-D014) [Docket DARS-2016-0015] (RIN: 0750-AI93) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7081. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS)/TRICARE: Refills of Maintenance Medications Through Military Treatment Facility Pharmacies or National Mail Order Pharmacy Program [Docket ID: DOD-2015-HA-0062] (RIN: 0720-AB64) received November 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7082. A letter from the Air Force Federal Register Public Liaison Officer, Air Force Federal Register/FOIA Public Liaison Office, Department of the Air Force, transmitting the Department's final rule — Administrative Claims [Docket ID: USAF-2015-0003] (RIN: 0701-AA79) received October 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7083. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Presentation of DoD-Related Scientific and Technical Papers at Meetings [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0097] (RIN: 0790-AI75) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7084. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Management and Mobilization of Regular and Reserve Retired Military Members [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0096] (RIN: 0790-AJ52) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7085. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sale or Rental of Sexually Explicit Material on DoD Property [Docket ID: DOD-2016-OS-0098] (RIN: 0790-AJ15) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7086. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final policy statement — Regulatory Capital Rules: The Federal Reserve Board's Framework for Implementing the U.S. Basel III Countercyclical Capital Buffer [Docket No.: R-1529] (RIN: 7100-AE43) received October 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public

Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7087. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Louisa County, VA, and Unincorporated Areas); [Docket ID: FEMA-2016-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-9999] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7088. A letter from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Bank Enterprise Award Program (RIN: 1505-AA91) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7089. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Standards for Covered Clearing Agencies [Release No.: 34-78961; File No.: S7-03-14] (RIN: 3235-AL48) received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7090. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Regulatory Capital Rules, Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Revisions to the Definition of Qualifying Master Netting Agreement and Related Definitions (RIN: 3064-AE30) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7091. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Technical and Conforming Changes and Corrections to FHFA Regulations (RIN: 2590-AA80) received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7092. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Retrospective Review—Improving the Previous Participation Reviews of Prospective Multifamily Housing and Healthcare Programs Participants [Docket No.: FR-5850-F-04] (RIN: 2502-AJ28) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7093. A letter from the Program Specialist, LRAD, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — OCC Guidelines Establishing Standards for Recovery Planning by Certain Large Insured National Banks, Insured Federal Savings Associations, and Insured Federal Branches; Technical Amendments [Docket ID: OCC-2015-0017] (RIN: 1557-AD96) received September 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7094. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Investment Company Liquidity Risk Management Programs [Release Nos.: 33-10233; IC-32315;

File No.: S7-16-15] (RIN: 3235-AL61) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7095. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Investment Company Reporting Modernization [Release Nos.: 33-10231; 34-79095; IC-32314; File No.: S7-08-15] (RIN: 3235-AL42) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7096. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule — Investment Company Swing Pricing (RIN: 3235-AL61) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7097. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rules — Exemptions to Facilitate Intrastate and Regional Securities Offerings [Release Nos.: 33-10238; 34-79161; File No.: S7-22-15] (RIN: 3235-AL80) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7098. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report on discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment for the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (Public Law 114-223), pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901(a)(7)(B); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 251(a)(7)(B) (as amended by Public Law 114-113, Sec. 1003); (129 Stat. 3035); to the Committee on the Budget.

7099. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Family Violence Prevention and Services Programs (RIN: 0970-AC62) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7100. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Teacher Preparation Issues [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0057] (RIN: 1840-AD07) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7101. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program [Docket ID: ED-2015-OPE-0103] (RIN: 1840-AD19) received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7102. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rules — Excepted Benefits; Lifetime and Annual Limits; and Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance (RIN: 1210-AB75) received October 31, 2016, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7103. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institute of Occupational Health and Safety, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dpt. of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Specifications for Medical Examinations of Coal Miners [Docket No.: CDC-2014-0011; NIOSH-276] (RIN: 0920-AA57) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7104. A letter from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Procedures for the Handling of Retaliation Complaints Under Section 1558 of the Affordable Care Act [Docket No.: OSHA-2011-0193] (RIN: 1218-AC79) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7105. A letter from the NACIQI Executive Director, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Annual Report of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) for FY 2016, which outlines the activities of NACIQI during FY 2015, pursuant to Sec. 114(e) of the Higher Education Act, as amended; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7106. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program [Docket ID: ED-2015-OPE-0103] (RIN: 1840-AD19) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7107. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Payment of Premiums; Late Payment Penalty Relief (RIN: 1212-AB32) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7108. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7109. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Technology Transfer Execution Plan 2016-2018, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16391(g); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1001; (119 Stat. 926); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7110. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "Computation of Annual Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance) Settlement Recovery

Threshold”, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(9)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1862(b)(9)(D) (as added by Public Law 112-242, Sec. 202(a)(2)); (126 Stat. 2379); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7111. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s “Report to Congress on the Eight Review of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Postmarketing Commitments by the Food and Drug Administration”, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 355(k)(5)(C); June 25, 1938, ch. 675, Sec. 505(k)(5)(C) (as added by Public Law 110-85, Sec. 921); (121 Stat. 962); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7112. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living (RIN: 0985-AA10) received October 26, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7113. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Coordination of Federal Authorizations for Electric Transmission Facilities (RIN: 1901-AB36) received September 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7114. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Procedures for Determining Eligibility for Access to Classified Matter or Special Nuclear Material [Docket No.: DOE-HQ-2012-0001-0274] (RIN: 1992-AA36) received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7115. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department’s Major direct final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Miscellaneous Refrigeration Products [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-STD-0043] (RIN: 1904-AC51) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7116. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Abbreviated New Drug Applications and 505(b)(2) Applications [Docket No.: FDA-2011-N-0830] (RIN: 0910-AF97) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7117. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report titled “Performance Evaluation of Accreditation Bodies Under the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 As Amended by the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Acts of 1998 and 2004”, covering the period January 1, 2015 — December 31, 2015, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 263b; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7118. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Acrylic acid-butyl acrylate-styrene copolymer; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0330; FRL-9952-34] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7119. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Revision of Regulations for Sulfur Content of Fuel Oil [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0199; FRL-9953-74-Region 3] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7120. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions to Primary Air Quality Standards, Minor Source Baseline Date, Incorporation by Reference, and 2008 Ozone NAAQS Infrastructure Requirements for CAA Section 110(a)(2)(C) and (D)(i)(II); Wyoming [EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0366; FRL-9953-78-Region 8] October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7121. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Butte County Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0367; FRL-9952-17-Region 9] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7122. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Approval of Missouri’s Air Quality Implementation Plans, Operating Permits Program, and 112(1) Plan; Construction Permits Required [EPA-R07-OAR-2016-0571; FRL-9953-77-Region 7] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7123. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Denial of Request for Extension of Attainment Date for 1997 PM_{2.5} NAAQS; California; San Joaquin Valley Serious Nonattainment Area [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0432; FRL-9953-66-Region 9] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7124. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Dichloromid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0121; FRL-9951-90] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7125. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Tolfenpyrad; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-

HQ-OPP-2016-0193; FRL-9951-57] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7126. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Update to the Refrigerant Management Requirements under the Clean Air Act [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0453; FRL-9950-28-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS51) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7127. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Volatile Organic Compounds [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0489; FRL-9953-64-Region 4] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7128. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Temporary Alternate Opacity Limits for American Electric Power, Rockport [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0074; FRL-9953-14-Region 5] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7129. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0155; FRL-9953-35-Region 4] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7130. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Limited Approval and Limited Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0240; FRL-9950-74-Region 9] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7131. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2013-0465; FRL-9952-82-Region 6] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7132. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Philadelphia County Reasonably Available Control Technology under the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2008-0603; FRL-9953-52-Region 3] received September 30, 2016,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7133. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Updates to Incorporation by Reference and Miscellaneous Revisions [EPA-R10-OAR-2016-0394; FRL-9953-50-Region 10] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7134. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, State of Wyoming; Control of Emissions From Existing Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerator Units, Plan Revision [EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0197; FRL-9953-13-Region 8] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7135. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and San Diego County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0291; FRL-9952-13-Region 9] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7136. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2015-0570; FRL-9957-67-Region 9] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7137. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of Missouri's Air Quality Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule and Non-substantive Definition and Language Changes [EPA-R07-OAR-2016-0529; FRL-9953-34-Region 7] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7138. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of Nebraska's Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revisions to Title 129, Chapters 4, 19, and 22 [EPA-R07-OAR-2016-0556; FRL-9953-61-Region 7] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7139. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of Nebraska's Air Quality Implementation Plans; Title 129, Chapters 5, 9, 22, 30, and 34, and State Operating Permit Programs, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7140. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Availability of Data on Allocations of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Allowances to Existing Electricity Generating Units [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0500; FRL-9953-30-OAR] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7141. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus mycoides* isolate J; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0920; FRL-9947-92] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7142. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Final Determination to Approve Site-Specific Flexibility for Closure and Monitoring of the Picacho Landfill [EPA-R09-RCRA-2015-0445; FRL-9953-45-Region 9] received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7143. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Update for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0500; FRL-9950-30-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS05) September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7144. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mandestrobin; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0285; FRL-9945-37] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7145. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Delaware; Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plan for Non-attainment New Source Review; Emissions Offset Provisions [EPA-R03-OAR-2013-0816; FRL-9953-90-Region 3] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7146. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Infrastructure Requirements for Consultation with Government Officials, Public Notification and Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Visibility Protection for the 2008 Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0953; FRL-9952-76-Region 6] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7147. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Pro-

mulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles, Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0425; FRL-9952-27-Region 6] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7148. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Revisions to the Permitting Rules [EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0424; FRL-9953-92-Region 8] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7149. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Interstate Transport of Air Pollution [EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0486; EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0223; EPA-R01-OAR-2008-0447; EPA-R01-OAR-2009-0358; FRL-9953-85-Region 1] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7150. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NH; Regional Haze 5-Year Report [EPA-R01-OAR-2014-0909; A-1-FRL-9953-84-Region 1] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7151. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NC Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 1-hour NO₂ NAAQS [EPA-R04-OAR-2015-0362; FRL-9954-09-Region 4] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7152. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan; California; Calaveras County, Chico (Butte County), San Francisco Bay Area and San Luis Obispo County (Eastern San Luis Obispo) Base Year Emission Inventories for the 2008 Ozone Standards [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0499; FRL-9954-20-Region 9] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7153. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Revisions to the Utah Division of Administrative Rules, R307-300 Series; Area Source Rules for Attainment of Fine Particulate Matter Standards [EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0311; FRL-9954-14-Region 8] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7154. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Interstate Transport for Utah

[EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0107; FRL-9954-13-Region 8] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7155. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Isofetamid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0429; FRL-9952-59] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7156. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revisions to Public Notice Provisions in Clean Air Act Permitting Programs [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0090; FRL-9954-10-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS59) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7157. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; KY; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program [EPA-R04-OAR-2016-0312; FRL-9954-08-Region 4] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7158. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Metaldehyde; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0558; FRL-9951-78] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7159. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Removal of Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements [EPA-R05-OAR-2015-0522; FRL-9954-21-Region 5] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7160. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to Air Pollution Control Rules [EPA-R08-OAR-2013-0145; FRL-9954-15-Region 8] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7161. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Oklahoma: Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-2014-0791; FRL-9951-74-Region 6] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7162. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Louisiana: Final Authorization of State-initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-RCRA-2015-0664; FRL-9951-21-Region 6] received October 18, 2016, pursuant

to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7163. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0308; FRL-9954-18-Region 3] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7164. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0335; FRL-9954-29-Region 3] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7165. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance, Clean Screen Program and the Low Emitter Index, On-Board Diagnostics, and Associated Revisions [EPA-R08-OAR-2016-0016; FRL-9954-16-Region 8] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7166. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Attainment Plan for Oakridge, Oregon PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area [EPA-R10-OAR-2013-0004; FRL-9954-32-Region 10] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7167. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0325; FRL-9951-81] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7168. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Penflufen; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0559; FRL-9952-22] received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7169. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's withdrawal of direct final rule — Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurements under EPA Financial Assistance Agreements [EPA-HQ-OA-2016-0457; FRL-9954-30-OA] (RIN: 2090-AA40) received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7170. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: New Listings of Substitutes; Changes of Listing Status; and Reinterpretation of Unacceptability for Closed Cell Foam Products under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program; and Revision of Clean Air Act Section 608 Venting Prohibition for Propane [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0663; FRL-9952-18-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS80) received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7171. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Spirotetramat; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2015-0679; FRL-9951-80] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7172. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permit Program Revision; New Jersey [EPA-R02-OAR-2015-0837; FRL-9954-61-Region 2] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7173. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Disapproval of Prevention of Significant Deterioration for Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Micrometers — Significant Impact Levels and Significant Monitoring Concentration [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0263; FRL-9953-46-Region 6] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7174. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Revisions and Amendments to Regulations for Continuous Opacity Monitoring, Continuous Emissions Monitoring, and Quality Assurance Requirements for Continuous Opacity Monitors [EPA-R03-OAR-2016-0042; FRL-9954-40-Region 3] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7175. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of New York; State of New Jersey and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Other Solid Waste Incineration Units [EPA-R02-OAR-2016-0161; FRL-9954-60-Region 2] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7176. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — State of Kentucky Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primacy Approval [EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0372; FRL-9953-37-OW] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7177. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Significant Monitoring Concentration for Fine Particulates [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0450; FRL-9953-94-Region 6] received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7178. A letter from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund [WC Docket No.: 10-90]; Universal Service Reform — Mobility Fund [WT Docket No.: 10-208]; Connect America Fund — Alaska Plan [WC Docket No.: 16-271] received October 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7179. A letter from the Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Review of Foreign Ownership Policies for Broadcast, Common Carrier and Aeronautical Radio Licensees under Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended [GN Docket No.: 15-236] received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7180. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Reliability Standard for Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events [Docket No.: RM15-11-000; Order No.: 830] received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7181. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Disclosure of Written Consumer Product Warranty Terms and Conditions; Pre-Sale Availability of Written Warranty Terms (RIN: 3084-AB24 and AB25) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7182. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Feed Grade Sodium Formate [Docket No.: FDA-2014-F-0988] received October 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7183. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food and Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals; Definition of Qualified Auditor; Announcement of Effective Date [Docket Nos.: FDA-2011-N-0920, FDA-2011-N-0922] received October 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7184. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food

and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Custom Devices; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-2518] received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7185. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Additions and Modifications to the List of Drug Products That Have Been Withdrawn or Removed From the Market for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness [Docket No.: FDA-1999-N-0194 (Formerly 99N-4490)] (RIN: 0910-AH08) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7186. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Use of Ozone-Depleting Substances [Docket No.: FDA-2015-N-1355] (RIN: 0910-AH36) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7187. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final determination — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment [Docket Number: EERE-2016-BT-STD-0007] (RIN: 1904-AD65) received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7188. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Certain Categories of General Service Lamps [Docket No.: EERE-2016-BT-TP-0005] (RIN: 1904-AD64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7189. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Licensing Guidance — Low Activity Radioactive Seeds Used for Localization of Non-Palpable Lesions and Lymph Nodes Licensing Guidance, Revision 1 received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7190. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Freedom of Information Regulations (RIN: 0991-AC04) received October 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7191. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Secretary, Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dept. of Health and Human

Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — ONC Health IT Certification Program: Enhanced Oversight and Accountability (RIN: 0955-AA00) received October 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7192. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2015 Performance Report to Congress for the Office of Combination Products, pursuant to the Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act of 2002, Public Law 107-250, 21 U.S.C. 353(g); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7193. A letter from the Division Chief, WTB/Mobility Division, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Rules Regarding Maritime Radio Equipment and Related Matters [WT Docket No.: 14-36]; Petition to Request that FCC Amend the Rules to Permit the Use of Maritime VHF Portable Radios Ashore Near Areas of Maritime and Boating Activity [RM-11540]; Petition for Rulemaking to Amend Part 80 of the Commission's Rules to Provide for a Digital Small Message Service on Certain Maritime VHF Channels [RM-11563]; and other regulations, received September 23, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7194. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report certifying that the export of the listed item to the People's Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2778 note; Public Law 105-261, Sec. 1512 (as amended by Public Law 105-277, Sec. 146); (112 Stat. 2174); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7195. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the 2015 report on U.S. Participation in the United Nations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 287b(a); Dec. 20, 1945, ch. 583, Sec. 4(a) (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-465); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7196. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report covering the period from June 10, 2016, to August 9, 2016 on the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501) and 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 102-1, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 106-113, Sec. 1000(a)(7)); (113 Stat. 1501A-422); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7197. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia, that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7198. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7199. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7200. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Burundi that was declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7201. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7202. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7203. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7204. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7205. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of the termination of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047, and subsequent Executive Orders, with respect to the situation in or in relation to Burma, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(b); Public Law 95-223 Sec. 204(b); (91 Stat. 1627) (H. Doc. No. 114-183); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7206. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency, with respect to Sudan, originally declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-175); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7207. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with re-

spect to Iran, declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-176); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7208. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-173); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7209. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of an Executive Order that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006 to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-174); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7210. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to Burundi, declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, is to continue in effect beyond November 22, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-177); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7211. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2016, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 114-179); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7212. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7213. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(d)(1); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1; (86 Stat. 619); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7214. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and the treatment by the Government of Cuba of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement", together known as the Migration Accords, pursuant to Public Law 105-277, Sec. 2245; (112 Stat. 2681-824); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7215. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7216. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-058, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7217. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-078, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7218. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Office of the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's intent to sign Amendment Number One to the Memorandum of Understanding Among the Department Defence of Australia and the Department of National Defence of Canada and the Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Department of Defense of the United States of America, Transmittal No. 28-16, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7219. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Fire Control, Laser, Imaging, and Guidance Equipment the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML) [Docket No.: 140221170-6403-03] (RIN: 0694-AF75) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7220. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuba: Revisions to License Exceptions [Docket No.: 160915848-6952-01] (RIN: 0694-AH12) received October 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7221. A letter from the Chair and CoChair, Congressional-Executive Commission on China, transmitting the 2016 Annual Report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6912(g); Public Law 106-286, Sec. 302(g); (114 Stat. 897); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7222. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments to the Export Administration Regulations: Part 760, Reporting Requirements Optional Electronic Filing of Reports of Requests For Restrictive Trade Practice or Boycott [Docket No.: 160303188-6188-01] (RIN: 0694-AG92) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7223. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Office of Acquisition,

Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter informing Congress of the Department's intent to sign a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Finland, Transmittal No.: 29-16, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7224. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the United Arab Emirates, Transmittal No. 16-45, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7225. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to Iraq, Transmittal No. 16-42, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7226. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait, Transmittal No. 16-38, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7227. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed Letter of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt, Transmittal No. 16-49, pursuant to Sec. 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7228. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report entitled "Report of U.S. Persons Expropriation Claims and Certain Other Commercial and Investment Disputes", pursuant to Sec. 527(f) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995, Public Law 103-236; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7229. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Second FY 2016 Report to Congress on U.S. Assistance for Palestinian Security Forces and Benchmarks for Palestinian Security Assistance Funds, pursuant to Sec. 7041(j)(4) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2016 (Div. K, Public Law 114-113) (FY 2016 SFOAA); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7230. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision of U.S. Munitions List Category XII (RIN: 1400-AD32) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7231. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report describing a proposed transaction that is necessary for and within the scope of the 2013 Presidential waiver of the prohibitions in sections 40 and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to Sec. 40(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7232. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting Memorandum of Justification for the Determination Under Sec. 620(q) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Relating to Assistance to Yemen; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7233. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination to waive the certification requirement in section 7044(d)(1) regarding FY 2016 Economic Support Funds; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7234. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-073, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7235. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 15-138, pursuant to Section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7236. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-086, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7237. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-057, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7238. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-046, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7239. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-090, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7240. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-067, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7241. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-052, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7242. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. 16-066, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7243. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-063, pursuant to Sections 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7244. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-070, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7245. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-085, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7246. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-075, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7247. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cuban Assets Control Regulations received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7248. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting notification of missile strikes on radar facilities in Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen in response to anti-ship cruise missile launches perpetrated by Houthi insurgents that threatened U.S. Navy warships in the international waters of the Red Sea on October 9 and October 12, 2016, pursuant to the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148) (H. Doc. No. 114-170); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7249. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-490, "Motor Vehicle Collision Recovery Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7250. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-491, "Safe at Home Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7251. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-492, "Rent Control Hardship Petition Limitation Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7252. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-493, "Wage Theft Prevention Correction and Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7253. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-494, "Interior Design Charitable Event Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7254. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-507, "Omnibus Sursum Corda Development Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7255. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-508, "Law Enforcement Career Opportunity Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7256. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-509, "Senior Law Enforcement Officer Temporary Amendment Act of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7257. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting

D.C. ACT 21-510, “Real Property Tax Appeals Commission Review Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7258. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-518, “Ward 5 Paint Spray Booth Conditional Moratorium Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7259. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-519, “Extension of Time to Dispose of 1300 H Street, N.E., and Approval of Amended Term Sheet Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7260. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-520, “Fort Dupont Ice Arena Programming Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7261. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-521, “Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Temporary Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7262. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-522, “Closing of Public Streets and Dedication of Land for Street and Alley Purposes in and abutting Squares 3953, 3954, 4024, 4025, and Parcel 143/45, S.O. 14-20357, Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7263. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report prepared by the Inspector General of the Farm Credit Administration for the period of April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7264. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter stating the Department is in the process of closing the accounting books and records for FY 2016 and the release date of November 15, 2016, for the Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1); (104 Stat. 2849); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7265. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-505, “Rental Housing Late Fee Fairness Amendment Act of 2016”, pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7266. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7267. A letter from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, Information Security Oversight Office, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the

Administration’s final rule — Controlled Unclassified Information [FDMS No.: NARA-15-0001; NARA-2016-048] (RIN: 3095-AB80) received October 19, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7268. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Trustees and President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting the Center’s audited financial statements for the years ending September 27, 2015, and September 28, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. 8G(h)(2); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 8G(h)(2) (as added by Public Law 100-504, Sec. 104(a)); (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7269. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report titled “The Merit System Principles: Guiding the Fair and Effective Management of the Federal Workforce”, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3); Public Law 95-454, Sec. 202(a) (as amended by Public Law 101-12, Sec. 3(a)(7)); (103 Stat. 17); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7270. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration’s semi-annual report on the activities of the Inspector General for April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) Sec. 5(b); Public Law 95-452, Sec. 5(b); (92 Stat. 1103); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7271. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting the Endowment’s FY 2015 inventory of the commercial and inherently governmental activities performed by Federal employees, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7272. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board’s annual submission, dated September 30, 2016, regarding agency compliance with the Federal Managers’ Financial Integrity Act and revised Office of Management and Budget Circular A-123; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7273. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office’s final rule — Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance Program: Excepted Service and Pathways Programs (RIN: 3206-AM98) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7274. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office’s report titled “Federal Student Loan Repayment Program” for Calendar Year 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5379(h)(2); Public Law 101-510, Sec. 1206(b)(1) (as added by Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1122(a)); (114 Stat. 1654A-316); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7275. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, “Contracting Out School Food Services Failed to Control Costs as Promised”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7276. A letter from the HR Specialist (Executive Resources), Small Business Administration, transmitting notification of a federal vacancy, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7277. A letter from the Director, Division of Regulations, Legislation and Interpretation,

Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department’s Major final rule — Establishing Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors (RIN: 1235-AA13) received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7278. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period July 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016 (H. Doc. No. 114-182); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

7279. A letter from the Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees [16X.LLWO310000.L13100000.PP0000] (RIN: 1004-AE47) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7280. A letter from the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Land Exchange Procedures and Procedures to Amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 [167D0102DM; DLSN00000.000000; DS61400000; DX61401] (RIN: 1090-AA98) received September 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7281. A letter from the Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final determination — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Critical Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2015-0070; 4500030114] (RIN: 1018-BA91) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7282. A letter from the Acting Manager, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Elfins-woods Warbler with 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0144] [4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA94) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7283. A letter from the Chief, Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Amending the Formats of the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants [Docket No.: FWS-R9-ES-2008-0063; 92300-1113-0000-9B] (RIN: 1018-AU62) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7284. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities [Docket No.: FWS-R7-ES-2016-0060; FF07CAMM00FXFR133707REG01167] (RIN: 1018-BA99) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7285. A letter from the Conservation Policy Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska [Docket No.: FWS-R7-NWRS-2014-0005; FF07R00000 FXRS12610700000 156 Obligation #4500093321] (RIN: 1018-BA31) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7286. A letter from the Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake [Docket No.: FWS-R3-ES-2015-0145; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA98) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7287. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Suwannee Moccasinshell [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0142; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BB09) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7288. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Recovery and State Grants, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the San Miguel Island Fox, Santa Rosa Island Fox, and Santa Cruz Island Fox from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, and Reclassifying the Santa Catalina Island Fox from Endangered to Threatened [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2015-0170; FFXES11130000-156-FF08E00000] (RIN: 1018-BA71) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7289. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for *Lepidium papilliferum* (Slickspot Peppergrass) Throughout Its Range [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2013-0117; MO 92210-0-0008 B2] (RIN: 1018-BA27) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7290. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Miami Tiger Beetle (*Cicindellid florida*) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0164; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA16) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7291. A letter from the Acting Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — En-

dangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern DPS of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad [Docket No.: FWS-R8-ES-2012-0074; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AY07) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7292. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for *Platanthera integrilabia* (White Fringeless Orchid) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0129; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA93) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7293. A letter from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Provisions and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights [NPS-WASO-NRSS-21688; GPO Deposit Account 4311H2] (RIN: 1024-AD78) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7294. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Acuna Cactus and the Fickeisen Plains Cactus [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2013-0025; 4500090023] (RIN: 1018-AZ43) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7295. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2016 Commercial Accountability Measures and Closure for Bluefin Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region [Docket No.: 140501394-5279-02] (RIN: 0648-XE629) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7296. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; 2016 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure [Docket No.: 160205084-6510-02] (RIN: 0648-XE719) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7297. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; 2016-2018 Specifications [Docket No.: 160301165-6692-02] (RIN: 0648-BF88) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7298. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, Office of Sus-

tainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 25 [Docket No.: 160225143-6583-02] (RIN: 0648-BF61) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7299. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Complex; Framework Adjustment 3; Correction [Docket No.: 160301164-6694-02] (RIN: 0648-BF87) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7300. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Complex Fishery; Framework Adjustment 3 and 2016-2017 Specifications [Docket No.: 160301164-6694-02] (RIN: 0648-BF87) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7301. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean; Fishing Restrictions Regarding Mobulid Rays [Docket No.: 160104009-6617-02] (RIN: 0648-BF65) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7302. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustments to 2016 Northern Albacore Tuna and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas [Docket No.: 160706586-6780-01] (RIN: 0648-XE726) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7303. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Mariana Archipelago Fisheries; Remove the CNMI Medium and Large Vessel Bottomfish Prohibited Areas [Docket No.: 150908833-6738-02] (RIN: 0648-BF37) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7304. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final specifications — Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2016 U.S. Territorial Longline Bigeye

Tuna Catch Limits [Docket No.: 151023986-6763-02] (RIN: 0648-XE284) received October 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7305. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator For Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fishing Effort Limits in Purse Seine Fisheries for 2016 [Docket No.: 160322276-6276-01] (RIN: 0648-BF93) received October 11, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7306. A letter from the Department Program Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision to Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment Regulations [Docket No.: DOI-2015-0007] (RIN: 1090-AB12) received October 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7307. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Alabama Regulatory Program [SATS No.: AL-079-FOR; Docket ID: OSMRE-2016-0005; SID1S SS08011000 SX064A000 178S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX064A000 17XS501520] received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7308. A letter from the Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Reestablishing a Formal Government-to-Government Relationship With the Native Hawaiian Community [Docket No.: DOI-2015-0005; 145D010DMS6CS00000.000000 DX.6CS252410] (RIN: 1090-AB05) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7309. A letter from the FWS Chief, Branch of Aquatic Invasive Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Injurious Wildlife Species; Listing 10 Freshwater Fish and 1 Crayfish [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-FAC-2013-0095; FXFR13360900000-167-FF09F14000] (RIN: 1018-AY69) received October 5, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7310. A letter from the Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2015-0034] [FF09M21200-167-FXMB1231099BPP0] (RIN: 1018-BA70) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7311. A letter from the Chief, Wildlife Trade and Conservation Branch, DMA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inclusion of Four Native U.S. Freshwater Turtle Species in Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2013-0052] (RIN: 1018-AZ53) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7312. A letter from the Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Kentucky Arrow Darter [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0133; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BB05) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7313. A letter from the Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken Removed From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2016-0028; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BB67) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7314. A letter from the Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Kentucky Arrow Darter with 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0132; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AZ09) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7315. A letter from the Chief, Unified Listing Team, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Five Species From American Samoa [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2015-0128; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AZ97) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7316. A letter from the Conservation Policy Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2016-2017 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2016-0007; FXRS12650900000-167-FF09R26000] (RIN: 1018-BB31) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7317. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Listing and Policy Support, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revisions to the Regulations for Petitions [Docket Nos.: FWS-HQ-ES-2015-0016 and DOC: 150506429-6767-04; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BA53; 0648-BF06) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7318. A letter from the Acting Chief, Branch of Foreign Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Taxonomic Correction for the Grand Cayman Ground Iguana [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2016-0097; 4500030115] (RIN: 1018-BB69) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7319. A letter from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for *Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis* (Big Pine Partridge Pea), *Chamaesyce deltoidea* ssp. *serpyllum* (Wedge Spurge), and *Linum arenicola* (Sand Flax), and Threatened Species Status for *Argythamnia blodgettii* (Blodgett's Silverbush) [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2015-0137; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-AZ95) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7320. A letter from the Unified Listing Team Manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for 49 Species From the Hawaiian Islands [Docket No.: FWS-R1-ES-2015-0125; 4500030113] (RIN: 1018-BB07) received October 17, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7321. A letter from the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a decision on Free Speech Coalition, Inc. v. Attorney General, 825 F.3d 149 (3d Cir. 2016), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D(a)(1); Public Law 107-273, Sec. 202(a); (116 Stat. 1771); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7322. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Trademark Classification Changes [Docket No.: PTO-T-2016-0038] (RIN: 0651-AD12) received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7323. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Americans With Disabilities Act Title II and Title III Regulations To Implement ADA Amendments Act of 2008 [CRT Docket No.: 124; AG Order No.: 3702-2016] (RIN: 1190-AA59) received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7324. A letter from the Special Agent in Charge, Branch of Investigations, Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Civil Penalties; Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-LE-2016-0045] [FF09L00200-FX-LE18110900000] (RIN: 1018-BB32) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7325. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Regulatory Coordination Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule [CIS No.: 2577-15; DHS Docket No.: USCIS-2016-0001] (RIN: 1615-AC09) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7326. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Establishment of the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS) [CBP Dec. No.: 16-17] [USCBP-2016-0046] (RIN: 1651-AB08) received October 18, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7327. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Trademark Fee Adjustment [Docket No.: PTO-T-2016-0005] (RIN: 0651-AD08) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7328. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification that the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3377-EM in the State of Florida has exceeded the \$5 million limit for a single emergency declaration, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193(b)(3); Public Law 93-288, Sec. 503(b)(3) (as amended by Public Law 100-707, Sec. 107(a)); (102 Stat. 4707); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7329. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; 22nd International Seapower Symposium Special Events, Rosecliff Mansion and Newport Marriott Hotel, Newport, RI [USCG-2016-0813] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7330. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Security Zone; 22nd International Seapower Symposium, Goat Island, Newport, RI [USCG-2016-0790] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7331. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; International Jet Sports Boating Association; Lake Havasu City, AZ [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0733] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7332. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Columbia River, Sand Island, WA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0818] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7333. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; The Perry Group Fireworks Display, Put-in-Bay, OH [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0822] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7334. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; M/V Zhen Hua, Blount Island Marine Terminal Crane Movement; St. Johns River, Jacksonville, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0828] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7335. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0854] (RIN: 1625-AA00, AA08) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7336. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Navy UNDET, Apra Outer Harbor, GU [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0791] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7337. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Atchafalaya River, Morgan City, LA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0757] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7338. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's notice of enforcement of regulation — Special Local Regulations; Ironman 70.3 Augusta Triathlon, Savannah River [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0714] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7339. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Special Local Regulation; Ohio River, Madison, IN [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0717] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7340. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New River, Fort Lauderdale, FL [Docket No.: USCG-2015-0271] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7341. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; South Branch of the Chicago River and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0451] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7342. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Arkansas River, Little Rock, AR [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0885] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7343. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza, Capitola, CA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0825] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7344. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Keweenaw Waterway, Houghton and Hancock, MI [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0582] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7345. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Temporary Change to Date and Location for Recurring Pittsburgh Steelers Fireworks Display within the Eighth Coast Guard District, Pittsburgh, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0895] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7346. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Main Branch of the Chicago River, Chicago, IL [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0883] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7347. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; 100th Ore Dock Anniversary Celebration; Chequamegon Bay, Ashland, WI [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0918] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7348. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Dredging, Shark River, NJ [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0824] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7349. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Allegheny River, Ohio River, Monongahela River, Pittsburgh, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0912] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7350. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Diving Operations, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA [Docket No.: USCG-2016-0899] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7351. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class D Airspace; Vancouver, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4133; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-27] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7352. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3781; Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-048-AD; Amendment 39-18649; AD 2016-18-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7353. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6901; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-192-AD; Amendment 39-18646; AD 2016-18-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7354. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Troy, AL [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0726; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASO-9] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7355. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Truckee, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4074; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWP-16] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7356. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5591; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-193-AD; Amendment 39-18651; AD 2016-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7357. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ithaca, NY [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8816; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AEA-5] received

October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7358. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4229; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-038-AD; Amendment 39-18657; AD 2016-19-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7359. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class D Airspace; Peru, IN [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6006; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AGL-3] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7360. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5035; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-042-AD; Amendment 39-18650; AD 2016-19-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7361. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Jetmore, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2016-7002; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ACE-5] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7362. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5392; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-10-AD; Amendment 39-18654; AD 2016-19-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7363. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lakota, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6115; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AGL-14] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7364. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D and E Airspace; Brookshire, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0742; Airspace Docket No.: 14-ASW-5] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7365. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Direc-

tives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-5814; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-247-AD; Amendment 39-18639; AD 2016-18-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7366. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace; Alliance, NE; and Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Nebraska Towns; Albion, NE; Alliance, NE; Gothenburg, NE; Holdrege, NE; Imperial, NE; Lexington, NE; and Millard Airport, Omaha, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5388; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ACE-4] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7367. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6671; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-164-AD; Amendment 39-18643; AD 2016-18-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7368. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Sioux City, IA [Docket No.: FAA-2015-7487; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ACE-7] received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7369. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6665; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-070-AD; Amendment 39-18644; AD 2016-18-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7370. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9070; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-118-AD; Amendment 39-18642; AD 2016-18-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7371. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Type Certificate Previously Held by Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6668; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-149-AD; Amendment 39-18627; AD 2016-17-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7372. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8135; Directorate Identifier

2015-NM-106-AD; Amendment 39-18636; AD 2016-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7373. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-6550; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-162-AD; Amendment 39-18638; AD 2016-18-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7374. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0077; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-254-AD; Amendment 39-18645; AD 2016-18-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7375. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9108; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-133-AD; Amendment 39-18655; AD 2016-19-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7376. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6146; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-120-AD; Amendment 39-18656; AD 2016-19-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7377. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Indiana, PA [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6138; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AEA-3] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7378. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Glasgow, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6134; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ASO-8] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7379. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Falmouth, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5444; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ANE-1] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7380. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of

Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Hagerstown, MD [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4513; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AEA-8] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7381. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tekamah, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6989; Airspace Docket No.: 16-ACE-7] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7382. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9116; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-130-AD; Amendment 39-18672; AD 2016-20-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7383. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0828; Directorate Identifier 2012-NM-036-AD; Amendment 39-18637; AD 2016-18-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7384. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6148; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-154-AD; Amendment 39-18660; AD 2016-19-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7385. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31096; Amdt. No.: 3713] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7386. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31097; Amdt. No.: 3714] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7387. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31094;

Amdt. No.: 3711] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7388. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31095; Amdt. No.: 3712] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7389. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Colored Federal Airway B-1; Alaska [Docket No.: FAA-2016-4648; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AAL-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7390. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; REIMS AVIATION S.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-8161; Directorate Identifier 2016-CE-018-AD; Amendment 39-18664; AD 2016-19-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7391. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9114; Directorate Identifier 2016-NM-146-AD; Amendment 39-18671; AD 2016-20-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7392. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2011-1068; Directorate Identifier 2010-NM-189-AD; Amendment 39-18647; AD 2016-18-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7393. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-3992; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-075-AD; Amendment 39-18653; AD 2016-19-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7394. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turbo-prop and Turbo-shaft Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2015-4866; Directorate Identifier 2015-

NE-33-AD; Amendment 39-18648; AD 2016-18-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7395. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Limited (Bell) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9144; Directorate Identifier 2016-SW-014-AD; Amendment 39-18667; AD 2016-20-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7396. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5039; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-148-AD; Amendment 39-18659; AD 2016-19-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7397. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-9168; Directorate Identifier 2016-SW-028-AD; Amendment 39-18670; AD 2016-20-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7398. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0935; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-243-AD; Amendment 39-18652; AD 2016-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7399. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5307; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-08-AD; Amendment 39-18658; AD 2016-19-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7400. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Napa, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5574; Airspace Docket No.: 16-AWP-5] received October 13, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7401. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8471; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-153-AD; Amendment 39-18666; AD 2016-19-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to

the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7402. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6551; Directorate Identifier 2013-SW-070-AD; Amendment 39-18682; AD 2016-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7403. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5872; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-11-AD; Amendment 39-18681; AD 2016-20-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7404. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Continental Motors, Inc. Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2016-0069; Directorate Identifier 2016-NE-01-AD; Amendment 39-18685; AD 2016-21-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7405. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8132; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-127-AD; Amendment 39-18663; AD 2016-19-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7406. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8470; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-199-AD; Amendment 39-18674; AD 2016-20-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7407. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6418; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-158-AD; Amendment 39-18676; AD 2016-20-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7408. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Cancellation of Standard Instrument Approach Procedures as Part of the National Procedures Assessment (NPA) Initiative [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0783; Amdt. No.: 97-1338] (RIN: 2120-AA65) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7409. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and

Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Expanding the Use of Excess Flow Valves in Gas Distribution Systems to Applications Other Than Single-Family Residences [Docket No.: PHMSA-2011-0009; Amdt. No.: 192-121] (RIN: 2137-AE71) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7410. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Pipeline Safety: Enhanced Emergency Order Procedures [Docket No.: PHMSA-2016-0091; Amdt. No.: 190-18] (RIN: 2137-AF26) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7411. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-5042; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-140-AD; Amendment 39-18680; AD 2016-20-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7412. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3629; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-011-AD; Amendment 39-18662; AD 2016-19-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7413. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2016-3703; Directorate Identifier 2015-NM-115-AD; Amendment 39-18669; AD 2016-20-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7414. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2016-6640; Directorate Identifier 2015-SW-084-AD; Amendment 39-18683; AD 2016-21-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7415. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31102; Amdt. No.: 529] received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7416. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems

(NPIAS) report, 2017-2021, pursuant to title 49, U.S.C. 47103; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7417. A letter from the Senior Attorney Advisor — Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Right-of-Way and Real Estate [Docket No.: FHWA-2014-0026] (RIN: 2125-AF62) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7418. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendments To Implement Grants Provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act [Docket No.: FMCSA-2016-0149] (RIN: 2126-AB91) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7419. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Commercial Driver's License Requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the Military Commercial Driver's License Act of 2012 [Docket No.: FMCSA-2016-0051] (RIN: 2126-AB68) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7420. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category — Implementation Date Extension [EPA-HQ-OW-2016-0598; FRL-9953-26-OW] (RIN: 2040-AF68) received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7421. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Asset Management Plans and Periodic Evaluations of Facilities Repeatedly Requiring Repair and Reconstruction Due to Emergency Events [Docket No.: FHWA-2013-0052] (RIN: 2125-AF57) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7422. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Windshield-Mounted Technologies [Docket No.: FMCSA-2016-0234] (RIN: 2126-AB94) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7423. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — System Safety Program [Docket No.: FRA-2011-0060, Notice No.: 3] (RIN: 2130-AC31) received October 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7424. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the

Board's final rules — Revisions to Arbitration Procedures [Docket No.: EP 730] (RIN: 2140-AB24) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7425. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction Study Integrated Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for November 2014 (H. Doc. No. 114-171); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and ordered to be printed.

7426. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, Office of Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's interim rule — NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Revised Voucher Submission and Payment Process (NFS Case 2016-N025) (RIN: 2700-AE34) received October 6, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

7427. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's direct final rule — HUBZone and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 Amendments (RIN: 3245-AG81) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

7428. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Disaster Assistance Loan Program; Disaster Loan Credit and Collateral Requirements (RIN: 3245-AG61) received October 11, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

7429. A letter from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Repayment by VA of Educational Loans for Certain Psychiatrists (RIN: 2900-AP57) received September 30, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7430. A letter from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management (00REG), Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans (RIN: 2900-AP84) received October 21, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7431. A letter from the National Adjutant, Chief Executive Officer, Disabled American Veterans, transmitting the reports and proceedings of the 2016 National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans, held in Atlanta, Georgia, July 31-August 3, 2016, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 50308 (H. Doc. No. 114-172); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

7432. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting two reports titled "The Department of Labor's 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor" and

"The Department of Labor's List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor", pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2464; Public Law 93-618, Sec. 504 (as amended by Public Law 99-514, Sec. 1887(a)(6)) (100 Stat. 2923); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7433. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Section 707 Regarding Disguised Sales, Generally [TD 9787] (RIN: 1545-BK29) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7434. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations — Credit for Increasing Research Activities [TD 9786] (RIN: 1545-BC70) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7435. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System ("EPCRS") Update (Rev. Proc. 2016-51) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7436. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Special per diem rates 2016-2017 [Notice 2016-58] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7437. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Liabilities Recognized as Recourse Partnership Liabilities Under Section 752 [TD 9788] (RIN: 1545-BM84) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7438. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicability of Rev. Proc. 2001-38 When Portability is Elected under Sec. 2010 (Rev. Proc. 2016-49) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7439. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula (Revenue Ruling 2016-24) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7440. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought [Notice 2016-60] received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7441. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Procedures under Section 165(i) (Rev. Proc. 2016-53) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-

121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7442. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — November 2016 (Rev. Rul. 2016-26) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7443. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final and temporary regulations — Election to take disaster loss deduction for preceding year [TD 9789] (RIN: 1545-BM03) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7444. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2016 National Pool (Rev. Proc. 2016-52) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7445. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Addition to No Rule List for Section 851 (Rev. Proc. 2016-50) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7446. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Guidance Concerning Use of 2017 CSO Tables Under Section 7702 [Notice 2016-63] received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7447. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2017 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items (Rev. Proc. 2016-55) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7448. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Relief for Hurricane Matthew Victims (Announcement 2016-39) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7449. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's Major final regulations and temporary regulations — Treatment of Certain Interests in Corporations as Stock or Indebtedness [TD 9790] (RIN: 1545-BN40) received October 31, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7450. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rules — Excepted Benefits; Lifetime and Annual Limits; and Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance [TD 9791] (RIN: 1545-BN44) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7451. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Transaction of Interest — Section 831(b) Micro-Captive Transactions [Notice 2016-66] received November 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7452. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rules — Unsuccessful Work Attempts and Expedited Reinstatement Eligibility [Docket No.: SSA-2014-0016] (RIN: 0960-AH66) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7453. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Correction: New Mailing Address for the National Commodity Specialist Division, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade (RIN: 1515-AE17) received October 24, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7454. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's report titled "Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA): Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Drug Crop Eradication and Crop Substitution, 2015", pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 3204(a)(1); Public Law 102-182, Sec. 206(a) (as amended by Public Law 106-200, Sec. 211(d)(2)); (114 Stat. 287); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7455. A letter from the Policy Officer, Army National Military Cemeteries, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Army National Military Cemeteries [Docket No.: USA-2015-HQ-0046] (RIN: 0702-AA60) received October 5, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

7456. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's report to Congress titled "Response to Findings and Recommendations of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee during Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16156(d)(2); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 807(d)(2); (119 Stat. 849); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Science, Space, and Technology.

7457. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2017 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model; and Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements [CMS-1648-F] (RIN: 0938-AS80) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7458. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities [CMS-3260-F] (RIN: 0938-AR61) received September 29, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the

Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7459. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rules — Excepted Benefits; Lifetime and Annual Limits; and Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance [CMS-9932-F] (RIN: 0938-AS93) received October 28, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7460. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Coverage and Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program, Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies Competitive Bidding Program Bid Surety Bonds, State Licensure and Appeals Process for Breach of Contract Actions, Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies Competitive Bidding Program and Fee Schedule Adjustments, Access to Care Issues for Durable Medical Equipment; and the Comprehensive End-Stage Renal Disease Care Model [CMS-1651-F] (RIN: 0938-AS83) received November 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7461. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting two reports on Medicare payments for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests, pursuant to the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, Public Law 113-93; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7462. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of Compliance, transmitting the Biennial Report on the Americans with Disabilities Act Inspections Relating to Public Services and Accommodations during the 113th Congress, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1331(f)(2); Public Law 104-1, Sec. 210(f)(2); (109 Stat. 15); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

7463. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Attorney General's Fourth Quarterly Report for FY 2016 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4332(b)(2); Public Law 103-353, Sec. 2(a) (as added by Public Law 110-389, Sec. 312(c)); (122 Stat. 4165); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

7464. A letter from the Deputy Director, ODRM, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Model (APM) Incentive under the Physician Fee Schedule, and Criteria for Physician-Focused Payment Models [CMS-5517-FC] (RIN: 0938-AS69) received October 20, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

7465. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a certification to implement commitments in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action by the P5+1 (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, Russia, and Germany) and Iran, pursuant to the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012, the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, and the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2012; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1192. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-801). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1209. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the designation of maternity care health professional shortage areas; with an amendment (Rept. 114-802). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2713. A bill to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-803). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4365. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services; with an amendment (Rept. 114-804, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2566. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications; with an amendment (Rept. 114-805). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. UPTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2669. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-806). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4937. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize pipeline safety programs and enhance pipeline safety, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-807, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. S. 546. An act to establish the Railroad Emergency Services Preparedness, Operational Needs, and Safety

Evaluation (RESPONSE) Subcommittee under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Advisory Council to provide recommendations on emergency responder training and resources relating to hazardous materials incidents involving railroads, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-808). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BRADY of Texas: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 5458. A bill to provide for coordination between the TRICARE program and eligibility for making contributions to a health savings account, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-809, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5711. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran; with an amendment (Rept. 114-810). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4150. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to modify the hours of employment of physicians and physician assistants employed on a full-time basis by the Department of Veterans Affairs; with an amendment (Rept. 114-811). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 4757. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility for headstones, markers, and medallions furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for deceased individuals who were awarded the Medal of Honor and are buried in private cemeteries; with amendments (Rept. 114-812). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5047. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Labor to provide information to veterans and members of the Armed Forces about articulation agreements between institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; (Rept. 114-813). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5099. A bill to establish a pilot program on partnership agreements to construct new facilities for the Department of Veterans Affairs; with an amendment (Rept. 114-814). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5399. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfill the ethical duty to report to State licensing authorities impaired, incompetent, and unethical health care activities (Rept. 114-815). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5428. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers to elect to use the same residences as the servicemembers (Rept. 114-816). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 5600. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy technology to veterans; with an amendment (Rept. 114-817). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 921. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5711) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 18, 2016, through November 28, 2016 (Rept. 114-818). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5715. A bill to prohibit the Export-Import Bank of the United States from providing financing that would benefit Iran; with amendments (Rept. 114-819). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2333. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire certain property related to the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Fort Scott, Kansas; with an amendment (Rept. 114-820). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5984. A bill to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-821). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 3028. An act to redesignate the Olympic Wilderness as the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness (Rept. 114-822). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 5341. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for recalculation of basic annuity benefits for certain air traffic controllers, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-823). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 2532. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-824). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. CHAFFETZ: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. H.R. 6009. A bill to ensure the effective processing of mail by Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-825). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4937 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4365 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Armed Services discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5458 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ROYCE (for himself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. HOYER):

H.R. 6297. A bill to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSKAM (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6298. A bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6299. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require a school food authority to make publicly available any waiver of the Buy American requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MESSER (for himself, Mr. SEN-SENBRENNER, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. HUDSON):

H.R. 6300. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain individuals from the individual health insurance mandate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 6301. A bill to provide for certain requirements and limitations relating to the recoupment of bonuses and similar payments made to members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6302. A bill to provide an increase in premium pay for United States Secret Service agents performing protective services during 2016, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6303. A bill to designate facilities of the United States Postal Service, to estab-

lish new ZIP Codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SALMON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Ms. MCSALLY):

H.R. 6304. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 501 North Main Street in Florence, Arizona, as the "Adolfo 'Harpo' Celaya Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6305. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to exclude the receipt of basic allowance for housing for members of the Armed Forces in determining eligibility for certain Federal benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6306. A bill to exempt children of certain Filipino World War II veterans from the numerical limitations on immigrant visas and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6307. A bill to amend the Compact of Free Association of 1985 to provide for adequate Compact-impact aid to affected States and territories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6308. A bill to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6309. A bill to allow acceleration certificates awarded under the Patents for Humanity Program to be transferable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6310. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive the minimum period of continuous active duty in the Armed Forces for receipt of certain benefits for homeless veterans, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish such benefits to homeless veterans with discharges or releases from service in the Armed Forces with other than dishonorable conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6311. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to improve transparency under the national primary drinking water regulations for lead and copper, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself and Mr. BRAT):

H.R. 6312. A bill to promote economic opportunity for military families, to facilitate workforce attachment for military spouses in their chosen occupation across multiple geographical postings, to reduce barriers to work on military installations, to amend the District of Columbia Code to promote greater freedom in the practice of regulated occupations, to combat abuse of occupational li-

censing laws by economic incumbents, to promote competition, encourage innovation, protect consumers, and promote compliance with Federal antitrust law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6313. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to criminalize knowingly preventing the implantation of certain human embryos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 6314. A bill to establish a commission to study the removal of Mexican-Americans to Mexico during 1929-1941, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H. Con. Res. 171. Concurrent resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the lasting significance of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H. Res. 922. A resolution acknowledging and honoring brave young men from Hawaii who enabled the United States to establish and maintain jurisdiction in remote equatorial islands as prolonged conflict in the Pacific led to World War II; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOYCE (for himself and Mr. TAKANO):

H. Res. 923. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Ms. LEE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas):

H. Res. 924. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week beginning on November 14, 2016, as "National School Psychology Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

302. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Texas, relative to Senate Resolution No. 642, expressing support for the study and regulation of modern agricultural technologies and expressing opposition to regulatory action that results in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies; to the Committee on Agriculture.

303. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 152, urging Congress to pass S. 1980, which posthumously awards a Congressional Gold Medal to Alice Paul in recognition of her role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing

equal rights for women; to the Committee on Financial Services.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. UPTON introduced A bill (H.R. 6315) to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to James C. McCloughan for acts of valor during the Vietnam War; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 6297.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. ROSKAM:

H.R. 6298.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6299.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MESSER:

H.R. 6300.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution: To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 6301.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6302.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CHAFFETZ:

H.R. 6303.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution: To establish Post Offices and post Roads.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6304.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution. This clause provides: The Congress shall have Power "To establish post offices and post roads".

By Mrs. DAVIS of California:

H.R. 6305.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6306.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6307.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6308.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6309.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6310.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6311.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 6312.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17, states, "The Congress shall have Power To . . . exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District" Further, Article 1, Section 10, Clause I, states, "In the just preservation of rights and property, it is understood and declared, that no law ought ever to be made, or have force in the said territory, that shall, in any manner whatsoever, interfere with or affect private contracts or engagements, bona fide, and without fraud, perviously formed."

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 6313.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To . . . [M]ake all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the forgoing powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 6314.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. UPTON:

H.R. 6315.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 13 and 14

The Congress shall have the Power To provide and maintain a Navy; and to make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 188: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 197: Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 213: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 224: Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 225: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. NORCROSS, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 226: Mr. TONKO, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 244: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 539: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 563: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 605: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. CROWLEY.

H.R. 662: Mr. SANFORD.

H.R. 748: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 752: Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 759: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 842: Mr. MICA.

H.R. 865: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 885: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 923: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 932: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 973: Mr. ASHFORD, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. DENT.

H.R. 1061: Mr. LOEBSACK.

H.R. 1095: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas and Mr. ROYCE.

H.R. 1258: Mr. WALZ and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 1274: Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 1283: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1343: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 1399: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 1427: Mr. BLUM, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 1439: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1453: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1457: Mr. VISCLOSKEY and Mr. POMPEO.

H.R. 1459: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1538: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1652: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1707: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1728: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 1733: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1859: Ms. DELBENE and Mrs. BLACKBURN.

H.R. 1933: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1942: Mrs. TORRES and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1974: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FARR, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2016: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HIMES, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 2045: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 2067: Mr. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 2083: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2087: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2251: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 2290: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 2311: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2342: Mr. TROTT.

H.R. 2391: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 2404: Mr. ENGEL and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.

H.R. 2411: Ms. GRAHAM.

H.R. 2450: Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 2461: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 2468: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2571: Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 2680: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 2713: Ms. EDWARDS and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2737: Mr. HOYER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. PELOSI.

H.R. 2740: Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.R. 2759: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 2799: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. DENT.
 H.R. 2849: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. SERRANO.
 H.R. 2858: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SHUSTER, and Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.R. 2866: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 2867: Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.R. 2875: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 2903: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. AMASH.
 H.R. 2970: Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.R. 2991: Mr. RIBBLE.
 H.R. 2992: Mr. LATTA and Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 3012: Ms. MENG and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 3060: Ms. HAHN.
 H.R. 3099: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3100: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona and Mrs. LUMMIS.
 H.R. 3119: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 3280: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 3381: Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. BURGESS.
 H.R. 3397: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. ABRAHAM.
 H.R. 3406: Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3411: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 3423: Mr. ASHFORD.
 H.R. 3463: Mrs. LAWRENCE and Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 3512: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. LEE, and Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 3513: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 3514: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 3558: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 3588: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 3591: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 3605: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
 H.R. 3660: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 3742: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 3799: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 3841: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 3886: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 3888: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3952: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 3991: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. LEE, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 4016: Mr. THORNBERRY.
 H.R. 4017: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 4073: Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 4151: Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, and Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 4177: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
 H.R. 4187: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
 H.R. 4220: Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.R. 4223: Mr. DEUTCH.
 H.R. 4225: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 4296: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.
 H.R. 4298: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 4335: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 4374: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
 H.R. 4469: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 4514: Mr. REICHERT and Mr. SCHRADER.
 H.R. 4554: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 4604: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 4616: Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 4625: Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BARLETTA,

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. WALZ, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 4626: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 4657: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
 H.R. 4662: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 4665: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 4667: Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.R. 4683: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 4684: Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 4706: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 4708: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 4715: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 4740: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 4745: Mr. GOWDY.
 H.R. 4756: Mr. LOBIONDO.
 H.R. 4760: Mr. DENT.
 H.R. 4764: Mr. COURTNEY and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
 H.R. 4766: Ms. GABBARD and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 4773: Mr. DAVIDSON.
 H.R. 4816: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 4833: Mr. ELLISON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. DELANEY.
 H.R. 5007: Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 5073: Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 5127: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 5167: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Ms. GABBARD.
 H.R. 5168: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 5177: Mr. DIAZ-BALART and Mr. PITTEGGER.
 H.R. 5183: Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 5219: Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 5221: Mr. NADLER.
 H.R. 5230: Mr. STIVERS.
 H.R. 5232: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 5251: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 5272: Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 5287: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 5292: Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 5329: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 5332: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FARR, Ms. ESTY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SIRES, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. LUMMIS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 5347: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 5369: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. SERRANO, and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 5410: Mr. RICE of South Carolina and Mr. HENSARLING.
 H.R. 5474: Mr. NEAL and Ms. SPEIER.
 H.R. 5489: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 5589: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. HENSARLING.
 H.R. 5621: Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. RUSH, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 5628: Mr. DEFazio.
 H.R. 5650: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.

H.R. 5668: Mr. PALMER.
 H.R. 5671: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 5679: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 5689: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. LEWIS.
 H.R. 5691: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. ENGEL.
 H.R. 5727: Mr. DUFFY.
 H.R. 5732: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. RENACCI, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 5742: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MENG, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
 H.R. 5745: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 5746: Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 5784: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 5814: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
 H.R. 5828: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. McNERNEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 5866: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 5879: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 5887: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 5904: Mr. LABRADOR and Mr. McCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 5951: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BABIN, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. ROUZER.
 H.R. 5956: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 5980: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CLAY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. KENNEDY.
 H.R. 5996: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 5999: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 6005: Mr. HARRIS.
 H.R. 6006: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
 H.R. 6025: Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
 H.R. 6030: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. McNERNEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
 H.R. 6043: Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 6045: Mr. JOYCE and Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 6058: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 6061: Mr. McNERNEY.
 H.R. 6072: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Mr. McNERNEY.
 H.R. 6073: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. McNERNEY.
 H.R. 6087: Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 6088: Mr. HURT of Virginia, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mrs. BLACKBURN.
 H.R. 6100: Mr. SANFORD, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BLUM, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ZELDIN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. BUCK, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BARR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. BARTON, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 6108: Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 6110: Mr. GOHMERT.
 H.R. 6117: Ms. LEE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 6133: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. TIP-TON.

H.R. 6139: Mr. HIMES, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. POSEY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 6149: Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 6161: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 6176: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. SENBRENNER, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 6179: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 6184: Mr. FORTENBERRY and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 6186: Mr. COFFMAN.

H.R. 6187: Mr. O'ROURKE.

H.R. 6195: Mr. LATTA, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FLORES, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PITTS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. MESSER, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.

H.R. 6197: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 6205: Mr. MEEKS and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 6208: Ms. TITUS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 6211: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SPEIER and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 6220: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.

H.R. 6221: Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 6224: Mr. HONDA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MOORE, and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 6225: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 6226: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. TIP-TON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. CRAMER.

H.R. 6234: Mr. PETERSON, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 6240: Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 6277: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 6295: Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. HARPER.

H.J. Res. 47: Mr. HONDA and Mr. ENGEL.

H.J. Res. 94: Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.J. Res. 95: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. YOHIO.

H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. LOBIONDO and Mr. ASHFORD.

H. Con. Res. 140: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. PALAZZO.

H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. YOHIO, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. PITTINGER, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Mr. FARENTHOLD.

H. Con. Res. 167: Ms. BASS, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 28: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 130: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.

H. Res. 208: Ms. GRAHAM.

H. Res. 290: Mr. CAPUANO.

H. Res. 424: Mr. CLAWSON of Florida.

H. Res. 549: Ms. GRAHAM.

H. Res. 590: Mr. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. PERRY.

H. Res. 591: Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. HIMES.

H. Res. 605: Mr. PASCRELL.

H. Res. 694: Ms. GRAHAM.

H. Res. 703: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H. Res. 752: Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. YODER, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GARRETT, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. MACARTHUR, Mr. O'ROURKE, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H. Res. 769: Ms. GRAHAM.

H. Res. 831: Mr. KIND, Mr. BOST, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 838: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Mr. JONES.

H. Res. 852: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H. Res. 853: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 861: Mr. PITTINGER, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 873: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H. Res. 896: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.

H. Res. 902: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative BILL HUIZENGA to H.R. 5711 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative JOHN CONYERS, Jr. or a designee to H.R. 5982, the "Midnight Rule Relief Act of 2016", does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

89. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City of Miami Commission, Miami Florida, relative to Resolution R-16-0406, condemning the abuse of human rights in Turkey arising out of the 2016 Turkish coup d'etat attempt; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

90. Also, a petition of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Butler, New Jersey, relative to Resolution No. R-2016-96, expressing condemnation of publications and distribution of any and all images that purport to glorify or justify violence against law enforcement officers and calling on the New Jersey legislature to join the Freeholders in condemning such publications; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

91. Also, a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, Texas, relative to urging the Congress to propose an amendment to the United States Constitution that would prohibit the Federal Government from nationalizing State and local law enforcement duties and responsibilities and from commandeering State and local law enforcement resources; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

92. Also, a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, Texas, relative to urging Congress to enact legislation that would require immigrants entering the United States to do so in conformity with all Federal laws of the United States — and to further require a minimum of five years uninterrupted physical residency in the United States — in order to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, temporary assistance for needy families benefits, taxpayer-subsidized housing benefits, and other types of welfare benefits or free and taxpayer-funded healthcare coverage; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE SUBMARINE
USS "DRUM"

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Submarine USS *Drum* for its service to our nation during World War II and subsequent years following the war.

The Submarine USS *Drum* (SS-228) was laid down on September 11, 1940, at the Portsmouth, New Hampshire Naval Shipyard, where her construction took just eight months. She was launched on May 12, 1941. The USS *Drum* arrived at Pearl Harbor in 1942, and she was the first new submarine to arrive at the base since the day of infamy, December 7, 1941. Upon her arrival to the Pacific Ocean, the USS *Drum* fought gallantly, earning twelve Battle Stars over an illustrious four-year career during World War II. Before the end of the war, the USS *Drum* sank 15 vessels with a total tonnage of 80,580.

Following World War II, the USS *Drum* was decommissioned. She was then deployed as a reserve training submarine on the Potomac River in Washington, DC. After a long deployment, the USS *Drum* was set to be retired and scrapped in 1968.

In 1969, the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park wisely added the USS *Drum*. The Memorial Park was created in Mobile, Alabama in 1965 in order to honor all Alabamians, living and dead, who have worn the uniform of all branches of the United States Armed Forces in defense of our country. Since the USS *Drum*'s inclusion to the Park, she has become an internationally known attraction. Additionally, she has been acknowledged as the oldest surviving World War II submarine in existence. The USS *Drum* was also declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I would like to encourage everyone to join me in celebrating the Submarine USS *Drum* on its 75th anniversary of being commissioned into the United States Navy on November 19, 1941.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CSULB EOP
CELEBRATION

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the California State University, Long Beach's Educational Opportunity Program which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Founded in 1967–68 by Dr. Joseph White, Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Psychi-

atry and the first Director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), it is the first such program implemented on a college campus in the State of California.

The 1960s was a decade of civil unrest throughout the United States. In the City of Los Angeles, the 1965 six-day Watts Riot affected a number of communities of color. In 1960, The California State Master Plan for Higher Education created a three-tiered system to provide instruction in the state: University of California, California State University, and the Community College Systems. The Master Plan, however, resulted in a decline of minority enrollments. As a result, African American academicians, civil rights advocates, and community activists sought to implement strategies that would increase the number of underrepresented students into institutions of higher education and develop effective methods to address this imbalance.

The event celebrated the legacy of Dr. White and his colleagues for their blend of scholarship, social activism, and mentoring which influenced and increased enrollment of African-American Students along with other students of color within the LA County and beyond.

To honor the individuals and programs that transformed the lives of countless African-American students that attended CSULB during the late 60s and early 70s; and to make this history and research available as an integral part of the African-American Legacy within the Long Beach Community, Dr. White served as a member of the CSULB faculty from 1962 to 1968. During his tenure, he became increasingly frustrated by the University's low Black student enrollment. He lamented, "Here we were, right at the end of South-Central LA and out of 15,000 students at CSULB, only 65 were black. It didn't make any sense."

The original pioneers responsible for EOP's implementation on the CSULB campus and expansion statewide are as follows: Dr. Joseph White, Assemblyman Willie Brown, Dr. Clyde Taylor, and Mr. Ernie Clark. Others were invited by Dr. White who also contributed to the implementation of EOP and student support services for students of color on CSULB's campus include: Dr. George Demos, Congressman Alan Lowenthal, Dr. Fernando Hernandez, and deceased contributors Dr. June Cooper, Dr. Ora Williams, Dr. Enid Blaylock, and Anthony Wilkins.

Despite all that has been accomplished over the years, the mission and goals still remains an ongoing journey.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST
INDIANA'S NEWEST CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oath of citizenship on Friday, November 4, 2016. This memorable occasion, presided over by Judge Joseph Van Bokkelen, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On November 4, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Jose Luis Pimentel Moreno, Jonathan Pilario, Ruhani Sharma, Juan Cabrales Garcia, Ernesto Gonzalez Salinas, Lamine Kamara, Marcelina Canales de Garcia, Mariya Thipkoi, Irene Elizabeth Andraus, Erika Mercedes Angel, Mishell Janeth Arichavala, Aloncio Antonio Arroyo, Izabela Agnieszka Benjeddi, Sergio Calderon, Stepan Famulyak, Catalina Gutierrez, Vania Nshuti Kagabo, Aliya Adeena Khan, Hyesung Moon Neidlinger, Herminio Padilla, Pinkalbahen Sahil Patel, Khushboo Chirag Patel, Maria Rocio, Elisandro Sanchez, Karla Ibeth Sosa, Grace Matawaran Stasi, George Strogilos, Erika Vazquez, Alexandra Betty Villamar Zapata, and Martin Zuniga.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

November 4, 2016. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

RECOGNITION OF GOVERNOR
EDWARDS' BIRTHDAY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th birthday of Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana. One of eight children, Governor Edwards learned the importance of helping others at a very young age, which he's shown through his profound strength and leadership in governing our great state of Louisiana. A retired Airborne Ranger for the United States Army and a diligent public servant, Governor Edwards has always put his community and nation first.

Within his first 8 months in office, Governor Edwards has focused on the state's crippling budget crisis, led our recovery from the historic floods that destroyed more than 100,000 homes, and worked to bring the community together after two tragic shooting incidents. Through it all, he has focused on the positivity in our citizens and the need for rebuilding our state.

Governor Edwards has faced every task and issue with an optimistic attitude, always believing that better days would be coming for Louisiana. I am proud to wish my friend a happy birthday.

HONORING FLOYD "SHAD"
MESHAD

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my dear friend and committed community advocate Floyd "Shad" Meshad for his forty four years of work advocating on behalf of America's veterans.

Shad served as a Captain in the U.S. Army and as Medical Service Officer in the Republic of South Vietnam. There, he counseled soldiers in the field who were suffering from a multitude of psychological and emotional problems resulting from their experiences in combat.

Upon his return to the States, he continued this work, dedicating himself to serving American veterans through counseling and pioneered treatment techniques for what would later become known as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD.

Shad's accomplishments are a testament to his commitment to the wellness of veterans. In 1971, Shad started the Vietnam Veterans Re-Socialization Unit, where he spent eight years helping veterans readjust to civilian life. And in 1978, Shad worked to develop and lobby for the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment

Act, which launched an investigation of PTSD and other psychological issues experienced by some Vietnam veterans. The following year, he founded the Vet Center Outreach Program, which to this day provides readjustment counseling for veterans at more than 300 locations across the country.

In 1985, Shad also founded the National Veterans Foundation (NVF), whose mission is to support veterans in crisis and provide services to better the lives of veterans and their family members. The NVF operates a crisis hotline that offers on-the-spot crisis counseling and resource referrals for veterans of all wars.

Shad has received many accolades for his efforts. He is a recipient of the Veterans Administration's Administrator's Commendation & the VA Special Contribution Award and has been featured on many major television networks and news programs including 60 Minutes, 20/20, Dateline, Nightline, and CNN News. He also authored the book, A Captain for Dark Mornings, which chronicles his experiences during the war in Vietnam.

My family has known Shad since the 1970s when he worked with my husband Walter to develop the curricula for a class on the Vietnam War at the University of California, Santa Barbara in my district. By offering his personal experiences in Vietnam, Shad has helped thousands of young minds better understand the war through the unique perspective of both a soldier and a therapist.

Shad is a dear friend and I am so grateful for his unwavering commitment to our nation's veterans. His dedication to easing our combat veterans' transition to civilian life is truly inspiring. Through his personal work and the work of the organizations he founded, more than 350,000 veterans have received help with financial problems, mental health issues, receiving VA benefits, healthcare, employment, housing, family counseling, and many other issues.

I am honored to recognize Shad's countless achievements and I would like to express my utmost gratitude for his service to America's veterans. I wish him nothing but continued success in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING NORTHWEST INDIANA'S
NEWLY NATURALIZED
CITIZENS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate thirty individuals who took their oath of citizenship on Friday, October 21, 2016. This memorable occasion, presided over by Magistrate Judge Paul R. Cherry, was held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of

America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On October 21, 2016, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, took their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Citlalli Guadalupe Lindsey, Milan Torlak, Susan Wambui Njoroge, Balwinder Kaur Kandola, Alberto Trevino Alvarez, Daniel Alvarez Sanemeterio, Yolanda Barrera, Timothy Overcomer Cangmah, Michelle Buenaventura Capatan, Emmanuel Chigozie Chijioke, Jacqueline Esther Diah, Teresa de Jesus Alcaraz de Diaz, Guillermo Diaz, Veronica Fernandez, Raul Garcia, Claudia Edith Hernandez Franco, Adolfo Hernandez, Ahmed Hjayyer, Francisco Javier Jimenez, David Leonardo Lagunas, Javier Lira, Shaima Ramzi Musa, Vivian Thuy Nguyen, Kim Nguyen-Rienks, Elodia Ontiveros, Nareshkumar Kantilal Patel, Kishankumar Nareshkumar Patel, Jinal Patel, Immaculee Gakwaya Songa, and Valentina Trifunovic.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country "... of the people, by the people, and for the people." They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who became citizens of the United States of America on October 21, 2016. They, too, are American citizens, and they, too, are guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

HONORING TREE TRUST

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Tree Trust, to recognize and commemorate the 40th anniversary of an organization devoted to ending joblessness and expanding the urban tree canopy.

Founded in 1976, Tree Trust was inspired by a simple idea: Improve the environment while investing in people. Tree Trust does exactly that through reforestation drives, employment training, and environmental education programs. They have fought for countless reforms to public programs that now provide meaningful opportunities to serve the community and connect with the outdoors.

For 40 years, Tree Trust has transformed lives and landscapes. They have planted and

distributed nearly 90,000 trees and shrubs while investing in over 55,000 youth and adults since their inception. I know the quality of Tree Trust's work first hand. Since being elected to Congress, I have joined them for many tree plantings and community service days. Many summers, I have had the honor to present the Governor's awards at their Youth Employment Program Awards Picnic to outstanding young people who are improving our community.

My driving force in Congress is making a more generous, inclusive, and sustainable society. I want young people to believe that they have the power to make a meaningful change. I want adults struggling with unemployment to know that they are valuable, important members of community. We as a society will shape our vision of tomorrow through action and service. Tree Trust is an organization that is leading the way, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

Once again, congratulations to Tree Trust for 40 years of service. I am looking forward to seeing what they accomplish in the next 40 years.

TO RECOGNIZE LORRI KOSTER

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the top leaders of the modern fresh produce industry and a Salinas Valley visionary. Lorri Koster is Chair, CEO and a primary shareholder of Mann Packing Company headquartered in Salinas, CA. Mann is a major grower, shipper, and processor of fresh vegetables on the cutting edge of technical innovation and market development. So while you may have never heard of Lorri Koster, I can guarantee that every member of this House has eaten something grown or shipped by Mann Packing.

Lorri was raised in the agricultural industry and is the third generation of her family to work in produce. Her late father Don Nucci had been a key partner in the company. She started her full time career at Mann in 1990 directing the firm's marketing and communication programs. In 2000 Lorri left Mann to join ProduceOnline.com as vice president of marketing. Lorri then became an associate publisher with Produce Business magazine. After several years of writing, raising two young boys and working for Mann on a consulting basis, she returned to the company full time in 2006 to represent her family's interest and lead the business development, marketing and product innovation efforts.

Lorri's leadership extends beyond Mann to the greater fresh produce industry and her local community. In 2000, Lorri was the International Fresh Cut Produce Association board president and the first woman to chair an American produce trade association. She is a past chair of the Grower Shipper Association of Central California. She has participated on the boards of various leadership committees for several industry organizations, including the United Fresh Produce Association, the

Produce Marketing Association, Western Growers, the Grower Shipper Association of Central California, and the Produce for Better Health Foundation. She shares my passion and has been a relentless advocate for creating more access to fruits and vegetables in schools and federally funded feeding programs. Lorri currently serves on the Western Growers Association board of directors and a board alternate for the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement. At a local level Lorri serves on the boards of the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership, the Panetta Institute for Public Policy, and on the business advisory councils for Rancho Cielo and CSUMB's Business School.

Lorri has a Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations with a minor in business marketing from California State University, Chico. A "baseball mom" and "Forty Niner Faithful", she resides in Salinas with her husband Tom where she loves cheering on their two boys, Jack and Sam.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak on behalf of the entire House in thanking Lorri Koster for her outstanding leadership in the produce industry and the Salinas Valley. Our nation is a better place because of her efforts. We wish her and her family many more years of success.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHERN INDIANA AREA LABOR FEDERATION COMMUNITY LABOR AWARDS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate several of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens. The Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor, American Federation of Labor—Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL—CIO), recognized several individuals and organizations for their dedication and service during the Northern Indiana Area Labor Federation Community Labor Awards Reception, which was held at Wicker Park in Highland, Indiana, on Thursday, October 20, 2016. These individuals, in addition to all Northwest Indiana Federation of Labor members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are the epitome of the ideal American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

At this year's event, several individuals and organizations will receive special recognition. Jeff Chidester, Ironworkers 395, is the recipient of the Service to Labor Award for his many years of service to the labor movement and his outstanding dedication to his fellow union members.

The Union Labor Award was presented to the Women of Steel, United Steelworkers, District 7, for their unselfish devotion to the labor movement through its promotion in all areas: social, civic, educational, and political.

Mayor Pete Buttigieg, South Bend, Indiana, was honored with the Community Services Award for his exemplary service to his community and to the enhancement of the quality of life for the people of Indiana.

State Senator Earline Rogers was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her many years of labor activism and her commitment to her community. For the exceptional service she has provided to the people of Northwest Indiana, she is worthy of our admiration and respect.

Ray Kasmark, IBEW, and David Blankenship, Sheet Metal Workers Local 73, were presented with the George Meany Award for their significant contributions to the youth of their communities through their involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These honorees are all outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to their unions and the Northwest Indiana community through their hard work and tireless service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and exemplary citizens, as well as all of the hardworking union men and women throughout America. They have shown commitment and courage toward their pursuits, and I am proud to represent them in Washington, D.C.

CELEBRATING UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the University of Wisconsin-Platteville on 150 years of academic excellence. UW-Platteville celebrated its sesquicentennial throughout the 2015–2016 academic year. As this university enters its 150th year of providing quality and affordable education, it is fitting we highlight the academic achievements of the faculty, staff, graduates, and students. Their continued dedication to higher learning has been a great source of pride for me as the university excels year after year. U.S. News and World Report ranked the online learning courses as one of the top in the nation and it is the fastest growing UW System school.

Founded in 1866, the university is located in Platteville, Wisconsin, near Wisconsin's southwest border. It began its storied history as Wisconsin's first state teacher preparation institution as the Platteville Normal School. Its proud engineering heritage has roots with the Wisconsin Mining Trade School founded in 1907 and in 1917 became the first school in the United States to offer a three-year course in mining engineering. The mining school became the Wisconsin Institute of Technology in 1939, which would merge with the Platteville State Teachers College in 1959 to become the Wisconsin State College and Institute of Technology at Platteville. In 1966, the name was changed again to the Wisconsin State University-Platteville. After joining the UW System governed by the board of regents, the school reached its current namesake in 1971 as the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

I have always been proud of the strong and continuous emphasis placed on education by those I represent in western and central Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville is a leading example of this; expanding on its original academic disciplines of engineering and education, it now provides over 42 majors for over 8,000 students. Courses are even offered through an innovative distance education program enabling over 3,000 students the world over to pursue higher degrees. This thriving body of students have banded together under the symbol of a Pioneer. The Pioneers have long established traditions such as the lighting of the "M". Laid in 1936 by mining students attempting to build the largest M in the world, the community now holds a twice-annual ceremony where they light the whitewashed stones in a brilliant blaze. When a tornado caused significant damage to the campus in June of 2014, the Pioneers rallied around their strong sense of community to ensure classes were able to continue for the fall semester.

Throughout the year-long anniversary celebration, alumni, students, and faculty were invited to participate in various events under the theme "Remember the Past. Celebrate the Present. Pioneer the Future." These events included a campus art show displaying generations of student work, featured profiles of alumni and staff, and various forums for sharing their memories. The celebration culminated with a birthday party on October 15th, 2016.

I would like to congratulate all the past and present faculty, staff, and students on 150 years of proud and pioneering years in the pursuit of higher education. It is because of your commitment that UW-Platteville is such a success and it is through you the university will continue to lead the way for another 150 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TAYLOR FORCE

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an American hero, who was taken from us far too soon by an act of terrorism.

Taylor Force was a student at Vanderbilt University, working to obtain his Master in Business Administration, when he traveled on a school-sponsored trip to Jaffa, Israel in March 2016. While there, he was attacked and killed by a Palestinian terrorist. He was 28 years old.

Before going back to school for his master's degree, Taylor attended the New Mexico Military Institute, graduating in 2006. I then had the honor of nominating Taylor Force to the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from West Point in May of 2009 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. As a Field Artillery Officer, Taylor served our country by completing one combat tour in Iraq and another combat tour in Afghanistan.

On behalf of a grateful nation and the 19th District of Texas, which Taylor called home for many years, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring veteran Taylor Force. His courage, sacrifice, and dedication will not be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE LINDA LAWSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to recognize the 2016 Democrat Woman of the Year Award recipient, as presented by the Lake County Women's Democratic Club. This year's recipient is my good friend, the Honorable Linda Lawson, Indiana State Representative. To commemorate this special occasion, the organization hosted a celebratory event on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at The Patricia Banquet Center in Schererville, Indiana.

Linda Lawson was born and raised in Hammond, Indiana, where she graduated from Donald E. Gavit High School. Later, she attended Indiana University Northwest in Gary before embarking on what would be a lifelong career in public service. Linda has made her community proud and has the distinction of being the first female police officer with the Hammond Police Department, from which she retired as a captain after 24 years of service. In her continued pursuit of bettering her community, Linda was elected to the Indiana General Assembly in 1998, as the representative for House District 1, a seat in which she proudly remains today.

Throughout her illustrious career as a state representative, Linda served as chair of the House Judiciary Committee, as well as on many legislative committees including Environmental Affairs, Courts & Criminal Code, Family Affairs, Education, and Labor. In 2012, Representative Lawson was elected Indiana House Democratic Floor Leader. Holding true to her commitment to protect and serve, she has been a tireless advocate and leader in the push for essential domestic violence legislation. Representative Lawson has received numerous honors and accolades for her exemplary service and dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, and she is an inspiration to us all.

Linda Lawson selflessly and passionately gives her time to various community organizations and civic activities for which she is very proud. These organizations include Haven House, the Hammond Historical Society Board, the Whiting-Robertsdale Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, the Humane Society of the Calumet Area, and the Boys & Girls Club.

Linda's excellence in her field and commitment to charitable endeavors throughout the community is exceeded only by her devotion to her amazing family. She has two beloved daughters, Laura and Jennifer, and one cherished granddaughter, Genavive.

I am proud to call Linda Lawson my friend. Throughout the years, she has been an out-

standing advocate for the community of Northwest Indiana, as well as our state. She epitomizes what it means to be a public servant. I am grateful for what she has done for so many for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the Honorable Linda Lawson for her lifetime of leadership and outstanding service to the community. Her continuous effort to improve the quality of life for the residents of Indiana is remarkable, and she is worthy of the highest praise.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE SOUTHEAST CAMPUS

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, this week the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus will be celebrating their 20th Anniversary. The Southeast Campus opened in 1996 with an enrollment of 3,993 under the guidance of founding President, Dr. Judith J. Carrier, along with 44 other full-time faculty members. The long-awaited campus quickly exceeded capacity, serving about 10,000 students face-to-face, as well as in dual credit courses at nine area high schools. In 2012, Dr. William Coppola became President and soon added a Collegiate High School to the campus. He currently is joined by 140 full-time faculty members serving a face-to-face student population of more than 11,000, and an additional 3,500 dual credit students in 11 area high schools.

The Southeast Campus has developed a strong relationship with both the Arlington and Mansfield ISD's, maintaining a vibrant and successful Dual Credit Program in which students can earn up to as many as 42 transferable college credits. In addition, the campus works with these ISD's to develop Career and Technical Certificate options for the students. The campus has partnered with both ISD's to open Collegiate High Schools, serving first-time college students and those from low socio-economically disadvantaged families.

The Southeast Campus faculty, staff, and student populations are diverse, and the Campus has built strong relationships with the various ethnic chambers in the community. Scholarship programs, cultural programs, and business/economic development events on campus have been attended by various members of the Tarrant County Asia American, Pan Asian American, Arlington Black, and Arlington Hispanic Chambers of Commerce.

As the campus celebrates its 20th anniversary, the campus will remain "the Spirit of Southeast", which is exemplified in service to the community and forward thinking by the faculty, staff, and administrators who work tirelessly to promote student success at all levels. I am pleased to recognize the Tarrant County College Southeast Campus on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNIONVILLE
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S
151ST ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation and leadership of Unionville Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia as the church celebrates a remarkable 151 years. The congregation of Unionville Missionary Baptist Church celebrated this very significant anniversary on Sunday, October 16, 2016.

Tracing its roots back to the Civil War era, Unionville Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1865. Prior to that time, black and white people of the Baptist and Methodist faiths worshipped together. When the white believers decided they no longer wanted to worship with the black believers, the black believers were left without a place to worship.

Later in 1865, Mr. Wyler, a wealthy landowner, decided to donate land for a black church to be established. He stipulated that the first black Baptist or Methodist to place timber on the land and sit on it all night would be awarded the deed to the land. Thus, two enterprising black Baptists, Lee Buckman and John Josey, retrieved the timber from their bed, placed it on the property, and remained there until morning to await Mr. Wyler's arrival. Upon seeing this, Mr. Wyler donated and deeded land at 1610 Pio Nono Avenue to establish the Unionville Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Pollack served as the first pastor of the newly formed church.

Today, the church is under the leadership of Pastor I. Edwin Mack. Having answered the call to lead the church in 1986, Pastor Mack holds the distinction of being the longest tenured pastor in the church's existence. During his tenure, the church membership has increased exponentially and as a result, the Unionville Missionary Baptist Church relocated to a new site at 3837 Houston Avenue. The church then expanded even further with the addition of the I. Edwin Mack Worship & Fellowship Center at 3820 Houston Avenue.

A charismatic evangelical innovator, Pastor Mack's spiritual zeal is both infectious and highly contagious. He has previously served as President of the Sixth District of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia. A native of Cochran, Georgia, he is married to the former Eloise Cliett of Byron, Georgia and has a daughter, Brittany.

The story of Unionville Missionary Baptist Church, which began as a small group of people worshipping together 151 years ago and has grown into an expansive and successful church, is truly an inspiring one of the dedication and perseverance of a faithful congregation of people who put all their love and trust in the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Unionville Missionary Baptist Church in Macon, Georgia for their long history of coming together through the good and difficult times to praise and worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

HONORING MS. BISHOP DR. LOIS J.
DELEVOE ON HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Dr. Lois J. Delevoe on her 80th birthday. Dr. Delevoe has been a pillar in the South Florida community. She has dedicated her life to supporting underprivileged and homeless youth in South Florida.

For nearly a decade, she ran a homeless shelter in Broward County, where she counseled, fed, clothed, tutored and ministered to the needs of homeless men, women, and children. She wrote what is thought to be the first comprehensive book on the homeless in the nation, and it has been used by administrators in metropolitan areas in Broward County and throughout the country.

Dr. Delevoe has also worked to empower youth through a GED program, and by facilitating Christian and political youth seminars, conferences, and clubs. She has taught in the Broward and Dade County School systems, and as a college professor.

Furthermore, Dr. Delevoe has founded or co-founded many women action and political groups throughout the state. She has served on multiple state, county, and city boards as the appointee of the Governor and many county and city officials. She also served as President of the Reverend Samuel J. Delevoe Memorial Park Civic Association, where she was able to work in conjunction with Broward County Parks and Recreation, Broward County, the City of Fort Lauderdale, and multiple homeowners' associations to positively impact the community.

Above all, Dr. Delevoe loves God and has been a ministerial light in South Florida for many years. Large numbers of pastors and other ministers began their ministry under Dr. Delevoe, and now are working dynamically in God's kingdom across the world. She continues to make a dedicated effort to support underprivileged children worldwide through the support of our foreign missions, missionaries, schools, colleges and orphanages.

Her accomplishments and her influence on our community are unmatched. I cannot thank Dr. Delevoe enough for her dedication to the state of Florida, and for all of the sacrifices she has made.

Mr. Speaker, I am so truly honored to recognize Bishop Dr. Lois J. Delevoe on her 80th birthday. She is such a remarkable human being and dear friend. I wish her many more years of success and happiness.

HONORING THE ASIAN AMERICAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Asian American Medical Association, which hosted

its 40th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 12, 2016, at Avalon Manor in Hobart, Indiana. Each year, the Asian American Medical Association pays tribute to prominent, outstanding citizens and organizations for their contributions to the community. In recognition of their efforts, these honorees are awarded the prestigious Crystal Globe Award.

The Asian American Medical Association has been a tremendous asset to Northwest Indiana. Its members have selflessly dedicated themselves to providing quality medical services to the residents of Northwest Indiana and have served their communities through many cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's Annual Gala, the Asian American Medical Association will present the Crystal Globe Award to one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens, Dr. William Forgey. Dr. Forgey serves as Medical Director of the Lake County Indiana Sheriff's Department and Correctional Health Indiana, Inc., and is a family physician with the Community Health Care System.

Despite committing much of his time to his professional responsibilities, Dr. Forgey also selflessly serves the people of his community and beyond through his contributions to various charitable and noteworthy endeavors, including his involvement with the International Society of Travel Medicine, Medical Student Missions, Inc., Boy Scouts of America, and the Wilderness Medical Society, to name a few. For his exceptional leadership and his tireless dedication to the betterment of his local community and society as a whole, he is worthy of the highest praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the members of the Asian American Medical Association, as well as this year's Crystal Globe Award recipient, Dr. William Forgey. For his dedication and commitment to his remarkable career in the field of medicine, he is most deserving of the honor bestowed upon him and serves as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING WESLEY D. JONES
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM THE U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wesley "Don" Jones of Washington, D.C. on his retirement on October 31, 2016, after more than 29 years of dedicated service to the United States House of Representatives.

A native Washingtonian, Wesley Jones was born in Freedmen's Hospital, now known as Howard University Hospital. His early years growing up in the city were spent playing sports and having terrific adventures. As a youth, playing outside is what led to his now infamous nickname "Cadillac." He actually got the name from running into the street between two parked cars, not paying attention, when a Cadillac came barreling down the street and struck him. Gratefully, no major damage was

done. Of course his father was grateful as well. So much so that as soon as he completely healed, he was placed on probation and house arrest for a year.

Don's early years were spent doing security work, where he learned from his good friend while working at the nearby Safeway that he could get a job on Capitol Hill. Don's first job on the Hill was working for food services in the Ford House Office Building Café. In 1987, he took a position working logistics for the Clerk of the House and eventually worked for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

During his early years at the CAO, Don worked for Cosmo Quattrone and Tom Van Dyke in what was then called Property Supply. Following a CAO Reorganization, the department was renamed Logistics and Support (L&S). He worked for several directors and chiefs, including Walt Edwards and Jerry Bennett, and is currently working for Dave Woodburn, Director of Logistics and Tom Coyne, Chief Logistics Officer.

Some of Don's most memorable experiences working with the CAO are his memories of the older crew, teaching him about life and growing up. Some of those same employees are still here and others have departed us too soon. In retirement, Don intends to relax. He plans to watch sports, leisurely read the newspaper, and basically enjoy the pleasures of life. He may even honor us with an occasional visit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring Wesley "Don" Jones for his service and dedication to the U.S. House of Representatives, and wish him and his family all the best in his retirement years.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Community Planning Month. This year's theme, "Civic Engagement," acknowledges that thoughtful local planning cannot happen without meaningful community involvement. National Community Planning Month provides an opportunity to recognize the essential role that planning plays in creating communities of lasting value.

Planning is the formal process of envisioning, mapping, and guiding how a community will look, grow, and define itself—its characteristics, attributes, and identity. As our communities continue to change and evolve, planners work to ensure that new developments are designed and built in harmony with existing surroundings. Planners carefully balance the needs and desires of residents against the challenges presented by physical, economic, and social change.

Planners strive to give citizens choices. From the types of homes we live in to how we choose to get around, planning helps ensure that we address the needs of everyone. A di-

verse and vibrant community is one that offers transportation and housing choices that are equitable and sustainable.

In my home state of Oregon, our commitment to planning became an official part of our state policy structure in 1973 with the passage of Senate Bill 100. We developed a strong planning program with nineteen Statewide Planning Goals, including promoting citizen involvement, stimulating economic development, and preserving ocean resources. Over forty years later, the "Oregon Story" of economic growth, sustainability, and deliberate development is as compelling as ever. I've worked very closely with the planners that have written that story and guided our region's growth, integrating statewide policies with the needs and interests of local communities.

As founder of the Congressional Livable Communities Task Force and Co-Chair of the Congressional Bike Caucus, I've sought to bring that understanding to Congress. From rebuilding and renewing America's infrastructure, protecting natural and urban resources, to supporting programs that enhance public health, we must find ways to improve the federal partnership with those who are engaged in the day-to-day work of creating livable communities. Planners are the gatekeepers of that partnership, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting National Community Development Month.

HONORING THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its Golden Member banquet, which will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2016.

The Croatian Fraternal Union will hold its gala at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees who have attained fifty years of membership include the following individuals: Lorraine Ackerman, Stephen Boskovich, Maria Cohen, Mildred Dobrinich, Pamela Ann Donlon, Carol Ann Gainey, Frank Gorski, Susan Grasham, Sally A. Kegley, Jo Anne Marzowski, Shirley Mertz, Joan Milosevich, Margaret M. Moore, Rudolph Dennis Mrak, Jeannine Barbara Pavic, Cheryl Kay Povlock, Thomas George Rykovich, Stephen Simatovich Jr., Robert Stipancic, Paul Mason Struble, John Anthony Tadey, Linda Ann Vukovich, and Louise Alice Wolotka.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President John Miksich and all members of the Croatian Fraternal Union, Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring re-

newed prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

CONGRATULATING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Union Elementary School in Zionsville, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Union Elementary School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Union Elementary School provides students with a caring environment where both teachers and parents collaborate with students to meet their full potential. Through a rigorous curriculum, including early literacy intervention and the integration of technology, students achieve academic excellence. Additionally, students have the opportunity outside of the classroom to participate in extracurricular activities to enhance their knowledge and interest in foreign languages, STEM fields, the arts, and many more disciplines.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Union Elementary School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Union Elementary School. I am very proud of you.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
RICKY CRISP

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Ricky Crisp of the McDowell County Sheriff's Department. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Captain Crisp for his 24 years of service in McDowell County.

Captain Crisp began work with the McDowell County Sheriff's Department in 1992 and soon became a full-time Deputy. He went on to serve as Patrol Deputy, Patrol Sergeant, and Detective. He was part of the McDowell County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard, a member of the Multi-Jurisdictional Highway Interdiction Team, and has also given his time as the Treasurer for Region C Criminal Justice Committee. By 2007, he had risen to the rank of Patrol Lieutenant and subsequently left to work as an investigator for the McDowell County District Attorney. In 2008, Captain Crisp returned to the McDowell County Sheriff's Department and served as Patrol Captain until his retirement.

For his decades of service, Captain Crisp was awarded numerous citations of appreciation and was nominated as the Law Enforcement Executive of the Year. Captain Crisp and his wife Tracy have been married for 30 years and have one daughter. In retirement, Captain Crisp leaves behind a long legacy of dedicated service to his Department and community.

Captain Crisp is highly regarded and appreciated by the citizens of McDowell County, and by the broader Western North Carolina community. He has truly embodied the Sheriff's Department's spirit of integrity and service. I am honored to express the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the people of North Carolina on his retirement.

HONORING MR. JOHN HEENAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Heenan of Ivyland, Bucks County. Shortly after graduating from high school John enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he trained as an infantry assault man. From 1969 to 1972, John served in Cuba and North Carolina. He would later serve in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1975. John went on to receive a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Drexel and his Master in Business Administration from the Wharton School of Business. For over thirty years, John gained a wide-range of business experience as he managed acquisitions, transitions, and divestitures of companies, often for small or family owned businesses.

But John Heenan never forgot the military. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. Found-

ed in 1962, The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is the nation's oldest and largest provider of need-based scholarships to military children. For 54 years, they've been providing access to affordable education for the children of Marine and Navy Corpsmen attending post-high school, under-graduate and career technical education programs. In that time, they have provided more than 37,000 scholarships worth nearly \$110 million.

In a world where Marines have sacrificed so much, it is my honor to commend John Heenan for his efforts in providing children with more affordable access to critical education. When John is not helping the children of his fellow Marines, he can be found at Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, where he serves as a rifleman in the honor guard. John, thank you for your service and your enduring commitment to the families of our veterans.

LAUREN CHAPPELL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Lauren Chappell of Charleston, Illinois, for winning her third IHSA Class 1A individual golf title. The three individual titles is a record for girls' high school golf, and I am very proud of her achievement. Hers was a hard-fought match, and what was most impressive was the way she had to battle back from some early difficulties to win the day. How Lauren responded after encountering trouble on the first and fourth hole was the defining moment of the match. Her mental toughness shone through as she weathered that storm, and then birdied the ninth hole. She then closed the door on her competition with a birdie on seventeen, which was sandwiched between two pars.

I know she is pleased with her victory, but I also know she is equally pleased that her high school team, the Charleston Trojans, won the team state golf championship as well.

Lauren leaves behind a legacy of excellence and good sportsmanship. I would like to extend my best wishes to her, both in the classroom and on the links, as next year she begins her studies at Southern Methodist University.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JIM
KOLBE FOR HIS SERVICE AND
INDUCTION INTO THE ARIZONA
VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the contributions of a great Arizonan and a former member of this House: Congressman Jim Kolbe.

On October 28th, 2016, Congressman Kolbe will be inducted into the Arizona Vet-

erans Hall of Fame. This is a well-deserved and appropriate honor for a man who has done so much for our state and country.

Jim Kolbe joined the United States Navy in 1967 and was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal for his service in Vietnam. He retired from service in 1977 as a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserves.

For 22 years, Jim Kolbe served the 8th district of Arizona in the House of Representatives. First elected to Congress in 1985, he consistently put the needs of his constituents first, ahead of party or partisanship.

During his time in Congress, Congressman Kolbe worked on the federal budget and was responsible for deciding the budget that funds most U.S. foreign aid programs and counterterrorism activities. Members of Congress have long admired Congressman Kolbe's determination to work across the aisle to create solutions and promote Arizona issues.

I am thankful that Jim has been a friend to me during my time in public service. I appreciate his determination and his willingness to work with me and many others to make Arizona a place of opportunity for all its citizens.

Please join me in recognizing the years of exemplary service of Congressman Jim Kolbe.

RECOGNIZING POLA BERLIN
DICKSTEIN, DORA BERLIN
PODZIBA, AND LUBA BERLIN
MARCUS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pola Berlin Dickstein, Dora Berlin Podziba, and Luba Berlin Marcus, three sisters who are celebrating their 85th birthdays on October 8th. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to them an extraordinary happy birthday and congratulations on this very special milestone.

Born in Cuba to a Jewish Soviet refugee mother, their family was forced to leave as anti-Jewish sentiment spread. They arrived at Ellis Island on September 21, 1940 and settled in New York City. All three sisters eventually married veterans, and Pola settled in Boca Raton, where they are celebrating this special occasion.

With their unique background and heritage, these sisters have never forgotten their roots. I wish all three of them a joyous and healthy year ahead surrounded by their loved ones. On behalf of my entire district and the United States Congress, mazel tov and happy birthday.

HONORING MAUDE FORD LEE ON
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maude Ford Lee on her 80th birthday.

After a grassroots groundswell of support for her fearless leadership at the helm of Palm Beach County's Community Action Agency, Maude Ford Lee answered the call and made history in 1990 as the first African American elected to the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. However, that is not the only reason why she is a trailblazer.

During her time on the Commission, from 1990 to 2000, she demanded to review everything within the County's jurisdiction, its programs and services, hiring and contracting, and all matters pertaining to the health, safety, and welfare of the people. Commissioner Lee's undaunted advocacy for inclusionary policies and programs often drew criticism, as it was disruptive to the systems put in place over the previous 80 years. However, her persistence yielded tremendous results and achievement against the odds.

As Commissioner, she organized a coalition of local and national black business advocacy organizations, even walking out of a log jammed Commission meeting until securing the adoption of the Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Ordinance, which established policy and best practices of goals and timetables to ensure racial equity and diversity in procurement. She also created the County's Economic Development Office, providing programs and funding to create jobs for people who live in lagging regions. Her work provided access to capital and disbursement of millions in funding for loans and grants for small business and community development projects, particularly African American, Latino, and women-owned enterprises not served by traditional banks.

She successfully implemented the equitable allocation of funding to build recreational and park facilities such as pools and community centers in overlooked urban areas, including West Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach and Lake Worth. Through her housing initiatives, hundreds of families, most notably working poor families, became homeowners and thousands of children and families in need were connected with community-based organizations providing valuable services through her fiscal sponsorship.

After retiring, Commissioner Lee continued serving the community as President of the West Palm Beach Branch of the NAACP from 2002–2008. She is an active and devoted member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Florida A&M Alumni Association, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and a Life Member of NAACP. Maude Ford Lee is a trailblazer and living legend for her daughters Debra and Vanessa, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all of Palm Beach County because she stepped up to history and honored it with an unyielding commitment to service with strong and positive results.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pride to honor Maude Ford Lee on her 80th birthday. She is not only an outstanding role model for our community and this nation, but somebody that I am extremely proud to call a good friend. I wish her many more years of success and happiness.

STRONG OPPOSITION TO WALBERG BILL

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Walberg bill. We must allow the Department of Labor to implement and enforce the Overtime Rule, giving employees a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

The American people have waited long enough. In 1975, approximately 62 percent of salaried workers were covered by overtime protections—but according to the White House, that is just 7 percent today.

This bill would deny the 4.2 million American workers affected by this rule \$600 million dollars. For working families making under the overtime rule's threshold, six months of lost overtime pay means less food on the table, less gas in the car, less money in the college fund.

We cannot play politics with the incomes of hardworking Americans. The biggest issue facing our country today is that families are not making enough to live on.

The overtime rule is a step to lessen the burden on hardworking but struggling families—it is commonsense and overdue.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, workers who will benefit the most from the new rule include women, African Americans, Latinos, and workers under 35.

The Department of Labor spent more than a year meeting with 200 stakeholders to collect input for the new rule—and collected more than 270,000 public comments, which they took seriously to make significant changes to the rule, making it work for businesses and working families.

I would also add that in 2004, the last time we raised the overtime rule threshold, the Bush Administration used a 120-day implementation period. We are providing even more time, for a rule that is much less complex.

This delay is unnecessary and harmful—and we cannot let it pass. This proposal throws up another unnecessary and shameful hurdle in the way of the overtime rule. We have an obligation to do right by our working families.

IN HONOR OF THOMAS P. TRAYLOR'S THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS WITH BOSTON MEDICAL CENTER AND HIS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING QUALITY HEALTHCARE TO RESIDENTS OF BOSTON AND MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Thomas P. Traylor, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the healthcare community in the City of Boston and across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to commend him for thirty-eight years of service to Boston Medical Center.

Throughout Tom Traylor's career, in his roles as Vice President at Boston Medical Center, Vice President of Boston Medical Center's HealthNet Plan, Commissioner of Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals, and Chief Financial Officer of Boston's Department of Health and Hospitals, he was the ever-present, creative force driving health coverage and access for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, dedicating 38 years of service to this mission.

During that time, Tom inspired Massachusetts to participate in its critical first Medicaid 1115 Waiver to expand health coverage to the neediest populations in the Commonwealth. He was engaged in the design of each of the six succeeding waivers, directly impacting Massachusetts Medicaid for over twenty years. Tom was instrumental in creating funding models and mechanisms to support coverage expansion and the ability of Boston Medical Center and other safety net hospitals to continue to provide quality care to low income populations. And Tom's deep commitment to provide healthcare and coverage to our most vulnerable residents inspired him to create the BMC HealthNet plan, now one of the highest rated Medicaid plans in the country serving people in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire.

Tom's successful collaboration with the multiple state administrations, Massachusetts legislature, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Congressional delegation helped bring billions of dollars in funding to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for access and coverage for low income populations. For all of his efforts, Tom was recognized nationally as a leader in his field and served as Chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals, and its successor organization America's Essential Hospitals.

Tom's deep understanding of the potential of the Medicaid Waiver, as well as the politics and policy surrounding it, were the keys to success that enabled Boston Medical Center, and other safety net hospitals in Massachusetts, to grow and expand, leveraging federal support for access and coverage for residents of Boston and around the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to take the floor of the House today to thank Tom Traylor for his remarkable commitment to Boston Medical Center and the people of Boston and Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Thomas P. Traylor's efforts and dedicated service to others.

CONGRATULATING GEIST ELEMENTARY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Geist Elementary in Fishers, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education,

is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Geist Elementary is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgment of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

To be chosen for the Blue Ribbon designation, schools must rank in the top 15 percent of all schools on ISTEP assessments in both reading and mathematics. Teachers work to meet kids at their needs and find what students need to be successful. Geist Elementary provides students with a nurturing learning environment that allows them to build meaningful relationships and academic self-confidence that they can carry on throughout the rest of their lives. Students are encouraged to engage with their school and the real world, through the support of teachers and staff for many student generated projects. Through the dedicated efforts of teachers and hard work of their students, Geist Elementary has truly earned this recognition. Geist Elementary equips students with valuable relationships, support, and never-ending opportunities to learn.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Geist Elementary give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Geist Elementary. I am very proud of you

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN TOLEDO, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life of Wesley United Methodist Church in Toledo, Ohio. I was privileged to participate in the congregation's celebration this weekend.

In 1891, the Reverend Homer Hood found a church building on the corner of Spring Street in Toledo. He established a Sunday school class there, and the church community grew. A decade later, women of the WTCU began

selling ten cent doughnuts to raise funds to build a church of their own.

In 1924, the cornerstone of Wesley United Methodist Church was laid at 2934 Stickney Avenue in the heart of Toledo's North End, the oldest part of the city. The church was raised and Wesley United Methodist Church has been firmly planted at this location ever since. Even in the dark days of America's Great Depression, the congregation grew. Notably, John G. Kingsley made the mortgage payments, at the cost of his own business. Fortunately, he was able to restart his business later. Throughout the 1940s the church continued to grow. As World War II carried on in that decade, many members were part of the war effort, with some giving the ultimate sacrifice in battle. The 1950s and 1960s saw continuing growth, mission work, choirs and a junior church with two active youth groups.

The 1970s and 1980s brought change, but the church remained an anchor in the neighborhood and provided outreach. The church welcomed its first female minister to the pulpit, with Dr. Margaret Mallory's installation in her first congregation. The 1990s brought further change and a partnership with Broadway United Methodist Church that lasted briefly. The congregation also celebrated a glorious 100th anniversary in 1991.

The dawn of the congregation's life in a third century brought Pastor Waverly Earley, whose service continues to this day. The congregation is committed to being "the hands and feet of Jesus" in our community. Parishioners describe themselves as a "caring family, closely knitted together and striving to serve God in all ways that are possible." Living Jesus Christ's message described in Matthew 25:40 that "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," the church is committed to active ministry and is involved in the North Toledo Citizens Circle for ex-offenders, host of Camp Toledo, and Toledo Area Ministries' Feed Your Neighbor's largest site. The church's Mary/Martha Circle continues its behind-the-scenes mission efforts to help support the congregation. The church offers a participatory youth group and youth choir and recently added a Men's Group and a men's chorus. Family is the focus with family movie nights, ice cream socials, harvest dinners, outdoor services, Vacation Bible School and milestone celebrations of faith.

Wesley United Methodist Church congregants declare that they are "serving God and mankind with our SWEAT." That is, "Service, Worship, Evangelism, Alliances, and Teachings." For more than a century, its members have brought that zeal to its neighborhood in North Toledo, serving as a beacon of hope and light. As the congregation celebrated 125 years of rich history, it looks forward with faith continuing its journey with Jesus.

IN RECOGNITION OF SACRAMENTO'S HONORABLE VETERANS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the many veterans who risked their lives serving Sacramento and the United States. Each of the below veterans were nominated by their organization and Post leaders in recognition of their outstanding dedication to their country. Mr. Speaker, as these veterans and their families gather to celebrate their invaluable contributions to our community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the following veterans for their commitment and the sacrifices they have made for their fellow veterans and our region.

Tino Adame, Theodore E. Adams, Michael G. Andrade, James M. Armstrong, Renee Bickerstaff, Melvin M. Bisgay, Phillip Blanco, Nigel "Tony" Boucher, James A. Brashear, Garren W. Bratcher, Carol L. Brush, John A. Buck, Melvin R. Buzzard, Jenny "Leilani" Callison, Chuck G. Carter, Selso A. Cavazos, Christine Chalmers, Sherry Lou Chavez, Naraya Comeault, Jon Cornett.

JoAnn C. Coughlin, Raymond J. Coughlin, Anthony R. Creel, Hugh E. Crooks, Jr., Lewis Derfuss, Erma "Tootsie" Dougherty, Dale E. Esperante, Sister Libby Fernandez, RSM, Edward L. Ford, Fred Gagliardini, Esq., Victor Michael Garcia, Charles "Chuck" Gardner, Steven Goch, Frank Goehringer, Patrick A. Graham, Joseph Handy, Bobby Hanks, Don Harper, Jason Henry.

Elva O. Herrera, Tobrin S. Hewitt, Nellie Hill, Phelps Hobart, Wendy Van Houten, Michael R. Hughes, Vito Imbasciani, M.D., David L. Jackson, Deborah K. Johnson, FL Johnson, Robyn A. King, Renee M. Kuznik, Ben Lapolla, Elwood "Bud" Lee, James J. Lim, Shing Long, Kenneth Lusk, Buford Lee Maples, Brian J. McGuinness, Dennis A. McKey.

Michael Allen Mellow, Toney Meredith, Diana Russell-Milton, James Milton, Larry Steven Minasian, Silvia Moseley, George Moses, Peter Muse, Dana Nichol, John Otero, Rebecca S. Overby, Garry L. Overby, Col. Steven R. Painter (Ret.), Bobbi J. Park, Charles W. Peterson, Jerome "Jerry" Quint, Dr. Mariana M. Raba, Greg Raffia, John H. Reece.

Mark E. Reichert, Sanford Earl Ross, James "Jim" Rounsavell, Terry Sandhoff, Patricia "Patty" H. Schumacher, Gene Ag Shropshire, Cheryl R. Shropshire, Dale E. Smith, Randy B. Smith, Mark "Coach" Soto, Paul Sullivan, Rick J. Sutter, Anna M. Sutton, Ray Tarango, Wallace Allen Taylor, Roger G. Van Tassel, Justin P. Turner, Joe Velasquez, Suzanne "Suzi" Vinci, Melissa A. Washington.

Rhett W. White, Howard R. Williams, Baldwin Y. Wong, Michael S. Wong, Juanzelyn Charice Wright, Wayne A. Wright, Wayne W. Wright, Eduardo Yanez.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Bisgay, Dimples McCray, Willie McCray, Jr., Ruben C. Ramos, Gary E. Ross, Malenda E. Smith, Valentino L. Soto, Ewing Bruce Townely, Robert Wayne Turner, Robert V. Welch

HONORING PROFESSOR LYLE
ROSENBERGER OF BUCKS COUN-
TY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Professor Lyle Rosenberger of Bucks County Community College. Professor Rosenberger is the 2016 recipient of The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Historic Preservation Medal. The Washington Crossing Chapter is pleased to present this award in recognition of Professor Rosenberger's accomplishments in the area of historic preservation.

In 1991 Professor Rosenberger established and directed the Historic Preservation Program at Bucks County Community College. This was an innovative achievement for a community college in the United States. He went on to lead this effort across the country.

Professor Rosenberger founded the ETA chapter of Sigma Pi Kappa, a national honor society for historic preservation students as well as the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) celebrating teaching the subject.

Many organizations have recognized Professor Rosenberger's achievements including Bucks County's Heritage Conservancy. And today, Mr. Speaker, I recognize Professor Rosenberger's achievements.

HONORING THE MARTINEZ
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Martinez Historical Society, which is celebrating the 40th anniversary and the reopening of the Martinez Museum.

The Martinez Historical Society was established in 1973 with the ambitious goal of preserving a historical cottage dating to the 1890's so that future generations could appreciate our community's heritage. That cottage became the Martinez Museum in 1976, and it now serves as a cornerstone for community history and engagement. The museum has exhibits that encourage visitors to learn about the rich history of Martinez and offers tours to students and groups to encourage their curiosity and desire to learn about our diverse and cultured community.

In addition to operating the Martinez Museum, the Martinez Historical Society provides services to our community such as maintaining the Local History Library and the Archive of Martinez. These services are made even more notable when considering the organization operates with an all-volunteer staff. Furthermore, the Historical Society serves as a champion for education by offering school tours to engage young learners, providing curriculum materials to various Martinez schools,

and sponsoring state-wide conferences and workshops related to history. With 200 volunteers and an additional 300 members, it is no surprise that the Martinez Historical Society is a cornerstone in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Martinez Historical Society is of tremendous value to our community, and its success has brought awareness to our community's vibrant history through the work of the Martinez Museum and its dedication to education. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the Martinez Historical Society here today.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
AARON M. TOBLER

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron M. Tobler of the United States Air Force who has been named one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2016.

Aaron enlisted in the Air Force Reserve in 2011 and received honors at both basic training and technical school. He is currently a Geospatial Intelligence Analyst assigned to the 50th Intelligence Squadron at Distributed Ground Station-Two at Beale Air Force Base, California where his job is to exploit high-value targets and satisfy intelligence requirements in support of Combatant Commanders around the World. As a direct result of Staff Sergeant Tobler's work, weapon manufacturing compounds were identified and destroyed, crippling an entire terrorist network. He also facilitated successful over watch of Joint Task Force troop convoys, ensuring over two thousand miles of roads were clear of threats.

When he's not working for the Air Force, Aaron is an active member in his community. He is a manager with the California Department of Social Services in Sacramento, and serves on the Board of Directors for Rocklin Residents Unite for Fido community group, an organization that offers scholarships to wounded veterans to receive training for their service dogs. He is involved in several community fundraising events, offering strategic support and is a regular blood donor.

Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler exemplifies what it means to be an Outstanding Airman. He has accumulated many accolades and medals in his Air Force career, and now he can add being the first Reservist in the Intelligence Career Field to ever be selected as an Outstanding Airman of the Year as one of his many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored that Sergeant Tobler and his family are assigned to Beale Air Force Base in my district. And it is my privilege to recognize him here for his outstanding contributions to California and to the United States.

RECOGNIZING SUE WATSON

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Sue Watson, who celebrated her 80th birthday on October 8th. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to her my wishes for an extraordinary, happy birthday and congratulations on this very special milestone.

Sue Watson was born on October 8, 1936 in South Bend, IN. She and her family moved to Palm Beach in 1976. In 1981, Sue was one of the founding members of Temple Judea and in 1982 was among the representative members of Palm Beach County at the first United Jewish Appeal Campaign Leadership Gathering in Israel. An avid dancer, Sue has won numerous ballroom dance competitions and awards—as well as the envy of her peers. She has dedicated her life to caring for others, from volunteering to care for infants born with HIV to her work helping patients at Hospice of Palm Beach County. Sue would say her most important work, however, is being the mother of Jodi and Brad Ochstein and the grandmother of Chris and Jake Ochstein, all of whom love her and were thrilled to be with her to celebrate her 80th birthday.

I am honored to recognize Sue Watson in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I wish her a joyous and enriching year ahead. Happy birthday.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TOM
HAYDEN

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Thomas Emmet Hayden—husband, father, and public servant—who passed away on Sunday, October 23, 2016.

Born in Royal Oak, Michigan, Tom attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He served as the editor in chief of the campus newspaper and found a true passion for the Civil Rights Movement. From this critical juncture, Tom began his journey of public service and ensured he would be a voice to the voiceless.

Through these early formative years, Tom became an inspirational and resolute leader, critic, and organizer whose legacy was borne during a time of political and social upheaval. He was politically active during the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, giving voice to a generation that yearned for peace and racial justice.

Tom's dedication to public service continued in the California State Assembly from 1982–1992 and State Senate from 1992–2000. Whether it was divestment from apartheid South Africa or support for solar power, Tom proved to be an amazing political force and spoke truth to power.

Tom is survived by his wife, Barbara Williams, sister, three children, and two grandchildren. His family has much to be proud of

given his critical legacy, and he will surely be missed. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Tom Hayden's exceptional life.

**HONORING DEBORAH SLIZ ON HER
DISTINGUISHED CAREER**

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ms. Deborah Rochelle Sliz, who for more than thirty-five years has served with distinction as a trusted advocate for the community-owned utilities that serve consumers in small and large communities alike.

I first met Deborah through her work as the Washington representative of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, fondly known as SMUD. SMUD serves the City of Sacramento with affordable electricity on a not-for-profit basis. And in the same way SMUD has focused on providing reliable, forward-thinking customer service, Deborah has provided her clients with sound advice and valuable insights into energy policy.

Deborah began her career here on Capitol Hill, as Counsel for Chairman Morris K. Udall of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee—now known as the House Resources Committee. There she handled water and power issues, which became her life's work. She went on to advocate for not-for-profit power systems at the American Public Power Association, then at APCO Worldwide. In 2006, she became the President and CEO of Morgan Meguire, LLC and has built a highly regarded government relations firm during a transformative time in the energy industry. Her commitment to community-owned electric utilities, coupled with her business sense, people skills, and personal integrity, have made Morgan Meguire—under her leadership—second to none when it comes to energy policy advocacy.

Deborah has worked with Members of Congress throughout the country, from both sides of the aisle, to advance her clients' interests. Deborah has played a pivotal role in the development of landmark legislation including the Clean Air Act of 1990, the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and the Hoover Power Reallocation Act of 2011, to name just a few.

Utility managers and their elected board members consider her a trusted advisor and say that they have greatly benefited from her leadership and vision, while her colleagues and her staff say she is known for her ability to bring stakeholders together, her integrity, and forthrightness.

With accolades like these, it is not surprising that my personal and professional respect and admiration for Deborah runs deep, and I wish her happiness and good health in her retirement. The wise counsel, determination, and good sense of humor with which she has served on behalf of public power will be fondly remembered.

Thank you for your service, Deborah.

CONGRATULATING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school in my district that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate West Clay Elementary in Carmel, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that West Clay Elementary is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, making this recognition all the more impressive.

West Clay Elementary's dedication to empower students to become active, independent learners and educational risk takers helps students to achieve their goals and grow academically. This growth mindset allows students to explore opportunities in order to realize their full potential as learners. West Clay creates a positive environment for its students through the school community's commitment to diversity and creating a respectful environment where all students are celebrated for what makes them unique. Their commitment to diversity and excellence has made it a thriving community which fosters respect and builds on a foundation of open ongoing communication between students, teachers, and parents.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at West Clay Elementary give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to West Clay Elementary. I am very proud of you.

DORETHA EDGEComb

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime accomplishments of my friend and the trailblazing Floridian, Mrs. Doretha Edgecomb. Her invaluable contribution to the Tampa Bay community is an inspiration to us all. Today, I am grateful to recognize her selfless dedication and honorable service to our community.

Mrs. Edgecomb is a proud graduate of Middleton High School in Tampa, Florida and later Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. She began her esteemed career as a junior high school English teacher with Hillsborough County Public Schools. She later earned a Masters of Arts degree in Reading Education and received certification in Educational Leadership from the University of South Florida. Her 52 year career as an educator encompasses numerous positions throughout the field of education, to include Reading Teacher, Learning Specialist, Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator, and Elementary Principal.

In 1996, after retiring from the Hillsborough County School District, Mrs. Edgecomb joined Educational Testing Service, serving as a trainer, program developer, and technical assistance advisor for schools in the state departments of Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, she has taught in the College of Education at the University of South Florida.

Mrs. Edgecomb was elected to the Hillsborough County School Board in 2004 and re-elected in 2008, where she served as Vice Chair in 2010 and Chair in 2011. She is actively involved in several professional, civil, and social, and community organizations. She represents the School Board on the Hillsborough County Children's Board, serving her second term as Chair. She serves as a member of the Florida School Boards Association Board of Directors as a legislative liaison, board of directors for the Regional Educational Lab-Southeast, Florida State University, advisory committee of Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, and the executive board of the Council of Great City Schools.

Mrs. Edgecomb is a 55-year member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Athena Society, Inc., where she is the President-Elect of the Robert Saunders Friends of the Library, and a faithful member of Hyde Park United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Edgecomb shared a strong partnership with her distinguished late husband the Honorable Judge George E. Edgecomb. Judge Edgecomb an activist in his own right, blazed the trail for African-Americans in the Tampa Bay. He was the first African-American to serve as Assistant County Solicitor, Assistant State Attorney, and to be appointed as County Judge for Hillsborough County. They share one daughter, Allison who is an Administrator in Hillsborough County Public Schools.

Mrs. Edgecomb has selflessly dedicated her life to our community and the children of the Tampa Bay. Countless students and young

professionals have benefited from her immeasurable efforts and unabashed enthusiasm. Her commitment will always be remembered and appreciated. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Tampa Bay community, I am proud to recognize Doretha W. Edgecomb for her lifelong exemplary service to the State of Florida.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of bringing to the attention of the House Grace Episcopal Church of Allentown, Pennsylvania as it celebrates its 150th anniversary this year.

Since its earliest days, the Lehigh Valley has been home to a large population of German Americans who established Lutheran and Reformed congregations throughout the region. With the advent of iron-making, however, many British workers began migrating to Allentown, bringing their Episcopalian roots with them. To placate their increasing desire for a church, Rev. Azariah Prior was sent to Allentown where he led Episcopalian services in the Lehigh County Courthouse for three years.

During that time, the first commercially successful anthracite coal-powered iron furnace was created in the community now known as Catasauqua in 1840. Additional workers were needed, and many from Britain joined their fellow countrymen and women in the Lehigh Valley. Further north, in Mauch Chunk, Asa Packer—the renowned railroad tycoon, Congressman, and founder of Lehigh University—requested membership to the Presbyterian Church, but was reportedly rejected due to his unwillingness to sign a temperance pledge. The father of Packer's chief advisor, William Sayre, encouraged him to become Episcopalian. Packer agreed, and the operational headquarters of his Lehigh Valley Railroad in South Bethlehem became a gathering point for other Episcopalians.

Finally, in 1865, the construction of Grace Episcopal Church began on a lot at the north-west corner of Linden and 5th Street.

Today, the Church serves as a bastion of support to the surrounding community through its ministry and its pre-school through elementary, as well as GED, educational programs. It continues to provide a spiritual and physical comfort to the surrounding areas in the Lehigh Valley.

I ask the House to join me in offering congratulations to Grace Episcopal's congregation, and I wish them another 150 years of continued community outreach and spiritual edification.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DAVID BYRNES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Sheriff David Byrnes for serving 16 years as Kaufman County Sheriff and for serving a total of 47 years in law enforcement protecting the citizens of Texas.

On November 5, 2017 David Byrnes will retire from a lifetime of serving the United States and Texas. Sheriff Byrnes began his career in the Navy before pursuing a career in law enforcement. He began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff in Tarrant County. Afterwards he joined the Department of Public Safety where he served as a Highway Patrolman in Pecos, Denton, and Fort Davis. He was later promoted to the Texas Rangers and served in Midland, Snyder, and Garland. He retired from the Rangers as the Captain of Company B in 1996. David has now spent the last 16 years as the Kaufman County Sheriff.

On behalf of all the people touched by the work of Sheriff Byrnes, I want to thank him for all of his work. We have been blessed to have you protecting us and I wish you a happy retirement.

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Bookshop Santa Cruz, a family-owned, independent bookstore based in Santa Cruz, California. Bookshop Santa Cruz started in 1966 and quickly became the heart of Downtown Santa Cruz, providing the community with access to books, magazines, newspapers and gifts while also creating a community meeting ground for friends and visitors alike. Over the last 50 years, Bookshop Santa Cruz established itself as a nationally-renowned bookstore dedicated to the written word, the discussion of ideas and the creation of community.

In 1973, Neal and Candy Coonerty bought Bookshop Santa Cruz and raised their two children, Ryan and Casey, in the store. Together they helped the store survive many challenges including the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, competition from nearby chain bookstores and the rise of the internet retailer. Bookshop Santa Cruz held thousands of author events over the years allowing numerous opportunities for authors to engage with their fans about their work. The store was instrumental in starting the shop local movement in Santa Cruz and lead community-wide conversations about the role of local business in our economy, the value of maintaining vital downtown corridors and the importance of freedom of speech and reader privacy.

In 1989, Bookshop Santa Cruz survived the terrible Loma Prieta earthquake, which destroyed over 75 percent of Downtown Santa

Cruz, with the help of their staff and community. Hundreds of volunteers signed liability waivers to enter the red-tagged Bookshop building to rescue all of the books and fixtures, thereby allowing Bookshop Santa Cruz to continue to operate for three years in a large pavilion tent as Downtown Santa Cruz was rebuilt. In the meantime, Neal Coonerty successfully ran for City Council and became Mayor of Santa Cruz to help with the downtown rebuilding process.

Ten years ago, Casey Coonerty Protti, took over management of the store as a second-generation owner. During this time, she successfully launched vital children's programs such as Young Writers Contest, Summer Reading Program where each year over 600 kids earn rewards for reading during the summer months as well as bringing authors into local schools. These efforts are central in helping create the next generation of readers.

In addition, the owners of Bookshop continue to give back to the community that supported them throughout the years with Neal Coonerty and Ryan Coonerty both serving as Mayor of Santa Cruz as well as on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and Casey Coonerty Protti serving on the Board of the Downtown Association, the Santa Cruz Education Foundation and an appointee on the Santa Cruz Downtown Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I join the entire House in congratulating Bookshop Santa Cruz on 50 years and thanking their owners and bookselling staff for all that they contribute to the Santa Cruz community. We hope they continue to breathe life into the cultural fabric of the Santa Cruz community for another 50 years.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP ROGERS FOR HIS 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Rogers of the Anderson Fire Department. For over three decades Phil has served the City and residents of Anderson, Indiana through his work as a paramedic, firefighter, and two terms as the Anderson Fire Department Chief. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for Phil Rogers' commitment to making the City of Anderson a safer, better place to live.

Phil is a lifelong Hoosier. He was born and raised in Anderson and he graduated from Madison Heights High School in 1978. After high school, Phil attended Indiana State University where he studied industrial engineering. He decided that industrial engineering was not his passion and, fortunately there was an opening with the Anderson Fire Department which allowed Phil to begin his path toward his true calling as an emergency responder. He applied to the cadet program and, in October 1981, he became a sworn firefighter. Through the addition of paramedic services to the Anderson Fire Department in the late 1980s, Phil found his passion for patient care through paramedic service.

Phil is a public safety veteran, his years of distinguished service proved invaluable and in January 2006 Mayor Kevin Smith appointed Phil to be the City of Anderson's 21st Fire Chief. Phil became the first African-American to serve as Fire Chief for the City of Anderson and Madison County. He is also the first African-American paramedic in Madison County as well as the first Paramedic to be appointed Chief of the Anderson Fire Department. His leadership emphasized professionalism and increased training. He ensured that all department firefighters were certified. Recognizing the need for a new training facility, Phil championed the development of the regional Fire Training Center on Martin Luther King Boulevard, which services the 13 surrounding counties. He worked tirelessly to lower Anderson's fire rating, reducing insurance costs for businesses. And he was instrumental to the successful application for The Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program (SAFER) which awarded the Anderson Fire Department a 1.25 million dollar grant to assist with emergency preparation and response efforts. After his time as chief, Phil returned to Station 2 and resumed his duties as a paramedic.

Phil devoted himself to a life of service to his community. Through his dedication to patient care, to capable local government, and above all his Hoosier home, he has made the City of Anderson and the wider community of Madison County a safer and better place to live. On behalf of all Hoosiers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Phil for his 35 years of service. I wish the very best to Phil in his well-deserved retirement as well as in the next exciting chapter of his life.

HONORING LT COL IRA STEPHEN
"SHOOTER" EADIE

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Ira Stephen "Shooter" Eadie, who died on September 20, 2016 while flying a routine training mission.

At 9:05am, the TU-25 piloted by Lt Col Eadie and his trainee crashed near the Sutter Buttes in California. They were assigned to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron at Beale Air Force Base. Although both pilots ejected from the aircraft, Lt Col Eadie did not survive.

Lt Col Eadie was a respected pilot who began his military career in the Navy, flying P-3 patrol aircraft. He eventually joined the Air Force and became a U-2 pilot. The U-2 is a notoriously difficult aircraft to fly—becoming a U-2 pilot means you are among the very best. He was part of an elite, tight-knit group of pilots, whose flights more closely mirror those of astronauts—the U-2 flies at altitudes over 70,000 feet, at the very edge of the atmosphere, affording the pilot breathtaking views of the horizon, watching nighttime creep across the Earth.

Steve was a loving and devoted family man. He met his wife Ashley in Lake City, FL, and

together they raised six children, and recently welcomed a granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, pilots fondly quote, "Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth, and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings". Today, it is my heartfelt honor to remember a cherished member of the flying community, Lt Col "Shooter" Eadie, who has put out his hand, and touched the face of God. In the days to come, may strength and comfort be granted to his family and friends, the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron and Beale Air Force Base, and the entire Dragon Lady community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROBERTS FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Roberts Family Development Center's 15th Anniversary. As founders Derrell and Tina Roberts, along with the Center's staff, join their friends and supporters to celebrate 15 years of dedicated service to the Sacramento community, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this wonderful organization.

The Roberts Family Development Center was founded in 2001 by Derrell and Tina Roberts in memory of their grandparents who passed their beliefs in the principles of family on to their grandchildren. Today, the Center carries on these ideals and values through its empowerment of families in the Sacramento region. The Robertses believed that in order to strengthen a family, the needs of each individual must be met. This led them to create the Roberts Family Development Center, which provides high-risk families with financial support, parental education, and access to technology. The Center also focuses on supporting children's educational goals through its after-school programs, which provide students with a safe learning space where they can take part in recreational meetings as well as receive tutoring under the guidance of mentors. The Center also promotes civic engagement through its organization of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, as members of the Roberts Family Development Center gather to celebrate its 15th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring this extraordinary organization for its commitment to the families and community of Sacramento.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICKEY MARVIN

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Mickey Marvin of Henderson County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Mr. Marvin for his continued service to the Henderson County community.

A Henderson County native, Marvin played football at West Henderson High School, Brevard High School, and the University of Tennessee before being drafted to play for the Oakland Raiders in 1977. In his 10 years with the Raiders, he would go on to play 120 games and win two Super Bowl Championships as starting right guard for the team. After an outstanding career playing college and professional football, he returned home to Hendersonville. While his time playing on the field may have ended, Marvin remains engaged in his community and with the Raiders as a regional talent scout. He is a frequent speaker at local churches and youth conferences, and has held Football Camps for youth in Western North Carolina. As a faith and community leader, Marvin has given Sunday morning devotionals on local radio, has been a national speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, has supported the deputies of the Henderson County Sheriff's Department, and is an active member of the First Nazarene Church of Hendersonville. Recently, by creating the Mickey Marvin Scholarship Fund, he has ensured that his legacy will benefit student athletes across Henderson County for generations to come.

Mickey Marvin is held in high esteem by citizens in Henderson County and across Western North Carolina. Even in the midst of his struggle with ALS, Marvin continues to be a man of exemplary character, faith, and kindness. For his continuing service to his community, I am honored to express the sincere thanks and best wishes of the people of North Carolina.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE AGAINST FORCED ORGAN HARVESTING

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, October 1 is designated as an International Day of Remembrance Against Forced Organ Harvesting. Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting organized the Day of Remembrance and a petition to be presented to the United Nations calling for an immediate halt to China's forced organ harvesting from detained Falun Gong practitioners, other prisoners and prisoners of conscience in China. Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize—2016, Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting, is seeking an immediate end to this practice, as well as objective investigations leading to the prosecution of the perpetrators. And urging the Chinese government to end the 27-year persecution against Falun Gong, believed initiated by former President Zemin in 1999 and cited as the cause and source of forced organ harvesting from prisoners. By ending the genocide of the Falun Gong group, other populations in China will be safeguarded. This practice is another form of evil in our time and the United Nations will be further alerted to this crime against humanity, as are we.

CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
GOLF TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding success of the Charleston High School girls' golf team.

The Charleston Trojans posted a score of 676, seven strokes better than their nearest rival, and gave the school its first ever Class 1A girls' golf state title. Leading the way were Lauren Chappell, who won an individual title, fellow senior golfers Ally O'Dell and Aislinn Parish, juniors Haley Walker and Bailey Taylor, and sophomore Paige Chappell. I would also like to acknowledge Charleston girls' golf coach Deb Landsaw for her hard work which went into this championship, as well as her unshakable faith that this team had what it takes to win, and the Trojans' Athletic Director, Jim Wood.

The road to victory was not an easy one for Charleston, which saw their 11-stroke lead evaporate on the final day of play. But the team rallied, summoning the mental toughness of a champion, and went on to win the day and the match.

I am very proud of the Charleston High School's girls' golf team, and I look forward to the continued success of the team, as I extend my best wishes for another outstanding season next year.

HONORING THE LAKE COUNTY
WINEGRAPE COMMISSION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake County Winegrape Commission as it celebrates 25 years representing winegrape growers in Lake County, California.

The Lake County Winegrape Commission was established in 1991 as a state agency to work on behalf of winegrape growers in the areas of marketing, research and education. The Commission is steadfastly dedicated to quality winegrape growing and today represents approximately 180 winegrape growers.

Located in Kelseyville, California the Lake County Winegrape Commission has been at the forefront of environmental sustainability in the wine community. The Commission fosters sustainable winegrowing practices through its many professional development programs. The Master Vigneron Academy provides a course in winegrowing taught in Spanish, and the commission's Sustainable Winegrowing Program certifies vineyard owners who demonstrate adherence to environmentally sound, socially equitable and economically viable principles.

In addition to its service to winegrape growers, the Lake County Winegrape Commission is dedicated to serving the wider community as well. In the wake of the devastating Valley

Fire, the Commission collaborated with other community partners to establish Lake County Rising, which has raised over \$1 million to support long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. These funds are being used to meet a wide range of community needs, including providing food, furnishings, supplies, and equipment for those who lost homes in the fire.

Mr. Speaker, the Lake County Winegrape Commission has been instrumental in developing Lake County's reputation for producing high-quality winegrapes for the past 25 years and has been an invaluable community partner in times of need. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Lake County Winegrape Commission here today.

RECOGNIZING MR. RON
MARCHETTI AS THE 2016 UNICO
HAZLETON CHAPTER'S COLUM-
BUS DAY OUTSTANDING
ITALIAN-AMERICAN OF THE
YEAR

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Mr. Ron Marchetti, who has been selected as the 2016 UNICO Hazleton Chapter's Columbus Day Outstanding Italian-American of the Year. UNICO, which is Italian for "one of a kind," perfectly describes all that Ron does, and I am grateful for his contributions to my constituents, my hometown, and our community.

Founded in 1922, UNICO National is the largest Italian-American service organization in the nation, with the mission of engaging in charitable works, supporting higher education, and performing patriotic deeds. UNICO Hazleton was formed in 1950 as the first chapter in Pennsylvania, and continues to advance the principle of service to community, over service to oneself.

Ron graduated from Hazleton High School in 1957, and like so many proud Italian-Americans, joined the family business as a fourth-generation employee. R.L. Marchetti Plumbing still operates to this day and is run by his son, Randy. In 1961, Ron felt a duty to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Army at the height of the Cold War. After serving for two years, he returned to Hazleton to continue on in the family business. Ron serves as the president of the Hazleton Plumbers Association, a position he has held for the past 28 years, and also sits on the Hazleton Historical Society board.

I've known Ron personally for many years and I can't think of anyone that's had a bigger impact on Hazleton sports throughout the years. Ron started his sports commentary career with two shows on local television, "Trivia Treats" and "Short Shots," and to this day fans and former athletes still request copies of these segments. He then went on to be a sports editor for PANORAMA magazine for 25 years. Ron is the former president of the Hazleton Quarterbacks Club and has been actively involved with the Hazleton Area football program for over 25 years. Many in the com-

munity still refer to Ron as the heart, soul, and voice of sports in the Hazleton area, and his induction into the Hazleton Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2012 and the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2015, speak to his distinguished contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Ron Marchetti for his exemplary service to the Italian-American community and the greater Hazleton Area. Ron and his wife, Chris, celebrated their 54th Anniversary this past April, and his four children, Lisa, Robin, Terri, and Randy, and seven grandchildren, can take pride in knowing that his contributions to the Hazleton Area will have a lasting impact for generations to come. I thank Ron for all that he has done for our community and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

A NEW EXHIBIT HONORING A
VIRGINIA HERO

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate my friend and distinguished public servant, former Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr., in the opening of a new exhibit in his honor at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning. As the longest serving Secretary of the Army, this is a well-deserved recognition of his service and contributions to our country and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Secretary Marsh began his public service at the age of 18 when he enlisted in the United States Army during World War II where he served with occupation forces in Germany. After the war, Secretary Marsh pursued a career in law while continuing to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Virginia Army National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1976.

In 1962, he was elected to represent the people of Virginia's Seventh Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives and served honorably for four terms. While serving in Congress, Secretary Marsh graduated from the Army's Airborne Infantry School, earning his Senior Parachutist Badge. In fact, he served during the Vietnam War without mentioning to his fellow soldiers that he was a sitting Member of Congress—a true display of his humble statesmanship.

Following his service in Congress, Secretary Marsh served as Assistant Secretary of Defense and was a counselor to President Gerald Ford. In 1981, he was appointed as Secretary of the Army by President Ronald Reagan. He went on to serve as the Secretary of the Army until 1989, making him the longest serving Secretary of the Army in history. He served during the sweeping reconstruction of our military's organization, and helped implement the joint and more efficient Armed Forces we see today.

Secretary Marsh has received six Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service awards, the Presidential Citizens Medal, the Doughty Award, the Gerald R. Ford Medal

for Distinguished Public Service, and is a member of the Army's Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame and the Ranger Hall of Fame. On September 16, 2016, the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia, opened a new exhibit to honor Secretary Marsh's lifetime of service.

It has been an honor to know Secretary Marsh and his family over the years. He is a native of Virginia and has deep roots in the Shenandoah Valley. As a fellow alumnus of Washington and Lee University, he is a true inspiration. As President Ford once said, "Anyone who can make thirty-eight parachute jumps while serving as a Congressman has to be fairly calm and unflappable."

I congratulate Secretary Marsh on this much-deserved exhibit. Future generations will forever recognize his immense contributions to our nation. I wish him and his family the best.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER
GENERAL JOHN MCGOFF ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE INDIANA AIR NA-
TIONAL GUARD**

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brigadier General John McGoff on the occasion of his retirement from the Indiana Air National Guard. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are forever grateful for John's exceptional service and dedication to our Hoosier state and our great country.

A lifelong Hoosier, John was born and raised in the Broad Ripple area of Indianapolis. He attended St Pius X Catholic School, where his parents were founding members, and where he has been a lifelong parishioner. Growing up, John volunteered at Wishard Hospital Emergency Department in his free time. Through this volunteer work he developed an interest in emergency medicine. After graduating North Central High School in 1977, John attended Indiana University to study biology. Graduating early from college, John then went on to attend Indiana University School of Medicine to pursue his dream of becoming a physician. During his third year of medical school he joined the Medical Officer Training Corps with the Indiana Air National Guard. Following the conclusion of his degree program, John completed his three-year residency in Emergency Medicine at the esteemed Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

John's commitment to public service and dedication to his Hoosier home is evident. After finishing his residency in 1987, John returned to Indiana and began working in the ER at Community Hospitals in Indianapolis and has continued to work as an Attending Emergency Room Physician, where he has served thousands of Hoosiers. In addition to his civilian medical career, John is a decorated Iraq War Veteran.

He served for more than three decades with an aeronautical rating of Chief flight surgeon

and has logged over 600 hours of flight time in many aircrafts, including the F-16 and F-4 fighters. He was the Chief of Emergency Services at the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, Joint Base at Balad, which was the busiest trauma center in Iraq in 2008-2009. He was the Assistant to the Surgeon General for U.S. Air Forces in Europe and he has been deployed extensively around the world with operational tours in Turkey, Jordan, Bahrain and Germany. John is also the Chief of Staff for the nearly 2,000 members of the Indiana Air National Guard, where he serves as an advisor to the Adjutant General on matters pertaining to the 122nd Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne, the 207th Weather Flight in Indianapolis, the Air-to-Ground Gunnery Ranges at Atterbury, Jefferson Proving Grounds, and the 181st Intelligence Wing in Terre Haute. With the 181st he served as the Medical Group Commander, Chief of Flight Medicine, Flight Surgeon, and Hospital Administrator. During his tenure as commander, the unit received "Excellent" ratings on their Health Services Inspections in 1993, 1997, 2001, and 2005. They also won the Theodore Marris Award, the highest Air National Guard Medical Award, in 1997 and 2006. Additionally, they also received the prestigious Schaeffer Trophy in 2006 for the best medical unit in all of the reserve components.

John has received many awards and decorations during his time in the National Guard and his active duty. Those awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, the National Defense Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Service Star), the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon (with Gold Frame), the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon (with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with M Device and Numeral 2), the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

John has also given his time and talent to a number of boards and advisory roles. He served as a healthcare policy advisor for Governor Mitch Daniels' campaign and was a part of the Indiana State Department of Health Transition Team for the then-incoming Governor Daniels. John also sat on the Marion County Forensic Science Commission, the board of the Indiana Donor Network, the board for Community Hospitals of Indiana, was formerly the President of the Indiana Leadership Forum, was previously President of the Indianapolis Medical Society, and is currently an Ex Officio Board Member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, presently the Vice President for the Indiana Medical Licensing Board, and is now the President of the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA) and served as their Speaker before his selection as President. Additionally he is a member of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, the Aerospace Medical Association, the Alliance of Air National Guard Flight Surgeons, the National Guard Association of the United States, and the National Guard Association of Indiana. He was also twice elected

as Coroner of Marion County where he implemented cost saving measures and overhauled the office to be a more efficient and effective government service for the constituents of the city of Indianapolis. John has served our community and our country in a local, national, and international capacity.

John has devoted himself to a life of service, whether in the Emergency Room, on the battlefield, or as a public official. I am extremely grateful for all his hard work. And on behalf of all Hoosiers and all Americans, I'd like to congratulate John on his remarkable military career and extend a huge thank you for all of the wonderful contributions he has made to our community, our state, and our nation I wish the very best to my friend John, his wife Karen, daughter Ava and the rest of the McGoff family as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement from the Indiana Air National Guard.

**HONORING MRS. DIANE GLASSER
ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE
TAMARAC CITY COMMISSION**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very dear friend, Mrs. Diane Glasser, Vice Mayor of the City of Tamarac, Florida, and an active member of the King's Point Community. Diane recently announced her retirement from the Tamarac City Commission, the end of a more than 40-year career serving her community.

Originally from Mill Basin in Brooklyn, Diane went to college and high school in New York. In 1973, Diane and her husband moved to the City of Tamarac. There, she worked for twelve years in the construction industry.

Throughout her long career, Diane became a powerhouse in Broward County politics. She began as a volunteer, tirelessly dedicating her time and effort to the Broward County Democratic Party. She was also elected to the Democratic National Convention as a Delegate to the last six Democratic National Conventions. Diane is a "graduate" of the Electoral College; she cast a vote on Florida's behalf for Former President Bill Clinton in the Electoral College in 1996; and then for Former Vice President Al Gore in the highly-contested 2000 election. In 2004, the Florida Democratic Party appointed Diane as their First Vice Chair. She has served on a number of advisory boards, including the Broward County Human Rights Board and the Broward County School Board's Senior Citizens Involvements Task Force, and since 2008, brought her tremendous energy to local politics as a member of the Tamarac City Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot thank Diane enough for everything that she has done for not only Florida, but for the Democratic Party. She is truly a remarkable individual, who I have had the privilege to call my dear friend for so many years, and for that I am so grateful. I am so pleased to honor Diane, and wish her a wonderful and restful retirement.

IN HONOR OF PASTOR DANIEL
SIMMONS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to Pastor Daniel Simmons, leader of my church home, Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia. Pastor Simmons celebrated 25 years of outstanding ministry to Mount Zion Baptist Church on Sunday, October 9, 2016.

A native of Cairo, Georgia, Daniel Simmons was born to Mrs. Pinkie Norwood Simmons and the late Reverend Perry Simmons, Sr. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Albany State College (now University) in 1977. He went on to earn a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from the University of Georgia in 1985 and a Doctorate of Ministry from Bethany Theological Seminary in Dothan, Alabama in 1991. Pastor Simmons worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor with the Georgia Department of Rehabilitation Services for seventeen years. He also worked as a Community Development Specialist.

Pastor Simmons began preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ in June 1984. He pastored Mountain Grove Baptist Church in Dawson, Georgia and Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shingler, Georgia. In 1991, the Lord called him to lead Mount Zion Baptist Church. In his 25 years of leadership, Mount Zion has expanded its ministry services, increased its membership tremendously to the point where a second worship service was added, and moved into its new state-of-the-art facility on 109 acres of land at 901 South Westover Boulevard in 2010.

But most importantly, Pastor Simmons has led Mount Zion Baptist Church to become a pillar in the community, known for ministering to those in need. Pastor Simmons welcomes anyone and everyone into the church and its members make it their duty to ensure that every soul is taken care of and prayed over. With a congregation of over 3,000 members and 54 ministries, including radio, television, and live-streaming, Mount Zion is truly "reaching the world for Christ through evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, and missions."

Mount Zion Baptist Church celebrated another happy occasion—its 151st anniversary. The church was founded in 1865, the same year that the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery was passed by Congress and ratified by the States. Nearly a century later, many of the rallies during the Albany phase of the Civil Rights Movement were held at Mount Zion. To commemorate those struggles, the church donated the building to the Albany Civil Rights Museum which is currently housed there. Mount Zion has seen many ups and downs but God's will and our members' perseverance have shaped it into the expansive and successful place of worship it is today.

Jeremiah 3:15 says, "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." Pastor Daniel Simmons is one such shepherd and a man of integrity who exudes the genuine

principles and values of Christian discipleship. Over the 20 years I have been a member of the church, I am proud to call Mount Zion my church home and Pastor Daniel Simmons my pastor. As an ordained Deacon and Trustee, I have personally witnessed the unshakeable faith Pastor Simmons has for the Lord and the profound exegesis he conveys in his sermons. My wife Vivian and I are grateful that we can always count on Pastor Simmons' wise counsel and sage advice.

Pastor Simmons has achieved many things in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his wife and First Lady of the Church, Diane Davis Simmons, and his two children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in thanking Pastor Daniel Simmons for 25 outstanding years of service to Mount Zion Baptist Church and a lifetime of service in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

IN HONOR OF OLIVIA PARISH

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Olivia Parish, of Calvert, Texas, who celebrated her 100th birthday on October 27, 2016.

Ms. Parish was born in Calvert, Texas, to Willie Harris and Pankie Carson-Harris. As a young girl, she developed a passion for helping others and would continue her service to others throughout her life. In 1932, she married Melvin Parish Sr. The two of them were blessed with thirteen children, forty-one grandchildren and seventy-four great grandchildren.

Ms. Parish has been a faithful member of the New Magnolia Baptist Church and the Bethel Grove Baptist Church. In addition to her devotion to her family and church, Ms. Parish loved working in the yard, especially her flower garden, and won numerous yard of the month awards.

At my request, on October 27, a United States flag was flown over the United States Capitol to celebrate and honor Ms. Parish's 100th birthday.

Ms. Parish has led a remarkable life that is grand in accomplishments through her hard work and dedication. I join her family, friends, and the community of Calvert in celebrating this momentous occasion. I wish her more years of happiness, fulfillment, and health.

Congratulations to Ms. Parish on her centennial birthday milestone. I am honored to represent citizens like her in the 17th District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE ROTARY CLUB
OF SHADY BROOK

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the Rotary Club's motto—Service Above Self—is personified by its membership and the causes they support. The Rotary Club of Shady Brook is acknowledged as a major, local contributor over the past 10 years for raising more than \$100,000 for worthy causes and donating over 7,500 hours of members' time. The Rotary Club is further distinguished by a membership with an average age of 75 years, coupled with a lifetime of experience and skills generously shared with many benefactors. The list is endless and inspiring and includes medical research and prevention programs, meal delivery to patients, forums for veterans and their families, time and money to the Guardians of the National Cemetery at Washington Crossing, the National Guard, books for libraries, clothing and school supplies for poverty-stricken children, and participating in Pennsylvania's Adopt-a-Highway maintenance program. Heartiest congratulations on the 10th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Shady Brook, and thank you to the founders and members for outstanding contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPT. WILL
CANNON AND CAPT. JONATHAN
MAULDEN

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Capt. Will Cannon and Capt. Jonathan Maulden of Cabarrus County EMS who took home the top prize at the 2016 Carolina's Paramedic Competition in Greenville, SC on October 15, 2016. The duo of Cannon and Maulden faced eleven other teams from North Carolina and South Carolina as they competed in two medical emergency scenarios.

Established in 1997, the Carolina Competition pits the best of the best EMS teams against each other as they showcase their ability to respond to complex scenarios. As the competition has grown, the teams have gotten stronger and the competition has been recognized as the gold standard for these types of first responder events. This year's contest was no exception, making Cannon and Maulden's victory even more impressive.

By winning this year's competition, Capts. Cannon and Maulden are taking home their second top prize having already won in 2014. This also marks the third occasion when a team from Cabarrus County EMS has won the event. Capt. Cannon and Capt. Maulden have made their department proud and are extremely deserving of this recognition. I am extremely grateful that our community is fortunate enough to have such great public servants who truly excel in their fields.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Capt. Will Cannon and Capt. Jonathan Maulden on winning this impressive distinction and wishing them well as they continue to serve the people of Cabarrus County.

RECOGNIZING ST. NICHOLAS
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL'S
CENTENNIAL

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the occasion of their centennial celebration.

In 1916, Greek immigrants arriving to the Lehigh Valley integrated themselves into the fabric of American life through employment in many industries, including Bethlehem Steel and other local businesses. At the same time, these early immigrants recognized a need to preserve their religion, language, and customs. Accordingly, they purchased the former St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Bethlehem and established their own church. By the 1930s, their community was growing, and families began to settle permanently in the area.

While World War II disrupted the lives of many families within the congregation, its young members returned home upon its resolution to enter the workforce in professions such as teachers, engineers, doctors, lawyers, or within their family businesses. Due to this successful growth, the community realized that it would need a larger place of worship to accommodate their expanding families.

In 1962, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral moved to its new location at 1607 West Union Boulevard in Bethlehem where it remains to this day. With this move, the congregation also constructed a new school and auditorium. Continued growth through the 1990s necessitated the hiring of a second full time priest to meet the needs of their members. Today, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral continues to embrace the surrounding community through Greek food festivals, picnics, and other exciting events.

As St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Cathedral reflects upon its impressive accomplishments of the last century, I wish them all the best as they look forward to serving their community in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF RELLES FLORIST

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Relles Florist, which has served the Sacramento region for the past 70 years. As family and friends gather to celebrate its 70th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Relles Florist's contributions to the Sacramento community.

In 1946, Ross and Margaret Relles created a family business that quickly became a Sacramento icon and a cornerstone of the Sacramento business community. As anyone who has shopped there knows, Relles is legendary for creating beautiful floral arrangements that are, quite simply, works of art. Its flowers have helped mark major life events for generations of Sacramentans. The business's success is a testament to the quality of its flowers, the industriousness of its employees, and the dedication the Relles family has to its craft.

Relles is also an important fixture in Sacramento's local community. The President of Relles Florist, Jim Relles, lends his skills and expertise to numerous boards and community organizations. Jim's community service includes stints on the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Rotary Club and of the California State University, Sacramento Alumni Association. Jim was also President of the California State Floral Association and President of the Sacramento Host Lions Club. His leadership is a big reason why Relles Florist has enjoyed so much success.

As a family-owned business, Relles Florist knows first-hand the importance of family and community in achieving commercial prosperity. Mr. Speaker, as the Relles family celebrates seventy years of accomplishments and contributions to our Sacramento community, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,805,366,357,023.77. We've added \$9,178,489,308,110.69 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I missed a vote during a vote series on September 28, 2016. Had my vote been recorded for Roll Call 572, final passage on H.R. 5303, the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, I would have voted YES.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH PAS-
TORAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FAITH CENTER MINISTRIES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate The Faith Center Ministries as they celebrate their 25th anniversary. In 1985, the Fernandez family began a journey of faith that directed them to South Florida. Six years later in 1991, Pastors Henry and Carol Fernandez founded the Plantation Worship Center, later to be named The Faith Center Ministries. They began with 11 members in a school cafeteria, now they host over 10,000 members in the former Sunrise Musical Theater.

For 25 years, The Faith Center Ministries have empowered people to live a lifestyle of faith everyday. The church is dedicated to reaching the world of Jesus Christ by empowering the teachings of faith, hope, salvation and the proclamation that Jesus Christ is Lord, the Son of God the Father, and the Head of the church.

The Faith Center Ministries operates numerous social enterprises in order to train leaders, help believers discover their true purpose, and develop individual potential through spiritual maturity. To accomplish this, The Faith Center Ministries, under the leadership of Henry and Carol Fernandez, hosts bible studies, conferences, seminars, trainings, and educational development at the University of Fort Lauderdale and the Henry B. Fernandez Institute for Biblical Studies. The Faith Center Ministries provides a place where the hurting, depressed, frustrated, and confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement.

Mr. Speaker, I want offer my most sincere congratulations and heartfelt gratitude to The Faith Center Ministries Pastors Henry and Carol Fernandez, their staff, and volunteers for all that they do each and every single day for our community. I am truly honored to call them my friends, and be their representative in Congress.

HONORING RICH CURTOLA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of Vallejo's greatest champions, Rich Curtola, upon his retirement from the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce.

A Vallejo native, Mr. Curtola has been a member of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce since 1975 and is retiring after six years with the Chamber's leadership, including four as President and CEO. Rich has been instrumental in our community's economic recovery following the Great Recession of 2008 and has worked diligently to grow the Chamber's presence in our community. During his tenure

as President and CEO, Rich has improved the Chamber's community relations, increased membership and secured a permanent home for the Chamber. He also led the Chamber as it took on important community projects such as hosting the annual 4th of July parade.

Throughout his lifetime of service to our city, Mr. Curtola has drawn on his unwavering optimism in Vallejo's future to make our community a better place to live, work, start a business and raise a family. Mr. Curtola's legacy is one of unrivaled devotion and knowledge of the city we all love, so much so that the name Curtola has become synonymous with Vallejo.

Mr. Speaker, Rich Curtola has dedicated his time and expertise to serving our community and ensuring Vallejo's economic success. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
HONORABLE BILL KRISTOFF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Bill Kristoff as he retires from service on the West Sacramento City Council. As his wife Brenda, family, friends, and colleagues gather to celebrate his public career, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Kristoff for almost three decades as a public servant.

Mr. Kristoff served two years in the U.S. Army before receiving his Bachelor's degree at Sacramento State University. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service for almost four decades, retiring in 2002. Mr. Kristoff is the only original sitting member of the West Sacramento City Council, first elected in 1987. He also served for single-year terms as mayor in 1990, 1996, and 2001 and served as mayor pro tem in 2010.

As a lifelong West Sacramento resident, Mr. Kristoff has contributed to his city in many ways. His top priorities were flood protection, security of West Sacramento's levees, and the city's infrastructure generally. Mr. Kristoff represented the city on the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Joint Powers Authority and the Regional Water Authority. During his tenure on the council, West Sacramento underwent notable additions, including the creation of the Bryte Bend Water Treatment Plant, River Walk Park, Raley Field and the River Cats, the widening of the Harbor Boulevard interchange, the Daniel C. Palamidessi Bridge, the West Sacramento City Hall, and the revitalization of West Capitol Avenue.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Bill Kristoff as he is celebrated for his service to the City of West Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing his outstanding work in providing the West Sacramento community with his invaluable services and contributions and wishing him the best in his retirement.

GOING FARVE, GOING DEEP . . .
MISSISSIPPI MAGIC SO VERY
SWEET

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Brett Favre who was inducted into The NFL's Hall of Fame this past summer. I include in the RECORD this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell.

Going Favre
Going deep
Mississippi Magic So Very Sweet
All in what our hearts choose to seek
How high will we reach
While, against all odds to slay The Grid Iron
God's and all their records to beat
But the greatest of all,
is but a World Championship to seek
While, in our hearts all our dreams we so
keep

Because, on those fields of green only the
stoutest of all hearts can compete
And make it to the Hall of Fame as a dream
few of us will ever complete

Like the wild wild west,
Brett was like a gun slinger at high noon
who stood at his best

Who upon defenses such havoc would wreak
Who drew first and drew fast as touchdowns
he'd seek

As it was always high noon to defeat,
yea your up the creek
While, over the NFL such a large shadow
casting each week

And everyday with his heart of a child and
his smile to all hearts would speak

As it all began with a football in hand,
and his Father's Love helping his son to map
out his future plan.

And a mother behind him would stand
To build the foundation for all of his dreams,
as one day at Lambeau Field he'd proudly
wear that Packer green

As that number "4" one day would walk
through The Hall of Fame's door

Going Farve and Going Deep with his Mis-
sissippi Magic,
he went farther than all the others before
him had reached

Brett Favre, a gun slinger standing six foot
two

a good old boy from the south armed with a
cannon who threw

Like a country song his life was so true
And he could run like a stallion in the open
field too

Like a river boat gambler he threw with
such heat,

which made all of those defenses so weep
Beating you with his arm,

his feet,
his heart,
brain,

and soul so very deep

A leader among men who knew not defeat
An Iron Man with a 297 consecutive games as
that record he'd reach

Mr. MVP, Mr. All Pro,
from Southern Miss to NFL bliss,
bringing his heat one day to rise to the top
of the NFL's list

But his love of the game was what really to
his heart beseeched

But the greatest pass he'd complete,
was marring his high school sweetheart
Deanna so sweet

As a Warrior,

and a Fighter
a Come Back Kid who in the darkest of
games came back even brighter
Like Bart he too became a Starr,
to carry this his Packer Nation far
To make them The Super Bowl Champs that
they are

Going Farve
Going Deep
armed with his Mississippi Magic which was
so hard to beat

This Southern Man with his Father's Love
stayed strong to ever compete

To the top of the NFL's game with his ac-
tions did speak

Brett, welcome to The Hall of Fame where
only the greatest of greats history
speaks

Because Brett upon those fields of green you
went Farve every week,

as you went deep armed with your Mis-
sissippi Magic to compete

And Brett,
you were the kind of man Lombardi would
seek

With the heart and soul of a champion and
that Mississippi Magic so very sweet.

CANDY HOWARD NAMED
PRESIDENT-ELECT OF TEPSA

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Candy Howard of Pearland, TX for being named president-elect of the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association (TEPSA).

Candy will serve as Region 4 president-elect for TEPSA, representing Pasadena ISD principals. She is currently the principal at South Belt Elementary School and was named Pasadena ISD's Elementary Principal of the Year in 2016. Throughout her 32 years with the Pasadena ISD, Candy has gone from teacher to assistant principal to becoming principal in 2009. She continues to inspire and educate her students and staff.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Candy Howard for becoming president-elect of TEPSA. We're proud to have such a great leader and educator in Pearland.

TO RECOGNIZE AND PAY TRIBUTE
TO DR. TAN SIU LIN FOR HIS
GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE TO THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. Tan Siu Lin for his great achievements and community service to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dr. Tan Siu Lin is a self-made entrepreneur who was born in Quanzhou in China's Fujian Province in 1930;

In 1972, Dr. Tan moved to Guam with his wife, Lam Pek Kim and their children: Henry, Willie, Jerry, Raymond, Lily and Sunny, and established the family business Luen Thai Corporation, engaged in shipping and trading;

In 1982 he moved to Saipan, and set up the island's first garment factory in 1983. Since then, the garment business became the largest private sector employer in the CNMI. In 1991, he formed Tan Holdings Corporation in the CNMI that further grew to become a global business portfolio with staff of more than 45,000 in various diversified companies;

He founded within the group of companies, Luen Thai Holdings Ltd. which is listed in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since July 2004;

In 2002, he formed the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for his philanthropy works in the CNMI, as he repeatedly reminded his family that "I want to provide educational and sports opportunities for the underprivileged so they can help themselves become productive and responsible citizens and in turn, they can then help others who need help as I hope the good deed can be passed on so that the community will benefit." Dr. Tan with his noble commitment to uplift the quality of life in the CNMI and through his foundation, kindly contributed to the CNMI, its people, its community and its businesses with generous sponsorships and donations for school improvements, scholarships, sports activities and tournaments, cultural events, youth development programs, social welfare, and relief work;

Please join me as I recognize and pay tribute to the great achievements and community service of Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Manse Dr. Tan for your exceptional commitment to the Northern Marianas and the Micronesia Region.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS JOHNSON AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2016

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Chris Johnson as the Hurlburt Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 Middle School Teacher of the Year for 2016. Mr. Johnson was selected for all that he does to motivate and inspire his students to learn more about science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education; I am pleased to honor his outstanding educational achievements.

As an educator at Sims Middle School, Mr. Johnson strives to make lasting impressions on his students. During his three years at Sims Middle, he has created an innovative learning environment that captivates his students, motivating them to learn, build, test, and rebuild projects as they utilize the scientific method to meet their goals. These important life lessons allow his students to understand and put into practice key concepts for their continued success. His dedicated service to shaping the minds of our Nation's youth is invaluable.

In order to foster an innovative learning experience, Mr. Johnson provides his students with loose parameters for their experiments, forcing them to think outside the box to solve the problem at hand. His classroom is known throughout Sims Middle school for being exciting and engaging. He guides his students through interactive science experiments that reinforce educational concepts and deepen their curiosity to learn.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Johnson on this well-earned achievement, and I thank him for his commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Mr. Johnson all the best for continued success.

ALL WE HOLD DEAR: IN HONOR OF VETERAN'S DAY AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of all of the men and women of The Armed Forces and their families who have served and serve this day, with a poetic tribute by Albert Carey Caswell.

All we hold dear
On this day to all hearts beckons here
In this home of the brave and land of the free
so very clear
The most blessed gift of freedom that we all
so endear
Letting us live our lives in peace so all without fear
While, they stand on that wall
While, they answer the call
Marching out into harm's way standing tall
As we stand back in awe
Living and dying for us one and all
And all they hold dear
When, in hearts of gold such brilliance appears
Kneeling next to a Fallen Brother or Sister
In Arms as comes the tears
As half a world away a child in the still of
the night cries out in tears
As they give all for all of us here
and all they hold dear
When such magnificence appears
Are the ones who come home with such
heartache they own
With the scars of war which will not leave
them alone
Stand without arms and legs all in a PTS
haze
Thank them today while out on your way
Take the time to thank them of all you hold
dear
Bought and paid for by all of them so here
And their service to our Nation which brings
the angels to tears
For all we hold dear
Say prayer, give thanks, and shed a tear to
The Armed Forces and their families
here
For all you hold dear
On this Veteran's Day here.

HONORING CHOCO GONZALEZ MEZA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Choco Gonzalez Meza, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend who changed the face of Texas politics. Choco was a fierce champion for women in public service and a force in the Texas Democratic Party. Her recent passing is a tremendous loss not only for her family, but for so many throughout Texas and the nation whose lives she touched.

Born in Coahuila, Mexico, Choco and her family immigrated to the United States when she was just three years old and settled in Eagle Pass, Texas. She came to San Antonio when she attended St. Mary's University. Choco began effecting meaningful change as a student, when she and my mother, Rosie, helped draft the 10-1 single member district plan adopted in 1977. The skill and initiative she showed led to her being recruited by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, where she helped disenfranchised minorities exercise their right to vote.

Throughout her career, Choco sought to empower others. As Executive Director of the YWCA, she steered women and girls towards success. She elevated the national conversation around poverty as Executive Director of Partnership for Hope. And she pushed to reform public housing and reduce homelessness when she joined her friend Henry G. Cisneros at the Department of Housing and Urban Development as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Relations and the Liaison to the White House in the Clinton Administration. She continued that work when she returned to San Antonio and became Senior Vice President at the San Antonio Housing Authority. Later, Choco served as President of American Sunrise, a nonprofit that provides educational and economic opportunities for children and families. She founded her own consulting firm, and in 2011, President Barack Obama appointed her to serve as a Commissioner to The Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Choco's unparalleled passion for organizing made her an invaluable asset to the Democratic Party. She served on the Democratic National Committee, was chief of staff for District 5 Councilwoman Shirley Gonzalez, and was elected Bexar County Democratic Chair. Most recently, Choco led Hillary Clinton's campaign operations in San Antonio. In all her political work, Choco tirelessly fought for social justice and strove to create opportunity for marginalized groups.

Choco's spirit lives on through her family—her beloved husband Daniel, daughter Ivalis, granddaughter Emma, and son Danny, who is a trusted member of my staff. Choco was truly a historic figure in Texas politics and a compassionate, selfless soul. We mourn her passing and are grateful for all she gave to our community in San Antonio and to our nation's democracy.

HONORING MRS. HILDA GIRTMAN
PITTS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Hilda Girtman Pitts, a lifelong resident of Boynton Beach, Florida, who passed at the age of 102 on August 20, 2016. Born in 1913, Mrs. Pitts spent her childhood on 2.5 acres of farmland off the Federal Highway near Boynton Beach.

At the age of 21, she married Solomon Pitts at the St. Paul A.M.E. Church in the city of Boynton Beach, and built their first home on 12th Avenue in-town. After many years of marriage, Mrs. Pitts had eight children, nine grandchildren, as well as many great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. Mrs. Pitts became a "Gold Star Mother" when her son, Cleveland Pitts, made the ultimate sacrifice in the Vietnam War.

Mrs. Pitts was also an entrepreneur. She opened an antique store, known as "Mrs. Hilda's," which sold American-made, handcrafted furniture and home goods. The antique store stands to this day on East Ocean Avenue in Boynton Beach as a memorial to Mrs. Pitts' legacy.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Pitts has been a very religious woman and was heavily involved in the church community in Boynton Beach. She attended the African Methodist Episcopal Church from an early age. She followed her children to the New Christian Life Church in 1984, where she became a dynamic and regular churchgoer.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Hilda Girtman Pitts will be remembered through her family, her friends, and all the many people she touched in her 102 years of life. She was truly a shining star of the Boynton Beach community. I am so pleased to honor her life and legacy. She will be dearly missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. BRENDA
VAUGHN

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Brenda Vaughn of McDowell County, North Carolina. On behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I would like to thank Mrs. Vaughn for over 35 years of service to our communities and congratulate her on her retirement this year.

Brenda Vaughn began her service with the McDowell County Sheriff's Department in 1980 as a dispatcher. She then served as cook at the Sheriff Jail Kitchen until she became a Jailer in October of 1998. After two years in that role, she became an Administrative Assistant then moved up within the Department to Shift Sergeant and later Assistant Jail Administrator. In 2013, Mrs. Vaughn was promoted to Jail Administrator. Mrs. Vaughn has dutifully served the community in this capacity for the last three years.

Outside of work, Mrs. Vaughn continues to be an active member of many community organizations. She is a member of Nealsville Church of God in Glenwood, where she is part of the Ladies Auxiliary. She is also a leader outside of her church, serving as treasurer for the Charles W. Queen Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 84 in McDowell County; as President of the McDowell County Republican Women's Club; and as the Secretary of the McDowell County Republican Party. She and her husband Bobby have two sons and three grandchildren.

Mrs. Vaughn has earned the respect and friendship of the people of McDowell County through her hard work and wide-ranging involvement in her community. For her service to Western North Carolina, I am honored to express to Mrs. Vaughn the gratitude and best wishes of the people of North Carolina on her retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF POST 8358 ON
ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Chung Mei Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8358 as it celebrates its 70th anniversary. As the members of Post 8358 mark this momentous occasion, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their long history of service to veterans and the community in Sacramento.

Chung Mei Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8358 was formed on October 19, 1946 by returning Chinese-American veterans from Sacramento. Due to the prevailing prejudiced attitudes of the time, the Chung Mei veterans had no choice but to form their own exclusive VFW Post. Post 8358 is an active and valued member of the Sacramento community, which I represent. For instance, the Chung Mei Post 8358 proudly sponsors the Sacramento Lion Dance Youth Troupe, which helps foster civic responsibility and keeps the traditions of Asian cultures alive for current and future generations. Post 8358 contributes greatly to the diversity and multiplicity of cultures in the Sacramento region, which is one of the most diverse in the entire country.

Post 8358 members are decorated veterans who participate in local parades, staff community events, and host several fundraising drives that provide funds for programs that benefit veterans and their families. Several of the founding members of Post 8358 are amongst the many who are celebrating today. Post 8358 continues to promote services for veterans, cultural acceptance, and civic participation in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of Post 8358 celebrate its 70th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their service to our country and to the Sacramento area.

HONORING GEORGE POUMAKIS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Poumakis, a highly-successful entrepreneur and distinguished member of the Greek community in my district.

Mr. Poumakis was recently recognized by the Federation of Hellenic American Educators and the Greek Teacher Association of Florida for the being the pioneer and founder of the first Greek immersion charter school in the United States—the Athenian Academy. Today, the Athenian Academy is recognized by the Florida Department of Education as a High Performing School—receiving an "A" grade—and is the only school in Pinellas County that teaches two foreign languages (Greek and Spanish) daily to all K–8 students.

As a father of four boys, all of whom attended public schools, I am very familiar with the link between a robust public education system and our nation's vitality. Benjamin Franklin once said, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Mr. Poumakis is a valuable community partner and stands as an example of main street solutions to main street challenges. Through the entrepreneurial approach which brought him personal success in the past, Mr. Poumakis managed to build an academy which will contribute to the success of countless lives in Florida's Twelfth Congressional District for years to come.

I commend the Federation of Hellenic American Educators and the Greek Teacher Association of Florida for recognizing the contributions of Mr. Poumakis, and I hope every American can learn from and emulate the commitment of this Greek entrepreneur to education.

KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY'S 150TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kutztown University on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary. Throughout the past year, Kutztown has celebrated its sesquicentennial, culminating with Founders' Day on 15 September 2016.

In 1866, the residents of Berks County found a need for school teachers while the nation as a whole recovered from the Civil War and sought to prepare itself for a new era. Residents solved their shortage by establishing the Keystone State Normal School.

Over time, advancing industries and professions required students to be trained more broadly, with education covering a diverse range of studies. In order to rise to the occasion, the school grew in size and sophistication, eventually changing its name to Kutztown State Teacher's College in 1928, and later becoming Kutztown State College in 1960.

Today, Kutztown, which achieved university status in 1983, is comprised of four colleges,

including Business, Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Performing Arts. The university enrolls approximately 9,000 students from forty states and nations. In addition to providing an outstanding education, Kutztown also offers students the opportunity to participate in vibrant cultural and social events and to compete in athletics at the varsity, club, and intramural levels.

It is my honor to congratulate the students, staff, faculty, and over 72,500 Kutztown Alumni as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary. May they enjoy continued success in educating the minds of our future leaders and integral members of society.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WINE SPECTATOR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wine Spectator, which this year celebrates its 40th anniversary and marks four decades of success and dedication to excellence.

Wine Spectator was first published by Bob Morissey in 1976 as a tabloid newspaper to educate and entertain wine consumers. Marvin R. Shanken, a publisher and wine aficionado, saw great potential in the publication and, at Morrisey's request, acquired it in 1979. Mr. Shanken and Executive Editor Thomas Matthews have since transformed Wine Spectator into an institution that informs and connects our international wine community.

Wine Spectator editors provide authoritative buying advice, reviewing nearly 20,000 wines each year in independent blind tastings. The magazine puts wine in context, profiling vintners and regions, analyzing vintages and market trends as well as offering travel and dining guides. Wine Spectator has received critical acclaim for its excellent work informing wine consumers. It has been named a finalist in the National Magazine Awards Special Interest category and a top 5 best consumer magazines. Today, Wine Spectator is the most widely read wine publication in the world with a circulation of 400,000 and a global readership of 3.5 million people.

Since 1981, Wine Spectator has also hosted the Wine Experience, a weekend of tastings and seminars which concludes with a Grand Award Banquet honoring top restaurants in 50 states and 70 countries on their excellent wine lists. The event funds the Wine Spectator Scholarship Foundation, which has raised more than \$20 million to support organizations that invest in the future of our wine community including the University of California at Davis, Sonoma State University, the Culinary Institute of America, and the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Florida International University. Since 1982, Wine Spectator has also honored 34 individuals with its Distinguished Service Award for their contributions to our wine community.

Mr. Speaker, this American institution has been a trusted source for wine consumers for 40 years by maintaining its commitment to in-

tegrity and expertise. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Wine Spectator and its visionary leader, Marvin R. Shanken, here today.

RECOGNIZING BRIE OAKLEY

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brie Oakley for her first place finish in the Colorado 5A Girls' State Championship Cross Country Meet on October 29th, 2016. She has shown dedication and excellence throughout her cross country career, which has brought her to the pinnacle of high school athletics, a state champion.

A Grandview High School Huskies senior, Oakley finished with a time of 17 minutes and 7.83 seconds, smashing the course record at the Norris Penrose Equestrian Center in Colorado Springs by over a minute. I am proud to report that Oakley has become the first girls cross country state champion from Grandview High School.

I would also like to congratulate Grandview coach Allyson Robbins and the teachers and staff of Grandview High School, whom have made Oakley's success possible. Their mentorship and guidance played an important role in her ability to succeed at the highest level of high school athletics.

I am proud to congratulate Brie Oakley on her hard earned state championship and for being a positive role model for other students in Colorado's 6th congressional district.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRYAN

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the First Baptist Church of Bryan, Texas.

Since its founding on November 18, 1866, thousands of families have called First Baptist Bryan home.

During the early years of the church, services were held in an abandoned saloon under the leadership of Rev. William Bartlett Eaves. The church would begin to grow larger and in 1883 a frame building was erected as a permanent place of worship. As the congregation continued to grow, bigger facilities were built to meet the needs of the church family for the next century. The church would also begin to expand its mission and focus on preaching the Gospel to the students of Texas A&M University. A strong bond was created between the church and the student community that still stands today.

As more families and students joined the church, the importance of Sunday School began to emerge. Pastor John Held began to spread the teaching ministry beyond the

church walls by organizing a successful Christ-focused men's Bible Study.

Throughout the years, the church family has never lost sight of its commitment to fellowship, discipleship, worship, ministry, and evangelism. Since its beginning, the church has been involved in numerous mission activities with the Southern Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and the Creath Brazos Baptist Association. They have sent missions all across the world including Estonia, Australia, Germany, Zambia, Kenya, and Ghana. First Baptist Bryan has played an important role in planting numerous other churches throughout the area. They have also helped plant the Yurigaoka Baptist Church in Tokyo, Japan.

The success of First Baptist Bryan can be attributed to the outstanding leadership from its Pastors. Since its establishment, 24 Pastors have led the church in worship and growth, each bringing different gifts and abilities to the church family. All of them brought a strong commitment to stewardship, mission, and leadership to the community. Because of these leaders, the families and students in the Brazos Valley continue to have a place to worship the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating First Baptist Bryan and its congregation on their 150th anniversary.

Before I close, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country during these difficult times and for the military men and women and first responders who protect her. God bless the American people, and God bless the congregation of First Baptist Bryan.

SUGAR LAND SIBLINGS MEDALED AT THE AAU JUNIOR OLYMPICS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sugar Land siblings Octavia and DeMario Gee for winning five medals at the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics.

Octavia competed for the Houston Sonics Track Club and won gold in turbo javelin, shot put and triathlon. In the 10 Girls Turbo Javelin she tossed an incredible national record of 86 feet, 8 inches. Her brother DeMario placed fourth in the 11-year-old boy's javelin, with a throw of 110 feet, 6 inches. DeMario was also recently chosen to play for the USA Baseball 12U national team trials.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Octavia and DeMario Gee in their success at the AAU Junior Olympics. We are so proud of such a talented family. Keep up the great work.

RECOGNIZING ERIN COSKY AS THE
AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER
398 HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
OF THE YEAR FOR 2016

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Erin Cosky as the Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year for 2016. Ms. Cosky was selected for her dedicated efforts fostering her students' interests and education in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education; I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

Teachers are amongst our most valuable public servants as they are responsible for educating the future of our country, and Ms. Cosky's selection as Teacher of the Year is evidence of assiduous work ethic and unwavering dedication to her students. As an earth, space science, and biology educator at Gulf Breeze High School, Ms. Cosky's energy and enthusiasm radiates from her classroom, inspiring her students to learn and volunteer in STEAM related areas.

One of the best ways to solidify a lesson is for the student to teach someone else, and Ms. Cosky builds on the STEAM curriculum by coordinating events where high school students teach kindergarten, first, and second graders interesting science. As a club sponsor of the Science National Honors Society, she also facilitates volunteer programs with MESS Hall, Navarre Beach marine Science Station, Gulf Breeze and Holley-Navarre Intermediate Science Nights, and tutoring programs throughout the science community in Northwest Florida.

Ms. Cosky's tireless and dedicated efforts to educate our Nation's youth does not stop at her classroom in Gulf Breeze High School. Once a month, Ms. Cosky teaches important STEAM foundational skills to kindergarten and 2nd grade students at West Navarre Primary School. She truly understands the value of math and sciences and sparks her students' interest early in their education with hopes of continuing a lifelong passion.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Cosky on this well-earned achievement, and I thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Cosky all the best for continued success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEGAL SERVICES
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of Legal Services of Northern California, a non-profit legal aid organization. As staff, supporters and clients gather to celebrate this tremendous mile-

stone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring their outstanding dedication to providing quality legal assistance to underserved populations within Northern California.

For six decades, exceptional attorneys have provided pro bono legal aid to many people in our community who would not otherwise have been able to access professional legal assistance. The first Legal Services of Northern California office was established in 1956 in Sacramento County. Legal Services of Northern California has now expanded to eight offices serving 23 Northern California counties. Each office provides crucial access to quality and sophisticated legal services to low-income populations.

Legal Services of Northern California gives a voice, as well as affirmation and protection of legal rights, to my district's most vulnerable populations. Because of the hard work and dedication of the Legal Services staff and volunteers, over 600,000 people have received pro bono legal assistance in crucial areas such as housing, health care, and civil rights. Legal Services of Northern California's sixty year commitment to empowering and seeking justice for the underserved has been nothing short of exemplary.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to pay tribute to Legal Services of Northern California. As they gather to celebrate their 60th anniversary, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Legal Services of Northern California for their invaluable services to the Greater Sacramento Community and Northern California.

IN MEMORY OF COLONEL WALTER
FRANKLIN GOING, JR.

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2016, South Carolinians gave deserved tribute to an American Hero, Bucky Going. Colonel Going served with distinction at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and the follow-up for the Normandy Invasion of June 6, 1944. His heroic actions during the Battle of the Bulge earned him a Bronze Star. Remarkably, he survived not only the Japanese attack of 1941 but also the German counter-attack of 1944. Reverend L. Craig Wilkes of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia conducted a loving service at historic Elmwood Cemetery of Columbia. The following obituary was published in The State on September 30, 2016:

COLUMBIA.—Graveside funeral services for Walter Franklin "Buck" Going, Jr. will take place on Sunday, October 2, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Elmwood Cemetery in Columbia, SC. He passed away Wednesday, September 28, 2016 after a brief illness. He was born in Columbia, SC on December 25, 1919 and was the son of Walter F. Going, Sr. and Allie Mack Going. He graduated from Columbia High School where he was a member of the football team. He graduated from The Citadel in June of 1941 and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army. He was stationed at Scofield Barracks in Hawaii and was at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was transferred back to the United States

and was reassigned to the European Theatre of Operations. He was part of the follow on forces during the Normandy Invasion. He was then assigned to the Third Army commanded by General George S. Patton and fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded a Bronze Star. After World War II, he entered the School of Law at the University of South Carolina where he met and married the love of his life, Eleanor Toole. They formed the law firm of Going and Going, Attorneys and practiced law together for forty years. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserve and became commanding officer of the 360th Civil Affairs Unit. He retired from the Army in 1971 with the rank of full Colonel.

He was a member of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, The Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and the American Legion. He was also active in the Lions Club and was a member of the South Carolina Bar and the Richland County Bar.

He is survived by daughters, Jacquelyn A. Going and Mary Going McIntosh (David); granddaughter, Eleanor Carmen "Carrie" McIntosh; sister, Ethel Going DuBose, as well as a number of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor Toole Going and sister, Jacquelin Maxwell Gambrell.

The family will receive friends in the Atrium of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia following graveside services.

Memorials may be made to The Citadel, 171 Moultrie St., Charleston, SC 29409 or to First Presbyterian Church, 1324 Marion St., Columbia, SC 29201.

Elmwood Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

CONGRATULATING THE CHEROKEE
TRAIL COUGARS

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cherokee Trail Cougars varsity softball team on their thrilling 5A state championship win over the Broomfield Eagles.

The Cougars won the first ever state softball championship thanks, in part, to senior Chloe Knapp. Her walk off grand slam, the day before in the semi-finals, put them in the championship game, and her 8th inning homerun was the only run scored in the championship game.

I would also like to congratulate seniors Emily Bell, Skylar Higen, Sonoma Olson and Audrey Pickett, who helped propel the Cougars to a 20-3 season record. Special thanks to Coach Caley Mitchell and the teachers of Cherokee Trail high school who made this year's success possible. Regardless of any team's inherent talent and ability, no team can achieve success without the support of the community around them.

This was a hard fought battle between two great schools. I am so proud of the Cherokee Trail Cougars varsity softball team for being a positive role model for other high schools in the Sixth District of Colorado. Congratulations on a stellar season.

HONORING JOHN AND TERRI
BALLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Terri Balleto, who were honored by the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation Ag Trust in Santa Rosa, California on November 5th for their decades of service to our winegrowing and farming community.

John and Terri have dedicated their lives to our agricultural community in Sonoma County and have been strong supporters of Santa Rosa Junior College. John stepped in as the College Ag Trust chair following Warren Dutton's passing in 2001. He then helped raise over \$1 million to build the Dutton Pavilion in honor of Warren's immense contributions to the College and our community. Terri has also made significant contributions to Santa Rosa Junior College, offering her support and running Public Relations for many successful Ag Trust events.

In addition to their work with the college, the Balleto family has been active in our agricultural community. John served two terms as the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission Chair, and he will be joining the California Association of Winegrape Growers Board in 2017. Terri and John's family vineyard, which they run with their two daughters, produces winegrapes on over 600 acres. Their leadership in the agricultural community has been recognized numerous times, winning them a variety of honors ranging from Sonoma County Winegrape Commission's Excellence in Viticulture to Sonoma County Farm Bureau's Farm Family of the Year.

Amid their many important responsibilities, Terri and John still find the time to give back to our community. Terri is the Director, Secretary, and Executive Board member for the 4-H Foundation of Sonoma County, and she serves on the Sonoma County Fair Foundation committee. Additionally, John and Terri have both served as directors and presidents of the Sonoma County Harvest Fair.

Mr. Speaker, John and Terri Balleto have enriched Sonoma County through their unmatched commitment to serving Santa Rosa Junior College and our agricultural community's needs. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM
MURRAY, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant, attorney, and friend, William Johnathan Murray, Jr. Sadly, William Murray passed away on Saturday, October 22, 2016. Funeral services were held on Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 3:00

p.m. at First Baptist Church in Americus, Georgia.

William Murray, Jr. was born on March 23, 1946 in Americus, Georgia. A lifelong follower of Christ, Bill was baptized at twelve years old at First Baptist Church of Americus. More recently, he worshipped at Calvary Episcopal Church of Americus, St. John's Anglican Church of Americus, and Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia.

From a young age, Bill was eager to serve others. During his time at Americus High School, he was Student Council Vice President his junior year and Student Council President his senior year. In 1968, he graduated from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in history. He then attended the University of Georgia School of Law and graduated in 1971. During his time at UGA, he was a member of Blue Key, an honor society recognizing men and women of great character who have achieved distinction for service and leadership. He also was a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society and served in leadership positions for various student organizations. During law school, he was on the Moot Court Team and won the Best Oralist award in the 1970 Law Day Competition.

In addition to his numerous contributions at UGA, he established New College Press while still in college. New College Press published three books, one of which was written by Bill himself and was entitled "A Boy's Dream." Later on, more books by various authors were published by William Murray Publishers.

Following the completion of his law degree, Bill returned home to Americus to begin his law career and his public service. He served on the Americus City Council from 1975-1977 and was elected as a state representative in the Georgia General Assembly from 1977-1981. During this time, he introduced legislation that promoted manufacturing in Sumter County, officially designated the Andersonville Trail, and provided funding for University of Georgia projects. Bill also served as City Attorney for Plains, Georgia.

In 1980, he married the love of his life, Sandra Merritt Deal. They had two children, Brian and Summer. Bill and Sandra worked together in his law practice and served their clients all over the state of Georgia. They later founded the Sumter Free Press, a newspaper relaying news, editorials, and local history to the residents of Americus.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it." We are all so blessed that William Murray passed this way and during his life's journey did so much for so many for so long. He leaves behind a great legacy in public service to the countless residents of Sumter County whose lives he touched and brightened. His impression on this earth extends beyond himself to the very wellbeing of Sumter County, and for it he will be remembered by the community for time to come.

Mr. Murray is survived by his daughter, Jessica Summer Murray and two grandsons, Noah Johnathan Deal and William Brian Deal of Americus, as well as his sister, Gena Murray Moorhead, and many other cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring William Murray, Jr. for his dedicated service to the people of Sumter County and the state of Georgia. We extend our deepest sympathies to William Murray's family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time and pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

JAELYNN WALLS AWARDED DAVIDSON FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jaelynn Walls of Pearland, TX for earning a Davidson Fellows Scholarship.

The Davidson Institute of Talent Development awarded Jaelynn a \$25,000 Davidson Fellows Scholarship for her project, Humanity On-Screen: Engendering Positive Self-Perception and Political Activism in Persons with Marginalized Identities. Only 20 students across the country earned this prestigious scholarship. Jaelynn's project was inspired by her desire to present characters of marginalized racial or cultural backgrounds painted in a positive light due to her inability to identify with protagonists in literature growing up.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Jaelynn Walls for earning a Davidson Fellows Scholarship. We are extremely proud of her and wish her luck in her future studies.

TRIBUTE TO JASPER COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Jasper County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

The county sits on the northwest part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was established in 1838, and named for Sgt. William Jasper who was a famous scout in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. At the start of the Civil War, 935 Jasper County men (or nearly one-fifth of the county's entire population) enlisted to fight in the war on behalf of the Union, contributing to Indiana's proud record of proportionately sending more soldiers than any other state to fight against slavery in the Civil War.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging

and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the ten Legacy Projects throughout the county include the Jasper County Fair Association, DNR Division of Nature Preserves, DeMotte Chamber of Commerce, Purdue Cooperative Extension, Fountain Park Chautauqua, NICHES Land Trust, Remington Water Tower Days Festival, Little Cousin Jasper Festival, and the American Cancer Society. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Jasper County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

CELEBRATING THE SECOND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Marian High School Knights for their victory in the IHSA Class IA Boys Soccer State Championship for the second year in a row. Through diligence and perseverance, the Knights finished the season with eighteen wins and five losses. The championship game was the team's second appearance in the state finals and their second state title in as many years.

I would like to highlight the many players who were honored for their performance in the tournament. Seniors Max Frausto and Cristian Juarez, and junior Oscar Tavarez were named to the Northern Indiana Conference's First Team, juniors Johnathan Tavarez and lead scorer Jordan Morris were named to the NIC's Second Team, and freshman Ned Morrison received Honorable Mention. Just as importantly, junior keeper Hunter Renner managed to allow only ten goals while completing thirty-one saves and achieving nine shutouts for the season. In tandem with senior keeper Michael Cataldo who managed ten shutouts, the Knights were one of the hardest teams to score against.

Coach Ben Householter again deserves praise on this victory, which is not only a testament to his dedication to the Marian High School program but also his skill as team leader and mentor to the student athletes.

Congratulations to the entire team for their contributions: seniors Michael Wuszke, Michael Cataldo, Max Frausto, Justin Saavedra, Alex Kokot, Cristian Juarez, juniors Oscar Tavarez, Johnathan Tavarez, Junior Ontiveros, Jordan Morris, Gabe Davey, Alfredo Medina, Alex Rodela, Juan Botello, Gabe Martinez, Jacob Schmidt, Adam Evans, sophomores Danny Manzo, Will Tiller, Matheus Webb, freshman Hunter Renner, Anthony Garatoni, Michael Baughman, Ned Morrison, Francisco Tavarez, Dominic Blum, Jonathan Wang, Head Coach Ben Householter, Assistant Coach John Jonas, Assistant Coach Matt Englert, Assistant Coach Alfredo Juarez,

Junior Varsity Coach and Assistant Coach Alex Juarez, Manager Chloe Householter, Manager Jenna Householter, Athletic Trainer Anne Micinski, Athletic Director Steve Ravotto, Assistant Athletic Director Kyle Hanyzewski, and Principal Mark Kirzedor.

The Knights' dedication and sacrifices have been proven two years in a row, and is a source of pride for the city, and the state of Indiana. Their record of success is exceptional and being a member of this team will be a memory these students will have for a lifetime. On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of Indiana, I applaud Coach Householter for building this program, I thank the student athletes for their determination, and I congratulate them all on an amazing season. It is my honor to represent Marian High School, and I wish continued success to the team and each of its members in their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICK HENDRICK THE 2016 CITIZEN OF THE CAROLINAS AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor racing legend, and my friend, Joseph Riddick "Rick" Hendrick III on his recognition as the 2016 Citizen of the Carolinas, presented by the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Each year, the Charlotte Chamber recognizes one outstanding individual for their accomplishments and contributions to our community by presenting them with their highest award, the Citizen of the Carolinas.

Having lived in Charlotte for nearly 40 years, Mr. Hendrick's impact on local businesses and the surrounding community can be felt throughout the region. Best known for his successes in NASCAR, the Hendrick Motorsports team has been consistently recognized as one of the sport's premier organizations. His laundry list of accomplishments include 14 NASCAR national series championships as an owner, the most all-time, as well as producing some of the most well-known and beloved drivers including Jeff Gordon, Jimmie Johnson, and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Aside from his success on the track, Mr. Hendrick has devoted countless hours to bettering those around him through his considerable charitable work with organizations such as Levine Children's Hospital and Together We Feed Charlotte. In 2015 he set a new fundraising record as Chairman of the Charlotte Observer Summer Camp Fund. Today, giving back to the community remains an integral part of Mr. Hendrick's life.

Having grown up in this community, I have been fortunate to see Mr. Hendrick's work first hand. There is no doubt in my mind that he is extremely deserving of this award. I look forward to continuing to work alongside community leaders as we strengthen business and improve the lives of everyone in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Rick Hendrick, his wife Linda, and

their entire family on Rick's recognition as the 2016 Citizen of the Carolinas.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this year, for the first time, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands gathered to honor our Vietnam War veterans and their families, joining the rest of our nation in commemorating the 50th anniversary of that difficult and complicated chapter in American history. We remembered the sacrifice of the 58,220 who died in theater, the 7.2 million Vietnam veterans still living, and the families of all 9 million who served.

The Vietnam War was fought before the Northern Mariana Islands became part of the United States and before we, the people of the Marianas, became United States citizens. Yet dozens of our young men enlisted—or in many cases were drafted—into the U.S. Armed Forces to fight in Vietnam.

This is a story not widely known outside our islands. Educational and economic opportunities were limited in the Northern Mariana Islands at that time. Young people seeking higher education or simply a better life sometimes moved to the nearby U.S. territory of Guam, to Hawai'i, or to the mainland United States for school or work. And it was from these new places of residence that they volunteered—or often were drafted—for military service.

Unfortunately, the Department of Defense kept no records to tell us exactly how many young people from the Northern Mariana Islands were called into service during the Vietnam era. Home of record would have been listed as the location to which each of them had moved temporarily to improve themselves. So, we cannot today faithfully recite their names, when honoring their service.

We do know of four from the Northern Mariana Islands, who died in combat in Vietnam. Their names are inscribed on the Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

And we know at least 50 Vietnam veterans are alive in the Northern Marianas today. Some are the indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch people of our islands, who enlisted or were drafted out of Guam or a U.S. state. Some are veterans who later came from America to the Marianas and now call our islands their home.

We know, too, that even if not United States citizens, soldiers from the Northern Mariana Islands served as bravely and honorably as their brothers and sisters in uniform, who were citizens. And we know that all—citizen and noncitizen alike—faced the same painful challenges of returning home from a war whose purpose was difficult to understand and which never resolved in victory.

Yet, despite all their sacrifice and the pain endured, Vietnam veterans—in the Marianas and throughout America—continued to contribute to the peace, security, and prosperity of

our nation. They became teachers, entrepreneurs, artists, tradesmen, law enforcement officers, healers, or advocates. They are present throughout the life of our communities.

They also supported each other, mentored younger veterans coming home, and shared their stories with civilians, who may not have otherwise had an understanding or appreciation of military service, or the realities of war. Indeed, it could be said that it is because of the example, leadership, and advocacy of the Vietnam generation of veterans that we, as a nation, do better today at supporting our young men and women in uniform, when they come home from war. But as these Vietnam vets would also remind us: we can do more.

So, upon this 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War let us commit to do more to support America's warriors—in times of conflict, as well as in peace; when they put on the uniform in defense of our nation, and when they come home.

IN RECOGNITION OF TIMOTHY HOY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Timothy Hoy, a committed Denton County Republican Party activist and tireless defender of conservative principles.

Mr. Hoy passed away the week of October 31st and will be remembered as a committed volunteer and invaluable worker at the state, local and national level.

Mr. Hoy became active in Denton County politics in the late 1980s, first serving as Precinct Chairman. He went on to be an elections judge, campaign manager for Commissioner Ron Marchant and most recently campaigned for U.S. Senator Ted Cruz in Iowa during the 2016 presidential election.

From 2002 through 2010, Mr. Hoy served on the State Republican Executive Committee and received an award for his achievements at the close of nearly eight years spent as an unwavering public servant. He was also named the Denton County Republican Party Volunteer of the Year in 1998 and Precinct Chair of the Year in 2001.

Mr. Hoy is revered as a keen political mind and hard worker who was always ready to fiercely support the candidates and ideals he believed in. He is remembered as gracious, kind and a friend to all, no matter an election's outcome.

I join several of my fellow Texas elected officials in offering my sincerest condolences to the members of the Denton County Republican Party and all who were inspired and touched by Mr. Hoy. His commitment to furthering conservative ideals and his service to Denton, the state of Texas and our nation will not soon be forgotten.

KATY ATHLETES WIN AT THE AAU JUNIOR OLYMPICS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Aileen Lang, Justin Liang and Miyo Fujiwara of Katy, TX for winning 13 medals at the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Junior Olympics.

The three students represented Katy-based Rope Warriors in the jump rope competitions. Aileen scored five gold medals and two bronze medals, including a gold medal in the All-Around competition. Eleven-year-old Justin earned two silver medals, two bronze medals and a fifth-place finish. And Miyo won two gold medals. Rope Warriors is a competitive jump rope team with athletes ranging from 6 to 16 years old.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Aileen Lang, Justin Liang and Miyo Fujiwara for winning 13 medals at the AAU Junior Olympics. We are proud of them and wish them luck in their future jump rope careers.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLY "JOY" BUNNING AS THE HURLBURT AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER 398 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2016

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ms. Beverly "Joy" Bunning as the Hurlburt Air Force Association (AFA) Chapter 398 Elementary School Teacher of the Year for 2016. Ms. Bunning was selected for this esteemed honor for her inspiring efforts to bolster her students' interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) education; I am pleased to honor her outstanding achievements.

In her three years in the Santa Rosa County school district, Ms. Bunning has earned the reputation as an outstanding 2nd grade teacher among her students and peers in the education community. She teaches her students crucial problem solving skills through innovative and creative hands-on learning experiences, and her passion for teaching has helped spark her students' sense of wonder and interest in the world around them. Ms. Bunning's contributions to producing the next generation of active participants in our society cannot be overstated.

Her dedication to her students has earned her local and national recognition. Ms. Bunning was featured in 850 Magazine, "The Business Magazine of Northwest Florida," because of her passion for shaping our Nation's young minds and providing a 21st century learning lab classroom for her students to learn and grow. In addition, her classroom has also been identified as a "Model STEAM

Classroom" within the Santa Rosa County community and by the digital learning enhancement service, Discovery Education.

Ms. Bunning is a leader in early childhood education and is to be commended for the solid foundations she has built for her students. One of four STEAM Leaders at her school, she has written and received numerous grants and coordinated training sessions for the X-STEM USA, solidifying Holly-Navarre Primary School's status as a truly innovative school.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Bunning on this well-earned achievement of Hurlburt Air Force Association Chapter 398 High School Teacher of the Year for 2016 and thank her for her commitment to service and dedication to the Northwest Florida community. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Ms. Bunning all the best for continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN P. MCGOFF

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Hoosier, Brigadier General John P. McGoff, who retires from the Indiana Air National Guard after thirty-four years of honorable military service.

General McGoff is the Assistant Adjutant General for the Indiana Air National Guard. Among his many responsibilities, he advises the Adjutant General on issues regarding the 122nd Fighter Wing, 181st Intelligence Wing, Indiana Air Range Complex, and 207th Weather Flight.

While attending medical school, General McGoff was commissioned into the Medical Service Corps and assigned to the 122nd TAC Fighter Wing in Fort Wayne. He was recommissioned in the Medical Corps and attended the Aerospace Medicine Primary Course at Brooks AFB in Texas where he earned his wings. He has served in many capacities throughout the Indiana Air National Guard and twice led the 191st Medical Group to the Theodore Marr's Award, the Air National Guard's highest medical award, and the Spaatz trophy, the highest Reserve Component award.

General McGoff served our country in Europe and was the Chief of Emergency Services at the 332nd EMDG, Joint Base Balad, Iraq. He has also served overseas tours in Turkey, Bahrain, Jordan, Antarctica, Germany, Korea, Japan, Guatemala, and Slovakia. General McGoff holds the aeronautical rating of Chief Flight Surgeon and has logged over 600 hours, including 25.6 combat hours in many different military aircraft. He is a graduate of the Air War College and has received numerous military awards and decorations.

Dr. McGoff served the people of Indianapolis and Marion County as County Coroner and is currently the Attending Emergency Room Physician at Community Hospitals of Indianapolis. He is a member of several medical and military organizations and earned the rank of Brigadier General in 2010. As one of my

opponents for Indiana Secretary of State in 2002, the way he carried himself helped make me a better candidate and officeholder. I will always appreciate his friendship and leadership to our state and nation.

Hoosiers and all Americans owe Brigadier General McGoff and his family gratitude for a job well done for our country. I wish him well in his post-retirement endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF
MAYOR LARRY MORRISSEY AND
THE COMMUNITY OF ROCKFORD
TOWARD ENDING VETERAN
HOMELESSNESS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate Mayor Larry Morrissey and the community of Rockford, Illinois, as they are recognized by the White House for their innovative and collaborative work to end veteran homelessness.

Mayor Morrissey has been invited to facilitate a panel discussion at the White House today to share Rockford's success in effectively eliminating homelessness among veterans within his community. Rockford was the first city in the nation to achieve a "functional zero" for homeless veterans, and has continued to do so for a consecutive year—serving as a model for other cities on how to ensure that all of our veterans have a place to call home. To achieve this result, the City of Rockford has worked with housing, employment, and veteran groups to coordinate services so all who bravely served our country have permanent housing and support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again formally congratulate Mayor Morrissey and the community of Rockford for being recognized for their great work. I am hopeful that communities across the country can learn from Rockford's success and end veteran homelessness once and for all.

PEARLAND LADY OILERS RECEIVE
NATIONAL HONORS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Pearland High School softball team for receiving two national honors.

The Pearland Lady Oilers joined softball teams from across the country in raising \$342,000 to support the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) and the American Cancer Society's StrikeOut Cancer initiative. The Lady Oilers raised \$4,000 for the organizations; more than any high school in the nation. The teams' coaches, Laneigh Clark, Michele Hyden, Lori Boyd, Tiffany Neal and Lauren Martens, were also recognized as the NFCA Regional Coaching Staff of the Year. The Lady Oilers made it the 2016 Class 6A

Texas state championship game before losing in the final round.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Pearland Lady Oilers for receiving two national honors. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next season.

TRIBUTE TO NEWTON COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Newton County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Tuesday, October 11, 2016.

The county sits on the northwest part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was originally established in 1836, later abolished and combined with Jasper County, and then finally re-established on December 8, 1859, making it the last organized of Indiana's ninety-two counties. Newton County is named after Sgt. John Newton who served under General Francis Marion in the American Revolutionary War, and Kentland serves as its county seat. Newton County is home to the "Kentland Crater", which likely was created by the impact of a meteorite.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The multiple organizations responsible for the Legacy Projects throughout the county include The Nature Conservancy of Indiana and the Newton County Historical Society. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Newton County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY
AND FRIENDS OF DR. LAMUEL
STANISLAUS

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional district of New York, I wish to express my deepest, most heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus. I stand today to honor and pay tribute to a man of high distinction, a man who was a pillar of

my community, a neighbor, and a friend. His Excellency, Dr. Lamuel Stanislaus, who recently transitioned from his mortal existence into immortality, has joined the ancestors at ninety-five years of age.

Dr. Stanislaus was born on the beautiful island nation of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique. He came to the United States in 1945 to further his education, ultimately earning both a Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at Howard University here in Washington, D.C.

He went on to practice dentistry in Wayne County, N.Y., before relocating to Brooklyn in 1956 and establishing a practice in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community, which he later moved to Downtown Brooklyn. That very same practice still exists today under the leadership of his proud son, Dr. Eugene Stanislaus.

In 1985, Dr. Stanislaus was appointed Grenada's Ambassador at Large to the United Nations, serving for two terms, from 1985 to 1990 and again from 1998 to 2004. As a well-respected diplomat who was selected as Vice President of the General Assembly, Dr. Stanislaus formed partnerships with individuals such as New York State Governor Mario Cuomo and my predecessor, the Honorable Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, to establish a support system for the people of Grenada, at home in the Tri-Island State, here in the U.S. and indeed, around the world.

He received many honors for his work including: the Insignia of Commander of the British Empire from the Queen of England; Knight Commander, the highest honor awarded by his native Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique; a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn District Attorney, and a Distinguished Service Award from the Brooklyn Historical Society.

In addition, the contributions of Dr. Stanislaus were also critical to development of the West Indian-American Day Carnival Association and its signature event the West Indian-American Labor Day Parade into what has become a beautiful and world renowned celebration of culture that draws millions of people to central Brooklyn every year on Labor Day.

Dr. Stanislaus was devoted to his wife of sixty-three years, Beryl, and to their five beautiful, talented children Lamuel, Galen, Karen, Eugene, and John, and seven grandchildren.

His lifetime of professionalism and service to others will forever demonstrate that people of good faith have the ability to impact the world and establish a legacy that following generations will continue to enjoy and benefit from. I am deeply honored to have known him as a dear friend. He served not only as a friend, but a mentor and advisor. He was a pillar of integrity and strength to an emerging Caribbean-American community and indeed to all that he encountered. He will be sorely missed, but his legacy lives on through his family, friends and relations and the many lives that he touched throughout his lifetime in service to others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNIE
CARTER SAVAGE OF CENTURY,
FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and dedicated service of Annie Carter Savage of Century, Florida who passed away on October 25th, 2016. Annie was a remarkable public servant who cared deeply for those in the community she served, and I am humbled to commemorate her life.

Annie Carter was born to Thomas and Rosa Bell Carter in Wilcox County, Alabama on February 16, 1941. She attended Snow Hill Institution Normal and graduated Industrial Institute in Snow Hill in 1960. Following her graduation, Annie went on to pursue a cosmetology license in Birmingham, Alabama. From there she began her career with Mutual Savings Insurance Company, where she spent more than twenty years before retiring as a district manager. In 2011, Annie was appointed to the Century Town Council. Annie was a dedicated and effective public servant, and she won the confidence of her constituents, as evidenced by her election to serve a second four-year term as a councilwoman.

In addition to her service to the Northwest Florida community, Annie was also a leader in the civic and religious community. For over sixty years, Annie remained a loyal and active member of the First Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Century, Florida. She served as church clerk for 28 years and in the church's senior choir for 19 years. She also served as the district missionary for the First West Florida District Association, corresponding secretary for the Evergreen District Congress of Christian Education and remained a faithful member of the Eastern Star. Caring for the community was more than a passion for Annie. In 2009, she and her husband opened their home as an outreach ministry for those in need of hot meals, transportation and spiritual guidance.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the life of Annie Carter Savage. She will always be remembered by all of us in Northwest Florida as a true community leader. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for her husband, Deacon Lloyd Savage, three daughters; Lomonica Savage-Shoemo, Tarrant Savage, and Melody Trice; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and the entire Savage family as we remember and honor the life of Annie Carter Savage.

IN HONOR OF PASTOR MICHELLE
THOMAS' SERVICE TO THE LEES-
BURG COMMUNITY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, please allow me to take a moment to recognize the

significant accomplishments of Michelle Thomas, a remarkable individual from my district. A pastor in Leesburg, Virginia, Mrs. Thomas has dedicated her life to community service, preserving African American culture, and, most importantly, to God.

Pastor Thomas is the first African American woman to establish a church in Loudoun County, the Holy and Whole Life Changing Ministries. Inspired by her upbringing in her father's Pentecostal church, Pastor Thomas decided to bring her message to the people of Loudoun. On November 19th, her ministry will celebrate its 10th anniversary.

One of Pastor Thomas' greatest achievements was her re-discovery of the Belmont Slave Cemetery. The land she recently purchased for the expansion project of the Holy and Whole Life Changing Ministries sits atop what was once part of Thomas Lee's plantation. This discovery inspired her to create the Loudoun Freedom Center. The center is dedicated to protecting African American cultural sites, resources, and communities through preservation and education. In recognition of her efforts, she became the first African American woman to be appointed to the Loudoun County Heritage Commission.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in sending our most sincere congratulations to Pastor Michelle Thomas for her tireless dedication to her community and her faith. Her actions will have an incredible impact on the Loudoun community and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE HOPEWELL
COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 100 year celebration of the former Hopewell Congregational Methodist Church building. This building will become The Hopewell Community Center at McCord's Crossroads at the intersection of County Roads 16 and 29 in Cherokee County.

The church was built in 1916 and served its congregation for over 80 years before discontinuing services in 2000. The McCord's Crossroads Homemakers Club saw the potential for the building and in 2011, the church's Conference Board transferred the title of the building to the homemakers club. After a generous grant from the Coosa Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council, the building was moved from its original site to its current site today in 2014.

After much hard work and restoration from fundraisers and the community, the structure shines once again to serve the community for another 100 years.

On November 12, 2016, the community will celebrate the building and dedicate it as the new Hopewell Community Center at McCord's Crossroads.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 100 year celebration of this building and the future of The Hopewell Community Center.

HONORING RETIRED LIEUTENANT
COLONEL LEO GRAY

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Retired Lieutenant Colonel Leo Gray.

As one of the original members of the Tuskegee Airmen, Retired Lieutenant Colonel Leo Gray enlisted in the military after high school and became a valued member of the air force, logging 750 hours as a pilot in World War II. His service and sacrifice helped to secure Allied victory in World War II.

Moreover, along with other members of the Tuskegee Airmen, he was a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement; combatting discrimination in our armed forces and serving as role models as our nation's first African-American military aviators.

After his service in the air force, he continued to play a critical role in the Civil Rights Movement through the Tuskegee Airmen Inc., which provides scholarships for underrepresented minorities studying aviation and aerospace.

It is with great honor that I recognize Retired-Lieutenant Colonel Leo Gray, an American hero.

TRIBUTE TO TIPPECANOE COUNTY,
INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Tippecanoe County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Wednesday, October 12, 2016.

The county lies in the north-central part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. Tippecanoe County was established on March 1, 1826, and it was named for a Miami people term "Kethtippecanooigi" meaning a "place of the succor fish people". The county is the largest-populated county in the 4th District, and it is best known as the home of Purdue University and for the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the thirty-three Legacy Projects to-date throughout the county include the Indiana Native American Indiana Affairs Commission, Fairfield Township, West Lafayette Parks and Recreation, Lilly Nature Center, Ivy Tech Community College—Lafayette, Purdue University, Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs, Lafayette School Corporation, The Society of Indiana Pioneers, Tippecanoe County 4-H Exhibit Association, Tippecanoe

County Historical Association, West Lafayette Public Arts Team, NICHES Land Trust, Geography Educators Network of Indiana, Old Tippecanoe Quilt Guild, The Archaeological Conservancy, Purdue University College of Agriculture, West Lafayette Tree Friends, Tippecanoe County Parks, Art Museum of Greater Lafayette, Monticello-Union Township Public Library, Morton Community Center, Dani M. Tippmann, Bach Chorale Singers, Inc., Catherine E. Mowery, Lafayette Symphony, Inc., Civic Theatre of Greater Lafayette, Haan Mansion Museum of IN Art, Grounds Department—Physical Facilities Purdue University, Animalia, Inc., and the Tippecanoe County Public Library. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Tippecanoe County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

RECOGNIZING THE DAVY AND STRANGE FAMILIES AS THE 2016 SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILIES OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the John Davy and Glen Strange Families of Al-lentown for being selected as the 2016 Santa Rosa County, Florida, Outstanding Farm Families of the Year.

Both John and Glen developed a love of farming from watching their fathers. In 1986, the two purchased a small 10 acre tree farm and became business partners when they founded Panhandle Growers, Inc the following year. The farm grows specimen trees between 2"-4" in diameter for landscaping purposes. Now, 30 years later, the farm has grown to 350 acres and supplies trees throughout the Southeast.

John and his wife Sara have two children; Elizabeth, who graduated from Auburn University in 2015, and Emmett, who is a junior at Pace High School. Sara works as a pharmacist; and John, who enjoys growing enjoys growing camellias at home, has served three terms as president of the Pensacola Camellia Society.

Glen and his wife Janet have three children; Ali, who has two children with her husband Ben; Nicole, who is a senior at Troy University School of Nursing and Thomas who is a sophomore at Pensacola State School of Business. In addition to running the farm, Glen also serves as the Director with Farm Credit of Northwest Florida. It is his hopes that the tradition of farming will continue with his children and grandchildren.

Both families are active members of the Olive Baptist Church. The Davys are parent volunteers with World Race Adventures in Missions and the Stranges participate in local and international missions. Glen serves on the missions board.

Mr. Speaker, the Santa Rosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year Award is a true reflection of the Davy and Strange families' tireless work and their dedication to family and farming. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Davy and Strange families for being outstanding in their field. My wife Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE AVETT BROTHERS INDUCTION INTO THE NORTH CAROLINA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my favorite bands, the Avett Brothers, who were inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame on October 20, 2016. With this recognition, the band joins the ranks of the North Carolina music legends including Andy Griffith, Charlie Daniels, and James Taylor.

Raised in Concord, North Carolina, Scott and Seth Avett took an unlikely path to becoming the music icons they are today. Never forgetting their North Carolina roots, the band has traveled the world but still holds on to their humble beginnings. Before hitting the "big time" the brothers explored every avenue they could to keep their music dreams alive. Whether it was selling shoes, working 20-hour shifts on movie sets, or pedaling grilled cheese sandwiches in the parking lot of Grateful Dead shows they never lost sight of their dreams to connect people through their love of music.

Together with Bob Crawford and Joe Kwon, the Avett Brothers have been delivering high energy performances since the turn of the century. From their father's garage to the Late Show with David Letterman the band has captivated audiences with their ability to connect on a human level about shared experiences anyone can relate to. Their unique blend of rock and folk music with a 21st century spin has found a place in the hearts of people all over the world.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Avett Brothers are extremely deserving of this recognition and I wish them the best as they tour the country and continue to be a great source of pride for Cabarrus County and all of North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Scott, Seth, Bob, and Joe—the Avett Brothers—on their induction into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF SGT. DOUGLAS J. RINEY

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of U.S. Army Sgt.

Douglas J. Riney who was killed in Kabul, Afghanistan on October 19, 2016. I've always believed that the best way to really know who a person was, is to hear the memories from those who knew him best. As friends and family members in Fairview and across our community have come together to mourn the loss of this true American hero, it's clear that Sgt. Riney was a man who believed in the values that have made our nation strong. Like so many who grew up in Fairview, Sgt. Riney believed in service. After graduating from Spoon River Valley High School, Sgt. Riney became a volunteer firefighter with the Fairview Fire Protection District where he earned a reputation as a man who could always be counted on.

In the United States Army, Sgt. Riney was deployed as part of Operation Enduring Freedom from July 2014 to February 2015. In June of this year, he was again deployed as part of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. As part of the Support Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, from Fort Hood, Texas, Sgt. Riney excelled at his work. Through the years, for his courage and commitment to getting the job done, Sgt. Riney was repeatedly recognized as he earned many commendations including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal. On that fateful day in Kabul, our nation lost one of its finest, and the community of Fairview lost one of its best.

Mr. Speaker, as we mourn the loss of Sgt. Douglas J. Riney, let us also give thanks for the positive impact and legacy that he leaves behind. While words offer little consolation to soothe the pain of losing a loved one, our nation offers its deepest condolences and heartfelt gratitude to the family of Sgt. Riney, today and always.

HONORING KANSAS CITY'S FLIGHTLESS HONOR FLIGHT VETERANS

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 17 Kansas City area veterans who took part in a special "Flightless" Honor Flight last week on Friday, November 11, 2016—Veterans Day. Among other activities, the group had the opportunity to visit and tour the World War I Museum and Memorial, near my district in Kansas City.

The Honor Flight Network's mission is to transport America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. However, this is not always possible, so the local extension, Honor Flight Kansas City, decided to start a Flightless Honor Flight program for those who are unable to make the trip to Washington.

Now in its second year, the Flightless Honor Flight program has helped contribute to the goal of the national organization by continuing to honor those who have served.

Representing every branch of the military, this unique group was made up of veterans who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. The

Veterans who participated are as follows: Tony Arnone, Air Force (Korea); Bill Barr, Navy (WWII); Russell Callahan, Coast Guard (WWII); Max Deweese, Marines (WWII/Korea); Bob Edwards, Army (Vietnam); Mike Elrod, Army (Vietnam); Ace Fasenmayer, Army (WWII); Tom Garrett, Navy (Korea); Floyd Greenwood, Army (Korea); Clyde Reece Hulet, Army (WWII); George Nicholson, Army (Korea); Dennis Owens, Marines (Vietnam); Agapito "Pete" Sanchez, Army (Vietnam); Juanita Smith, Navy (WWII); Robert Willis Sprague, Army (Vietnam); Delbert Stephens, Navy (WWII); Gene Taylor, Navy (Korea).

Each of these brave Americans deserves our everlasting thanks for their contributions to the war effort, and for their sacrifice on behalf of our country and way of life.

On behalf of a grateful country, we say thank you for your service.

CONGRATULATING THE LANGLEY
HIGH SCHOOL BOY'S GOLF TEAM
ON WINNING THE VIRGINIA 6A
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Langley High School golf team on winning the Virginia 6A state golf championship. Their dedication, hard work, and perseverance helped earn their school its first state championship in golf since 2011. This achievement comes in spite of the physical hardships and tough course conditions the team endured during the final round.

The night before the second and final round, senior Brandon Berry came down with what was likely food poisoning. His condition had him bedridden for almost 14 hours. Nevertheless, Brandon took the course for the final round and recorded a 77. Also two freshmen, Nikita Gubenko and Brian Feinstein, recorded rounds of 75 and 80, respectively. Nikita's round was Langley's lowest of the day and helped the Saxons secure a 22-shot victory. It is this dedication that creates the level of excellence which these young men have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Langley Saxons on winning the Virginia 6A state golf championship. I am proud to represent these students and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING STEVE NAKAJO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Nakajo who has served as the executive director of Kimochi, Inc. for 45 years and has grown the organization into one of the most precious senior service organizations in the Bay Area. Steve is a sensei in every

sense of the word: a respected person who has achieved a high level of mastery in his skills. He leaves behind an incredible legacy which frankly few of us do. I am honored to call him a friend and colleague for over 20 years.

Steve co-founded Kimochi in 1971 to bring social services to non-English speaking, first generation Japanese Americans in San Francisco's Japantown. Today, Kimochi provides 3,000 seniors from San Francisco and surrounding communities with services including transportation, nutrition, day care, housing, referral, consumer education, social services, and in-home care every year.

The creation of Kimochi Inc., which means feeling in Japanese, was inspired by the feeling for elders, first generation Japanese Americans or Issei, by third generation Japanese Americans or Sansei. The Sansei recognized that language and cultural barriers prevented the Issei from accessing every-day services, so they helped them to apply for government services or health benefits, they offered transportation and walking escorts, and they made sure seniors could safely leave and return to their homes. The appreciation of the elders' sacrifices and hardships is integral to the organization's philosophy and Steve has been the embodiment of that philosophy. Respect, gratitude and love for the elders are expressed through the services that allow each generation to age with dignity, pride, support and friendship.

Steve's commitment to Kimochi has been unwavering and recognized around the world. In 1999, he addressed the Japanese National Conference on Aging in Tokyo on the history and philosophy of Kimochi, Inc. as the only U.S. delegate invited to the conference. In 2002, he addressed the San Diego Nikkey Elderly Forum. In 2007, he joined Mayor Gavin Newsom in Osaka to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the San Francisco—Osaka Sister City relationship. In 2013, he was honored by the San Francisco Consul General of Japan for Kimochi Home's 30th anniversary. Earlier this year, it was my honor to help cut the ribbon on the new Kimochi House San Mateo, yet another grand vision of Steve Nakajo.

For the last 45 years, Steve has also been an instructor and lecturer in Japanese American and Asian Studies, sociology, social work, critical thinking and ethnic sensitivity training at San Francisco State University, San Jose State University and City College of San Francisco. His teaching career started in the Japanese American Studies Program in SFSU's School of Ethnic Studies. His co-instructors were the late Edison Uno and Dudley Yasuda. Uno, a civil rights advocate, was best known for his opposition to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Dudley was a psychology professor who was tragically murdered by one of his former students.

Steve has further contributed to the community by being one of the original organizers of the San Francisco Nihonmachi Street Fair and by being active with San Francisco's Japantown Cherry Blossom Festival for 46 years. He has also been on the San Francisco Fire Commission for 20 years and served on the San Francisco Arts Commission.

Steve, originally from Salt Lake City, received his education in San Francisco. He at-

tended Morning Star School and Sacred Heart High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Social Science and his Master's degree in Social Work from SFSU. He and his wife Etsie have three children—Devon, Tracey and Lexus—and four grandsons—Yuki, Kai, Kyle and Jaden.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a remarkable man and teacher who has helped shape the fabric of San Francisco for almost half a century. Steve Nakajo may be retiring today, but his contributions and philosophy will resonate for generations to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPELIKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce in Opelika, Alabama.

The Opelika Chamber was organized on January 13, 1941, and incorporated on August 26th by Homer Carter, Yetta G. Samford, R.W. Williams, Edward M. Roberts, Jr., Winston Smith T, A.L. Screws, A.C. Tatum, D.W. Ward, John L. Whatley and John D. McKibben. As recorded in the original Petition for Incorporation, the Chamber is to "promote the commercial, industrial, agricultural and civic interest of the City of Opelika and the surrounding territory; to promote integrity and good faith, just and equitable principles in business. . ." These words still ring true today.

The Opelika Chamber has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of the City of Opelika. Each year, the Chamber hosts over 200 events, program and advertising opportunities for its members.

Today, the Opelika Chamber is housed in the Whitfield-Duke-Searcy Home, built in 1895, at 601 Avenue A.

On December 15, 2016, there will be a celebration of the past 75 years held at The Aeerie.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Opelika Chamber of Commerce on their 75th anniversary and wish them many, many more.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1976, this refuge managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides vital

habitat for migratory water fowl, fish and other species. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful example of Minnesota's commitment to conservation and the environment.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge offers a world class opportunity to experience Minnesota's natural landscape and view wildlife, starting from the heart of the Twin Cities metropolitan area in Bloomington stretching more than 70 miles along the Minnesota River to Henderson, Minnesota. More than 5,000 acres of the 14,000 acre refuge are protected as Waterfowl Production Areas. During peak migration periods, visitors are witness to exceptional bird watching as hundreds of thousands of waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors are funneled into the valley along their migratory routes.

Another significant focus of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is land conservation and management of habitats ranging from wetlands, to floodplain forest, to tall grass prairie. These diverse habitats are actively managed using modern conservation techniques such as biological control, prescribed burning and invasive plant removal to benefit the resident plants and animals. Refuge staff also reaches out to private local land owners on conservation and restoration efforts to enhance wildlife habitat within the region.

Minnesotans are steadfast stewards of the beautiful and diverse natural environments that make up our great state. The refuge is a shining example of our partnership with the federal government to preserve these beautiful natural resources in the heart of our Metropolitan Region. Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the forty years of dedicated work by the federal employees and volunteers of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service whose efforts will continue in order to protect Minnesota wildlife and habitat at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MANASSAS PARK CITY SCHOOLS

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Manassas Park City School system as they celebrate their 40th anniversary as a School Division in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Manassas Park City School system was the last school division to be approved for formation by the Virginia Department of Education in 1976, as the City of Manassas Park became the last town in the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive City status.

The beginnings for the school system 40 years ago were not ideal. After a last minute move for independence from Prince William County, both the government and the schools were created with no infrastructure or financial support. In spite of these obstacles, the four schools which make up the Manassas Park City School system have become a successful part of a thriving community. Thanks to dedi-

cated faculty and staff, Manassas Park City Schools are achieving remarkable things: a one-to-one digital conversion, a new balanced calendar, improved community engagement, and outstanding academic performance.

Coming from a family of educators, I appreciate the invaluable role that administrators, teachers, and support staff play in inspiring our students. The work Manassas Park City Schools have done, and continue to do, with young men and women will be of great value to our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the importance of the Manassas Park City School system's 40th anniversary and what it represents for the city's residents, students, and staff. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Manassas Park City Schools and to thank them for their service to the children of Manassas Park. I wish them all well in their future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF EL CENTRO

HON. KEVIN YODER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of El Centro in Kansas City, Kansas. El Centro was established in 1976 as a place where the Kansas City, Kansas' Hispanic population could come together and form a sense of connectedness within their communities.

El Centro began with just a \$10,000 grant from the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, and with the hard work and dedication of caring community members it has grown to 3 locations in my district, serving more than 12,000 individuals and families per year.

El Centro could not be what it is today without the efforts of its President and CEO Irene Caudillo. Irene has a long history of improving our community by creating children and youth programs for nonprofit organizations, including El Centro and Wyandotte Mental Health Association in Wyandotte County.

I've had the privilege of getting to know Irene over the years during my visits to El Centro's Head Start program, Academy for Children, which aims to help Pre-K students receive strong early-childhood educational opportunities and set them up for success. Irene also serves on my Hispanic Advisory Committee, is a school board member in Kansas City, Kansas, and a great leader and role model in the Kansas City community.

Mr. Speaker, our community is stronger because of El Centro, where their mission is to strengthen communities and improve lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities. I look forward to our continued work together.

IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA FARM-CITY WEEK

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of Alabama Farm-City Week.

Over the past 60 years during the week of Thanksgiving; Farm-City week is observed to express gratitude for the bounty with which God has blessed our land while recognizing our farmers and communities who help make the Agriculture industry so successful.

In our great state, Agriculture and related industries provide over half a million good-paying jobs. During Farm-City week, I hope everyone in East Alabama will recognize our farmers and be appreciative of all they do.

In Alabama, the 2016 Farm-City theme is "Agriculture: Stewards of a Healthy Planet."

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 60th Anniversary of Farm-City week.

OUTDOOR RECREATION'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I commend the House on its adoption of the Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions Act, which directs the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to assess and analyze the U.S. outdoor recreation economy and the effects attributable to it on the overall U.S. economy.

In Oregon and across the country, an increasing number of Americans enjoy recreating outdoors. In fact, at least two-thirds of Oregonians participate in outdoor recreation each year. From the magnificent Columbia River Gorge to trails and creeks throughout our forests, canyons, and deserts, these open spaces and recreation areas are vital to individuals, families, businesses, and communities.

Outdoor recreation opportunities in Oregon and nationwide support healthy communities, create jobs, generate tax revenue, and support a high quality of life. Americans spend \$646 billion per year on outdoor recreation gear, vehicles, trips, and more. In Oregon, outdoor recreation generates over \$12 billion in consumer spending, tens of thousands of jobs, and \$4 billion in wages and salaries. Additionally, supporting sustainable outdoor recreation can also help protect important ecological, watershed, and fish and wildlife values that underpin high quality recreation experiences.

Outdoor recreation is vitally important to Oregonians and Oregon's economy, and this legislation will provide us with the information needed to guide our land and water policy to support this important industry.

TRIBUTE TO CARL THEODORE
WOLF, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to my friend and proud Navy veteran Carl Theodore Wolf, Jr., who passed away on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Carl was a caring member of his community, and he will be deeply missed.

Carl served in the U.S. Navy for ten years with honor and distinction. While serving in Germany on the Rhine River Patrol, Carl met his wife Anneliese. After their marriage on November 6, 1955, Carl and Anneliese made their first home in San Diego, California. A few years later, they would celebrate the birth of their daughter Brigitte. In 1967, the Wolf family picked up and settled down in Reseda, California.

Carl loved his country and his family. He was an avid reader and especially enjoyed history books. Carl truly enjoyed talking to people and relished recounting stories about his travels around the world while serving in the Navy.

Carl's dedication to his work, family, and country are a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I was proud to call Carl my friend and I will deeply miss him. I extend my condolences to Carl's family and friends; although Carl may be gone, the light and goodness he brought to the world remains and will never be forgotten.

RECOGNITION OF THE 25TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF LA COMUNIDAD
NEWS

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Comunidad News and its founder and publisher, Rafael Viscarra on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Latino newspaper's publication. In the 2nd Congressional District of Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have such a longstanding newspaper focused on "helping, empowering and serving the Latino community," as its mission states.

The newspaper began when Rafael Viscarra and his son, Dante Viscarra, sought a way to keep our growing Latino community informed and participating in the community and the democratic system.

The newspaper was Madison's first Spanish-language newspaper, beginning publication under the name Spanish News/La Nación. Today it continues to celebrate Latino holidays and culture. It honors the achievements of community members, as well as connecting people within the Latino community and informing our broader community.

In its 25 years of publication, La Comunidad has been an important voice as the Latino population has grown from several thousand people to more than 30,000 residents from di-

verse nationalities in the newspaper's Dane County readership area.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize La Comunidad News for its service and contributions to our community.

IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH HILL
MORROW'S PARTICIPATION IN
THE 2015 UNITED STATES POLICE
AND FIRE GAMES AND 2015
WORLD POLICE AND FIRE
GAMES

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Elizabeth Hill Morrow for her participation in the 2015 United States Police and Fire Games in San Diego, California and the 2015 World Police and Fire Games in Fairfax, Virginia.

Morrow, a Jacksonville State University Police Officer, participated in these two events by competing in a total of five individual events and received a total of five Gold Medals.

Elizabeth is a native of Randolph County, Alabama. She is a graduate of Handley High School in Roanoke, Alabama and a graduate of Troy University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Jacksonville State University with a Master's in Emergency Management. Elizabeth joined the Jacksonville State University Police Department in 2006. She and her husband Fred currently reside in the Jacksonville area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Elizabeth on her accomplishments in the 2015 United States Police and Fire Games and the 2015 World Police and Fire Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable travel delays, I missed two roll call votes. Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015, as amended (Roll Call No. 575), I would have voted "aye." This bill will allow concrete masonry producers to establish a "check-off" program at the Department of Commerce. This coordinated program will fund research, education and promotion to improve, maintain and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act (Roll Call No. 576), I would have voted "aye." This bill will extend the prohibition on transmitting inaccurate caller ID information to anyone located in the United States—including through Voice-over-Internet (VoIP) calls or text messages sent to mobile phones. Current law only covers voice calls.

PASSING MENTAL HEALTH
REFORM

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of passing mental health reform in the Senate prior to the end of the 114th Congress. As the original lead democratic cosponsor of H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, I was proud to work on the legislation for three years as to see it pass the House in July.

As the days remaining in the 114th Congress dwindle, there is still a long list of unfinished business that Republicans in the House and the Senate must make a priority. Since the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act was bipartisan and passed the House with a vote of 422-2, mental health reform is something we can all agree on right now.

We can all agree that the severely mentally ill are largely untreated and undiagnosed in this country. We can all agree that the homeless and prison population are particularly vulnerable to mental illness, and that these are the individuals that get the least amount of attention and access to mental health services. We can all agree that unnecessary barriers exist between physicians and caregivers who only want to help their loved ones. We can all agree that there are not enough psychiatric hospital beds available for individuals experiencing a crisis. We can all agree that additional federal coordination is necessary to change and elevate these issues.

The need for change to how we operate our federal mental health system and how we treat patients with severe mental illness is now. Patients, families, and physicians cannot wait any longer. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to consider and pass mental health reform before the end of the 114th Congress. Our individuals with mental illness cannot afford to start over again.

INAUGURATION OF REBECCA
KOENIG ROLOFF AS THE 11TH
PRESIDENT OF ST. CATHERINE
UNIVERSITY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ms. Rebecca Koenig Roloff, who was inaugurated as the 11th President of St. Catherine University in Saint Paul, Minnesota on October 11, 2016. Throughout her career, Ms. Roloff has earned the respect of her peers and colleagues by her extraordinary leadership abilities, quickly rising through the ranks of every organization she has been a part of, and leaving legacies of success along the way.

The first time that Rebecca Roloff set foot on the campus of St. Catherine University, she was a teenage prospective student. Growing up in Dickinson, North Dakota, she had never

met a female doctor, engineer, or lawyer. However, when she arrived at St. Kate's as it is known, she was astounded to see that the entire institution, from the administration to the professors, was led by highly educated professional women. The impact on Ms. Roloff was both immediate, and long lasting. She went on to graduate cum laude from St. Catherine University in 1976 and later earn a Master's of Business Administration with distinction from Harvard Business School in 1982.

Beginning her career as a grain merchant for Cargill, Ms. Roloff moved up to senior management positions at Pillsbury and later became senior vice president of Global Financial Advice and Systems at American Express Financial Advisors in Minneapolis. In this role she oversaw the \$90 million core business and transformed the sales systems used by over 10,000 advisors.

Ms. Roloff's success in business was coupled with a growing desire to serve in a position with a broader mission to impact the community. She was named Chief Executive Officer of the Minneapolis YWCA, a role where she would directly work to empower women and girls and achieve success by breaking down barriers of class and race.

Ms. Roloff's sharp business acumen, passion for social justice, and impressive credentials were qualities that put her at the top of a national search by the University of St. Catherine Board of Trustees when they were seeking the candidate to be named the 11th president. As an alumna of St. Kate's, Ms. Roloff deeply understands and embodies the institution's foundational principles of advancing women's education through the Catholic traditions of intellectual inquiry, social justice, and liberal arts. As a fellow alumna myself, I have no doubt that she will bring her deep passion, intelligence and leadership to this position. The faculty, staff, and especially students of St. Catherine University will benefit from her caring guidance and stewardship of the institution that thrust her on to the path that would eventually lead her back home.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Ms. ReBecca Koenig Roloff, the 11th President of St. Catherine University in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

TRIBUTE TO OPERATION RECOGNITION CLASS OF 2016

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the Operation Recognition Class of 2016. Operation Recognition is a program organized by the Riverside County Office of Education, with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services, that presents diplomas to residents of Riverside County who missed completing high school due to military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, or due to internment in WWII Japanese-American relocation camps.

Riverside County's Operation Recognition is modeled after programs implemented in other

states. Numerous county offices of education and school districts throughout California operate similar programs. The programs are yet another way to express our appreciation and gratitude for the significant contributions and sacrifices made by our veterans.

The Operation Recognition Class of 2016 includes: John Danahy, Wildomar, US Army, Vietnam War; James Milton Hannibal, Temecula, US Air Force, Vietnam War; Leonard W. Heiselt, Murrieta, US Navy, Vietnam War; James William Hicks, Cherry Valley, US Army, Vietnam War; Alvin C. Horn, Moreno Valley, US Air Force, Korean War; Edward Patrick Mata, Riverside, US Army, World War II (posthumously); Robert Navarro, Riverside, US Army, Korean War; Walter Schedler, Murrieta, US Army, World War II; and Tony M. Tovar, Riverside, US Army, Korean War.

On behalf of all Riverside County residents and a grateful nation, I want to thank these veterans for their service to our country and congratulate them on being part of the Operation Recognition Class of 2016.

A TRIBUTE TO ERNIE SMITH IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ernie Smith of Red Oak, Iowa, for being named by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest active pilot in the world.

Ernie has been a licensed pilot since September 15, 1942. For the past 74 years, local friends have known that, if you cannot find Ernie nearby, he is probably up in the sky. In January 2016, Red Oak Airport Manager Kevin McGrew and other community leaders nominated him for the distinction of "oldest active pilot in the world." Later this spring, they videotaped a flight to authenticate his activity in the air. The official pronouncement from the Guinness Book of World Records came recently, confirming that Ernie Smith, 98, is officially "the oldest active pilot in the world," soaring beyond the previous record by five years.

Ernie told Omaha, Nebraska-based KMTV-TV last December why he likes to fly: "I say, well, I don't know how to tell you, but you come out some morning before daylight and go out and watch that sun come up over the horizon and you'll have your answer." Ernie still flies in a rented plane, usually two times a week. He even braved foggy weather conditions to celebrate his 98th birthday in the sky last December.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of Iowans like Ernie that I'm proud to represent our great state in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him for this outstanding accomplishment and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, MAJOR GENERAL ALLEN E. BREWER OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Allen E. Brewer, the Assistant Adjutant General of Mississippi, for his service in the National Guard. He will retire his time in uniform after 37 years of loyal service to Mississippi and the United States. Major General Brewer was appointed Assistant Adjutant General—Army, in October 2015. As the Assistant Adjutant General, he has guided the formulation, development and implementation of all programs and policies affecting the Mississippi Army National Guard and its nearly 10,000 Citizen Soldiers.

Beginning his service in July of 1979, Major General Brewer distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service while performing in many positions of responsibility, culminating as The Assistant Adjutant General for the State of Mississippi. Major General Brewer demonstrated his professionalism, and a God-given gift for leadership while serving the Mississippi National Guard. He was selected as the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations/G3 for the Mississippi National Guard. Due to his exceptional performance in readiness and planning, he was selected as Commander, Special Operations Detachment South where he was responsible for all aspects of a Special Operations Headquarters functions and commanded the unit during combat operations in Afghanistan in 2012.

During his command in Special Forces, Major General Brewer was requested by name to serve as the Land Component Commander for the 3RD Air Force—Blue Flag 10-1 exercise at Hurlburt Field, FL. His vast experience of producing results led to his election as national chairman for the Special Operations Advisory Committee.

Major General Brewer's exemplary service in positions of increasing responsibility led to his selection as the Director of the Joint Staff, Mississippi National Guard in July 2012 and a subsequent promotion to Brigadier General. Major General Brewer supervised and directed the Mississippi Army National Guard's accomplishment and management of budgets and resources for many of the major Army National Guard Programs. His service to the Adjutant General as an advisor and counsel for the development of Joint Strategic Plans and Programs for Joint Training and Exercises was above reproach due to his extensive background during his career.

Receiving over 25 awards and honors in his time in the military, Major General Brewer's service in a myriad of positions was instrumental to the successes enjoyed by the Mississippi National Guard units during numerous combat deployments and domestic responses. He passionately displayed hard work and dedication focusing on providing ready Soldiers and units to the defense of the nation.

Major General Brewer's service and accomplishments have had a positive and lasting impact on the Mississippi National Guard as well as the United States Army.

I would like to extend my best wishes to Major General Allen E. Brewer upon his retirement from the Mississippi National Guard and future endeavors and a heartfelt thank you to him and his family for their service to this nation, and our state.

A TRIBUTE TO JULIE WALTERS IN
THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julie Walters, of Villisca, Iowa, for being selected as a 2016 Women Impacting the Land award recipient.

The Women Impacting the Land award showcases Iowa women for their contributions to managing farmland and livestock. Ms. Walters is a farmer in addition to serving as the Page County Clerk of Court for 31 years. She has participated in Annie's Project and Women Managing Cattle in 2010 and 2014. She is constantly learning about her family's cattle operation and making changes to improve their farm's productivity.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Julie Walters demonstrates the rewards of harnessing one's talents and improving themselves and their business through education. Her efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating Julie for her achievements and wish her nothing but continued success.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MANGOLD FORD IN
EUREKA, IL

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate Mike Mangold and Mangold Ford, in Eureka, Illinois, for 60 years of outstanding service to our community.

Charles and Mary Mangold first opened the doors of Mangold Ford in 1956 with the intention of providing quality service based on Christian principles. Because of their faith and acumen, their dealership now employs over thirty dedicated employees varying from management, front office, and service teams who work tirelessly to ensure the utmost customer satisfaction.

The employees at Mangold Ford, throughout its history, continue to make car buying an enjoyable experience for all customers. For the past thirteen consecutive years, Mangold Ford has been awarded the President's Award, an

honor given to dealerships that have a consistent record of customer satisfaction and high-quality service. Beyond exceptional service, Mangold Ford has also played a significant philanthropic role in our community, partaking in and contributing to many local charitable events.

I am thankful that America has been a country where hard-working families with a vision, such as the Mangold's, can grow their small business, employ others, and impact their community in a positive manner. I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Mike Mangold, his family, and the staff of Mangold Ford on an outstanding sixty years and I wish them sixty more prosperous years.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 2016 NODAWAY
VALLEY BOYS CROSS COUNTRY
TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Nodaway Valley High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 1A State Cross Country Championship for two consecutive years.

I would like to congratulate each member of the team:

Runners: Shane Breheny, Tyler Breheny, Matthew Dickinson, Brayten Funke, Dallas Kreager, Skyler Rawlings, Brycen Wallace, Joel Blazek.

Head Coach: Darrell Burmeister.

Assistant Coaches: Dave Swanson, Phyllis Eshelman, Alyse Dreher.

Mr. Speaker, the two-year-long success of this team validates the rewards of hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the entire team for another successful season and in wishing them all nothing but continued success.

COMMEMORATING TRI-VALLEY EL-
EMENTARY SCHOOL FOR RECEIV-
ING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIB-
BON

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Tri-Valley Elementary School in Downs, Illinois for receiving the U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon.

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the Blue Ribbon to schools across the country based on their overall academic excellence. This year, 329 schools in the nation were awarded the National Blue Ribbon, including Tri-Valley Elementary School in Illinois' 18th District. Tri-Valley prides itself on their academic excellence

and a proactive student body. The school offers a variety of clubs, intramural sports, and volunteer opportunities for its students, faculty, and parents.

Additionally, Tri-Valley Elementary School has been awarded the Illinois State Board of Education Academic Excellence Award every year since the mid-2000's. Led by Principal Sara Burnett, the faculty has developed an effective curriculum to meet the academic needs of all students. Beginning in Pre-K, students at Tri-Valley develop the skills necessary to become life-long learners.

It is an honor to represent the students, faculty, and administrators at Tri-Valley Elementary School. Their dedication to education, and their students, makes them a deserving recipient of the National Blue Ribbon, and more importantly, an example for schools all across the nation.

A TRIBUTE TO THE VAN GELDER
FAMILY IN THE SECOND SES-
SION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate The Van Gelder Family of Creston, Iowa, for being honored with the Pork All-American Award from the Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA).

Since 1970, the All-American Award is the highest honor of the Iowa Pork Producers Association awards, requiring the producer to be under the age of 40 and recognized as a Master Pork Producer. Brad Van Gelder and his wife, Terri, have operated their 4,000-head operation for 17 years, currently serving 50 local barns. They apply 14 million gallons of manure annually to customers through his manure application business. The wean-to-finish operation prides itself on providing a comfortable, ventilated environment for the pigs, as well as a high level of bio-security for the health of the pigs and the employees who oversee them. The Van Gelder family is committed to conservation, using low disturbance application toolbars on their manure equipment, and maintaining a majority of their 820 row crops acres as no-till.

The Van Gelders are equally active in their community. With their two daughters, Alison and Morgan, they keep busy through their involvement in church, school, 4-H, the Union County Pork Producers, IPPA Youth Committee, as well as the Iowa Pork Tent Committee at the Iowa State Fair. Brad also serves as the Union County Fair Board President with his daughters showing cattle each year.

I congratulate the Van Gelders on earning this coveted award and for their dedication and commitment to Iowa agriculture. Their efforts embody the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Brad and Terri Van Gelder family.

COMMEMORATING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JERRY TRECEK OF PEORIA RESCUE MINISTRIES

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor Reverend Jerry Trecek for his work as the Executive Director of Peoria Rescue Ministries for the past 45 years.

As Executive Director, Rev. Trecek oversees the five divisions of Peoria Rescue Ministries, which include Peoria Rescue Mission, Victory Acres, Barnabas Center, Women's Pregnancy Center and Esther House. Peoria Rescue Ministries also supports international ministries in Latvia and the Ukraine, reaching beyond our border. Rev. Trecek has played an equally active role serving on the Board of Directors of these international ministries. With many professional and community service affiliations, Rev. Trecek remains an active part of the Peoria area community.

In 1968, Rev. Trecek and his wife, Barbara, founded the Peoria Rescue Mission, where today they provide shelter, food, and a warm bed to nearly one hundred men each night. Under the leadership of Rev. Trecek, the organization has expanded from a single rescue mission facility to a thriving 3 million dollar ministry serving the men, women, and children of Central Illinois.

Through community donations and the guidance of Rev. Trecek, Peoria Rescue Ministries housed 27,965 guests who were without shelter and served 70,737 meals to the hungry in 2015. More importantly, the ministry committed or rededicated 626 individuals in our community to Christ. In the words of Rev. Trecek, "My main goal is to introduce people to the saving grace found in Jesus Christ."

I would like to acknowledge Rev. Trecek's remarkable tenure as Executive Director of Peoria Rescue Ministries. Rev. Trecek's dedication to the Peoria Rescue Ministries has set a true example of community leadership and what it means to lead as the Lord leads day by day. It is an honor to represent such a charitable organization and I wish the best of luck to Rev. Jerry Trecek as he takes on the role of Director Emeritus focusing on the international ministries.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PERRY LUTHERAN HOME IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Perry Lutheran Home in Perry, Iowa, as it celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

With the help of the Lutheran Home for the Aged Association, the Perry Lutheran Home was opened in 1956 in the former Dallas County Hospital building. Over the years, the

Home has continued to expand to better serve those who needed its care. Their mission remains constant: "to treat each resident and tenant with respect in a cheerful, loving atmosphere that will encourage a positive attitude among and between those who are served and those who do the serving." Though 60 years can change any organization, the care and compassion of the staff of the Perry Lutheran Home has never wavered. Our communities are stronger because of the Perry Lutheran Home. I am confident that it will continue that excellence for another 60 years.

I thank The Perry Lutheran Home for their 60 years of service and know my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

CONGRATULATING NADINE WHITTED ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nadine Whitted on her retirement. Nadine is retiring from serving as the District Manager of Community Board 4 in Bushwick, a New York City agency established to identify the needs of our community and advocate through city government to meet those requirements. In her role, she was a strong voice for local residents, community groups, small business and more. Nadine worked closely with community board members to ensure that recommended policies, capital and expense budget priorities were addressed by City government.

Born in Brooklyn, Nadine is the second child born to Rose Rucker and Emerson Whitted. Receiving an award for Outstanding Service to the Senior Class Graduating of Bushwick High School in 1972 officially accentuated the beginning of her love of service delivery and laboring on the behalf of others. She attended Brooklyn College for four years majoring in Education. In 1977, during the NYC fiscal crisis, Nadine applied for a position at Brooklyn Community Board #4 and was hired as an Administrative Aide approximately three days prior to the Black Out of July 1977.

Within two years she was elevated to the position of Assistant District Manager; under this new title she began attending more meetings with the community, city agencies, elected public officials and organizations. The neighborhood's distinction as the poorest community district in the city fueled Nadine to work harder and advocate with passion and persistence for the residents.

In 1986 Nadine was given the opportunity to become District Manager and after much consideration and prompting by many community board members and other leaders Nadine accepted the position gladly. She served under the direction and leadership of Ms. Julie Dent—Chairperson of Community Board #4 and its members.

Nadine is retiring after faithfully and professionally serving the community for over 40 years.

Nadine has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will surely be missed by all who have had the pleasure to work with her, but I am certain that she is looking forward to this exciting next chapter in her life.

I thank Nadine Whitted for her community service and longtime dedication to not only Brooklyn, but the city of New York. I wish her all the best and congratulate her on her retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO MARGARET FLETCHALL IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ms. Margaret Fletchall on the occasion of her 103rd birthday. She celebrated this life achievement on October 31, 2016.

Our world has changed greatly during the course of Margaret's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Margaret has lived through 17 United States Presidents and 24 Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Margaret Fletchall in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 103rd birthday. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Margaret on reaching this incredible milestone. We wish her continued good health and happiness in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PERRY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Perry Golf and Country Club in Perry, Iowa, for celebrating its 100th year in business this year.

The Perry Golf and Country Club was founded in 1916, and for a century has given Perry area golfers a place to not only play the game they love, but enjoy time with friends and family as well. In 1916, there was a suitable meadow south of Perry where the local farm owner allowed the golfers to use the field rent-free. Stories are told of men and women, young and old, enjoying their search for a lost golf ball in the open field. But a few years later, when that particular field was to be

planted with Iowa corn, the golfers realized they needed to find a permanent location. Thus, the Perry Golf and Country Club was formally established. In 1923, the original Clubhouse burnt to the ground and all possessions were lost in the fire. A new facility was built in 1924 and the resolve of the Club membership to play another round continues to grow stronger.

The Perry Golf and Country Club has served the community in a wide range of events, from individual players to groups of all sizes, tournaments, high school golf meets, community members, and organizational fundraisers. The course has also been witness to many holes-in-one, including one skilled local golfer who has had the distinction of making a hole-in-one a miraculous five times.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating the Perry Golf and Country Club for its 100 years in golfing recreation. I consider it an honor to represent its members in the United States House of Representatives, and I wish the club nothing but continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO MOUNT AYR PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mount Ayr Public Library in Mount Ayr, Iowa, for celebrating its 100-year anniversary. This is an important milestone in its history of service to the city of Mount Ayr and the surrounding communities.

On September 29, 1913, Mount Ayr citizens met to discuss creating a library in Mount Ayr. Historical records state: "On June 15, 1915, the idea of constructing a building was submitted to a vote of the people. The result of the vote showed that the women were more interested in obtaining the library than the men, as the vote of the women being 212 for, 68 against and the men's vote 180 for to 122

against." An application was made to the Carnegie Foundation and an \$8,000 grant was received to proceed. The women of the community took on additional fundraising efforts to complete the building at a cost of \$10,349.85. The funds were allocated for lighting, furniture, book shelves, outdoor landscaping, service fees and constructing an addition to the building. In September 1916, the cornerstone of the new library was laid.

Over the last century, the Mount Ayr Public Library has successfully met the needs of the community by providing excellent care and necessary services. It serves as a gathering place to develop the interests and imagination of the community. It is an honor to represent the library employees and volunteers in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Mount Ayr Public Library on this historic anniversary, and in wishing it nothing but continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO THE STEVE AND CHANTELE JENNETT FAMILY IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Steve and Chantelle Jennett family of Blockton, Iowa, for being recognized as 2016 Way We Live Award winners at the Iowa State Fair.

The Way We Live Award recognizes Iowa families for their hard work and love of farming. Steve began farming with his father in 1989, and after marrying Chantelle, they purchased more farmland where they have raised their three children. Their farm enterprise includes row crops, hogs finishing, and broiler chickens. Each family member helps with the daily chores and they are also involved in Pork Producers and Taylor County 4-H, among many other community activities.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by the Jennett family demonstrates the rewards of harnessing

one's talents and sharing them with the world. Their hard work embodies the Iowa spirit and I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating the Steve and Chantelle Jennett family for their achievements and wish them nothing but continued success.

A TRIBUTE TO BEDFORD LIONS CLUB IN THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 114TH CONGRESS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lions Club of Bedford, Iowa, for celebrating 70 years of service to the community.

The Bedford Lions Club was chartered in October 1946 and has since faithfully served Bedford and the surrounding area. One of their outstanding projects occurred in 1975, when the club was instrumental in making the Northside Apartment complex a reality. They completed a door-to-door canvas and raised the funds to get the project underway with matching funds. They currently raise money throughout the community for organizations such as the Bedford Fire Department, Tinker Tots Preschool, Bedford Food Pantry, the school backpack program, and many more. This organization has a strong number of community members and multiple plans for future projects to benefit Bedford, Iowa, and its citizens.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending the Bedford Lions Club for serving Bedford, Iowa, for 70 years. I consider it an honor to represent the club members in Congress. I thank the Lions Club for their service in the community and wish them nothing but the best in all their future endeavors.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, November 15, 2016

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious God of Mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this single week, after a long campaign season, and before breaking once again for Thanksgiving, bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose on the issues facing them.

We ask Your blessing as well on those newly elected who will be joining this assembly for the 115th Congress. May their transition into office be smooth and marked by the civility of democratic change of government which is the rightful pride of the United States of America.

Help us all to be grateful that we live in this country, and generous with the blessings and benefits derived from our citizenship.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HILL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, I was grateful to

give the Republican Weekly Address to honor Veterans Day, where I spoke about how House Republicans, under the leadership of Speaker PAUL RYAN, are committed to providing our Nation's veterans the highest quality of care.

As the son of a World War II Flying Tiger, a 31-year veteran myself, and the grateful dad of four sons who have served overseas in the global war on terrorism, I appreciate the positive work of House Republicans to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans Affairs Chairman JEFF MILLER has been a determined advocate for veterans and military families, leading efforts to modernize the VA and deliver 21st century health care.

The House has also passed a series of reforms to the VA itself. I look forward to working with President-elect Donald Trump, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, and Speaker PAUL RYAN, to create a positive change of culture at the VA to give veterans the care they deserve. Chairman JEFF MILLER would be an excellent choice for Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CHICAGO CUBS

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1908, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series at West Side Park. To give you a little perspective how long ago that was, in the crowd you could find Civil War veterans. President Taft, however, was not in attendance that day.

During the Cubs' 108-year drought, we have had two world wars, put a man on the moon, and survived Y2K. But after a historic seven-game series, I can finally say that my Chicago Cubs are champions once again.

I am enormously proud of the Chicago Cubs' players and coaches, the entire management team, and the Ricketts family for unparalleled determination on the long, long road to a league-best regular season and a championship title.

Generations of loyal Cubs fans finally got to see their team win the series in what was, arguably, the best baseball game of all time. It was an honor for me to be in the stands that night, and then join millions of Chicagoans in

celebrating the long-awaited return of the World Series trophy to the friendly confines of Wrigley Field.

The city and people of Chicago will be forever grateful to the 2016 Cubs for reminding us that nothing is impossible if you work hard, and never, ever, ever, ever, ever, ever, give up.

Go Cubs.

A TRUE HERO AMONG US

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a champion in the St. Cloud community, St. Cloud Police Chief Blair Anderson.

Chief Anderson recently received the 2016 Community Hero Award from the Light the Legacy organization for his incredible work strengthening the connection between the police force he leads and the community that he serves.

Blair Anderson has served in law enforcement for the past 20 years. During his years of service, he has encountered many difficult and even dangerous situations. Most notable of these situations was the brutal attacks at the Crossroads Center Mall this past September.

The attack at the Crossroads Center Mall truly shook our community to the core, and it was the response of leading community members like Chief Anderson whose unwavering dedication to all of our residents allowed all of us to find peace in our daily lives again.

Now, more than ever, our community needs leaders like St. Cloud Police Chief Blair Anderson. It's a great honor to recognize him here today.

STOP CLIMATE CHANGE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, according to his transition team, the President-elect's administration will withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement and scrap the Clean Power Plan because, they claim, it will increase energy bills without any measurable effect on Earth's climate. This is dangerous, shortsighted, and completely inaccurate.

The United States took an important leadership role in making the Paris Agreement happen and should continue

to help lead international efforts to combat climate change. The Clean Power Plan is an essential part of the U.S. keeping its end of the bargain.

If the President-elect's administration follows through on its plans to abandon our commitments, the United States and the world will continue to suffer from increasing sea level rise, more frequent and intense natural disasters like Superstorm Sandy, and longer periods of drought, as well as other effects. What it won't do is save coal country jobs, something that the top Senate Republican pretty much admitted last week.

As President Obama said, the President-elect's administration should carry on the tradition of honoring our international agreements, and I urge him and his team to continue the efforts begun by President Obama to stop climate change before it is too late.

FOREST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Forest Park Elementary School for over 100 years of success in central Arkansas. Built in 1913, Forest Park offers a variety of educational clubs and experiences that support life skills and encourage teamwork, good sportsmanship and academic growth.

I loved my elementary school years at Forest Park, and I am happy that my children enjoyed a fine experience in those halls as well.

Located in the heart of Little Rock, Forest Park is led by Principal Theresa Courtney-Ketcher and serves 460 students in pre-K through fifth grade.

During the 2013-2014 school year, Forest Park was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. This school is consistently a top ranked elementary school in Arkansas.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Principal Courtney-Ketcher, Forest Park Elementary and its faculty, and wish it much continued success in the generations to come.

POLL: AMERICANS SEE LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, these last few months have demonstrated how far the national media will go to promote a liberal agenda. Polls continue to show Americans' trust in the media is at an all-time low. Instead of providing objective and fair coverage of the news, the media provided one-sided stories that further damaged their credibility.

A recent Suffolk University/USA Today poll found that, by a nearly 10-to-1 ratio, Americans believe that the major newspapers and TV stations favored the Democratic candidate for President over the Republican candidate. Americans of all political affiliations know that the national media strongly leans to the left. Unfortunately, it has leaned too far for too long and has fallen off the credibility cliff.

We need to remind the media of their profound obligation to provide the American people with the facts, not tell them what to think.

AMERICA'S HISTORIC VICTORY AT THE BALLOT BOX

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate President-elect Donald Trump, Vice President-elect Mike Pence, but most importantly, the American people on a historic victory at the ballot box.

Make no mistake, this election was a resounding rejection of the status quo in Washington, a revolution at the ballot box. The American people are sick and tired of open borders, runaway Federal agencies, unconstitutional executive orders, a weak foreign policy, a sluggish economy, and a Federal Government that simply no longer listens to them.

Now, under President-elect Trump and a Republican Congress, we have the opportunity to change that and achieve bold new steps that will put America on the path to a more secure and prosperous country.

I look forward to working closely with the Trump-Pence administration to help advance these goals, and a conservative agenda that rebuilds our military, secures our borders, ends the failed ObamaCare experiment, creates jobs, and protects the unborn.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have spoken loud and clear, and it is now time that we turn this historic moment into action.

REMEMBERING DR. BILL LEHMANN

(Mr. FARENTHOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, on Veterans Day, I attended Port Aransas High School Veterans Day ceremony honoring Port Aransas veterans. This year's event was renamed to remember its founder, Dr. Bill Lehmann, who passed away earlier this year at 91.

During World War II, Dr. Lehmann served in the Army stateside, selling war bonds and working at a POW camp. After the war, he earned his master's

degree and Ph.D. in physics, and began a 30-year career in the Air Force Civil Service. He rose quickly in the ranks, becoming director of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and, later, chief of the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, the first civilian to hold this job.

Lehmann focused his energy on community service when he retired in Port Aransas in 1992. He was an active member of the Port Aransas Rotary Club, where he was honored as Rotarian of the Year in 2013. He also founded the annual Veterans Day ceremony at the school in the early nineties, growing it from a small event to a gymnasium full of people packed with hundreds of veterans, students, and community members. Dr. Lehmann created a fantastic legacy that will impact the Port Aransas community for years to come.

To Dr. Lehmann and his family, and to all veterans, thank you for your service, and God bless you all.

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APPLAUDING 2016 WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS, THE CHICAGO CUBS

(Mr. LAHOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the 2016 World Series champions, the Chicago Cubs, and to congratulate back-to-back World Series MVP, Ben Zobrist.

As the switch-hitting, utility player for the Cubs, Zobrist played a crucial role in bringing his team to victory. At the top of the 10th inning in Game 7 of the World Series, Zobrist roped an RBI double giving the Cubs the decisive run in the 8-7 victory that won their team its first World Series championship since 1908.

Ben Zobrist is a native of Eureka, Illinois, located in my congressional district. The four-sport Eureka High School athlete went on to play baseball at Dallas Baptist University before launching his major league career.

More admirable than his talent is his character. In Major League Baseball, Zobrist has represented the sport with true midwestern values. Ben is both a devout man of faith and a family man devoted to his wife and three children. Ben Zobrist's commitment to God, family, and baseball make him not just a hero for his hometown of Eureka, Illinois, but a man that all of America can respect and admire.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RIBBLE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on

which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

URGING RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 780) urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 780

Whereas given its size, location, and diverse economy, the United States has deep interests in the democratic stability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC);

Whereas from 1996 to 2006, more than 3,000,000 people died in the DRC as a result of internal and regional wars, and significant violence persists in the Eastern Congo;

Whereas a root cause of these conflicts was the decay of the undemocratic and corrupt regime of President Mobutu Sese Seko;

Whereas in 2002 the United States, working with African and European partners, helped facilitate a Congo peace accord that included a democratic transition and free elections under a new constitution limiting the President to two terms by an unamendable provision and providing for the President of the Senate to assume power temporarily until elections can be held once a Presidential vacancy is declared;

Whereas in 2006 Joseph Kabila was elected President in what was widely viewed as a free and fair election, but many respected international observers concluded that his 2011 election “victory” was “not credible”;

Whereas President Kabila’s second term will end on December 19, 2016, after which his government can no longer be considered the constitutionally legitimate representative of the Congolese people;

Whereas President Kabila has yet to declare unequivocally and publicly that he will step down at the end of his term, as required by the constitution, causing growing political tension, unrest, and violence across the country;

Whereas during the summer of 2014, President Kabila tried unsuccessfully to persuade parliament to change the constitution to open the way for his continuation in power after his term expires on December 19, 2016, and subsequently attempted to pass a law requiring a multiyear census in advance of the Presidential election—an effort that was dropped in January 2015 after mass demonstrations in which Kabila’s security forces killed at least 42 people and arbitrarily jailed hundreds;

Whereas since January 2015, in further steps to undermine democratic processes and institutions, Congolese security and intelligence officials have clamped down on peaceful activists, political leaders, and others who oppose President Kabila’s effort to stay in power past his constitutionally mandated two-term limit;

Whereas since January 2015 President Kabila has continually used administrative and technical means to try to delay the Presidential election (including an over-

loaded, unfeasible multielection calendar, failure to pass timely election laws and release authorized election budgets, abruptly implementing the division of the country’s provinces, and having his “Independent National Election Commission” recently declare that it will take 16 months to update the voter roll);

Whereas the broad national dialogue convened by President Kabila served as another means of justifying a delay of the scheduled November 2016 elections despite the widespread withdrawal of participation by opposition parties and church leaders;

Whereas President Obama spoke with President Kabila on March 15, 2015, and “emphasized the importance of timely, credible, and peaceful elections that respect the DRC’s constitution and protect the rights of all DRC citizens”;

Whereas President Kabila is calling for a broad national dialogue that could be used to confuse the election issue and serve as yet another means of delaying the scheduled November 2016 elections;

Whereas international and domestic human rights groups continually report on the worsening of the situation with regard to human rights in the DRC, including the use of excessive force against peaceful demonstrators and an increase in politically motivated trials and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) has registered more than 260 human rights violations, mainly against political opponents, civil society, and journalists during the past year;

Whereas the DRC retains a relatively vibrant civil society that is exerting pressure on the government, and is at risk of being stamped out due to government repression consistent with President Kabila’s attempt to remain in power;

Whereas leaders of Congo’s main opposition parties, nongovernmental organizations, and prodemocracy youth movements called on Congolese citizens to stay home from work and school on February 16, 2016, for “Ville Morte (Dead City Day)” largely to protest against delays in organizing Presidential elections;

Whereas the strike was largely successful in major Congolese cities despite government detentions and threats;

Whereas, on March 10, 2016, the European Union Parliament adopted a resolution that urged the European Union to “use all its diplomatic and economic tools” in favor of “compliance with the constitution of the DRC” and invited African Union member states to also become engaged in the effort to advance this goal;

Whereas the European Union Parliament resolution also called upon the European Union “to consider imposing targeted sanctions, including travel bans and asset freezes, so as to help prevent further violence”;

Whereas, on March 30, 2016, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2277, expressing “deep concern” about “delays in the Presidential election” and “increased restriction of the political space in the DRC” and calling for “ensuring the successful and timely holding” of Presidential and legislative elections “in accordance with the Constitution”;

Whereas, on June 23, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned General Celestin Kanyama of the Congolese National Police for his role in targeting of civilian protestors;

Whereas, on September 28, 2016, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned Major General Gabriel Amisi Kumba and General John Numbi for leading an armed group that has threatened the stability of the DRC and violently suppressing political opposition, respectively;

Whereas the DRC’s Independent National Electoral Commission and the Constitutional Court have validated the indefinite postponement of the scheduled November 2016 elections; and

Whereas the Kabila government has stated that the elections may now take place as late as 2018, potentially extending his mandate by as much as two years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) under Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671, in coordination to the maximum extent possible with its African and European partners, the United States should impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who impede progress toward a peaceful democratic transition through credible elections that respect the will of the people of the DRC;

(2) sanctions should target core figures in the government of President Kabila for visa denials and for asset freezes because of actions that “undermine democratic processes or institutions”;

(3) economic and security assistance provided to the DRC government should be reviewed for possible termination, while preserving other, particularly humanitarian, assistance through nongovernmental and international organizations, and review future international financial institution assistance to the DRC until the election crisis is resolved;

(4) the President should lift sanctions only when the President determines that—

(A) President Kabila has unequivocally and publicly declared that, in accordance with the constitution, he will not remain in power once his term ends on December 19, 2016, has made verifiable progress on the ground towards holding timely free and fair national elections in accordance with the constitution, and has demonstrably opened the necessary political space for the opposition and civil society; or

(B) the DRC has held a free and fair Presidential election as provided by the constitution and a new President has been sworn in;

(5) if President Kabila’s government meets the condition specified in paragraph (4)(A), the United States should join other donors in helping to support election preparedness, including voter registration and supporting a level playing field for campaign activities by diverse political parties;

(6) the United States Government should support independent DRC civil society organizations and media to more effectively monitor efforts to undermine democracy and governance;

(7) the United States Government should use authorities under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, chapter X of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, and the section 1956 of title 18, United States Code, to investigate and target money laundering activities, specifically related to the diversion of proceeds of corruption, by key figures close to President Kabila;

(8) these authorities should be employed to target the financial institutions facilitating money laundering by these figures as well as to pressure the jurisdictions in which they are located to monitor this activity and take enforcement action as appropriate; and

(9) the United States should coordinate these efforts with key Western and African partners, including through other financial intelligence units.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 780. I would like to recognize Chairman SMITH and Ranking Member BASS of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee for their continued focus on the continuing crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and I would like to recognize our ranking member, Mr. ELIOT ENGEL, as well, because, Mr. Speaker, Congo is facing a constitutional crisis that is putting lives and regional stability at risk.

I have been to the Congo on three occasions, most recently last year, and we have pressed this issue repeatedly, and sadly, Congo, having historically suffered some of the world's longest and most brutal wars, is all too familiar with violence. Now, while the Congolese people are trying to chart a new path for their country, government leaders are maneuvering to maintain their grip on power in violation of the country's constitution.

Congo's constitution is very clear—the transfer of power must happen on December 19 of this year and the President is limited there to two terms. But President Kabila—in power now for over 15 years—is stonewalling the election process to get around the constitution. Allowing this crooked plan to proceed without any consequences would set a terrible precedent for democracy and governance throughout the region.

President Kabila has shown that he is willing to carry out this plan by any means necessary. Anyone who interferes—opposition figures, human rights leaders, peaceful protesters, civil society, the media—risks arbitrary arrest, and they risk death. More than 50 people were killed in a 2-day government crackdown in September.

But throughout, the Congolese people have made it clear that they want elections—with the vast majority of Congolese opposed to amending the constitution to allow Mr. Kabila to extend

his term. They are determined to express their will at the ballot box. This resolution puts the House on record supporting the Congolese people in their desire for a peaceful political transition.

Mr. Speaker, the House is considering this resolution at a very crucial time. If no clear plan is established for a peaceful transition of power in the coming weeks, analysts fear wide scale instability and violence. We are already seeing that instability today, and that is threatening to send the international investment that has recently returned to the country away.

The Obama administration has recognized the severity of this crisis, establishing an executive order which targets those DRC leaders who impede the democratic transition with sanctions. This resolution welcomes those sanctions, but also encourages the administration to look at other sanctionable offenses like corruption and money laundering.

The political elites in Congo have long pillaged the country's vast natural resources for their personal enrichment. Putting that wealth at risk might make them think twice about also undermining democracy. That is the kind of leverage that this resolution intends to encourage.

Moreover, the resolution recommends that assistance which is non-humanitarian—we want the humanitarian assistance to continue, but non-humanitarian assistance could potentially be cut if the Congolese Government does not change course and does not allow democracy to move forward. The U.S. needs to use any and all leverage it has to use this opportunity to push for timely elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning House Resolution 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the measure that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the measure so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 780 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or a similar measure moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 780 and would ask

that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be placed in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 780 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I write with respect to H. Res. 780, a resolution urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Financial Services. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H. Res. 780 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this resolution so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 780 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H. Res. 780 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 780.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future.

I will seek to place our letters on H. Res. 780 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure.

Let me start by thanking our chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE, for his leadership. I had the good occasion to travel with him to Congo last year, and we pushed very, very hard on the fact that we believe democracy needs to be carried out there.

In fact, the President of Congo, who is running for an unprecedented third term, which he is not supposed to do according to their Constitution, opted not to see us because he was angry at the fact that we came to Congo and spoke out so heavily, with one voice I might say, for democratic reforms. That has been the tradition of the Foreign Affairs Committee during the time that Chairman ROYCE has been chairman and I have been ranking member. We speak with one voice on most things, and we are more effective that way.

I think that foreign policy, especially, should be bipartisan and partisanship should stop at the water's edge. So we, personally, the two of us and the colleagues that came with us on the trip, drove that message home to the President of Congo. We met with the Prime Minister, and we didn't mince our words.

So I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership. I want to thank the chair and ranking member of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. BASS of California for her hard work in bringing this measure to the floor.

As I mentioned before, Mr. Speaker, in recent months, protesters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have

faced an increasingly violent crack-down at the hands of armed authorities. These people are protesting, again, the illegal third-term grab by the President of Congo. Citizens have been subject to arbitrary arrest, and civil society groups are finding it harder and harder to operate. In just over a month, when President Joseph Kabila's term expires, I fear that this instability will grow even worse.

We want to see democracy thrive and the constitution prevail in the DRC, but we know forces are hard at work to tear that country's democracy down. This resolution sends a message that the United States is watching this situation closely. Those who try to undermine democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo won't get a free pass from us.

This measure calls for U.S. sanctions on core government and opposition officials who hinder democratic processes or stand in the way of progress toward a peaceful democratic transition. It calls for sanctions to remain in place until President Kabila declares that he will abide by the constitution and step down on December 19—until there is verifiable progress toward holding a free and fair election and until the opposition and civil society groups are free to operate without interference.

Lastly, this resolution requests that our government support civil society groups and the media so that the DRC citizens and the world have a clear picture of democracy and governance.

I am glad to support this timely resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and author of this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ROYCE; Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL; and Ms. BASS, who is the ranking member on the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, for their strong support for this legislation, H. Res. 780, which seeks to avoid a looming crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, or DRC, by urging respect for the constitution of that country in a peaceful, democratic transition of power.

Mr. Speaker, on November 19—just days from now—the DRC was supposed to hold elections for President and the Parliament. However, after stalling on election preparations for more than a year, the government of President Kabila has used a constitutional loophole to extend his rule despite the opposition of not only political opponents but also his country's citizens.

In a recent poll done in partnership with the Congo Research Group at New York University, President Kabila had less than 8 percent support among his people. U.S. officials believe that he has lost even more support in the months since that poll was taken.

Mr. Speaker, from 1996 to 2006, more than 3 million people died in the DRC, more than 4 million were internally displaced as a result of internal and regional wars, and significant violence persists in eastern Congo today—a place that I have visited. There are now widespread fears that opposition to the extension of Kabila's rule will spark demonstrations that will be met by violence by a government determined to maintain its hold on power. We are facing the real danger that the DRC—a nation that borders on nine of its neighbors and which makes vital contributions to the global economy—could be thrown into a level of chaos that will have an adverse impact not just within its borders but far beyond its borders as well.

□ 1230

President Kabila continues to make every effort to maintain power, even sending delegations abroad to mislead foreign governments on his intention to hold elections at the earliest possible date. His emissaries assured us in September that the scheduled 2016 elections could be held in the summer of 2017 as a result of national dialogue. However, Kabila manipulated this dialogue, which was boycotted by the genuine political opposition, civil society, and DRC's churches. The eventual conclusion, if this can be believed, was that the elections would be held in late 2018, about 2 years from now.

However, the constitution, which prevents Kabila from running for a third term or changing the constitution to achieve that goal, will be broken if he manages to extend his rule. Even as he interprets the constitution to allow him to continue in office, the constitution makes no provision for parliament to continue to operate. So when the current DRC Government mandate expires on December 19, President Kabila will rule his country with no restraint and no checks or balances from a legislative body.

H. Res. 780 acknowledges the various efforts to frustrate DRC's constitution and democratic process and calls for the Obama administration to levy targeted sanctions on government officials who have acted to prevent free and fair elections from taking place.

The administration has placed some sanctions on some officials, but the pace and scope of sanctions need to match the urgency of the approaching electoral crisis. The leadership of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Africa, Global Health, Global Human

Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, and the full Foreign Affairs Committee have sent a letter to President Obama urging him to widen the targets, and we recommended that a couple of weeks ago.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, time is running out for our government to make the strongest possible statements to the Kabila government to achieve a peaceful, democratic resolution to the crisis that they face. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), the ranking member of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleagues—Mr. SMITH, Mr. ROYCE, and Mr. ENGEL—for their leadership on this resolution.

I rise in support of H. Res. 780, urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its democratic transition of power in 2016.

Simply stated, the resolution calls for the United States' President to use targeted sanctions to address the blatant disrespect for the people in the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as evidenced by the current President of that country, Joseph Kabila. By supporting this critical resolution, we are helping to support the constitutional rights of the citizens of the DRC.

This massive and extraordinarily mineral-rich country is home to approximately 80 million people. Were it not for the consistent absence of democratic and economic good governance, this beautiful country would serve more fittingly as the economic center of gravity for sub-Saharan Africa's Central Africa region, as opposed to being seen at the center of political impunity, increasing human rights concerns, and predictable intraregional tensions.

The violence of the last decade has adversely affected not only the economically dynamic and creative culture of the DRC, but arguably affected those countries in the immediate region, such as South Sudan, the Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, and Burundi. Despite a long history of authoritarian leadership of President Mobutu, a regime, unfortunately, that we supported, we know that the majority of the people of the DRC support a growing and empowered civil society.

Over the past year, the country's expanding civil society successfully orchestrated a series of civic actions in support of constitutionally legislated elections scheduled for this December. For his part, President Kabila has used the past year to attempt, systematically, to undermine the persistent efforts of civil society and opposition

parties in support of presidential elections.

While President Kabila's intention is to secure an extension of his presidential term and delay scheduled elections, the purpose of the resolution is to help prevent the impunity demonstrated by President Kabila and some DRC officials. The resolution calls for the President, working with African and European partners, to use Executive Order 13413, as amended, to deny visas, freeze assets of the implicated officials, and monitor economic and security assistance for the country until the election crisis is resolved. H. Res. 780 is a critical piece of legislation drafted to address a crucial situation in the DRC.

Once again, I thank the subcommittee chairman, CHRIS SMITH, for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, the situation simmering right now in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is such a good example of why the United States can never retreat from our role on the world stage. This is a situation that doesn't touch most Americans directly, so why should we be focused on it, some might wonder. Because anytime and anywhere democracy is under threat, it makes the world a little less safe, it makes regions a little less stable, and it makes populations a little more vulnerable.

Standing up for democracy in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—or anywhere else, for that matter—isn't just good for the people of that country, it is good for all of us. It helps advance American values and American interests. We believe in democracy. And it helps when other countries practice what they preach.

So when people on the ground are fighting for democracy, demanding transparency of their leaders, and trying to make their societies more open and inclusive, we are going to have their backs, and it is what we should be doing. That is what the U.S. does. That is what our values demand. That is what it means to be the global standard bearer for freedom and democracy.

I am glad to support this measure. I again thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership, Mr. SMITH, and Ms. BASS. I urge all Members to do the same.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank Representative SMITH for introducing this important measure and for being a longtime champion on African issues. I again want to thank Mr. ELIOT ENGEL for his forceful communication when we were in Congo on that issue. Frankly, we have had the opportunity to talk to Joseph Kabila in the past. He

wouldn't meet with us on this trip, although we were able to meet with the other representatives of the government, as Mr. ENGEL has laid out.

But if I could talk to Joseph Kabila, what I would share with him is that we should not forget that Nelson Mandela made that decision himself to step down after a single term—after a single term—despite his immense popularity as President. And far from ending his career, his decision represented a transition toward continentwide public service. He became the mediator in African conflicts. He became a prominent voice on health and other issues.

Mr. Speaker, you have seen this as well.

I think that President Mandela's choice to step down just as much as his personal struggle, the personal struggle that Nelson Mandela went through, the combination of those two factors is what allowed him to continue to exert strong moral and diplomatic influence not only in his home country, but across Africa and across the world. If Joseph Kabila would reflect on that by way of example—because, tragically, too many leaders around this globe have failed to heed the wisdom of Nelson Mandela and other staged statesmen of different places and different times, but in this country we go back to George Washington—the result of heeding that, the result of violating the law in one's country, the result of clinging on to power when the constitution says no and canceling elections when the constitution calls for those elections, is to result in negative consequences not just for the government and the people, but, frankly, negative consequences for their own standing as human beings as well.

So there is that possibility for President Kabila to move forward, to do the right thing. That is what we call upon him to do. That is our request. It is not too late for President Kabila and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to change course. This resolution supports those seeking an orderly transfer of power in this important country on the African continent.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 780, "Urging Respect for the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the Democratic Transition of Power in 2016."

H. Res. 780 encourages the United States Government to impose sanctions on government officials of the Democratic Republic of Congo who continue to violate the civil rights of the Congolese people.

The right to free and fair elections is a crucial element of any democracy.

When the right to vote is curtailed, democracy cannot flourish.

The constitution of the Democratic Republic of Congo, guarantees to its citizens the right to vote and the right to choose their leaders in a free and open election.

The current president of the DRC, Joseph Kabila, succeeded his father in 2001, following his assassination.

The highest court in the nation determined that if elections are delayed then President Kabila could remain in power until elections are held.

President Kabila's term ends in December, and elections were set for November.

Unable to constitutionally seek a third term, President Kabila and his officials are delaying elections, citing financial problems, as a way to retain power.

His decision not to hold elections has led to political turmoil, violence and the death of dozens of people.

Human Rights Watch reported that at least 44 people have died during political demonstrations.

The Constitution was adopted to avoid the troubling onslaught of violence occurring in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which, in its 56 years since independence, has never experienced a peaceful transition of power.

Wherever there is a threat to freedom and democracy, it is the tradition of the United States to assist, to the furthest possible extent, freedom loving people in achieving their democratic aspirations.

President Joseph Kabila and other government officials have violated the rights of the Congolese people, and the law of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

For these reasons, I support the sanctions taken by the Administration to correct these violations, and I support H. Res. 780.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 780, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5332) to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiations processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5332

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Around the world, women remain under-represented in conflict prevention,

conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace building efforts.

(2) Despite the historic under-representation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in—

(A) moderating violent extremism;

(B) countering terrorism;

(C) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and

(D) stabilizing societies by enhancing the effectiveness of security services, peace-keeping efforts, institutions, and decision-making processes.

(3) Research shows that—

(A) peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women's groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;

(B) once reached, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women have participated in the negotiation process; and

(C) when women meaningfully participate, peace negotiations are more likely to address the underlying causes of the conflict, leading to more sustainable outcomes.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes helps to promote more inclusive and democratic societies and is critical to the long-term stability of countries and regions;

(2) the political participation and leadership of women in fragile environments, particularly during democratic transitions, is critical to sustaining lasting democratic institutions; and

(3) the United States should be a global leader in promoting the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of conflict prevention, management, and resolution, and post-conflict relief and recovery efforts, reinforced through diplomatic efforts and programs that—

(1) integrate the perspectives and interests of affected women into conflict-prevention activities and strategies;

(2) encourage partner governments to adopt plans to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes and decision-making institutions;

(3) promote the physical safety, economic security, and dignity of women and girls;

(4) support the equal access of women to aid distribution mechanisms and services;

(5) collect and analyze gender data for the purpose of developing and enhancing early warning systems of conflict and violence;

(6) adjust policies and programs to improve outcomes in gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

(7) monitor, analyze, and evaluate the efforts related to each strategy submitted under section 5 and the impact of such efforts.

SEC. 5. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO PROMOTE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than October 1, 2017, October 1, 2022, and October 1, 2027, the President, in consultation with the heads of the relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate

congressional committees and make publicly available a single government-wide strategy, to be known as the Women, Peace, and Security Strategy, that provides a detailed description of how the United States intends to fulfill the policy objectives in section 4. The strategy shall—

(1) support and be aligned with plans developed by other countries to improve the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes, conflict prevention, peace building, transitional processes, and decision-making institutions; and

(2) include specific and measurable goals, benchmarks, performance metrics, time-tables, and monitoring and evaluation plans, to ensure the accountability and effectiveness of all policies and initiatives carried out under the strategy.

(b) SPECIFIC PLANS FOR AGENCIES.—Each strategy under subsection (a) shall include a specific implementation plan from each of the relevant Federal departments and agencies that describes—

(1) the anticipated contributions of the department or agency, including technical, financial, and in-kind contributions, to implement the strategy; and

(2) the efforts of the department or agency to ensure that the policies and initiatives carried out pursuant to the strategy are designed to achieve maximum impact and long-term sustainability.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF STATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Within each relevant bureau of the Department of State, the Secretary of State shall task the current Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary with the responsibility for the implementation of the strategy under subsection (a) and the specific implementation plan for the Department under subsection (b), with respect to the roles and responsibilities of such bureau. The Principal Deputy Assistant Secretaries tasked with such responsibility shall meet, at least twice a year, to review the implementation of the strategy and the plan and to contribute to the report under section 8(b).

(d) COORDINATION.—The President should promote the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, in coordination and consultation with international partners, including multilateral organizations, stakeholders, and other relevant international organizations, particularly in situations in which the direct engagement of the United States is not appropriate or advisable.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President, in implementing each strategy submitted under subsection (a), should—

(1) provide technical assistance, training, and logistical support to female negotiators, mediators, peace builders, and stakeholders;

(2) address security-related barriers to the meaningful participation of women;

(3) increase the participation of women in existing programs funded by the United States Government that provide training to foreign nationals regarding law enforcement, the rule of law, or professional military education;

(4) support appropriate local organizations, especially women's peace building organizations;

(5) support the training, education, and mobilization of men and boys as partners in support of the meaningful participation of women;

(6) encourage the development of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms that are inclusive of the experiences and perspectives of women and girls;

(7) expand and apply gender analysis to improve program design and targeting; and

(8) conduct assessments that include the perspectives of women before implementing any new initiatives in support of peace negotiations, transitional justice and accountability, efforts to counter violent extremism, or security sector reform.

SEC. 6. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING.

(a) **FOREIGN SERVICE.**—The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall ensure that all appropriate personnel (including special envoys, members of mediation or negotiation teams, relevant members of the civil service or Foreign Service, and contractors) responsible for or deploying to countries or regions considered to be at risk of, undergoing, or emerging from violent conflict obtain training, as appropriate, in the following areas, each of which shall include a focus on women and ensuring meaningful participation by women:

(1) Conflict prevention, mitigation, and resolution.

(2) Protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

(3) International human rights law and international humanitarian law.

(b) **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that relevant personnel receive training, as appropriate, in the following areas:

(1) Training in conflict prevention, peace processes, mitigation, resolution, and security initiatives that specifically addresses the importance of meaningful participation by women.

(2) Gender considerations and meaningful participation by women, including training regarding—

(A) international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as relevant; and

(B) protecting civilians from violence, exploitation, and trafficking in persons.

(3) Effective strategies and best practices for ensuring meaningful participation by women.

SEC. 7. CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall establish guidelines for overseas United States personnel of the Department or the Agency, as the case may be, to consult with stakeholders regarding United States efforts to—

(1) prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict; and

(2) enhance the success of mediation and negotiation processes by ensuring the meaningful participation of women.

(b) **FREQUENCY AND SCOPE.**—The consultations required under subsection (a) shall take place regularly and include a range and representative sample of stakeholders, including local women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, and other politically under-represented or marginalized populations.

(c) **COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION.**—The Secretary of State should work with international, regional, national, and local organizations to increase the meaningful participation of women in international peacekeeping operations, and should promote training that provides international peacekeeping personnel with the substantive knowledge and skills needed to ensure effective

physical security and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peace building.

SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) **BRIEFING.**—The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Secretary of Defense, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees, not later than one year after the date of the first submission of a strategy required under section 5, on—

(1) existing, enhanced, and newly established training carried out pursuant to section 6; and

(2) the guidelines established for overseas United States personnel to engage in consultations with stakeholders, pursuant to section 7.

(b) **REPORT ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY STRATEGY.**—Not later than two years after the date of the submission of each strategy required under section 5, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) summarizes and evaluates the implementation of such strategy and the impact of United States diplomatic efforts and foreign assistance programs, projects, and activities to promote the meaningful participation of women;

(2) describes the nature and extent of the coordination among the relevant Federal departments and agencies on the implementation of such strategy;

(3) outlines the monitoring and evaluation tools, mechanisms, and common indicators to assess progress made on the policy objectives in section 4; and

(4) describes the existing, enhanced, and newly established training carried out pursuant to section 6.

SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **STAKEHOLDERS.**—The term “stakeholders” means non-governmental and private sector entities engaged in or affected by conflict prevention and stabilization, peace building, protection, security, transition initiatives, humanitarian response, or related efforts, including—

(A) registered or non-registered nonprofit organizations, advocacy groups, business or trade associations, labor unions, cooperatives, credit unions, relief or development organizations, community and faith-based organizations, philanthropic foundations, and tribal leaders or structures;

(B) independent media, educational, or research institutions; and

(C) private enterprises, including international development firms, banks, and other financial institutions, particularly small businesses and businesses owned by women or disadvantaged groups.

(3) **MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION.**—The term “meaningful participation” means safe, genuine, and effective access to, and present and active involvement in the full range of formal or informal processes related to negotiation or mediation with respect to any efforts toward the following:

(A) Conflict prevention.

(B) Resolution or mitigation of, or transition from, violent conflict.

(C) Peacekeeping and peace building.

(D) Post-conflict reconstruction, transition initiatives, elections, and governance.

(E) Humanitarian response and recovery.

(4) **RELEVANT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**—The term “relevant Federal departments and agencies” means—

(A) the United States Agency for International Development;

(B) the Department of State;

(C) the Department of Defense;

(D) the Department of Homeland Security; and

(E) any other department or agency specified by the President for purposes of this Act.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the **RECORD**.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. This is the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016. It is H.R. 5332.

I want to recognize Representative KRISTI NOEM and Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY for their bipartisan leadership on this measure and, of course, Ranking Member ENGEL for his important work on it.

Earlier this year, the Foreign Affairs Committee held a hearing. This was part of our series on women in foreign affairs, where we heard powerful testimony about the importance of including women in peace processes around the world. We heard from those who had been engaged, including the powerful voice of one who had helped bring about the peace process in Northern Ireland.

It may seem obvious that women should have an opportunity to represent their communities as a matter of right—they make up half of the population. And what negotiation, what agreement, can claim to represent women if their participation is barred.

Our hearing also emphasized another fact, and that is why women's participation in peace processes is important if we care about the likelihood of the success of that process. Simply put, when women are at the negotiating table, peace is more likely.

Why would that be? Because research shows that a peace agreement is more likely to be reached—in fact, 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years—when women are involved. When you consider that historically half of all

peace agreements fail—and they fail within the first 5 years—women's involvement becomes imperative. Think about the lives saved and the economies maintained by a 35 percent decrease in repeated conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, from Liberia to Northern Ireland, we have watched women play pivotal roles in that effort of reaching out to governments, lobbying governments, impressing the combatants, and pushing politicians to end a conflict.

□ 1245

Women peacemakers often press warring parties to move beyond mere power-sharing agreements that benefit only a small percentage of fighters and, instead, shift that ground, debate over a comprehensive and longer term accord, and reach those accords that benefit the full civilian population as a whole. Once an agreement is reached, these women can play a critical role in building support within the communities, and that is why the legislation before us today is so important. This bill recognizes the fact that it is in our national interest to promote women's participation in resolving conflicts globally, and it requires a government-wide strategy—an effort—to advance this goal.

In 2011, the administration issued a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. Recently, it published its update, H.R. 5332. This bill, which is the result of our work and the result of the authors' work, builds on this effort by requiring specific goals and benchmarks for women's participation, along with the regular reporting to Congress so as to gauge progress. The bill also requires that appropriate State Department and USAID and Defense Department personnel receive training on how to facilitate women's participation in conflict resolution, in security initiatives, and in efforts to protect civilians from violence and exploitation. Then it pushes this concept and gets them into the effort to do so.

I urge all Members to support its passage.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write concerning H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016, as amended, which has been referred to the Committee on Armed Services. I am writing to confirm that, although there are certain provisions in the bill that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, the committee will forgo action on this bill in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration.

I am glad we agree that forgoing consideration of the bill does not prejudice the Committee on Armed Services with respect to any future jurisdictional claim over the provisions contained in the bill or similar legis-

lation that fall within the committee's Rule X jurisdiction. I request you urge the Speaker to appoint members of the committee to any conference committee convened to consider such provisions.

Please place a copy of this letter and your response acknowledging our jurisdictional interest into the committee report on H.R. 5332 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,
WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 3, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2016, and for agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of that bill.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5332 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with your Committee as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure.

Again, let me first thank our chairman, ED ROYCE, for helping to advance this bill. I thank the bill's authors: Representative NOEM and Representative SCHAKOWSKY. Representative SCHAKOWSKY, especially, has been focusing for years on the vulnerabilities that face women and girls in conflicts and on the unique role in which women can play in working to build peace. Ms. SCHAKOWSKY has been spending a great deal of her time in representing issues such as the one in this bill. In fact, she was the first one who told me about the bill and what they were doing in terms of putting it together; so I really want to commend her.

It has been nearly 5 years, Mr. Speaker, since the Obama administration unveiled the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. The idea at the center of the strategy is the importance of women in their helping to prevent and resolve conflicts. Thanks to the administration's efforts, the U.S. has worked to include women in conflict prevention, negotiation, and resolution. We have promoted efforts to enhance the physical and economic

security of women around the world, and we have sought to break through the barriers that have stopped women from being full participants in peace processes. We haven't taken these steps on a hunch. Research has shown that peace negotiations are more likely to succeed when women have influential positions in the negotiation process.

The bill we are considering would make these policies permanent. It would build on what the Obama administration has accomplished by making sure State Department, USAID, and Pentagon personnel are fully trained on the unique strengths that women bring to conflict prevention and resolution. It would also require annual reporting so that Congress can stay apprised of these efforts. I think making this strategy permanent is absolutely imperative. After all, even though the administration and bipartisan leadership in Congress have seen the value of this approach, we have no idea how future administrations and Presidents and Congresses will view women or if they will fully appreciate how women's participation can make our foreign policies stronger.

I am pleased to support this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM), the author of this bill.

Mrs. NOEM. I, personally, thank the chairman for considering this important bill, and I thank Representative SCHAKOWSKY for being willing to pursue policies such as this and get them signed into statute. That is the only way we can really be assured that they will continue into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act. I introduced this bill with Representative SCHAKOWSKY to increase and strengthen women's participation in peace negotiations and in conflict prevention globally.

The threats to our national security are troubling, and groups like ISIL are determined to destroy us and our system of values. Russia and China are using economic and military forces to expand their global influences. Middle East instability is raising questions as to how the conflict will impact our global economy and America's national security.

With so much occurring, peace negotiations are ongoing. At least one study showed us that, in conflict resolution processes, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years when women are involved. Women can often encourage healthy choices within the home and can advocate for their children's education and welfare. Both of these help ensure greater stability by giving young people opportunity outside of conflict.

Their roles in the global economy also help raise countries out of poverty. By bringing these perspectives to the negotiating table, different priorities often emerge, which make peace negotiations much more likely to address a conflict's underlying causes. We have seen this to be true in places like Northern Ireland, Africa, and Asia.

With all of this in mind, I introduced the Women, Peace, and Security Act, along with Representative SCHAKOWSKY, and with Chairman ROYCE's and Ranking Member ENGEL's help. The bipartisan legislation ensures that women have a seat at the table when peace negotiations are ongoing. It makes sure that there is meaningful congressional oversight. This bill builds on existing U.S. initiatives while requiring a focused and long-term strategy with greater congressional oversight. Our legislation will help introduce further accountability. By doing so, I am hopeful that we can provide even greater sustainability outcomes during future conflict resolutions and peace negotiation processes.

I thank the Speaker for considering H.R. 5332, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), who has played such a leading role on these issues.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5332, the Women, Peace, and Security Act.

First, I thank my partner in this effort, Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM, for all of her work in making this day come, as well as to thank Chairman ROYCE, who not only spoke so eloquently about the importance of this legislation, but who helped to make it happen today. I thank Ranking Member ENGEL for his leadership in moving this legislation forward. I am so appreciative.

This is a bipartisan, budget-neutral bill to encourage the participation of women in creating peace. As Congressman ROYCE said, when women are involved in the peace process, negotiations are more likely to end in lasting agreements. He is right in that the International Peace Institute found that a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last for at least 15 years if women participate in drafting the agreement. The study also found that, with a 5 percent increase in women's political participation, a nation is five times less likely to use violence when faced with international crisis or conflict. Promoting the participation of women abroad is in our country's strategic interest as it increases stability and economic prosperity. However, women remain underrepresented in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict peace-building efforts around the world.

The Women, Peace, and Security Act is a step toward fixing that imbalance and promoting a more peaceful future. The Women, Peace, and Security Act would, for the very first time, establish women's participation as a permanent element of U.S. foreign policy under congressional oversight. It would also promote greater transparency and accountability in efforts at the Department of Defense and the Department of State. Under the Women, Peace, and Security Act, those departments would report annually to Congress on efforts to actively recruit women and to promote women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution.

The bill would encourage the United States to assist women mediators and negotiators by eliminating barriers to their equal and secure participation in peace processes. In addition, it would institute comprehensive training modules on the protection, rights, and specific needs of women in conflict and would require the administration to evaluate the impact of U.S. foreign assistance on women's meaningful political participation.

The United States plays such a crucial role in promoting peace all over the world. By making women's participation in the peace process a national priority, we will improve national and global security. I am proud to join Congresswoman NOEM in championing this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Once again, I thank Chairman ED ROYCE as well as Representatives NOEM and SCHAKOWSKY for their hard work. This is truly bipartisan and is very good for the country.

This is one of these issues that wouldn't have occurred to many people a generation ago or even a decade ago, but thanks to hard work, research, and innovative thinking, we now know how critical it is that women have a seat at the table when we are working to prevent and resolve conflicts. This bill will help ensure that our foreign policy stays on the cutting edge.

I hope, in the future, we will continue to do the hard work that is needed to drive new ideas in foreign policy and to understand the complexities and sensitivities of our interconnected, global landscape. This isn't kid stuff, and we shouldn't treat it lightly; so I am grateful for the commitment of my colleagues that has helped move this bill forward. I urge a "yes" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

From Syria to Afghanistan to Sudan, armed conflicts are raging all over this globe, and efforts to negotiate their ends are more important now than ever. We know that when women are

included in these discussions that we are much more likely to see an enduring peace. As a witness at our hearing on women's participation explained: including women is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

The legislation before us today will strengthen U.S. efforts to promote the inclusion of women in peace negotiations in order to create more sustainable agreements and reduce that likelihood that we have seen over and over again of a return to conflict.

I take this moment to thank Representatives NOEM and SCHAKOWSKY for their bipartisan work on this measure. I also want to mention a few staff members who have not only worked on our series of focusing month after month on empowering women in negotiations, but on issues beyond that—human trafficking. I especially want to thank Jessica Kelch, Janice Kaguyutan, Renee Munasifi, and Elizabeth Cunningham. I thank them all for their efforts throughout the years on these issues.

As we close, I really urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5332, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1538

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN) at 3 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.

CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5732) to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5732

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings.

Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 4. Statement of policy.

TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

Sec. 101. Sanctions with respect to Central Bank of Syria and foreign persons that engage in certain transactions.

Sec. 102. Prohibitions with respect to the transfer of arms and related materials to Syria.

Sec. 103. Rule of construction.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions with respect to certain persons who are responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses committed against citizens of Syria or their family members.

Sec. 202. Imposition of sanctions with respect to the transfer of goods or technologies to Syria that are likely to be used to commit human rights abuses.

Sec. 203. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons who hinder humanitarian access.

TITLE III—REPORTS AND WAIVER FOR HUMANITARIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

Sec. 301. Report on monitoring and evaluating of ongoing assistance programs in Syria and to the Syrian people.

Sec. 302. Report on certain persons who are responsible for or complicit in certain human rights violations in Syria.

Sec. 303. Assessment of potential effectiveness of and requirements for the establishment of safe zones or a no-fly zone in Syria.

Sec. 304. Assistance to support entities taking actions relating to gathering evidence for investigations into war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria since March 2011.

TITLE IV—SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

Sec. 401. Suspension of sanctions with respect to Syria.

Sec. 402. Waivers and exemptions.

TITLE V—REGULATORY AUTHORITY, COST LIMITATION, AND SUNSET

Sec. 501. Regulatory authority.

Sec. 502. Cost limitation.

Sec. 503. Sunset.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Over 14,000,000 Syrians have become refugees or internally displaced persons over the last five years.

(2) The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has reported that since 2012, over 60,000 Syrians, including children, have died in Syrian prisons.

(3) In July 2014, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives heard testimony from a former Syrian military photographer, alias “Caesar”, who fled Syria and smuggled out thousands of photos of tortured bodies. In testimony, Caesar said, “I have seen horrendous pictures of bodies of people who had tremendous amounts of torture, deep wounds and burns and strangulation.”

(4) In a June 16, 2015, hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Samantha Power, testified that there are alarming and grave reports that the Assad regime has been turning chlorine into a chemical weapon, and on June 16, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry stated that he was “absolutely certain” that the Assad regime has used chlorine against his people.

(5) The Assad regime has repeatedly blocked civilian access to or diverted humanitarian assistance, including medical supplies, to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

(6) The course of the Syrian transition and its future leadership may depend on what the United States and its partners do now to save Syrian lives, alleviate suffering, and help Syrians determine their own future.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Bashar al-Assad’s murderous actions against the people of Syria have caused the deaths of more than 400,000 civilians, led to the destruction of more than 50 percent of Syria’s critical infrastructure, and forced the displacement of more than 14,000,000 people, precipitating the worst humanitarian crisis in more than 60 years;

(2) international actions to date have been insufficient in protecting vulnerable populations from being attacked by uniformed and irregular forces, including Hezbollah, associated with the Assad regime, on land and from the air, through the use of barrel bombs, chemical weapons, mass starvation campaigns, industrial-scale torture and execution of political dissidents, sniper attacks on pregnant women, and the deliberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, residential areas, and community gathering places, including markets;

(3) Assad’s use of chemical weapons, including chlorine, against the Syrian people violates the Chemical Weapons Convention; and

(4) Assad’s continued claim of leadership and actions in Syria are a rallying point for the extremist ideology of the Islamic State, Jabhat al-Nusra, and other terrorist organizations.

SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that all diplomatic and coercive economic means should be utilized to compel the government of Bashir al-Assad to immediately halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people and actively work towards transition to a democratic government in Syria, existing in peace and security with its neighbors.

TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

SEC. 101. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CENTRAL BANK OF SYRIA AND FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) **APPLICATION OF CERTAIN MEASURES TO CENTRAL BANK OF SYRIA.**—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of section 402, the President shall apply the measures described in section 5318A(b)(5) of title 31, United States Code, to the Central Bank of Syria.

(b) **BLOCKING PROPERTY OF FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on and after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose on a foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (c) if the President determines that such foreign person has, on or after such date of enactment, knowingly engaged in an activity described in paragraph (2).

(2) **ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.**—A foreign person engages in an activity described in this paragraph if the foreign person—

(A) knowingly provided significant financial, material or technological support to (including engaging in or facilitating a significant transaction or transactions with) or provided significant financial services for—

(i) the Government of Syria (including Syria’s intelligence and security services or its armed forces or government entities operating as a business enterprise) and the Central Bank of Syria, or any of its agents or affiliates; or

(ii) a foreign person subject to sanctions pursuant to—

(I) the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to Syria or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions with respect to Syria; or

(II) a resolution that is agreed to by the United Nations Security Council that imposes sanctions with respect to Syria;

(B) knowingly—

(i) sold or provided significant goods, services, technology, information, or other support that could directly and significantly facilitate the maintenance or expansion of Syria’s domestic production of natural gas or petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin in areas controlled by the Government of Syria;

(ii) sold or provided to Syria crude oil or condensate, refined petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, or petrochemical products that have a fair market value of \$500,000 or more or that during a 12-month period have an aggregate fair market value of \$2,000,000 or more in areas controlled by the Government of Syria;

(iii) sold or provided civilian aircraft or spare parts, or provides significant goods, services, or technologies associated with the operation of aircraft or airlines to any foreign person operating in areas controlled by the Government of Syria; or

(iv) sold or provided significant goods, services, or technology to a foreign person operating in the shipping (including ports and free trade zones), transportation, or telecommunications sectors in areas controlled by the Government of Syria;

(C) knowingly facilitated efforts by a foreign person to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

(D) knowingly provided loans, credits, including export credits, or financing to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(E) is owned or controlled by a foreign person that engaged in the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

(C) **SANCTIONS AGAINST A FOREIGN PERSON.**—The sanctions to be imposed on a foreign person described in subsection (b) are the following:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) **ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(A) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) regardless of when issued.

(2) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under clause (i)—

(I) shall take effect immediately; and

(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(3) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(4) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that knowingly violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations promulgated under section 501(a) to carry out paragraph (1) of this subsection to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that knowingly commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **FINANCIAL, MATERIAL, OR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT.**—The term “financial, material, or technological support” has the meaning given such term in section 542.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA.**—The term “Government of Syria” has the meaning given such term in section 542.305 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **KNOWINGLY.**—The term “knowingly” has the meaning given such term in section 566.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) **PETROLEUM OR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS OF SYRIAN ORIGIN.**—The term “petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin” has the meaning given such term in section 542.314 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) **SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION OR TRANSACTIONS; SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL SERVICES.**—A transaction or transactions or financial services shall be determined to be a significant for purposes of this section in accordance with section 566.404 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(7) **SYRIA.**—The term “Syria” has the meaning given such term in section 542.316 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. PROHIBITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF ARMS AND RELATED MATERIALS TO SYRIA.

(a) **SANCTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Beginning on and after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose on a foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (b) if the President determines that such foreign person has, on or after such date of enactment, knowingly exported, transferred, or provided significant financial, material, or technological support to the Government of Syria to—

(A) acquire or develop chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons or related technologies;

(B) acquire or develop ballistic or cruise missile capabilities;

(C) acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons;

(D) acquire defense articles, defense services, or defense information (as such terms are defined under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.); or

(E) acquire items designated by the President for purposes of the United States Munitions List under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)).

(2) **APPLICABILITY TO OTHER FOREIGN PERSONS.**—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall also be imposed on any foreign person that—

(A) is a successor entity to a foreign person described in paragraph (1); or

(B) is owned or controlled by a foreign person described in paragraph (1).

(b) **SANCTIONS AGAINST A FOREIGN PERSON.**—The sanctions to be imposed on a foreign person described in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) **ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(A) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) regardless of when issued.

(2) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under clause (i)—

(I) shall take effect immediately; and

(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(3) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

(4) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **FINANCIAL, MATERIAL, OR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT.**—The term “financial, material, or technological support” has the meaning given such term in section 542.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” has the meaning given such term in section 594.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **KNOWINGLY.**—The term “knowingly” has the meaning given such term in section 566.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) **SYRIA.**—The term “Syria” has the meaning given such term in section 542.316 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(6) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” has the meaning given such term in section 542.319 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 103. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The sanctions that are required to be imposed under this title are in addition to other similar or related sanctions that are required to be imposed under any other provision of law.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012**SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST CITIZENS OF SYRIA OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 702(c) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8791(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person on the list required by subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(2) **ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

“(A) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) is—

“(i) inadmissible to the United States;

“(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

“(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

“(B) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) regardless of when issued.

“(ii) **EFFECT OF REVOCATION.**—A revocation under clause (i)—

“(I) shall take effect immediately; and

“(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

“(3) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

“(4) **REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section.

“(5) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement re-

garding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

“(6) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the President to impose additional sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), relevant Executive orders, regulations, or other provisions of law.”.

(b) **SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DESCRIBED.**—Section 702 of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8791) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DESCRIBED.**—In subsection (b), the term ‘serious human rights abuses’ includes—

“(1) the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure to include schools, hospitals, and markets; and

“(2) hindering the prompt and safe access for all actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities, including across conflict lines and borders.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to the imposition of sanctions under section 702(a) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 on after such date of enactment.

SEC. 202. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES TO SYRIA THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE USED TO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

Section 703(b)(2)(C) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8792(b)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) any article designated by the President for purposes of the United States Munitions List under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)); or

“(iv) other goods or technologies that the President determines may be used by the Government of Syria to commit human rights abuses against the people of Syria.”.

SEC. 203. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO HINDER HUMANITARIAN ACCESS.

The Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8791 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 705 and 706 as sections 706 and 707, respectively;

(2) by inserting after section 704 the following:

“SEC. 705. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO HINDER HUMANITARIAN ACCESS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose sanctions described in section 702(c) with respect to each person on the list required by subsection (b).

“(b) **LIST OF PERSONS WHO HINDER HUMANITARIAN ACCESS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of persons that the President determines have engaged in hindering the prompt and safe access for the United Nations, its specialized agencies and implementing partners, national and

international non-governmental organizations, and all other actors engaged in humanitarian relief activities in Syria, including across conflict lines and borders.

“(2) **UPDATES OF LIST.**—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—

“(A) not later than 300 days after the date of the enactment of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016 and every 180 days thereafter; and

“(B) as new information becomes available.

“(3) **FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—

“(A) **FORM.**—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(B) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The unclassified portion of the list required by paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the websites of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State.”; and

(3) in section 706 (as so redesignated), by striking “or 704” and inserting “704, or 705”.

TITLE III—REPORTS AND WAIVER FOR HUMANITARIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA**SEC. 301. REPORT ON MONITORING AND EVALUATING OF ONGOING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN SYRIA AND TO THE SYRIAN PEOPLE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing assistance programs in Syria and to the Syrian people.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the specific project monitoring and evaluation plans, including measurable goals and performance metrics for assistance in Syria; and

(2) the major challenges to monitoring and evaluating programs in Syria.

SEC. 302. REPORT ON CERTAIN PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN CERTAIN HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SYRIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report with respect to whether each person described in subsection (b) is a person that meets the requirements described in section 702(b) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8791(b) for purposes of inclusion on the list of persons who are responsible for or complicit in certain human rights abuses under such section. For any such person who is not included in such report, the President should include in the report a description of the reasons why the person was not included, including information on whether sufficient credible evidence of responsibility for such abuses was found.

(b) **PERSONS DESCRIBED.**—The persons described in this subsection are the following:

- (1) Bashar Al-Assad.
- (2) Asma Al-Assad.
- (3) Rami Makhlouf.
- (4) Bouthayna Shaaban.
- (5) Walid Moallem.
- (6) Ali Al-Salim.
- (7) Wael Nader Al-Halqi.

- (8) Jamil Hassan.
- (9) Suhail Hassan.
- (10) Ali Mamluk.
- (11) Muhammed Khadour, Deir Ez Zor Military and Security.
- (12) Jamal Razzouq, Security Branch 243.
- (13) Munzer Ghanam, Air Force Intelligence.
- (14) Daas Hasan Ali, Branch 327.
- (15) Jassem Ali Jassem Hamad, Political Security.
- (16) Samir Muhammad Youssef, Military Intelligence.
- (17) Ali Ahmad Dayoub, Air Force Intelligence.
- (18) Khaled Muhsen Al-Halabi, Security Branch 335.
- (19) Mahmoud Kahila, Political Security.
- (20) Zuhair Ahmad Hamad, Provincial Security.
- (21) Wafiq Nasser, Security Branch 245.
- (22) Qussay Mayoub, Air Force Intelligence.
- (23) Muhammad Ammar Sardini, Political Security.
- (24) Fouad Hammouda, Military Security.
- (25) Hasan Daaboul, Branch 261.
- (26) Yahia Wahbi, Air Force Intelligence.
- (27) Okab Saqer, Security Branch 318.
- (28) Husam Luqa, Political Security.
- (29) Sami Al-Hasan, Security Branch 219.
- (30) Yassir Deeb, Political Security.
- (31) Ibrahim Darwish, Security Branch 220.
- (32) Nasser Deeb, Political Security.
- (33) Abdullatif Al-Fahed, Security Branch 290.
- (34) Adeeb Namer Salamah, Air Force Intelligence.
- (35) Akram Muhammed, State Security.
- (36) Reyad Abbas, Political Security.
- (37) Ali Abdullah Ayoub, Syrian Armed Forces.
- (38) Fahd Jassem Al-Freij, Defense Ministry.
- (39) Issam Halaq, Air Force.
- (40) Ghassan Al-Abdullah, General Intelligence Directorate.
- (41) Maher Al-Assad, Republican Guard.
- (42) Fahad Al-Farouch.
- (43) Rafiq Shahada, Military Intelligence.
- (44) Loay Al-Ali, Military Intelligence.
- (45) Nawfal Al-Husayn, Military Intelligence.
- (46) Muhammad Zamrini, Military Intelligence.
- (47) Muhammad Mahallah, Military Intelligence.

(c) **FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—

(1) **FORM.**—The list required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

(2) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The unclassified portion of the list required by paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the Web sites of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State.

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

SEC. 303. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE ZONES OR A NO-FLY ZONE IN SYRIA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committee a report that—

(1) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks, and operational requirements of the establishment and maintenance of a no-fly zone over part or all of Syria, including—

(A) the operational and legal requirements for United States and coalition air power to establish a no-fly zone in Syria;

(B) the impact a no-fly zone in Syria would have on humanitarian and counterterrorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding region; and

(C) the potential for force contributions from other countries to establish a no-fly zone in Syria; and

(2) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks, and operational requirements for the establishment of one or more safe zones in Syria for internally displaced persons or for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance, including—

(A) the operational and legal requirements for United States and coalition forces to establish one or more safe zones in Syria;

(B) the impact one or more safe zones in Syria would have on humanitarian and counterterrorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding region; and

(C) the potential for contributions from other countries and vetted non-state actor partners to establish and maintain one or more safe zones in Syria.

(b) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

(c) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

SEC. 304. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ENTITIES TAKING ACTIONS RELATING TO GATHERING EVIDENCE FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO WAR CRIMES OR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN SYRIA SINCE MARCH 2011.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, is authorized to provide assistance to support entities that are conducting criminal investigations, building Syrian investigative capacity, supporting prosecutions in national courts, collecting evidence and preserving the chain of evidence for eventual prosecution against those who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria, including the aiding and abetting of such crimes by foreign governments and organizations supporting the Government of Syria, since March 2011.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a detailed report on assistance provided under subsection (a).

TITLE IV—SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

SEC. 401. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA.

(a) **SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.**—

(1) **NEGOTIATIONS NOT CONCLUDING IN AGREEMENT.**—If the President determines that internationally recognized negotiations to resolve the violence in Syria have not concluded in an agreement or are likely not to conclude in an agreement, the President may suspend, as appropriate, in whole or in part, the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this Act or any amendment made by this Act for a period not to exceed 120 days, and renewable for additional periods not to exceed 120 days, if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees in writing a determination and certification that the Government of Syria has ended military attacks against and gross violations of the human rights of the Syrian people, specifically—

(A) the air space over Syria is no longer being utilized by the Government of Syria and associated forces to target civilian populations through the use of incendiary devices, including barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and conventional arms, including air-delivered missiles and explosives;

(B) areas besieged by the Assad regime and associated forces, including Hezbollah and irregular Iranian forces, are no longer cut off from international aid and have regular access to humanitarian assistance, freedom of travel, and medical care;

(C) the Government of Syria is releasing all political prisoners forcibly held within the Assad regime prison system, including the facilities maintained by various security, intelligence, and military elements associated with the Government of Syria and allowed full access to the same facilities for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations; and

(D) the forces of the Government of Syria and associated forces, including Hezbollah, irregular Iranian forces, and Russian government air assets, are no longer engaged in deliberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, residential areas, and community gathering places, including markets, in flagrant violation of international norms.

(2) **NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDING IN AGREEMENT.**—

(A) **INITIAL SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.**—If the President determines that internationally recognized negotiations to resolve the violence in Syria have concluded in an agreement or are likely to conclude in an agreement, the President may suspend, as appropriate, in whole or in part, the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this Act or any amendment made by this Act for a period not to exceed 120 days if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees in writing a determination and certification that—

(i) in the case in which the negotiations are likely to conclude in an agreement—

(I) the Government of Syria, the Syrian High Negotiations Committee or its successor, and appropriate international parties are participating in direct, face-to-face negotiations; and

(II) the suspension of sanctions under this Act or any amendment made by this Act is essential to the advancement of such negotiations; and

(ii) the Government of Syria has demonstrated a commitment to a significant and substantial reduction in attacks on and violence against the Syrian people by the Government of Syria and associated forces.

(B) RENEWAL OF SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may renew a suspension of sanctions under subparagraph (A) for additional periods not to exceed 120 days if, for each such additional period, the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees in writing a determination and certification that—

(i) the conditions described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) are continuing to be met;

(ii) the renewal of the suspension of sanctions is essential to implementing an agreement described in subparagraph (A) or making progress toward concluding an agreement described in subparagraph (A);

(iii) the Government of Syria and associated forces have ceased attacks against Syrian civilians; and

(iv) the Government of Syria has publicly committed to negotiations for a transitional government in Syria and continues to demonstrate that commitment through sustained engagement in talks and substantive and verifiable progress towards the implementation of such an agreement.

(3) BRIEFING AND REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

(A) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a determination and certification in the case of a renewal of suspension of sanctions under paragraph (2)(B), and every 30 days thereafter, the President shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the status and frequency of negotiations described in paragraph (2).

(B) RE-IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—If the President provides a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees under subparagraph (A) with respect to which the President indicates a lapse in negotiations described in paragraph (2) for a period that equals or exceeds 90 days, the sanctions that were suspended under paragraph (2)(B) shall be re-imposed and any further suspension of such sanctions is prohibited.

(4) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DETERMINING A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SYRIA.—It is the sense of Congress that a transitional government in Syria is a government that—

(1) is taking verifiable steps to release all political prisoners and provided full access to Syrian prisons for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations;

(2) is taking verifiable steps to remove former senior Syrian Government officials who are complicit in the conception, implementation, or cover up of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or human rights abuses from government positions and any person subject to sanctions under any provision of law;

(3) is in the process of organizing free and fair elections for a new government—

(A) to be held in a timely manner and scheduled while the suspension of sanctions or the renewal of the suspension of sanctions under this section is in effect; and

(B) to be conducted under the supervision of internationally recognized observers;

(4) is making tangible progress toward establishing an independent judiciary;

(5) is demonstrating respect for and compliance with internationally recognized human rights and basic freedoms as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(6) is taking steps to verifiably fulfill its commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and is making tangible progress toward becoming a signatory to Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, entered into force March 26, 1975, and adhering to the Missile Technology Control Regime and other control lists, as necessary;

(7) has halted the development and deployment of ballistic and cruise missiles; and

(8) is taking verifiable steps to remove from positions of authority within the intelligence and security services as well as the military those who were in a position of authority or responsibility during the conflict and who under the authority of their position were implicated in or implicit in the torture, extrajudicial killing, or execution of civilians, to include those who were involved in decisionmaking or execution of plans to use chemical weapons.

SEC. 402. WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS.

(a) EXEMPTIONS.—The following activities and transactions shall be exempt from sanctions authorized under this Act:

(1) Any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), or to any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) Any transaction necessary to comply with United States obligations under—

(A) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947; or

(B) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967.

(b) HUMANITARIAN AND DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE WAIVER.—

(1) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to fully utilize the waiver authority under this subsection to ensure that adequate humanitarian relief or support for democracy promotion is provided to the Syrian people.

(2) WAIVER.—Except as provided in paragraph (5), the President may waive, on a case-by-case basis, for a period not to exceed 120 days, and renewable for additional periods not to exceed 120 days, the application of sanctions authorized under this Act with respect to a person if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written determination that the waiver is necessary for purposes of providing humanitarian assistance or support for democracy promotion to the people of Syria.

(3) CONTENT OF WRITTEN DETERMINATION.—A written determination submitted under paragraph (1) with respect to a waiver shall include a description of all notification and accountability controls that have been employed in order to ensure that the activities covered by the waiver are humanitarian assistance or support for democracy promotion and do not entail any activities in Syria or dealings with the Government of Syria not reasonably related to humanitarian assistance or support for democracy promotion.

(4) CLARIFICATION OF PERMITTED ACTIVITIES UNDER WAIVER.—The President may not impose sanctions authorized under this Act against a humanitarian organization for—

(A) engaging in a financial transaction relating to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian purposes pursuant to a waiver issued under paragraph (1);

(B) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assistance or humanitarian purposes pursuant to such a waiver; or

(C) having incidental contact, in the course of providing humanitarian assistance or aid for humanitarian purposes pursuant to such a waiver, with individuals who are under the control of a foreign person subject to sanctions under this Act or any amendment made by this Act unless the organization or its officers, members, representatives or employees have engaged in (or the President knows or has reasonable ground to believe is engaged in or is likely to engage in) conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI)).

(5) EXCEPTION TO WAIVER AUTHORITY.—The President may not exercise the waiver authority under paragraph (2) with respect to a foreign person who has (or whose officers, members, representatives or employees have) engaged in (or the President knows or has reasonable ground to believe is engaged in or is likely to engage in) conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI)).

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, on a case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 120 days, waive the application of sanctions under this Act with respect to a foreign person if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(2) CONSULTATION.—

(A) BEFORE WAIVER ISSUED.—Not later than 5 days before the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1) is to take effect, the President shall notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the foreign person involvement in activities described in this Act.

(B) AFTER WAIVER ISSUED.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and every 120 days thereafter if the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the foreign person's involvement in activities described in this Act.

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(d) CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS' ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), section 542.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to certain services in support of nongovernmental organizations' activities authorized), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, shall—

(A) remain in effect on and after such date of enactment; and

(B) in the case of a nongovernmental organization that is authorized to export or reexport services to Syria under such section on the day before such date of enactment, shall apply to such organization on and after such date of enactment to the same extent and in the same manner as such section applied to such organization on the day before such date of enactment.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Section 542.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, as codified under paragraph (1), shall not apply with respect to a foreign person who has (or whose officers, members, representatives or employees have) engaged in (or the President knows or has reasonable ground to believe is engaged in or is likely to engage in) conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(iv)(VI)).

TITLE V—REGULATORY AUTHORITY, COST LIMITATION, AND SUNSET

SEC. 501. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify and provide to the appropriate congressional committees the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 502. COST LIMITATION.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

SEC. 503. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on December 31, 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to enter any extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, first of all, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL). He is the ranking member of this committee, but he has also been the leader in authorizing this critical

legislation and also has been such a prophetic voice on this subject of Syria policy from the beginning, from that first day when we saw people out, on CNN, out on the streets in Damascus, saying, “peaceful, peaceful,” only to see the automatic weapons of the regime open up on those citizens.

From that day forward, he has tried to focus us on this issue.

I wish this body and I wish the White House had done more to heed his calls, for what we have now is a grim lesson, a grim lesson in human suffering. The Syrian regime has launched wave after wave after wave of unrelenting destruction, and I am talking about the airstrikes, the chemical weapons, the starvation, the industrial-scale torture, and the deliberate targeting, as we have seen time and time again, of hospitals and of schools and of marketplaces with precision bombs, and then with crude barrel bombs, and then with chemical weapons.

These are the hallmarks of life for millions of people in Syria. The number of dead from this alone exceeds 450,000, and another 14 million souls have been driven from their homes.

ISIS plays a role, also, for the people of Syria in the violence that they face there, and so it is that they face this twin challenge. But it is Bashar al-Assad and his backers that have this instrument of death from the air, this capacity.

It is Russia, it is Iran and Hezbollah who now are the primary drivers of the death and the destruction. It is the Russian and Syrian fighter planes, helicopters, that drop these bombs on these hospitals and schools. It is Hezbollah, and it is the IRGC fighters from Iran and the commanders who besiege cities, who burn the crops and prevent food and water and medical supplies from reaching cities. It is Assad's secret police and intelligence groups, the intelligence apparatus of maybe 14 different agencies, who kidnap and then torture and then get new names from those they have killed and then go out to repeat that process and murder civilians from every ethnic group and every political party. Whether Sunni or Shia or Christian or Alawite, none are safe.

We have gone through, in the committee, some of the—well, there were tens of thousands of photographs, but I think we have identified 11,000 souls, people in these photographs that were individually killed, tortured and killed in the prisons, Assad's prisons.

And there is this bizarre—I have never understood it—this bizarre focus on recording every death. That is why we know the numbers, recording the death and putting a number on that body and cataloging this. For some reason, totalitarian regimes have done this from the Soviet era to the Nazis to Pol Pot; and for whatever reason, this practice continues.

The Foreign Affairs Committee heard the agonizing testimony from Syrians caught in this horror, including the brave Syrian defector known to the world now as Caesar and for whom this bill is named, who testified to us of the shocking scale of torture being carried out within the prisons of Syria. It was his job for the regime to document this with his camera.

Throughout all of the suffering, the administration has failed to use the tools at its disposal. Time after time, when given the opportunity to take steps to stop this suffering, the administration has decided not to decide; and that, itself, unfortunately, has set a course where here we sit and we watch, and the violence only worsens.

Mr. Speaker, America has been sitting back and watching these atrocities for far too long. Vital U.S. national security interests are at stake, and from increased humanitarian aid to serious, increased assistance to the moderate opposition, to safe zones, to the application of U.S. economic power, there are options available. These options are available to us.

This particular legislation is designed to increase the cost to Assad and to his outside backers by targeting the sectors of the economy that allow Assad to murder with impunity.

□ 1545

Under the bill, foreign companies and banks will have to choose between doing business with that regime that is carrying out these kinds of practices or with the United States.

For there to be peace in Syria, the parties must come together. And as long as Assad and his backers can slaughter the people of Syria with no consequences, there is no hope for peace.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is long overdue. I urge all Members to support this legislation as we seek to ease the suffering of the Syrian people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2016.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5732 into the Congressional Record during floor

consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 5732, the "Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016."

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5732 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the legislation.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 5732 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, September 16, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I write with respect to H.R. 5732, the "Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016," which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary among others. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 5732 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 5732 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 5732 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in your committee report and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 5732.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 5732, the "Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 5732 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree not to request a sequential referral on this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that by forgoing formal consideration of H.R. 5732, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee on H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016, and for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your declining to pursue a sequential referral in this case does not diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on this bill into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on Ways and Means as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my measure.

First of all, as usual, I want to thank our chairman, ED ROYCE, for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee and for agreeing to bring this bill forward. I am proud to have him as my partner. I am proud to have him as the lead Republican cosponsor of the bill. And more than 80 of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle have joined as cosponsors, putting their support behind this legislation. This is what I said before, this is what we do best on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. Speaker: we advance meaningful legislation with broad-based support.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, as Mr. ROYCE just said, a man known as Caesar sat before the Foreign Affairs Committee and told his story through words and, horrifically, through pictures. He was a photographer who worked for the Assad Government in Syria. The images he captured of the Assad regime's brutality eventually pushed him to defect to the opposition.

His real name wasn't Caesar. He was in hiding. He wore a mask. We couldn't see his face. These are images he shared with members of our committee: images of death, torture, and unthinkable, inhuman cruelty. I will never forget what he showed us. We know that what we saw was the smallest fraction of what the Assad regime was inflicting on its own citizens, and we know that violence has gone on unabated for at least 2 years since. Those bodies—those dead bodies—lined up are unbelievable. I will never get it out of my mind.

More is needed to jolt this crisis out of its bloody status quo. I welcome the

recent decision by the European Union to sanction members of the regime responsible for the brutal air campaign against civilians in Aleppo. We need to look for more ways to work with partners to dial up pressure on Assad and his enablers. This bill would give the administration more tools to do so. It will impose new sanctions on parties that continue to do business with the Assad regime.

As Chairman ROYCE said 3, 3½ years ago, 4 years ago, I thought that we should have aided the Free Syria Army. They came to us in Washington and begged us for help. They weren't looking for American troops. They were simply looking for weaponry.

I really believe if we had given it to them, the situation in Syria would have been different today. You can't prove it because it didn't happen. But all I know is we never would have imagined that now, as we are going into the new year of 2017, Assad still clings to power at the expense of killing millions of his citizens.

So we need to look for more ways to work with partners to dial up pressure on Assad and his enablers. This bill would give the administration, as I mentioned, more tools. It would impose new sanctions on parties that continue to do business with the Assad regime. We want to go after the things driving the war machine: money, airplanes, spare parts, oil—the military supply chain. And, yes, we want to go after Assad's partners in violence.

Russia's air campaign has enabled the Syrian regime, along with Iranian and Hezbollah forces. Russian planes have targeted schools, hospitals, and public spaces. When Syrian helicopters would attack, at least the civilians would hear them coming and have a few minutes to run for cover. President Putin's planes don't even give them that chance.

Under this legislation, if you are acting as a lifeline to the Assad regime, you risk getting caught up in the net of our sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, we marked this bill up in committee several months ago. It was ready to come to the floor before we left for the election. But, at the time, a cease-fire showed a glimmer of hope, and we thought maybe we can wait because maybe the cease-fire would come, but it didn't. The glimmer has gone out. It is time now, finally, to take a different approach and try to move towards a resolution.

When we are on that path, the bill will also help lay the groundwork for addressing the war crimes and the crimes against humanity that have marked this conflict. This bill will guide efforts to put together evidence for an eventual prosecution and would establish a report so that the world knows the names of those responsible for these brutal human rights violations.

Once again, I am grateful to Chairman ROYCE for his leadership. He has been a strong and consistent voice on Syria, and I know he wants to see an end to the bloodshed as well.

I ask all Members to support my bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). She chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and my good friend, the ranking member, for bringing forth this important bill to the floor before us today.

I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, a bill of which I am proud to be an original cosponsor. And I want to thank again our wonderful chairman and esteemed ranking member for always working together in a strong bipartisan manner to bring important issues to the House floor. This bill is no exception.

Often lost in the debate on the fight against ISIS or the future of Syria is the humanitarian crisis that has resulted from this conflict that is now in its sixth year with no end in sight. These numbers are horrific. You heard Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL speak of them: hundreds of thousands dead, millions that have fled their homes, and millions more who are in desperate need of assistance.

Yet the Assad regime and its patrons in Iran and Russia continue to bring pain and suffering to the people of Syria. What is worse is they continue to deny humanitarian assistance to parts of the country.

Actions need to be taken, Mr. Speaker, against Assad and his regime, and they need to be taken against those who are providing materiel support to Assad that allows this horrific conflict to continue.

Accountability is imperative, and that is what this bill aims to do. Mr. Speaker, this bill builds upon a bill that I authored in 2012 which became law: the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act. It expands the sanctions currently on the books, and it gives the administration the tools to go after those who are responsible for this humanitarian crisis and the ongoing suffering of the people of Syria.

I was so pleased to work with Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL to include amendments that I authored into this bill that would determine that denying or hindering access to humanitarian aid is, indeed, a serious human rights violation and, as such, would allow the administration to sanction any individual responsible for doing so.

The United Nations Security Council has already passed several resolutions

to allow for direct and free access to humanitarian aid. But, Mr. Speaker, as reported in a recent GAO review that I commissioned alongside our esteemed Foreign Affairs colleagues, Congressman TED DEUTCH, RON DESANTIS, and GERRY CONNOLLY, the Assad regime, between the years 2015 and earlier this year, has denied 100 of the 113 requests from the United Nations to deliver humanitarian aid. This is unconscionable. This must be put to an end immediately.

This step, therefore, Mr. Speaker, is a step in that correct direction to bring accountability to Assad and the supporters of this evil regime for the atrocities they have committed or are complicit in.

I would urge my colleagues to support this important measure before us, and I would urge the administration to lend its strong support for this bill and use this legislation as an opportunity to fully and vigorously enforce these sanctions in an attempt to put an end to one of the greatest humanitarian tragedies in a generation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) who was an original cosponsor of the bill.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the ranking member, and Chairman ROYCE for their work on this really important piece of legislation.

For 5 years—for 5 long years—the world has witnessed this terrible tragedy unfold before our eyes. Nearly half a million Syrians have been killed—not soldiers—men, women, and children killed, 5 million Syrian citizens driven from their own country, 10 million displaced from their homes, often leaving homes that have generation after generation of history, leaving behind their legacy; and atrocities, as we have recounted, the targeting of children, the targeting of hospitals, and the targeting of schools.

Clearly, this Congress can and should act, and that is why I am so pleased to be a cosponsor of this and to join my colleagues in supporting this important legislation.

This legislation would bring much-needed and long overdue accountability to the Assad regime. After all, they are responsible for these horrific crimes. It would do so by imposing sanctions on those responsible and for those who are abetting these cold-hearted and merciless acts. It would authorize the Department of State to do what they need to do to assist those entities investigating these terrible war crimes and to hold the Assad regime accountable.

It would mandate that the U.S. Government explore every option available to it to address this horrific conflict, to do whatever we can in order to bring it to an end, and to use every tool we

have available to us to stand with the Syrian people. Assad must be held accountable for this massacre—the massacre of his own people.

It is also important, as we move forward with this legislation, that we pause for a moment to thank those many people who have worked for so long to get this legislation to the floor. I am talking about citizens, particularly a lot of young people who, facing incredible pain, have made it their cause to ensure that this day comes. Let's not just stand with the Syrian people against Assad but also stand with those who have brought this question to us, and validate and support their exercise of their civic responsibility and their democratic efforts to get this Congress to do the work of the American people.

Our principles demand that we support this legislation. This is the American thing to do. We have to act, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues and encourage all my colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—to speak with one voice on this matter and pass this really critical and important humanitarian legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for his time, and I thank the chairman for his efforts on this matter.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO).

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016. This legislation would impose sanctions on those who are responsible for the Syrian humanitarian crisis and on those who hinder or deny humanitarian assistance in Syria by declaring that to be a serious abuse of human rights.

I have consistently said that the conflict in Syria is one of the greatest blemishes on human history, and it is imperative that we do more to put an end to it. Bashar al-Assad's regime has committed horrific abuses against civilians in his country by employing widespread torture and other tactics that have shocked the international community. The regime also continues to block aid from reaching parts of Syria in spite of U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for access to humanitarian assistance. This legislation holds not only regime officials accountable but also those who are providing the regime the support it needs to carry out its appalling crimes.

□ 1600

Since 2011, millions have been forced to flee from their homes to escape the brutal violence and unlivable conditions that plague the country. Half a million people have died. I believe that strong action is long overdue. H.R. 5732 is a step forward, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

I want to thank Representative ENGEL for introducing this important legislation and Chairman ROYCE for all of his work.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs subcommittee responsible not only for Africa, but also for global human rights issues.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, ED ROYCE, the chairman of our committee, for his leadership on all things related to the Syrian crisis, the Iranian crisis, and the large number of hearings that we have had that have brought a focus on these horrific atrocities being committed by Assad. And I want to thank ELIOT ENGEL for sponsoring the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 5 years, the Assad regime has been committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against civilians, including murder, torture, and rape, and has been doing so on an industrial scale. No one has been spared from its targeting—not even children. These atrocities have fueled the largest refugee crisis since World War II, overwhelming the region and propelling a refugee crisis in Europe. More than 6 million people are also internally displaced inside of Syria, which has become one of the most deadly places in the world to deliver humanitarian assistance.

The administration's response has not stopped the carnage, nor have the European efforts. This has emboldened the regime; and for months the Syrian and Russian militaries have systematically been bombing Aleppo, Syria's most populous city before the conflict, and they have been bombing it into rubble.

The United States must impose the strongest available sanctions on perpetrators in the Syrian regime who are complicit in these atrocities and foreigners who feed its killing machine. This legislation is a very, very important step in that direction.

I urge its support and, again, thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We cannot delay action on Syria any longer. The violence has gone on too long and at too great a cost. If we don't get this legislation across the finish line in the next few weeks, we are back at square one.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who spoke earlier, talked about working in this region and the legislation that we did. Well, in 2004, I believe, she and I cosponsored the Syria Accountability Act and it passed into law. We really regarded it at the time as a major achievement

which helped calm things down in that area. But now it has been many years and things are getting worse.

When I speak with people who have direct knowledge of what is going on on a daily basis in Aleppo and in other places, they tell me that not only are barrel bombs being dropped on the civilian population—and, as somebody mentioned before, these aren't people dying who are dying in war; they are civilians, and they have had barrel bombs dropped on them, which is terrible—now do you know what the Assad regime is doing? It is dropping bunker-buster bombs on its people, on its civilians. So the people who go underground—literally underground—to avoid the bombs from being dropped on top of them get murdered by bunker-busting bombs that actually go there and have no purpose except to kill innocent civilians. It is absolutely a disgrace, and we cannot stand idly by and just allow this to happen.

This legislation won't tie the hands of this administration or the next administration. This bill has plenty of flexibility built in so that we can adapt to changing conditions. But if we pass it and put it to work, this measure will tie the hands of the Assad regime. It will help to cut off its ability to carry out violence against its own people, and it will discourage other powers from sustaining the campaign of violence.

I echo every word that was said today from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. So let's do the right thing for the Syrian people, the right thing for humanity, and pass this bill. I urge all Members to vote "aye."

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I want to once again recognize our colleague, Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, not only for authoring this bill, but, over the years, for raising this issue with his colleagues, with the President of the United States, with the media, and with the NGO community in order to try to get action. And I thank, also, other Members who contributed on this bill.

Our committee, as Eliot has shared with you, has heard firsthand accounts of the suffering. I guess the one thing I would say is that the EU has finally been moved to take steps recently. We welcome those steps to sanction those within the Assad regime responsible for the brutal air campaign against innocent civilians in Aleppo.

We heard firsthand accounts not only of the suffering, but we heard the testimony from Raed Saleh of the Syrian White Helmets. These are the doctors and the nurses and the volunteers who actually, when the bombs come, run toward the areas that have been hit in order to try to get the injured civilians medical treatment. They try to provide relief for these victims. They have lost

over 600 doctors and nurses. Doctors and nurses come from all over the world to try to assist.

When Mr. ENGEL told you about these bunker-buster bombs that are being dropped from the air, they are being dropped on civilians, but they are also being dropped on the hospitals. In Aleppo, there are six hospitals. Four of them have been destroyed. Last week, four of those last six were utterly destroyed by bunker-buster bombs dropped by Russian planes and by the Syrian Air Force. But there are two that are partially left. In these two, there is, no longer, morphine and there are, no longer, medical supplies. They bring those injured who have some chance of survival in there to try to treat them. In the meantime, the bombs rain down every day.

They were nominated, the organization, the White Helmets—the volunteer group, doctors and nurses—for a Nobel Peace Prize, but so many of them now have gone to their graves.

We have heard of the terror. Dr. Mohamed Tennari of the Syrian American Medical Society described for the committee the sound of those helicopters overhead, the thump of exploding bombs and the overpowering smell of bleach in the area, that bleach that is dropped as part of chemical weaponry, and then the effects of the toxic gas on the human body: foaming at the mouth, gasping for breath, dying slow, agonizing deaths as the chlorine gas turns to hydrochloric acid in the lungs of the victims.

Many of those victims—so many of those victims—are children, and so many of those attacks come in the dead of night. And again, these are the broad civilian areas of that country that are not presently controlled by the Assad regime. We are not talking about the attacks on the front lines. We are talking about the attacks on hospitals in the civilian sectors.

Mr. Speaker, for 5 years, or nearly that, international diplomats have debated ways to protect the civilian populations targeted by the Assad regime and its backers. Listen, we can see the ethnic cleansing going on. There is a reason why you have got 14 million people fleeing.

It is this aggressive campaign, when we talk about ethnic cleansing, aggressive campaign now by the Russian Air Force that has joined the Syrian Air Force in hitting Aleppo and other parts of the country. Even the United Nations calls this crimes of historic proportions—crimes of historic proportions.

Enough is enough. Today we send a message that this will not stand and that the United States will work to ensure that war crimes committed by Assad, that the war machine cannot rain down on the people of Syria unrelentingly. It is not too late to act. We have to cut off their ability to have

this capacity, and we have to put those sanctions in place on this.

I urge all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee; I rise in support of H.R. 5732, the “Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016.”

The situation in Syria is truly appalling, innocent civilians are subject to the Assad’s brutality.

Over 14 million Syrians have become refugees or have been internally displaced over the last five years.

The Syrian transition and its future leadership are likely to depend on what the United States and its partners do now to save the lives of innocent Syrians.

I am pleased to join in co-sponsoring this legislation that will hinder the Assad’s access to resources it uses to harm its people.

This bill is named in honor of the courageous former Syrian military photographer, known as “Caesar,” who testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 2014 about the Assad regime’s torture of Syrian civilians.

H.R. 5732 will help halt the slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

H.R. 5732 requires the President to report to Congress the persons responsible for, or complicit in, gross violations of human rights of the Syrian people.

This process will name and shame the violator of these human rights.

H.R. 5732 additionally requires the President to impose new sanctions on anyone who (1) does business with or provides financing to the Government of Syria, including Syrian intelligence and security services, or the Central Bank of Syria;

(2) provides aircraft or spare parts for aircraft to Syria’s airlines (including financing);

(3) does business with transportation or telecom sectors controlled by the Syrian government; or

(4) supports Syria’s energy industry.

H.R. 5732 requires the President to submit a report on the potential effectiveness of imposing a No-Fly Zone and the risks, and operational requirements of the establishment.

This report will additionally contain maintenance updates of a no-fly zone or a safe zone over part or all of Syria.

H.R. 5732 authorizes the President also to waive sanctions on a case-by-case basis.

Sanctions can also be suspended if the parties are engaged in meaningful negotiations and the violence against civilians has ceased.

Suspension is renewable if the suspension is critical to the continuation of negotiations and attacks against civilians have ceased.

On balance, I support H.R. 5732 because it will help alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 5732.

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5732, the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016.

In September, a trending comment on Twitter read: This is not Pompeii, this is Aleppo. Think about that for a minute. The death and destruction in Aleppo has reached such epic proportions that we are comparing it to one of the most deadly natural disasters in world history.

The President and his administration have continued to highlight the horrors of Syria exhibited by Assad and Putin by using terms like “barbarism”, “beyond the pale”, and “haunting”. I think the more apt term for this is “a problem from hell.”

Yet, even as the President, Secretary of State, and Ambassador to the UN continue to talk about the carnage in Syria, there has been very little action to end the suffering of the people of Aleppo and across Syria.

Mr. Speaker, it pains me every single time I come to the well of the House to talk about the atrocities in Syria. But we are failing the innocent people of Syria through our inaction.

Rather than enforcing red lines for Assad’s use of chemical weapons or enhancing sanctions against the Russians for their war crimes in the bombing of medical facilities and aid convoys, the President and Secretary of State focus their attention on sham ceasefires that are continually violated by the people with which we negotiate.

They constantly worry about the Iranians walking away from flawed nuclear deals instead of leading the global community to end the atrocities in Syria.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: Russia and Iran are not our allies. Their interests lie in destabilizing Europe and turning the Middle East into a wasteland of murder and chaos.

Mr. Speaker, there needs to be a true cost for the complicity in war crimes and crimes against humanity. It’s time that Russia, Iran, and Syria are held accountable.

That is why this bill is so important. It would increase sanctions on the Assad regime and its supporters for the continued atrocities committed against the Syrian people. It requires this administration and any future administration to stand up and impose costs on the Russians, Syrians, and Iranians for the barrel bombing and gassing of innocent civilians.

I want to thank my colleagues, Congressman ENGEL and Congressman ROYCE for introducing this critical bill.

We owe it to the innocent people of Syria to bring justice against the Assad regime, Russian military, and their allies and help the struggling people of Syria.

If we fail to act, fail to lead—this Syrian Civil War will be the greatest humanitarian crisis of the 21st century.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5732, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IRAN SANCTIONS EXTENSION ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6297) to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6297

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Iran Sanctions Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.

Section 13(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2016” and inserting “December 31, 2026”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6297. This is to extend the Iran Sanctions Act.

I want to thank Ranking Member ENGEL for his assistance in bringing this legislation to the floor.

Time is of the essence, as this critical law expires on December 31. Unless Congress acts, as we are doing today, we will not have this on the books. The other body should quickly take up this bill and send it to the President's desk, keeping a critical tool in place for the future.

Mr. Speaker, 20 years ago, a bipartisan majority in Congress passed the Iran Sanctions Act. It was then known as the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act. The goal was to stop significant foreign investment in Iran's energy sector, denying the Iranian regime the ability to financially support international terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and, frankly, missile proliferation as well. Since then, this legislation has been reauthorized and expanded on several occasions.

After years of bipartisan work in the Congress, the Iran Sanctions Act has served here as the statutory foundation of the Iran sanctions regime. Of course, President Obama developed his nuclear deal with Iran; and in doing so, that dismantles part of that regime.

I would just point out that, just last week, we heard that a major European

energy firm is close to investing \$6 billion in Iran to develop natural gas, which will, in turn, frankly, enrich the regime.

□ 1615

The difficulty is in terms of enforcement. What if—and I would assert “when”—Iran is found moving towards a bomb? How will we respond to that?

The Obama administration has long said that sanctions on Iran would snap back if this were to happen. For that to happen, we need this legislation because, if the law expires, as the Iran Sanctions Act is set to do at the end of next month, there is nothing to snap back to. The Obama administration has struggled to answer that question.

Here is the bottom line: if we let the clock run out on the Iran Sanctions Act, Congress will take away an important tool to keep Tehran in check, and that, in turn, will only further jeopardize America's national security. I urge all Members to support this.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing with respect to H.R. 6297, the “Iran Sanctions Extension Act.” As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 6297 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means, I agree to waive consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 6297 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your including a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your com-

mittee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 6297 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. JASON CHAFFETZ,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 6297 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act. I agree that your letter in no way diminishes or alters the jurisdiction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform with response to the appointment of conferees or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or any similar legislation.

I am happy to forego a sequential referral of the bill in the interest of expediting this legislation for floor consideration. I appreciate you placing a copy of our letter exchange on H.R. 6297 in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

JASON CHAFFETZ,

Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. ED ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I am writing concerning H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act.

As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 6297 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and requests your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 6297 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be placed in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 6297 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROYCE: I write with respect to H.R. 6297, the "Iran Sanctions Ex-

tension Act," which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary among others. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 6297 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 6297 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 6297 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 6297.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, so that the bill may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your committee to any House-Senate conference on this legislation.

I will seek to place our letters on H.R. 6297 into the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE,
Chairman.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure.

Let me again thank our chairman, ED ROYCE, for his leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I also want to thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for working together to get this bipartisan bill to the floor. Our foreign affairs legislation and particularly sanctions—we have said this before, but I want to say it again—always work best when there is bipartisan support.

Since the Iran nuclear deal was struck more than a year ago, I have consistently said two things: one, I didn't agree with the deal, but that, once it was in effect, we should try to make it work rather than try to undermine it; two, we should keep looking for ways to hold Iran's feet to the fire on all of the other bad behavior issues—support for terrorism, ballistic missiles, human rights abuses, and all of those kinds of things.

This legislation—I am happy to say—fits the bill. We can provide the administration tools to crack down on Iran and still be fully compliant with our obligations under the nuclear deal. After all, the exact language in this bill is already law on the books. The Iran Sanctions Extension Act is a simple, clean extension of current law. The legislation, which has been reauthorized with large bipartisan support since 1996, demands that Iran abandon its nuclear weapons program, cease its ballistic program, and stop its support for terrorism. All of these remain threats to the United States and to our allies.

The current law is set to expire on December 31 of this year. We don't want to let the Iran Sanctions Act lapse. We don't want Iran's leaders to think we have lost focus on their other dangerous activities around the world—that we don't mind when they launch ballistic missiles that are emblazoned with the words, in Hebrew, "Israel must be wiped out." They must not think that we will look the other way when they smuggle weapons to the Houthis in Yemen, who, last month, fired two cruise missiles at a U.S. naval destroyer.

This is a critical moment in the region. There is no end in sight for Hezbollah's support for the Assad regime. Iran is sowing instability throughout Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, and the Gulf; and, more and more, our friends and allies are unsure about the future of America's resolve. We need to send a clear message that American leadership is a sure thing. We all went to school when we were kids, and we learned about the separation of powers. The legislative branch—this Congress—has an important say and an important role to play, and we will continue to do that.

This legislation will provide for an immediate snapback of sanctions should Iran cheat on the nuclear deal. These sanctions must be in place to demonstrate to Iran that there are consequences for noncompliance. In 10 years, when this legislation expires, we will have another discussion. I sincerely hope that, by then, Iran will have acceded to every demand of the international community's to stop its ballistic missile program and will have

put an end to its destabilizing activities around the region. In the meantime, hopes won't safeguard our interests. That is why I support this legislation. That is why we wrote this legislation. I urge my colleagues to do the same in supporting it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), who chairs the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Before yielding to the gentlewoman, I do want to express this body's special appreciation for the work of my predecessor's, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN—our chairman emeritus—because Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN's foresight and legislative work in prior Congresses, as the author of those measures, is what put into place the statutory sanctions regime upon which we continue to rely; so I thank her for that underlying legislation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. As always, I thank our esteemed chairman for those wonderful and kind words, and I thank our terrific friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the ranking member. I thank Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL for continuing to be great examples of the bipartisan cooperation of which we need so much in this Congress, and I thank the gentlemen for their leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a priority for the United States Congress but especially to members of our Foreign Affairs Committee, and it has been an issue on which I have worked extensively—and I thank the chairman for his words—alongside so many of my colleagues for over two decades.

In 2006, as the chairman pointed out, I authored a bill that expanded sanctions on Iran and that extended the Iran Sanctions Act through 2011. In 2010, I worked with then-Foreign Affairs Chairman Howard Berman on yet another comprehensive Iran sanctions bill, which also extended the Iran Sanctions Act through the end of this year. Today, I am so pleased and honored to support Chairman ROYCE's effort, guided by Mr. ENGEL's as well, to extend the Iran Sanctions Act for another 10 years, which will keep the foundation of sanctions against Iran in place for when Iran violates the nuclear deal.

I believe that those violations have already taken place. Earlier this year, we already saw the administration buy heavy water from Iran.

Why?

Because Iran was producing more heavy water than it was allowed to under the terms of the agreement. Just a few days ago, it was announced that Iran was, once again, over the allowable total of heavy water. We have also

found out that there have been secret exemptions for Iran and that, without these exemptions, Iran would not have been in compliance with the JCPOA, which is the initials of the nuclear deal, before the deal went to Implementation Day.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely vital that we pass Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL's bill—that we extend these sanctions and that we keep the foundation of our sanctions against Iran in place. We need to keep the regime accountable for its violations of its nuclear deal and for its continued illicit activity.

There is absolutely no justification at all for allowing these sanctions to lapse. In fact, everything we have witnessed from the regime this year is a clear indication that we need to be looking at ensuring that all sanctions against Iran are fully and vigorously enforced and even expanded.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), the ranking member of the Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee of our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member ENGEL.

I thank Ranking Member ENGEL and Chairman ROYCE for moving forward with this critical piece of legislation to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act, which I am proud to introduce with the gentlemen.

By extending the Iran Sanctions Act for another 10 years, we will cement the law that has, for 20 years, been the backbone of our Iran policy. Congress worked for many years in a bipartisan manner to craft economic sanctions that have brought maximum pressure on the Iran regime. In fact, it has always been Congress that has been at the forefront of sanctions policy. The nuclear deal is in place, and these sanctions provide the teeth when violations occur.

Preserving our sanctions law should not be viewed by anyone as undermining the nuclear deal. It is, in fact, exactly the opposite. When the Iran nuclear agreement was negotiated, the entire success of the deal was predicated on the notion that, should Iran violate the deal, sanctions would immediately be snapped back into place. The very real threat of vigorous enforcement of U.S. sanctions is what holds Iran to its international obligations.

Now, I was not a supporter of the nuclear deal, but that does not change the fact that the United States is a party to a multilateral agreement that we have an obligation to enforce vigorously. Strong sanctions from the European Union and the United Nations have come because of American leadership. We must continue to exercise

that leadership. By living up to our obligations under the deal and by continuing to vigorously enforce the deal, including the willingness to snap back sanctions, we will be able to advance our interests.

The Iran Sanctions Act expires in a matter of weeks. The time for action is now. I urge my colleagues to move swiftly to pass this bill and for the Senate to do the same.

Even as we enforce the nuclear deal, Mr. Speaker, the United States must continue to lead the international community in confronting Iran's continued sponsorship of terrorism and its dangerous ballistic missile activity. We must ensure that Iran pays an economic price for endangering the world through its terror proxies, and we must galvanize the international community to bring home American and other foreign citizens whom Iran continues to detain, including my constituent, Bob Levinson. Iran has not lived up to its obligations to return Bob to his family.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I plead with my colleagues in the House and I plead with my fellow citizens from around the country to stand with the Levinson family so that this is the last Thanksgiving they celebrate without their husband, their father, and their grandfather sitting beside them at the Thanksgiving table. We need to bring Bob Levinson home.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan Iran Sanctions Extension Act. Now is not the time to ease up on the world's leading sponsor of terrorism. The Iran Sanctions Extension Act is an important piece of legislation that needs to be extended so that we can continue our fine work in this area.

I thank Chairman ROYCE for offering this legislation that will extend Iranian sanctions for an additional 10 years. As has been stated, these sanctions will expire at the end of this year if Congress fails to act. It is imperative that we extend the current sanctions regime. This has been in place for quite some time, and this in no way affects the underlying agreement even though I am vigorously opposed to the underlying agreement.

Let's send a message today that, despite what this administration may think regarding the continuation of the agreement, the Congress is united in tough sanctions. We will hold Tehran accountable for its human rights violations, its support of international terrorism, and its testing of illegal ballistic missiles.

Sanctions work. Time and time again, U.S. sanctions have been a powerful force on the world stage and have given the U.S. leverage against some of the world's worst State actors. Let's

not reward provocations that may have occurred already or provocations that may occur in the future. I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" and keep these sanctions in place.

I commend the chairman, the ranking member, and the full committee; and if this legislation passes, I am hopeful that the President will sign it into law.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ENGEL, and I thank the chairman, Mr. ROYCE, for bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor. I thank them for their efforts on behalf of our country, on behalf of the security of our country, and on behalf of ensuring that tough sanctions stay in place.

□ 1630

Tough sanctions are what brought Iran to the negotiating table, Mr. Speaker, in the first place; and the prospect of a snapback of sanctions is what I hope will keep Iran compliant.

Make no mistake: Iran continues to be a bad actor, sponsoring terrorism, contributing to instability in Syria and Iraq, threatening Israel, and suppressing democracy within its own borders.

We must continue to ensure that Iran abides by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. We had differences on its merits, but we had no differences that Iran must comply.

No malfeasance ought to be tolerated. Iran's theocratic leaders continue to threaten Israel and Americans in the region. They continue as well to pursue ballistic missile technology that destabilizes the region, and its regime has held Americans captive for years as bargaining chips in negotiations over its compliance with basic international law and norms.

This legislation will ensure that President Obama and his successor will have the full force of sanctions available should Iran violate the nuclear agreement in any way. It is critical that our approach to Iran remain bipartisan. Mr. ROYCE and I have had that discussion; Mr. ENGEL and I have had that discussion. I say again that it is critical that our policy remain bipartisan. Doing so sends a strong signal to our allies—and even more importantly to our adversaries—that we are united in our efforts to stop Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Now that this legislation is completed, we need to turn to the critical task of ballistic missile sanctions. And I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to respond appropriately to Iran pursuing ballistic missile capabilities in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Again, I reiterate the fact that we work together, Republicans and Demo-

crats, where we have many differences; but on this, we should not have differences because the security of our Nation, the security of the nations of the Middle East, and indeed the global security depends upon it.

I thank both Mr. ROYCE and Mr. ENGEL, and I thank my colleagues for working so hard toward this legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH). He is chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chair for his sponsorship of the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, H.R. 6297. This is a must-pass measure that would extend for 10 years the Iran Sanctions Act, a critical set of sanctions targeting Iran's energy sector that would otherwise expire on December 31st.

As we all know, the administration lifted the vast majority of the act's sanctions following the purported implementation of the egregiously flawed Iran nuclear deal in January, but these restrictions on investment in Iran's energy sector would form the backbone of the so-called snapback sanctions that the U.S. could impose in response to Iranian violations of the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, let's not kid ourselves, the Iran nuclear agreement is a mess. There is no anytime/anywhere inspections protocol. Today Iran is massively expanding both the number and the capability of its ballistic missile arsenal. Iran remains the leading state sponsor of terrorism. Now flush with billions of new funding, they are on a weapons procurement frenzy and are acquiring weapons of many kinds, including SAM missiles.

There is cheating on a number of fronts. Under the Iranian deal, it is a matter of when, not if, but when will Iran become a nuclear state.

This is a minimal policy that will at least snap back and say: when you violate the terms and conditions of the agreement—which I find flawed and many others do as well—that, at least, there is a snapback, and those sanctions will be kicked into place. If they don't exist, it is not going to happen.

So for 20 years, we all know sanctions have played a critical role in mitigating Iran's destabilizing weapons program and state sponsorship of terrorism. By imposing sanctions on entities anywhere in the world that invested in Iran's nuclear sector, the Iran Sanctions Act for years targeted a key source of revenue that the Iranian Government used to finance its activities.

So again, I think this is an important bill, and I hope that the Senate will take it up quickly after House passage.

Again, I thank Chairman ROYCE and ELIOT ENGEL for their leadership. This

is a bipartisan piece of legislation. It is the barest minimum that we can do in the face of such a flawed agreement.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), a very valued member of our Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for their fine work.

I rise today in support of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act.

When Congress considered the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action last year, which I supported, we acknowledged that this deal was not a panacea. It was not designed to resolve the myriad issues that undergird the U.S. and our allies in their relationship with the repressive regime in Tehran and its reprehensible support for terrorist insurgencies throughout the region.

No one agreement is comprehensive. It wasn't in the Soviet era, and it isn't in this era either.

The Iran deal is designed to eliminate Iran's path to developing a nuclear weapon and roll it back in exchange for the lifting of all U.S. nuclear-related sanctions.

Abandoning this deal or reinstating the U.S. nuclear-related sanctions against Iran would be a dangerous course of action, introducing unnecessary risks into an already fraught relationship and into an already delicately balanced multilateral agreement, especially because the deal is, in fact, working. Iran has met the metrics set forth, rather rigorous metrics, in the reversal of its nuclear development program.

However, the scope of the Iran Sanctions Act extends far beyond nuclear-related sanctions, as do our points of contention with the Iranian regime. Iran continues to engage in a variety of unacceptable and destabilizing activities, including domestic human rights abuses, supporting terrorist groups in the region, and advancing an illicit ballistic missile program that is of concern, as Mr. HOYER just mentioned.

We absolutely can and must continue implementation of the Iran deal while simultaneously extending this act as leverage to combat Iran's other unconscionable behavior.

I want to thank the majority for bringing to the floor a clean reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act, which in doing so safeguards a long-standing bipartisan consensus to counter Iran, something I think we need, especially after this election, more than ever before.

Again, I commend the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode

Island (Mr. CICILLINE), another very valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6297, the bipartisan Iran Sanctions Extension Act.

H.R. 6297 will extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996, as amended, for an additional 10 years through December 31, 2026. If we fail to act, these sanctions will expire at the end of this year.

The Iran Sanctions Act was the first major extraterritorial sanctions on Iran which authorized U.S. penalties against third country firms. It has been an essential part of U.S. sanctions aimed at denying Iran the financial means to support terrorist organizations and other armed factions or to further its nuclear and weapons of mass destruction programs.

We must confront Iran's dangerous behavior around the world and actions against its own people by extending the Iran Sanctions Act. Iran's ballistic missile program and support for terrorism threatens our regional allies, including Israel.

Also, Iran's blatant disregard for human rights and the human rights of its own people and other nationals, including Americans, is horrific and violates well-established international standards of human rights.

I want to emphasize that the Iran Sanctions Act does not violate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which remains an important instrument to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapons capability. Rather, this bill maintains the strong sanctions architecture to inhibit Iran from engaging in dangerous activities that are an anathema to international norms.

We all recognize the significant challenges that remain in our approach to the Iranian regime. We must continue to condemn and work to end Iran's support for terrorists throughout the region, including Hamas and Hezbollah.

This bill enables us to take these steps to accomplish our national security objectives. It is imperative that we impose sanctions for Iran's violations regarding support for terrorism, its ballistic missiles program, and human rights.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Iran Sanctions Extension Act to maintain the current sanctions architecture and to send a strong bipartisan message that we will continue to hold Iran accountable for any terrorist activity.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I will reserve the right to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

In closing, let me say, with the upcoming transition, we are wading into some uncertain waters when it comes to foreign policy. Congress must do its part to ensure stability and consist-

ency on core, foreign policy issues. There is no better example of that stability than this legislation, which has been on the books for two decades.

I thank Chairman ROYCE for bringing it up. I am proud to be the leading cosponsor with him on the bill. I think this again shows the bipartisan nature of our committee and on foreign policy and how foreign policy ought to be done.

This bill will help ease the way forward with our own transition. It will remind Iran's leaders that we still have a lot of contentious issues to deal with; and it will signal to the world that even after a hard-fought election here at home and power changing hands, American leadership on the global stage won't falter.

Again, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for moving this legislation so quickly. I urge a "yes" vote and quick action in the Senate. I hope President Obama will sign this bill and extend this important law.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Mr. ENGEL for his help in bringing this bill to the floor during the 114th Congress. The ranking member and I have been to this floor debating Iran many, many times. For most all of it, we agreed. For some of it, we didn't. But we never doubted each other's sincere views or motives and always conducted the debate in the tradition that is befitting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and this House.

Mr. Speaker, since it was first passed 20 years ago, the Iran Sanctions Act has been at the center of the U.S. response to the threat posed by the Iranian regime. Despite the Obama administration's dangerous nuclear deal, this law remains critical to U.S. efforts to counter the full range of Iran's malicious activity.

This law will expire at the end of the year if Congress does not pass an extension, denying future administrations a critical tool. Its expiration would compound the damage done by the President's dangerous nuclear deal and send a message that the United States will no longer oppose the destructive role of Iran in the Middle East; and that is why we are acting today to provide clear statutory authority to reimpose or snap back many of the most powerful sanctions on Iran's energy industry if the regime rushes toward a nuclear weapon.

I look forward to putting this bill on the President's desk for his signature before the end of the 114th Congress and then returning next year to work with Mr. ENGEL, to work with a new administration, to work with all the members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs as the United States and our allies confront the growing aggression of the Iranian regime.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending the option of sanctions against Iran by passage of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extensions Extension Act, which reauthorizes the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 for 10 years.

As a Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I am very much aware of what is at stake in the work done by President Obama to ensure that Iran does not have the breakout capacity to build a nuclear weapon.

Events over this Congress make it clear that Congress should be even more vigilant in providing for the protection of the United States.

Congress should be mindful of the:

United States' leadership in the effort to forge an enforceable and verifiable nuclear agreement with Iran; and

Deadliness of chemical weapons when they were used during the Syrian conflict against unarmed men, women, and children.

H.R. 6297 allows Congress the option to impose sanctions, but does renew the imposition of sanctions.

As Congress continues to review the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which resulted in the significant reduction in Iran's capabilities to develop a nuclear weapon, we must continue the peaceful and verifiable efforts to cut off Iran's pathways to a nuclear weapon.

President Obama and current and former Secretary of State John Kerry and Hillary Clinton were successful in the pursuit of global sanctions and gained the cooperation of the world, including Russian and China, which was critical in bringing the Iranians to the negotiation table on their nuclear arms program.

We should retain in our arsenal the option to impose sanctions so that if necessary the United States can act quickly to coordinate a global response to any threat posed by Iran's verified breach of the JCPOA.

Declaring sanctions for the sake of declaring sanctions against Iran should never be the objective, nor should we forget that the effectiveness of sanctions are their global nature.

Under President Obama's brilliant leadership the United States had the stature around the globe to impose sanctions, and the diplomatic ties to gain global cooperation to expand participation in Iranian sanctions because we could make the case that Iran's nuclear program posed an international threat to peace and stability.

The United States is the world's foremost authority on radiological weapons grade material detection and source identification.

The Department of Homeland Security is leading the effort through its Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) to create a Global Nuclear Detection Architecture, which should be aggressively supported with sufficient funding by Congress.

Recognizing the threat posed by nuclear and other radioactive materials, DNDO was created by National Security Presidential Directive (NSPD)-43 and Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-14 and subsequently codified by Title V of the Security and Accountability For Every (SAFE) Port Act

(Pub. L. No. 109–347), which amended the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

A key area that the United States has focused its capabilities and resources is blocking the enrichment of radioactive materials for weapons use; and the detection of radioactive materials that would pose a threat to public safety and health.

There are several material facts that must be understood about weapons grade radioactive material—each nation's process for refining nuclear material for use in a weapon is unique.

Radioactive material has a unique spectrum range and composition that is akin to signatures that cannot be confused with other sources of radioactive material both natural and manmade.

The first essential fact is that having samples and data from Iranian facilities where materials in Iran were produced established the radiological signatures for materials that could have only come from those facilities or from processes that follow the methods used by the Iranian nuclear physicists who developed their program.

The United States has those samples and the data needed to identify material from Iranian efforts to purify radiological materials.

The second essential fact is that radiological material leaves evidence of its presence long after it may have been removed from an area.

The physical evidence of centrifuges; storage facilities or weapons themselves are not the only evidence that may convict Iran of violation of the agreement; it can also be the unique Iranian radiation trail left behind during any attempt to refine or purify radiological material for use in a weapon or the transfer of even small quantities of material that is generated or sourced by the Iranians.

The third essential fact is that if the Iranians need special centrifuges to refine radiological material to a point that it may be used for a weapon.

H.R. 6297, assures that any attempt by the Iranians to cheat by refining more radiological material than is allowed will be detected and Congress would be prepared to impose a sanctions regime.

Another significant signal of Iranian violation would be the unique signature of the sound made by centrifuges that are used to purify radiological material make noise.

The sound of these massive centrifuges will be detectable many miles away from where they are operated—and the United States has the resources in place in cooperation with allies around the world to detect if enrichment activity is occurring.

Operating more centrifuges than is allowed by the agreement would be a actionable sign that Iran is seeking to purify more radioactive material than is allowed by the agreement.

This is important to the timeline in calculating the time to breakout—having enough enriched material to use in a weapon.

The final essential fact is that the United States has satellite surveillance and ground surveillance capability to detect in great detail activity on the ground.

The United States used these resources to identify nuclear arms activity that informed the administration of the severity of the issue and used that evidence to galvanize international

support for one of the most successful embargoes in human history.

For these reasons, I will join my colleagues in supporting passage of this bipartisan effort to extend by 10 years the period that sanctions may be applied to Iran.

I urge you to join me in support of this bill and the excellent work of the Obama Administration in making the world much safer from nuclear threats.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 6297—the Iran Sanctions Extension Act. This critically-needed legislation will extend for 10 years U.S. sanctions against Iran's energy sector, which will expire at the end of this year if Congress doesn't act.

These crippling sanctions, in addition to other measures passed by Congress during the last two decades, were the driving force that brought Iran to the negotiating table and ultimately curtailed their nuclear program under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached last year between our P5+1 partners and Iran.

While there has been much debate over the JCPOA, there should be no question in any one's mind that it must now be rigorously enforced so that Iran is held accountable for its actions. The measure before us today is fundamental to this effort.

In order to 'snap-back' the sanctions temporarily waived by the Administration under the deal, we must keep in place our sanctions infrastructure. Otherwise it would be much harder to quickly re-impose harsh economic penalties on Iran if they cheat or renege on their commitments.

Enforcing the Iran deal, stopping Iran's destabilizing activities in the region, including ballistic missile testing and funding of terrorist groups, and securing the unconditional release of Americans imprisoned by the Iranian regime, must remain our top priorities going forward. That is why I am grateful to Congressman ROYCE and Congressman ENGEL for working together on a bipartisan basis on today's measure and for their leadership on these issues.

For all of us, this is now a critical and challenging moment. We must come together as lawmakers, put aside partisan differences, and abide by our long-standing bipartisan approach to foreign policy. Our national security and security of our allies in the region depend on it.

Thank you and I urge immediate passage of the Iran Sanctions Extension Act.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my continued support for the critical nuclear agreement (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA) forged to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. I believe that agreement remains the best option to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Keeping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon is a bipartisan priority, which is why the U.S. must uphold the commitments we made under that deal. According to the evidence before me, Iran has largely fulfilled its obligations including limiting its stockpile of uranium, drastically reducing its operating centrifuges, and removed the core of its Arak reactor.

While not perfect, this is one of the most stringent non-proliferation agreements ever negotiated and includes tough verification re-

quirements. The JCPOA has led to real on the ground progress in restricting Iran's nuclear program, something that our nation never achieved even under the most biting sanctions.

Despite any limitations, the agreement is working as intended in the face of many skeptics and naysayers. And we all have a shared interest in helping to continue to foster the fertile ground necessary to support its continued implementation and compliance by both parties.

So I will support a "clean" reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Act authorities even though the President has made clear he has authority under other federal laws (that do not expire) to snap back some sanctions even in the absence of this law. Critically, this bill does not put new obstacles in the way of the U.S. upholding its commitments but intends to essentially reassert the existing status quo. This is unlike other legislation we will consider this week that more directly impact our commitments under the JCPOA.

The stakes at play here are very high for our nation and our regional allies including Israel. So rather than wasting time trying to undermine it, we all must continue to work to ensure the long term success of this deal and the goal we all share of keeping Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

We used sanctions to bring Iran to the table, worked with our international partners to secure a strong deal, and now more than ever need to make sure we uphold our end of the bargain.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of extending the option of sanctions against Iran by passage of H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, which reauthorizes the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 for 10 years.

As a Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I am very much aware of what is at stake in the work done by President Obama to ensure that Iran does not have the breakout capacity to build a nuclear weapon.

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For these reasons, I will join my colleagues in supporting passage of this bipartisan effort to extend by 10 years the period that sanctions may be applied to Iran.

I urge you to join me in support of this bill and the excellent work of the Obama Administration in making the world much safer from nuclear threats.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act.

Despite continued pressure and condemnation from the international community, the Iranian regime defiantly continues its ballistic missile testing, human rights abuses, and sowing discord throughout the world as the leading state sponsor of terrorism. These threatening acts, coupled with continued violations of the nuclear agreement, should not be tolerated without check. That's why I am voicing my strong support for H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act. This act is one of the most important pillars to the statutory sanctions against Iran to address its illicit activities. I applaud the House for coming together in a near unanimous fashion to pass this bipartisan legislation and hope the President agrees to sign it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6297.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the 15-

minute vote on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 6297 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on suspending the rules and adopting H. Res. 780.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 419, nays 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 577]

YEAS—419

Abraham	Crenshaw	Heck (NV)
Adams	Crowley	Heck (WA)
Aderholt	Cuellar	Hensarling
Aguilar	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Allen	Cummings	Hice, Jody B.
Amash	Curbelo (FL)	Higgins
Amodei	Davidson	Hill
Ashford	Davis (CA)	Himes
Babin	Davis, Danny	Holding
Barletta	Davis, Rodney	Honda
Barr	DeFazio	Hoyer
Barton	DeGette	Hudson
Bass	Delaney	Huelskamp
Beatty	DeLauro	Huffman
Becerra	DelBene	Huizenga (MI)
Benishek	Denham	Hultgren
Bera	Dent	Hunter
Beyer	DeSaulnier	Hurd (TX)
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Hurt (VA)
Bishop (GA)	Deutch	Israel
Bishop (MI)	Diaz-Balart	Issa
Bishop (UT)	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Black	Doggett	Jeffries
Blackburn	Dold	Jenkins (KS)
Blum	Donovan	Jenkins (WV)
Blumenauer	Doyle, Michael	Johnson (GA)
Bonamici	F.	Johnson (OH)
Bost	Duckworth	Johnson, E. B.
Boustany	Duffy	Johnson, Sam
Boyle, Brendan	Duncan (SC)	Jolly
F.	Duncan (TN)	Jones
Brady (PA)	Edwards	Jordan
Brady (TX)	Ellison	Joyce
Brat	Elmers (NC)	Kaptur
Bridenstine	Emmer (MN)	Katko
Brooks (AL)	Engel	Keating
Brooks (IN)	Eshoo	Kelly (IL)
Brown (FL)	Esty	Kelly (MS)
Brownley (CA)	Evans	Kelly (PA)
Buchanan	Farenthold	Kennedy
Buck	Farr	Kildee
Bucshon	Fincher	Kilmer
Burgess	Fleischmann	Kind
Bustos	Fleming	King (IA)
Butterfield	Flores	King (NY)
Byrne	Forbes	Kinzinger (IL)
Calvert	Fortenberry	Kirkpatrick
Capps	Foster	Kline
Capuano	Fox	Knight
Cárdenas	Frankel (FL)	Kuster
Carney	Franks (AZ)	Labrador
Carson (IN)	Frelinghuysen	LaHood
Carter (CA)	Fudge	LaMalfa
Carter (TX)	Gabbard	Lamborn
Cartwright	Gallego	Lance
Castor (FL)	Garamendi	Langevin
Castro (TX)	Garrett	Larsen (WA)
Chabot	Gibbs	Larson (CT)
Chaffetz	Gibson	Latta
Chu, Judy	Gohmert	Lawrence
Cicilline	Goodlatte	Lee
Clark (MA)	Gosar	Levin
Clarke (NY)	Gowdy	Lieu, Ted
Clawson (FL)	Graham	Lipinski
Clay	Graves (GA)	LoBiondo
Cleaver	Graves (LA)	Loebach
Clyburn	Graves (MO)	Lofgren
Coffman	Grayson	Long
Cohen	Green, Al	Loudermilk
Cole	Green, Gene	Love
Collins (GA)	Griffith	Lowenthal
Collins (NY)	Grijalva	Lowe
Comer	Grothman	Lucas
Conaway	Guinta	Luetkemeyer
Connolly	Guthrie	Lujan Grisham
Conyers	Hahn	(NM)
Cook	Hanabusa	Lujan, Ben Ray
Cooper	Hanna	(NM)
Costa	Hardy	Lummis
Costello (PA)	Harper	Lynch
Courtney	Harris	MacArthur
Cramer	Hartzler	Maloney
Crawford	Hastings	Carolyn

Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Norcross
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey

Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—14

Comstock
DeSantis
Fitzpatrick
Granger
Gutiérrez

Hinojosa
Lewis
McDermott
Neugebauer
Nugent

Pearce
Poe (TX)
Sanchez, Loretta
Westmoreland

□ 1707

Mr. SENSENBRENNER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, my card did not register. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 577.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present to vote on H.R. 6297, the Iran Sanctions Extension Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 577.

URGING RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 780) urging respect for the constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the democratic transition of power in 2016, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 3, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 578]

YEAS—416

Abraham
Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Beerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)

Clawson (FL)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DeBene
Denham
Dent
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farenthold

Farr
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graham
Graves (GA)
Graves (IA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)

Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Sean
Malone, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan

Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise

Schakowsky
Schiff
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—3

Amash

Jones

Massie

NOT VOTING—15

Aderholt
DeSantis
Fitzpatrick
Granger
Gutiérrez

Hinojosa
Lewis
McDermott
Neugebauer
Nugent

Poe (TX)
Ribble
Sanchez, Loretta
Schrader
Westmoreland

□ 1715

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WISHING CAMILO FERNANDEZ HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish my good friend Camilo Fernandez a warm and happy 90th birthday.

Like so many Cubans before and after him, Camilo was forced to leave Cuba, his native homeland, because of his deep opposition to the Castro regime. Shortly after arriving in this wonderful country, his new homeland, America, eventually settling in New Jersey, Camilo rose to become a successful businessman and a civil society leader.

His legacy of extraordinary perseverance and commitment to those left behind on the island continues to be an inspiration to the thousands of Cubans still in exile today, but he also remains a beacon of hope for a Cuba that will one day be free of the tyranny of the Communist Castro regime.

I congratulate my friend Camilo Fernandez on his 90th birthday and vow to continue working together for the establishment of a free and democratic Cuba and with respect for the human rights of all of the people of Cuba.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Apprenticeship Week. As co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to be joined by my friend and caucus co-chair, Representative G.T. THOMPSON from Pennsylvania, in recognizing this important week. I know he will be speaking in just a minute. I want to thank him for his outstanding leadership on this issue and so many others.

Apprenticeships are a proven method of preparing students for in-demand jobs. By combining on-the-job training with classroom instruction, apprenticeships teach both job skills and how these skills are used in the workplace.

Earlier this year, the House passed the Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century Act. This bill expands opportunities for apprenticeships and even allows teachers to gain direct knowledge of workplace skills.

G.T. and I were proud to help champion House passage of this bill, which received overwhelming bipartisan support. We now urge the Senate to take up this measure before the end of the year to ensure that all students have access to high-quality CTE. It is the exact thing that our economy needs right now. It will close our skills gap, making sure that our workers, our young people, have the skills they need for in-demand jobs today and well into the future.

HONORING POLICE OFFICER CODY BROTHERSON

(Mr. STEWART asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, it is with honor but with sadness that I rise today to honor a local hero, 26-year-old West Valley Police Officer Cody Brotherson, who was killed last week in the line of duty.

On Sunday, November 6, around 3 a.m., police were pursuing three individuals in a stolen vehicle. While Officer Brotherson was placing spikes in an attempt to stop this stolen vehicle, he was hit by the car and, tragically, killed. Not only will he be deeply missed by his parents, two brothers, and loving fiancée, but by the entire community.

I have had the chance, like many Members of Congress, to go on police ride-alongs, and again and again I am impressed with their hard work, their professionalism, and their willingness to put themselves at risk so that they can protect those of us whom they serve.

Now more than ever, it is important that we recognize these brave men and women who are willing to serve and to protect our communities. Cody was one of these brave ones who ultimately lost his life protecting us.

My prayers go out to the Brotherson family during this extremely difficult time. We will forever be grateful for his and for their sacrifice.

HONORING FORT WORTH POLY- TECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Parrots of Polytechnic High School and their cheer team on their future performance at the 90th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. On November 23, squad members will showcase their talent to the millions at home watching this parade in New York and around the country.

Out of the many video submissions, the team was selected for their

athleticism and enthusiasm. But most importantly, they embodied values fitting of Thanksgiving: a spirit of gratitude and togetherness.

While their achievement came as a result of the team's tireless effort, I also want to thank their head coach, Rayneta Dotson, for her dedication and commitment to the Polytechnic High School cheer team.

The entire Fort Worth community is so proud of these exceptional students. I wish them a safe trip to the Big Apple and congratulations on their achievement.

□ 1730

THE UNDOING OF DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the disastrous undoing of democracy in Turkey and, specifically, the targeting and incarceration of those opposed to Turkish President Erdogan's ruling clique, especially anyone with any association to the Gulen movement as well as ethnic Kurdish leaders.

Since an upheaval in July, President Erdogan has used emergency powers to arrest over 37,000 people and dismiss 100,000 other people from their government jobs. Lawmakers, Supreme Court judges, mayors, journalists, and approximately 14,000 doctors and teachers have been arrested or dismissed—many without due process.

Newspapers and television channels critical of the Turkish Government have been shut down. Twitter and Facebook are filtered, while Internet connections are systematically interrupted. Human rights in Turkey are under severe attack, and the enemy is the Turkish people's own government.

President Erdogan's administration is currently brutally oppressing anyone representing the Kurdish people in that country, including the Turkish political party HDP, which is involved in the democratic process. Perhaps the most bizarre is the repression of the Gulen movement in Turkey, and I would suggest that those people dedicated to education, benevolence, and respect for others should not be oppressed but should be looked at as friends of freedom everywhere.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of

the second annual National Apprenticeship Week, which commenced yesterday, November 14. This special occasion helps to highlight the value of apprenticeships and educate businesses and individuals about the positive impact they have on our economy.

As co-chairs of the House Career and Technical Education Caucus, my colleague, JIM LANGEVIN of Rhode Island, and I have advocated for a modernized approach to career and technical education programs and apprenticeship opportunities across the United States.

As part of our commitment, we worked in conjunction with members of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to introduce H.R. 5587, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

This bipartisan legislation aims to help Americans acquire the skills necessary to compete for high-wage, high-demand jobs. Notably, the bill encourages stronger public-private partnerships, increases opportunities for apprenticeships and credentialing, and strengthens support for academic counseling.

H.R. 5587 overwhelmingly passed the House in September, demonstrating the enthusiastic support for career and technical education. I remain dedicated to moving this bill through the legislative process and providing a path forward to those who are looking to better their lives.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BARNARD "BARNEY" KING, III

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Barney King of Evanston, Illinois. He passed away on November 4 at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife, Peggy; his sister, Leeanne; his children, Tyler, Caroline and Jamie; and grandchildren, John Henry, Harry, Sofia, Wesley, and Stela.

I got to know Barney through his children, Caroline and Jamie, and I knew the moment I met him that this was going to be a lifelong friend. Barney was well known in the community for his love of his attire—he was a snappy dresser—and his love of life. He could often be found playing croquet or fishing for muskie, traveling with his family, or playing the drums for the Mustangs party band or playing a game of chance over a few adult beverages. Anyone who ever played with him knew, one tie, all tie.

He was also a very generous man, serving as the president of the National Association of General Merchandise Representatives, the president of the Northern Illinois Hockey League, or an area that he encouraged me to get involved in as the president and director of Santa's Volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, our community owes Barney a great debt of gratitude for his service to our community. My thoughts and prayers remain with his family in this difficult time.

THE ROSE: THE NATIONAL FLORAL EMBLEM OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, November 20 of this year marks 30 years since President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring the rose as the National Floral Emblem of the United States of America. The rose takes its rightful place as one of our Nation's symbols, along with the American flag, our national motto—In God We Trust—and our national anthem.

Based in Shreveport, Louisiana, the American Rose Society promotes the appreciation of the rose and proudly bears the heritage of being the oldest single-plant horticultural society in our country.

The American Rose Center's gardens also display over 65 separate gardens and 20,000 different rosebushes for visitors, enthusiasts, and gardeners to all enjoy.

I join the American Rose Society in celebrating this occasion, remembering the words of President Ronald Reagan from 30 years ago: "The American people have long held a special place in their hearts for roses. Let us continue to cherish them, to honor the love and devotion they represent, and to bestow them on all we love just as God has bestowed them on us."

CONGRATULATING GRASS VALLEY SURGERY CENTER

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grass Valley Surgery Center located in Nevada County in northern California for being recognized as the California Ambulatory Surgery Association's ACS of the year.

This award, which acknowledges the excellent strides that have been made in the areas of engagement, advocacy, quality, education, and community involvement, serves as a testament to the hard work and dedication displayed by the administration, surgeons, physicians, and staff on hand at the Grass Valley Surgery Center.

I visited several times the location and had an opportunity to tour the surgery center and learn more about the high-quality, cost-effective services they provide, including procedures in general surgery, gynecology, orthopedic, pain management, podiatry, and urology.

I am very grateful for their presence, as are our constituents in northern California and Grass Valley. This serves as a model of how to make health care more efficient and reach more people in the United States.

Congratulations to them on this recognition.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRAT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the House floor tonight to commemorate National Bible Week. We are truly blessed to live in a nation where we are free to worship and read the Holy Scriptures without fear of persecution. There are so many places throughout the world where such freedoms do not exist.

In 1941, 75 years ago, mere days before Pearl Harbor, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving to be National Bible Week. Every U.S. President down to today has likewise declared this time of year to be National Bible Week.

The National Bible Association, in agreement with the U.S. Conference of Bishops, has designated the specific days of November 13 to 19 as National Bible Week this year. This is the week that we can all agree is National Bible Week, and we can recognize the Bible as a foundational building block of Western civilization, the Judeo-Christian heritage, and the legacy that motivated and shaped the founding of the United States.

In this hour, we will hear from Members of Congress about why the Bible is important and what it means to them. We are here to recognize National Bible Week.

My own experience with the Bible began in 1973, when I was an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Kansas. I was approached by some people who asked me if I knew what was in the Bible. I said that I believed I knew what it was all about, however, I had never read any of it for myself. The only honest thing I could do at that point was to read it for myself. When I read the Gospel of John, I ended up discovering a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who became my Lord and

Savior. In that Gospel, He said: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know where in their spiritual journey people may be who are listening tonight, but I do know this: it is better to read the Bible for oneself and not just to take someone else's word for what is in it. For me, it made all of the difference in the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Bible Week, we remember the importance of faith in both our private and public lives. We recognize the Bible's powerful message of hope. We cherish the wisdom of the Bible, and we thank God for providing this Holy Book that has been truly a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) who is a valuable member of the Armed Services and Judiciary Committees. Representative RANDY FORBES will be leaving Congress at the end of this year, and he will be truly and sorely missed.

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LAMBORN for his work in this area and for doing this Special Order. Mr. LAMBORN talked about the impact the Bible had on his life. The Bible began having an impact on my life long before I was born.

This little book is over 75 years old. It is called the "Heart-Shield Bible." Inside of it, it has my father's name, and it says: "From Mother and Daddy." It was given to him when he was 19 years old, just before he left to go fight in World War II. He ended up at Normandy, not with the initial invasion, but a little while after that. Somewhere in Europe—I don't know where it was—he opened this book and he read it.

Now, the theory of this book was it had a gold plate on the front, and it was supposed to be put in your pocket and protect your heart if you were shot. I don't know that it ever did that, but it changed his heart. He made a promise in those foxholes that if he got back home, he would have his family—which he didn't have at the time—in church every single Sunday. I know a lot of GIs made promises that they left when they got on the ship to come back. He never did.

So that little book that he read not only transformed his life, not only gave him the courage and the faith to get through that war, but it changed his children and his grandchildren, and it continues to change his great-grandchildren to this day.

In my office I always kept a Scripture and something that was offered by Chaplain Peter Marshall on the floor of the Senate on March 18, 1948.

It said this: "Our Father in Heaven, save us from the conceit which refuses to believe that God knows more about government than we do, and the stubbornness that will not seek God's help.

Today we claim Thy promise: 'If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally and it shall be given to him.' Thou knowest, Lord, how much we need it. Make us willing to ask for it and eager to have it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

That Scripture from James 1:5 should serve as a guidepost for those in leadership today.

Our Nation is on the cusp of great opportunities, but our future, nevertheless, remains fraught with challenges. America is at a crossroads. Each of us must, with humility, seek wisdom and truth as we make decisions in the days ahead.

I can think of no single book that offers that wisdom and truth more than the Bible. I thank Mr. LAMBORN again for allowing me to be here.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I appreciate the words, the wisdom, and the heartfelt nature of what he just spoke to.

I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his efforts tonight to call attention to this.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity we are afforded here to speak of the impact of the Bible in our lives as well, and, more importantly, the impact the Bible can have on all lives.

I was a young boy when I was encouraged to memorize a simple little verse, John 3:16, which said: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

When I put my name in that place in the world, it meant everything in the world to me. With Jesus Christ as my savior, it has impacted my life.

Mr. Speaker, noted historian, Will Durant, once stated: "The greatest question of our time is not communism versus individualism, not Europe versus America, and not the East versus the West, it is whether men can live without God."

Mr. Speaker, that question, it now appears, will be answered in our own time.

□ 1745

God has left us with a direct message on life and how to live life with God, and that message is the Bible, a book that is, sadly, being pushed out of the mainstream of our country in many ways. Sadly, we are seeing the results in broken homes, dysfunctional societies, upheaval that is going on. Sadly, those results impact us here in government as well. Yes, we can still read the Bible, but freedom to live it out is in question, and I wonder why.

Dostoyevsky stated it this way. He said: "When God is dead, anything is permissible."

And Joseph Stalin suggested that "America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold, its patriotism, its morality, its spiritual life . . . If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within."

Mr. Speaker, these are sobering statements.

The Bible that we honor in a special way today and throughout this week addresses the preceding statements with great clarity when it affirms in Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

This is why I believe a signer of the Declaration of Independence named Jonathan Whitherspoon declared it this way. He said: "A republic once equally poised must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty." Whitherspoon, who was also a minister, made this statement in the context of virtue being defined by God's truth as contained in the Bible.

I am certain that he could have quoted Psalm 1, as it says: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore, the ungodly shall not stand in judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

It was words of a psalmist. Plainly, honoring the Bible in one's life brings success, while rejection of the Biblical truth brings defeat.

Mr. Speaker, one of my favorite Bible verses, a verse that means a lot to me as I think at the end of each day and pray and ask certain questions in my own life, is II Timothy 2:15. It says: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." In that simple, eloquent, little verse, it says in the end what matters. First, is God pleased with your day? Has his work been done well? And, finally, has the Word, the Bible, been used well? If the Bible has been used well by individuals or a nation, we will do well.

John Clifford wrote a poem that I will end with today. In that poem he says this:

"Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door, and heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;

Then looking in, I saw upon the floor, old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

'How many anvils have you had,' said I, 'to wear and batter all these hammers so?'

'Just one,' said he, and then with twinkling eye,

'The anvil wears the hammers out, you know.'

And so, I thought, the anvil of God's Word for ages skeptic blows have beat upon;

Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard, the anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

Isaiah 40:8 confirms: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God," the Bible, "stands forever."

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

In a moment, we are going to hear from Representative VIRGINIA FOXX of North Carolina. But let me briefly mention first how the Bible was foundational to the development of our country.

Many of the early American settlers came to the New World with the express purpose of following the Bible according to the convictions of their own consciences. One of the first acts of Congress during the tumultuous beginning of our Nation was the authorization of an American published Bible. The war with the British had cut off the States' supply of Bibles from England. Our Founding Fathers understood how important it was for the American people to have Bibles, so in 1782, Congress reviewed, approved, and authorized the first known English language Bible to be printed in America.

Throughout American history, many of our great leaders have turned to the Bible for guidance, hope, and faith. President Abraham Lincoln once said of the Bible, in regard to this great book: "I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it."

And President Ronald Reagan, in his own National Bible Week declaration, which we are celebrating this week, wrote, when he was in office:

When I took the oath of office, I requested the Bible be open to II Chronicles 7:14, which reads: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This passage expresses my hopes for the future of this Nation and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for organizing this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am rising also to join my colleagues to commemorate the 75th annual celebration of National Bible Week. And I want to thank all of my colleagues for giving us such wonderful history lessons and quotes about

how important the Bible has always been to our country, and particularly to the Founders of our country.

As I stand here tonight, I am looking straight up at the full face of Moses looking down on us. When I have people in the Chamber, I point out to them that around the top of the Chamber are profiles of ancient lawgivers. The only full-face figure is that of Moses, who looks straight down on the Speaker's podium. I think that it is so important that people understand that we are a Judeo-Christian country and that the Bible, both the Old and New Testament, are so important to us.

As we approach this celebration, Mr. Speaker, which is traditionally held during the week of Thanksgiving, it is important to take a moment and reflect on how this Good Book has changed the course of history, stood as a guiding light for the world, shaped our Nation, and inspired countless lives.

The Bible is a precious gift from God to his people that teaches us how we ought to relate to our Creator and how to love our fellow human beings during times of turmoil, confusion, and strife. I can think of no more important source of guidance than this deep repository of fundamental and universal truth.

It offers us hope when circumstances are dire and is a source of strength when our human frailty brings us low. When we are surrounded by darkness, as the psalmist wrote, the Bible "is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path."

I hope it will be encouraging to the American people to know that there are people in the Capitol who make every effort to live their lives by the precepts of the Bible. We have many Bible studies and prayer groups that meet every week here. In fact, the National Prayer Breakfast grew out of our weekly bipartisan prayer breakfast in both the House and the Senate. I have collected some of the stories told in the House prayer breakfast in a book called "God Is in the House," which people are telling me is a great inspiration to them.

Today, I offer a prayer of gratefulness for this gift of God's Word and encourage my fellow Americans to dig deep into the Good Book and discover for themselves what riches it has in store for them.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her well-spoken remarks and the heartfelt nature of what she shared.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JODY B. HICE).

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for leading this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I rise, as have my colleagues, to celebrate one of the most significant and remarkable books in

human history—certainly to my life—and that is the Bible. As a servant of Christ and, in fact, a pastor for nearly 30 years, it is my honor to join all of my colleagues this evening in recognizing the importance of the Bible and its incredible impact on my life, on many of our lives, and certainly on the life of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bible speaks to the greatness of God. It speaks that he is the object of true worship, that he is the fount of all blessings, and that he is, in fact, our redeemer, our friend, our savior, and our judge.

I don't even know where to start when it comes to having favorite verses. There are just so many. I read it daily. It is a part of the beginning of every day of my life. But one of those verses that I believe is so appropriate for right now comes from Hebrews 4:12 that really deals with the importance of God's Word in our lives. It very simply says that the Word of God is alive and active, that it is sharper than any double-edged sword, that it penetrates even to the dividing of soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

I think our country has pretty much always recognized the unseen power of Almighty God as it relates to our fortunes as well as our destiny; and I believe now, more than ever, our Nation would do well to return again to the Bible for guidance in these critical days that we are facing.

This week, communities, pastors, churches, and leaders all across America are going to be celebrating National Bible Week. They are going to be reading it. They are going to be reflecting on it. They are going to be talking about, in discussions and so forth, just how the Bible can help each of us lead a better life, frankly, because it points us to personal forgiveness and personal life transformation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is our responsibility as leaders in this country to remind Americans of the significance of the Bible to our individual lives, to our history, to our national life, and certainly to the culture that we have here in America.

One of our late Presidents, Theodore Roosevelt, actually did this while he was in a conversation with the son of a very close friend of his who was entering the mission field, and this statement, I believe, just says so much in this regard. He said:

I have told you so many times that I consider the Christian ministry as the highest calling in the world, most intimately related to the most exalted life and service here and destiny beyond.

But then, as President, he said this:

And I consider it my greatest joy and glory that, occupying a most exalted position in the Nation, I am enabled, simply and sincerely, to preach the practical moralities of the Bible to my fellow countrymen and to hold up Christ as the hope and savior of the world.

□ 1800

What a statement by one of our Presidents.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to again commend my good friend, DOUG LAMBORN, for holding this Special Order. Obviously, we gain tremendous insight, inspiration, and guidance from the Scriptures. The light of God's Word shines through us most when we hold fast to these principles and apply them to our daily lives. Again, I thank the gentleman for this opportunity.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman from the great State of Georgia for being here, for sharing, and for his background. People come to Congress with all kinds of different backgrounds, and having one or more pastors, which we do here in the body, adds a valuable thread of experience and thought that helps us all.

One reason many people respect the Bible is that so many prophecies for telling future events have come true exactly as foretold. In the Old Testament, there are many predictions that were given to prove if a speaker were divinely inspired. If and when these predictions came true, it validated the words of that prophet. The Book of Daniel, for instance, contains scores of detailed prophecies that were literally fulfilled. Skeptics have fallen back to the position that Daniel must have been written after the fact and is misrepresenting itself. In fact, Daniel is found in its entirety in the Greeks' Septuagint and partially in the Dead Sea Scrolls, both of which we know predated the events that were prophesied. The rise and fall of empires, the capture and destruction of cities, and the destiny of kings all were prophesied about in minute detail, and archeology and history have literally confirmed hundreds of such prophecies as having come true.

I now yield to a friend, the gentleman from the great State of North Carolina, ROBERT PITTENGER.

Mr. PITTENGER. I thank Congressman LAMBORN so much for his leadership on this. What an inspiring evening.

Mr. Speaker, as a little boy, I was taught that little song: "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Now, I am no Cliff Barrows, but I have carried that song with me my whole life. In fact, I do want to make a testament about Cliff Barrows, for he went to be with the Lord today. Cliff Barrows—a great saint who led the crusades for Dr. Billy Graham for nearly 70 years—is now singing praises in Heaven. I was thinking earlier that Cliff will be greeting those tens of thousands of people who come forward, singing just as I am.

As we look at the Word of God, we find truth. As we read in John, Chapter 1: "In the beginning, it was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

Now, I didn't know that Word until November 2, 1969, at 10:30 p.m., on a Sunday night, when I gave my life to Christ. I wasn't too theological. I just said: "Lord, I give up. You lead my life." When that happened, I had an insatiable desire to read the Word of God. I would stay up, when I was a senior in college, and I would read the Word of God at midnight and later on into the early morning because it fed my spirit, it fed my soul, and it gave me direction in my life.

I didn't know much about the Bible. I went to church. I guess they drug me to church, for you can still see the heel marks in the ground. I knew a lot about church, but I didn't know a lot about His Word; so I went out to a place that was the Campus Crusade for Christ. They had a mini seminary for 6 weeks, and I learned more there about the Word of God. I then ended up joining the Campus Crusade and was there for 10 years.

I went through a couple of years of seminary classes, but the Word of God is what gave me stability in my life and is what gave me perspective in my knowing that He knew much better about me and my future and had a greater wisdom about my life than I knew and that the best that I could do was partake in His knowledge. The more I knew about Him, the greater my life and the more peaceful my life and the more direction I would have in my life to fulfill His God-given mission.

So the Word of God is our hope. It is the hope for this country. Frankly, in reality, the more our Nation is right in a vertical path with Him, horizontally, we will be in good shape the more we are consistent with the precepts of His Word.

Frankly, George Washington knew that. On one occasion, I was down at Mount Vernon. Many years ago, I was here, working with Dr. and Mrs. Bill Bright as they started the Christian Embassy back in the mid-1970s, and we went down to Mount Vernon. In the casing was the Bible that George Washington read from. It was all marked through. He knew the Word of God. He studied it. I have read his diaries. He went every Wednesday night to vespers. He rode on his horse to church every Sunday. He committed himself to knowing the Word of God. That is why he became the great leader that he was.

So I thank the gentleman, Mr. LAMBORN, for his leadership, for his heart, for his understanding, for his perspective, and for committing himself to giving honor to the Word of God tonight.

Mr. LAMBORN. I thank the gentleman and appreciate his remarks.

Let me say something about manuscripts, which are the historical evidence for the text of the Bible. The Bible that we acknowledge during this

National Bible Week has come down to us in history through manuscripts that were written centuries or millennia ago. These manuscripts are more numerous by an order of magnitude than any other classical text and go back much closer to the time of origin than any classical text.

For instance, the Histories of Herodotus, which, actually, I read recently, are based on eight manuscripts that come about 1,300 years after the original version. By contrast, the New Testament has over 20,000 manuscripts, some of which go back mere decades after the original version. The Dead Sea Scrolls proved that the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, which came down from other sources, is, indeed, accurate and reliable to the letter.

I now yield to the gentleman from Ohio, Representative BILL JOHNSON, my friend and colleague.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I, too, want to thank my colleague from Georgia—not from Georgia but from Colorado. I have lived all over the country, so I get confused about where some of my colleagues are from. I thank my colleague from Colorado for doing this this evening.

God's Word has meant so much to me in my life. I can remember being a young boy and being raised on that two-wheel, wagon-rut mule farm, where every day was a survival day—no indoor plumbing, up before dawn, going to bed way after dark. Every day was a workday except Sunday. I remember going with my grandfather, who was a superintendent of the local church. As a very young boy, he would let me hold onto the rope as he would pull the bell to signal that it was time for the community to come to worship. The rope would swing me up into the rafters, and my grandfather would stand there, making sure I didn't fall and hurt myself. It was like going to Six Flags for me as a kid.

I remember, as a young boy, being exposed to the words in this book when I was in the backroom of that little church, learning for the first time the great stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs of the Scriptures: Abraham, Jacob, Isaac, Moses, King David, the Apostle Paul, and, of course, our Savior Jesus Christ. I went through my life with some of those foundational faith principles that were taught to me at that point. All of my life, I wanted to find out where all of that came from.

I had an opportunity to visit the nation of Israel—the Holy Land—in 2014. I thought about that visit before I went, and I thought I would like for this to be more than just an official visit. I would like for it to be personally meaningful; so I prayed about that. I said, "God, can you let me get something from this visit that I can take back and share that will be revealing?" and he did. As I walked in the footsteps of

Abraham, across the Hebron valley—when he was taking Isaac to Mount Moriah—and when I stood on the Temple Mount, when I stood in the Garden Tomb, a revelation came to me, and that is the reason that America's heart is so intertwined with our friends in Israel—it is that our lineage is one and the same.

The Scriptures tell us that a little place that is a little southwest of modern-day Jerusalem is where God told Jacob: Your name is no longer going to be Jacob, but your name is going to be Israel; and I am going to make a nation come from you, and this shall be your land.

It occurred to me at that point that our lineage and the lineage of the nation of Israel is exactly one and the same because, if you go back to our founding documents—to our Declaration of Independence—it claims that our unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness come not from man, not from government, not from Presidents or from legislative bodies, but from our Creator.

John Adams said that the Constitution of the United States is a document that is designed to govern a people who live by Christian principles and that it is wholly inadequate for any other. Today, we seem to think that you have to be perfect to experience God's redemption in your life.

I am reminded of First Chronicles, Chapter 4, the story of Jabez. He prayed: O God that You would bless me, indeed, that You would expand my territory, that Your hand would be upon me, and that You would keep me from evil that I might not cause pain.

We never hear about Jabez at any other time in the Bible, but we know what God said to him. Because Jabez was a righteous man, God answered his prayer. You will notice that the Scriptures didn't say because Jabez was a perfect man. They said because Jabez was a righteous man—that he had a heart after the Father's.

In America today, we hear about so much of the division and of even division here within the legislative branch—within parties and across party aisles. We sometimes forget that the Bible talks about politics. You will hear oftentimes “don't mix religion and politics.” The Bible talks about politics. Go read Daniel, Chapter 6. Daniel, Chapter 6 is like a session of Congress. We all know the story.

Daniel was an overseer who was appointed by the king. He was selected as a commissioner, one of the leaders of the overseers, like a leader here in the House, perhaps. Some of the people didn't like how much favor Daniel was getting with the king, and they began to conspire against him. You know the story. They set it up so that Daniel had to be thrown in the lions' den. We know that God spared Daniel and shut the mouths of the lions, and the con-

spirators suffered the same fate. They were fed to the lions by the king.

Yet we don't go far enough into that to remember what Daniel did as a politician. You see, Daniel never went to the king and said: Hey, you have abandoned me. You stabbed me in the back. I have been your guy all of this time, and now you are going to throw me to the lions after I have stood up for you all of this time?

He never went to his other commissioners and said: I thought you guys were with me. I thought we were all in this together, and now you are conspiring against me.

No. What Daniel did was he said: King, I am your guy. I am still going to be your guy, but what I am not going to do is give up my principles upon which I stand—my belief and faith in my God. If you want to throw me in the lions' den, throw me in the lions' den.

You see, Daniel knew something that we as leaders—that we as a nation—need to get back in touch with, which is that God doesn't expect us to do His job. Daniel knew he was not the changer; rather, he was the change agent.

□ 1815

We are here for a short time to simply be salt and light. That is our role. Yet, today we get distracted by everything that comes across the news media or the Internet. We believe it to be the truth when this document, this book, is the author of truth.

John 8:31–32 says: Jesus said to the Jews that believed in Him, “. . . abide in my word and you will truly be my disciples; and you will see the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Folks, much of what ails our Nation—much of what ails our Nation could be solved if we would simply get back in touch with our first true love, the true love that is proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution and that our Founders believed in, the author of truth. It is found in this book.

Thank you to my colleague for allowing me a few minutes to speak tonight. I have wanted to do this for a long time. God bless you.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative JOHNSON for what he shared. It is truly appropriate for this National Bible Week. I appreciate how he talked about the ties between Christianity and Judaism and the Judeo-Christian ethic, which ties it all together and how you observed that during your recent trip to Israel.

There are many archeological discoveries which have validated Biblical accounts, giving trustworthiness to the Bible we acknowledge during this National Bible Week. Time and time again, archeology has shown the Biblical personalities, locations, and events actually existed in time and space. Claims by critics that a Biblical

statement was simply made up have been debunked by later archeological discoveries more times than we can say.

The Jewish archaeologist Nelson Glueck has said: “It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted or contradicted a biblical reference.”

I now yield time to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA). He will talk about this National Bible Week.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), who not only shares the first 13 letters of our combined names, but a deep reverence and recognition of the importance of the Bible in our Christian faith.

So I am glad to be able to join you and our other colleagues here in recognizing the 75th anniversary of National Bible Week.

The Bible is indeed the living, unerring Word of God. The Founders recognized that, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) alluded to. Indeed, our form of government is more successful when we follow a standard that is separate from ourselves, a standard that lives in a timeless space, beyond what today's fads are and what today's feelings or thoughts are. The Bible is unerring in that since it is the Word of God. So it is for us to recognize this and put those words into action.

Some might say: Well, why are they talking about the Bible on the House floor? Why are they talking about religion and mixing that in with government?

Well, the Founders provided not freedom from religion, but freedom to express our religions, no matter what type it is in this country. Still, this one is based largely on Christianity and the Judeo-Christian values we have, but there is the freedom to express other ones as well.

In these times, there are those who would try to oppress those with false gods, worship of nature, worship of things, and subdue our abilities to worship as we please. In these times, these oppressions seem to be more and more apparent all the time.

Still, we soldier on and we ask God's guidance and pray for the light to be shown to others on what this is. This is not a judgmental thing. We don't judge others. God is the judge. We live by a code that is in the Bible or we try to.

One important verse, Romans 3:23, says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

That is why we have to seek Him; we all fall short. It is not judging of one versus the other because they are all in the same lot.

So there are many places you can point to in the Bible that has much wisdom. I recommend you read the whole thing. I, at this point, am reading it front to back. I have never really done that before, read it all the way

through. I am in Acts right now. In life, when you go to Bible school, Sunday school, or through church, you maybe tend to hop and skip around. But reading the Bible front to back, it really becomes fascinating.

Every word in there is in there for a purpose. Even when you are reading through a whole list of names you may have never heard of or hear of again—so-and-so begot so-and-so and lived 120 years and then he died and things like that—it may not be apparent in the beginning, but there is an important reason why those words are in there. They are in there to chronicle time, to chronicle who was important in those early days all the way through to the prophesy you find in Revelation, which is very, very important to understand what our future may hold.

So some of the things I like to live by: you can find so much in Proverbs, which indeed much of it could be seen as perhaps a book of best practices, tools to use in life. Much of Proverbs is the document laid down by King Solomon to his son, Rehoboam—the best practices in speaking to his son.

A portion that I like especially and is a part of what I like to use as a model for conduct in this difficult role we find ourselves in as elected officials in a town full of temptation, full of possible bad choices that we have seen others who have fallen to these bad choices is in Proverbs 4:18–27.

It says: “The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the work of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart for they are like life to those who find them and health to one’s whole body. Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the left or the right; keep your feet from evil,” which indeed in this business keeping on that right path, do not be drawn into temptation, do not go to the left or the right where evil might be.

Best practices are in Proverbs. Indeed it is one of my favorites, but there is so much to be gleaned from reading all the way through the Bible and going back and understanding what that means. This is why small-group Bible study is important. Our church leaders who are imbued with this knowledge, you can learn from that and apply that to your life and be successful in your life not only here, but in the very important hereafter.

Our Founders were inspired by that. When you take the perfect unerring ef-

fect of the Bible and apply that to maybe what is the closest as possible to perfect of something created by man: our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, what came from the Declaration of Independence. They were inspired by Biblical truths. That is why, in this unjudgmental way that we try to live, they are almost perfect documents because they are divinely inspired by the Bible.

So as we celebrate the special anniversary this week, know that my colleagues here are indeed well-meaning in sharing this. From Genesis to Revelation, you will find the truth in there, which is a very profoundly powerful message.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for the time and for having this Special Order tonight on this very important and profound week of recognition for our Bible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for sharing those thoughts with us.

The Pacific Ocean all the way to the Atlantic is covered by our speakers today. We had East Coast speakers from Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. We had a speaker from Michigan up on the Canadian border. And our next speaker will be from Texas on our southern border. So the entire country is represented. That is fitting because National Bible Week is for the entire country. It is the 75th anniversary of this celebration.

So the entire country of America has been blessed throughout history, as we talked about several times already tonight. It is so appropriate that we can have speakers from all over the country.

I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is the 75th anniversary of National Bible Week. Isn’t it interesting that National Bible Week was first proclaimed 2 weeks before World War II broke out?

The Nation really rallied and rallied behind Franklin Roosevelt’s call to pray together, the President that went on national radio on D-day and led the Nation in prayer. I am sure if he were to try to do that today if he were alive, then people would be freaking out that the President was leading in prayer like that.

There are so many examples from World War II where we could say: Wow, wasn’t that a coincidence? The Germans ran out of gas at just the right time. This German general or commander got confused at just the time they were about to get enough gasoline to refill and refuel and keep the Battle of the Bulge going. There are so many little things.

A fellow in Iowa earlier this year had told me that coincidence is what we have when you don’t notice God’s at work. I am still chewing on that.

In the first hundred years, about a hundred years after the founding, the U.S. Supreme Court had a case involving Trinity Church. They went through and reviewed all the evidence and declared this is a Christian nation. It didn’t mean everybody in America was a Christian at all. Nobody has to be. They have the freedom to say God doesn’t exist.

The freedom that comes from a government based on Biblical word is a freedom that cannot be obtained under any other religious teaching. That is why, when I had a chance to meet Retired General Jay Garner again back in September, I asked him again: What happened?

President George W. Bush sent him over into Iraq and asked him to find out what the Iraqi people felt like we should try to give them as a government.

Now, I would say let them choose their own government. We shouldn’t be trying to push anything.

General Garner did a brilliant job, but he went with some other people—one was a reporter and he had people from the administration with him—and he was told: “You have got to talk to this direct descendant of Muhammad and see what he says, because people really listen to him being a direct descendant of Muhammad.”

A black turban also is an indication apparently of being a direct descendant of Muhammad, from what we were told.

Then he said: Look, I am going to tell you what I think we need here in Iraq. I will do that in my language, and then I will tell you in English since you are recording everything.

And so he spoke for quite some time. And then he said: Okay, in a nutshell, what I have said is basically we need a government that is composed of Iraqis and that it is based on a constitution that Iraqis put together and that constitution is based on the teachings of Jesus.

And General Garner, when he got outside, he turned to the reporter and everybody and asked: “Did you guys all hear that? Did he really—”

They all said “yes.” He said it should be based on the teachings of Jesus.

When you think about it, it makes perfect sense. If you base a government on the teachings of anyone else, then ultimately there will not be true freedom in that nation.

□ 1830

This is a New Testament that belonged to my uncle, and it has “May the Lord be with you.” It has this brass plate here on the front, and people were encouraged to put it in their pocket to see if it would save—it apparently saved some lives right over the heart. Inside the flyleaf at the top it says:

“The White House. Washington. As Commander in Chief, I take pleasure in

commending the reading of the Bible to all who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States. Throughout the centuries, men of many faiths and diverse origins have found in the Sacred Book words of wisdom, counsel and inspiration. It is a fountain of strength and now, as always, an aid in attaining the highest aspirations of the human soul."

It is signed Franklin D. Roosevelt.

If you look back at our history, the very first book authorized to be published by the U.S. Congress at government expense was the Bible. You had the Supreme Court in the first 50 years saying: of course the Bible should be taught; it is the best book for teaching our children. And now the government says: really, Christians are a big hate group that we need to worry about, and that their talk of Christianity is actually hate speech, homophobia, and Islamophobia.

What these people who have become wise in their own eyes don't realize is that really this book, this Bible, is about love, that God so loved the world that He gave His Son, and that His Son so loved the world that He gave His life. That is a religion based on love. Jesus went on to say the two great commandments: love God, love each other.

After I became a parent and my mother was about to die, and she said her favorite thing was her kids being there with her and loving each other, it made all the sense in the world.

This Bible makes sense, from the prophecies Mr. LAMBORN spoke of, when you read Psalm 22—"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"—it is just verse after verse of prophecy of what was fulfilled by only one person in the history of man.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas and all the other speakers who joined us during this hour. It has been really wonderful to recognize and commemorate the 75th anniversary of National Bible Week.

I would like to thank the National Bible Association—the other NBA—for offering to provide some historical artifacts, which for logistical reasons we were not actually able to bring here in person, ancient Jewish and Protestant and Catholic texts that we could have used as well to read from. I just want to thank each Member here, and I am glad that we have had 75 years of celebrating this wonderful event. It has been a great part of our national heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MAKE IT IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BUCK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr.

GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity here to discuss something that we have talked about now for almost 7 years. It is called infrastructure. It is called Make It In America. It is all about American bridges falling down.

This is the bridge in Washington State as one approaches the British Columbia boundary, Interstate 5, the interstate that runs from the Canadian border to the Mexican border. And on this particular day, you couldn't get there because the bridge collapsed. Not unusual. All across America, there are tens of thousands of bridges that are in a state of imminent collapse, downright dangerous. But, hey, we don't have any other way to get across the river, so take your chances. After all, it is American infrastructure.

There was a lot of discussion in the last presidential campaign about infrastructure, a lot of hooting and shouting, and maybe in the months ahead some progress. Last year this Congress, together with the Senate and with President Obama's signature, passed a 5-year surface transportation bill. Good. Very good. However, there's not even enough money in it to maintain our bridges so that they don't fall down. So we need to get on with rebuilding America.

I could probably quote the words of the President-elect or the Democratic nominee who didn't successfully win that election, but they would all come down to the same thing: we need to build our infrastructure. And indeed we do. In doing so, we are going to put people to work, lots of people to work if we do it right.

Here is how you multiply the effect of infrastructure construction on the employment. There is no doubt, for every dollar we spend on infrastructure, we will grow the economy by a little more than \$2, and we will put several tens of thousands of people to work if we spend a billion dollars or more. We know those statistics; they are out there, and they are true. But if you really, really want to grow this economy, and you want to bring manufacturing back to the United States, then you ought to pay attention to what we have been working on here for the last 7 years, and this is what we call the Make It In America agenda.

Yes, that infrastructure is essential. But what if your tax dollars were spent on jobs in the United States, on American-made steel, American-made concrete, American-made rebars, structural elements of all kinds? What if your tax dollars were actually spent here in America rather than in that very sad, sad situation in California, in my California?

Oh, yes, let me put this up. This is an embarrassment. Oh, not this one. That

one. You see, that is the San Francisco Bay bridge. It was completed about 4 years ago, 3 years ago now, and the original cost was somewhere around \$1 billion or so. It actually turned out to be some \$6 billion or more. But the thing that really, really was embarrassing is that the steel in that bridge was not American steel. It was Chinese steel. The toll dollars of those who cross this bridge for the next 50 years wind up in China, not in the United States, not in American steel mills, not in the pockets of American workers who are working those mills, and not in the pockets of the welders who put together the steel structures but, rather, in China's pocket.

Terrible embarrassment. Why did it happen? Well, they thought it would be about 10 percent cheaper. It didn't happen. It turned out that it was much, much more expensive. Why? Because the steel was of less quality, the welds weren't good, and the inspectors were Chinese and overlooked some of the problems.

Let me give you another example here. This is really embarrassing. For my California colleagues, please forgive me, but these are facts; and for all of us, pay attention. What happens when you build into a project, a buy America provision? What happens is American jobs and things are done well and things are done on time. The New York Tappan Zee bridge made with United States-produced steel, about a \$3.9 billion total cost, and 7,728 direct American jobs as a result of that steel being American steel. On time, on budget, and made in America.

So here is the deal, folks. If, Mr. President-elect, you want an infrastructure program, if you want to bring manufacturing back to America, then you better pay attention to this, which is Make It In America. Use our tax dollars, your tax dollars, the American tax dollars on American-made goods and services, not on something from some other place. This doesn't violate trade agreements; and if it does, those trade agreements ought to be changed. This is about rebuilding the American manufacturing sector.

Let me give you another example. Yes, one of my favorites. Another example, beyond the bridge, the Tappan Zee bridge, which is a very good example, and a very bad example, the Bay bridge, San Francisco Oakland Bay bridge. For those of you who don't know what a locomotive looks like, that is an Amtrak locomotive, 100 percent made in America. But America doesn't build locomotives anymore. Well, that used to be true. Maybe a decade ago we didn't build locomotives. However, in the wisdom of this Congress and President Obama and the Senate, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed, otherwise known as the stimulus bill.

In the stimulus bill, there was written a few tens of billions of dollars to

build locomotives—let me put it this way, to buy locomotives for the Amtrak system. This one is an electric locomotive for the Northeast corridor here on the East Coast. Somebody somewhere in that piece of legislation—maybe it was a Democrat, maybe it was a Republican, maybe it was a staffer, an independent, I don't know, but somebody wrote into that provision for the purchase of Amtrak locomotives, about 70 of them, actually a little more than 70 of them, that they must be not 10 percent American made, not 20, not 30, not 90, but 100 percent American made so that every single thing on that locomotive had to be American made.

Well, the great manufacturers in the United States—General Electric and General Motors—and some foreign manufacturers looked at that and said: 100 percent American made? It doesn't work. They don't build locomotives in the United States anymore. How could you build 100 percent American made?

Well, this little German company called Siemens, one of the biggest industrial companies in the entire world, said: How many billions involved here? Lots of zeros, lots of billions. Seventy locomotives, 100 percent American made. We are a German company, 100 percent. How many billions was that? I will tell you what. We will do it. And Siemens did it.

□ 1845

In the United States, they built that locomotive and about 60 some others in Sacramento, California, where there was no locomotive manufacturing plant until the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act became law and billions of dollars became available. That German company went to Sacramento, California, just outside my district where I spent more than 40 years representing the area, and said: We can do it. And they did it. And now they have contracts across this Nation to build in America not just locomotives like this but also railcars, light railcars, transit systems, and the like.

We can make it in America, and your tax dollars can actually be used to employ people in America and to build manufacturing systems in the United States if—and here is the key—in the months ahead, this Congress, working with the next President, actually decides that they are going to put into public policy that your tax dollars are going to be spent on American-made equipment.

Now, in that bill I talked about a little while ago, the FAST Act, which is a 5-year transportation bill, I and a few of my colleagues were successful in increasing by a little, teeny, tiny bit the American content on buses and light rail systems—not to 100 percent which is what I wanted, but from 60 to 70 percent. And that will be several thousand jobs over time across the United States. But we should be bold.

If, as the President-elect says, he wants to rebuild American manufacturing, make America great again—which of us doesn't want that to happen—we all do—then I would suggest, Mr. President-elect and my Republican colleagues and my Democratic colleagues, that we build into any infrastructure bill two very, very important things. The first is that American taxpayer dollars will be 100 percent spent on American-made equipment, whether that is the steel for the wheels of the Amtrak trains, the structures for the bridges, or the concrete, whatever. American-made. Your tax dollars spent on America.

So what are we going to do here? The second thing. I shouldn't forget this. There are those that would use this infrastructure legislation to further diminish the power of the American worker to stand together united and participate in achieving a fair wage.

We must not allow this effort to rebuild the American infrastructure to be an excuse for eliminating the unions in the United States. We have seen enough of that. We have seen the effect of that. The diminution of the wages for the working men and women is directly parallel to the diminution of the labor movement in California and the United States.

So, let's pay attention here. Men and women joining together, arguing and debating and standing for their rights and their wages and their working conditions is a time-honored and essential condition of the United States middle class and the working men and women, wherever they happen to be across this Nation.

As we go about this process of building America, of reinvigorating the manufacturing sector of the United States and making it in America once again, let us remember that there are key points that must be paid attention to.

There is a term that was used in the California fields by our friends from Mexico, and the term was, *Si se puede*; or, Yes, we can. We can make it in America. We can rebuild the American manufacturing sector. We can strengthen American families financially and otherwise by doing these things, but only if we use your taxpayer dollars here in America and strengthen the buy-America provisions and no further diminution in the American labor movement. Yes, we can.

Now, let's keep this in mind. It ought to be our motto. It ought to be the words by which we set our compass: to make it in America, use your tax dollars, buy American products, and strengthen the American family.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked about this issue for the last 7 years, and I have talked about this issue for about the last 17 minutes. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), an incredible spokesperson for what is right in America and what is wrong.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank my good friend from California, and I want to offer a consistent appreciation for an effective articulate presentation on a message that not only the American people are eager to hear, but I would imagine as we have the waning hours—I don't like to call anything lame duck—that we can rush to craft the kind of fair and just response, overdue response to the infrastructure rebuild that takes into consideration American-made products, takes into consideration and includes no diminishing of hourly wages for our hardworking union members, and, of course, begins to move across America and fix the ailing bridges, dams, highway, freeways, bridges, tunnels, and airports.

Being on the Homeland Security Committee, I definitely want to include that, particularly as I travel around the Nation and I see the hardworking people at airports, but also the infrastructure challenges.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

EVENTS OF LAST WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the Minority Leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, my words still count for the presentation that the gentleman from California made, and count me as one of those that will continue to join him in that.

Mr. Speaker, might I take a moment to do a number of things as I engage in a conversation on the floor with my colleagues and acknowledge the importance of the work of this body. And also, I want to speak to the last week's occurrences.

We, as Members of Congress, may have disagreements on the actions of last week, one of the most important acts that the American people engage in, so I certainly want to applaud the American people for the peaceful transfer of power. That power is not completely transferred. Everyone knows that it is the inauguration on January 20, 2017, in which we will have the opportunity to, in actuality, transfer power from President Obama to the next President of the United States that has been voted on by the people of this country.

In the course of my discussion, I will raise a number of concerns that I think are important for us to listen to. Again, these may be issues that draw a little bit of provocativeness, if you will, but I hope to be thoughtful in my words.

I do want to acknowledge the works or the words of my colleagues previously honoring the recognition of the Bible and say that so many of us not only find comfort in that wonderful book but we also use it for counsel.

As I begin, I hope that those who may be listening will, in fact, see in my words the kind of temperament and tone that, as I said, even if we have disagreement, we will certainly not be disagreeable. And I cite for my friends and for this body Psalm 16:7–11, but I only read chapter 16 and verse 7 at this point.

“I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.”

Verse 8:

“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.”

That is, I think, a wonderful testimony for this Nation. It is a testimony for the structure of government. It is a testimony for this Congress as we proceed. It is a testimony for the men and women who are in faraway places who are wearing the uniform. It certainly is a testimony, I believe, for many who find themselves suffering at this moment in a variety of ways.

I do want to acknowledge and offer my deepest sympathy to the family of Gwen Ifill, someone who I have come to know over the years as one of America's award-winning journalists.

Gwen Ifill was, in fact, a journalist that perceived her work as a profession, as a calling, and I am so sad to hear of her untimely death. She had a storied career, including being the first African American female to moderate a Vice Presidential debate in 2004, and handling it some 4 years later. She brilliantly moderated the 2008 Vice Presidential debate between Vice President JOE BIDEN and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, her steadiness as a host on the PBS NewsHour, and the wonderful family from which she has come.

I want to acknowledge her wonderful sister, who heads the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and all of her family members to say that we celebrate her life, but we also mourn her passing.

I wanted this evening to manage to combine the things that we need to get done—as I said, the actions of last week—and I want to combine it with the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights that we all have.

I want to make it very clear that the First Amendment gives us the freedom of speech or of the press or the right for the people peaceably to assemble. So I take issue with statements that have been made by the recent elected person who sought the Presidency from New York who indicated in some early comments that he viewed the protesters as being paid and, I guess, incited by the media or caused to be protesting by the media. I take as a very sacred document that we are blessed to have as the Constitution.

I watched as throngs of young people walked past the United States Capitol just a few hours ago. I think it is important for the American people and

my colleagues to know what a beautiful sight of young, peaceful Americans who were frustrated and hurt by what they perceive as an exclusionary election that did not include them.

So, I do want to put on the record that this will be a constitutional discussion as we weave in and out of the challenges that I see that we will be having and, in essence, speak to some of the concerns that these protesters would have.

Let me first say that, with respect to military force, in a Washington Post article by Bob Woodward, it says:

“The president can select nuclear strike packages against three categories—military targets, war-supporting or economic targets and leadership targets.”

It means, in the hands of any Commander in Chief, President, they will have that power.

□ 1900

Under practice, as the Commander in Chief, the President can employ U.S. military forces as he or she sees fit; and that means that the concern that many are expressing, these young people, what kind of Commander in Chief, as evidenced by words said during this very extended Presidential campaign of “I like war,” or the idea that there would be, I guess, an extensive use of war powers or the powers that an individual President can use, this raises concern for a lot of people.

Let me, as well, indicate that, when you begin to think about the structures of government, you have a headline from the Associated Press that the children of this candidate could run a blind trust, and so that is certainly of concern.

When Mr. Giuliani indicated that Mr. Trump should set up some kind of blind trust, when pressed, Mr. Giuliani told CNN's “State of the Union” that Trump's unusual situation might call for more flexibility; and that is something we have never seen before, where there is at least some mixture of government and the using of a business structure and more flexibility. And then a new announcement that these individuals that would be involved in the blind trusts, or running the business, now would be called upon to—or are being sought, if you will, to have a top secret clearance, which means that the interests of business could be mixed with the security interests of the American people.

I find that quite puzzling. And as a member of—concerned about homeland security on a number of my committees, I find that of great concern. This is what happens when there are elections, maybe, with less information than we should have had.

So I think it is important to note that protesters are rightly concerned. Certainly, there is additional information in a recent “60 Minutes” interview

where the question came up about deporting undocumented individuals.

Certainly, amongst undocumented individuals are young people called DACA, who have been given work permits and delays from deportation, who are scholars, who are in college, who are young high school students. Because the system of legal immigration that has been presented to this Congress any number of times has not been debated or passed, we have not done our job; so we have not passed a system in which those who are unstated could legally pay fines, stand in line, and do the appropriate thing that I think Americans would care for them to do.

What we have is a system that is broken, and so, in his wisdom, the President of the United States worked to step in the gap where there was no law as it relates to these young people, and, of course, the Congress did not act. No answer from that in the “60 Minutes” interview.

There is a question, or a point, that individuals that have criminal records—gang members, drug dealers, probably about 2 million people, allegedly—would be deported, without any suggestion of how you would pay for it. I think deportation is about \$10,000 per person.

Also, criminal record is a relative question. Is that a misdemeanor? Is that a ticket? Is that a young person that is a gang member that could be rehabilitated and then, of course, have some way to access citizenship in some appropriate manner?

Let this be very clear. None of us want to coddle or to protect anyone that will do us harm here in the United States. That is not in any way the stance that I take. But I do ask the question: Is there any thought to these policies? And these policies have now caused great fear, intimidation, which generates thousands of young people and others across America taking to the peaceful protests because they are confused—and the confusion is continuing to grow.

In addition, it was said often that this is a powerful country with a wonderful democracy. That democracy means that, in the battle of campaigns, much is said. Once campaigns are over, then we move on to respect the opponent, the loyal opposition, and we move on to ensure that we do not have a punitive and—how should I say?—unfair treatment of the individual that lost.

We have repeated over and over again, Mrs. Clinton, who I think was an excellent candidate for the Presidency—as evidenced by the fact that, right now, the numbers are mounting. She has actually received more than 1 million votes over the individual that will take up the helm by inauguration in January of 2017. So the popular vote, more Americans voted for Mrs. Clinton

than the person who will be inaugurated. That is a very hard pill to swallow, and I will speak about the electoral college.

With that in mind, we also know that there have been many hearings in this Congress that have looked at a number of aspects of some of the concerns that have been raised in the battle, in the contest, and those have not evidenced any basis for moving forward.

That being said, in an inquiry for “60 Minutes,” regarding Mrs. Clinton, kind words were said, of course, and I agree with them, that she proceeded in the appropriate manner to protect the peaceful transfer of government. She reached out to the American people to ask them to work with this new government. She spoke about our values and that we should continue to maintain our values. I thank her for that. And, of course, she appropriately called and conceded, and that action was called lovely.

But when the question was posed about appointing a special prosecutor, rather than performing or speaking in a Presidential manner, that wasn't the case. The response was that this action would not be ruled out, and some words that were attempting to comfort were said: “They are good people. I don't want to hurt them.”

Where is the responsible response, which is: The election is over. I thank Mrs. Clinton for her service to the Nation, and we look forward to healing this Nation and working together? That did not occur.

So let me say, let us not discount the pain that my constituents and many others are feeling because there have been no words that are conciliatory; and certainly, there are no words that would seem to respect the loyal opposition, the opponent, only the words that would seem to provoke those who worked so hard on behalf of the other candidate. The newspapers are rampant with these examples of what kind of administration will we have.

So how did we get here? We got here because of the structure of the electoral college, which was in place as we began this Nation. And of course it is established in Article II, section 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

The Constitution gives each State a number of electors equal to the combined total of its Senate membership, two for each State, the House of Representatives delegation currently ranging from 1 to 52. Under the 23rd Amendment of the Constitution, the District of Columbia is allocated three electors. So the electoral college consists of 538 electors; 535 electors from the several States and 3 from the District of Columbia. None of those individuals should stand in place of the popular vote, but that is the concept that we used in that earlier point.

On November 6, 2012, Mr. Trump tweeted that the electoral college is a

disaster for democracy. I think many of us in America totally agree.

Most States require that all electoral votes go to the candidate that received the plurality in that State; and so, in some sense, it is connected to that State and has some basis to it.

It was amended in the 12th Amendment—I think that was in 1804—which provides what happens if the electoral college fails to elect a President or Vice President. Here lies the very crux of the reason why a popular vote should now be the standard.

Let me say also that I could not read the minds of our Founding Fathers. They managed to put in a system of democracy that has now lasted for a very, very, very long period of time. They are to be commended. This was through the Constitutional Convention that met in Philadelphia in 1787. This was an important acknowledgment, and there were a variety of processes upon which they suggested there be a Presidential selection.

A committee formed to work out various details, including the mode of election of the President, recommended that the election be decided by a group of people apportioned among the States. I would offer to say that that did not go forward. There were fears of intrigue if the President was chosen by a small group of men.

At the time, as you are well aware, slaves were not counted as a full person, and slaves were in the United States. Women were not allowed to vote, and there were other prohibitions against voting. Concerns for the independence of the President if he was elected by the Congress was also part of the mix in terms of how you would discern and vote, and the electoral college was being developed.

In Federalist Paper No. 39, James Madison explained the Constitution was designed to be a mixture of State-based and population-based government. Alexander Hamilton defended the electoral college on the grounds that the electors were chosen directly by the people.

All of that, trying to get it right, I think, speaks volumes—volumes—to the idea of moving forward beyond this idea of the electoral college and to begin to look at other options; and so I am going to be asking our committees—in particular, the Judiciary Committee—to hold hearings on the electoral college.

I think it is extremely appropriate for the American people to be able to understand the crux of how this works but, more importantly, how this impacts the leadership of this country.

Five times a candidate has won the popular vote but not the electoral college: Andrew Jackson in 1824, Samuel Tilden in 1876—we remember that compromise—Grover Cleveland in 1888, Al Gore in 2000, and, certainly, Hillary Clinton in 2016. I would suggest that

this is an appropriate time to review this.

We tried to do an electoral college review from 1969 to 1971. H.J. Res. 681 proposed the direct election of a President and Vice President, requiring a runoff when no candidate received more than 40 percent of the vote. The resolution did pass the House in 1969 but failed to pass the Senate.

So, I think it is important that we look at this in a manner that can be reviewed, and there are ways of doing so. I believe there is a national popular vote, which I will find in just a moment, that has already worked with 13 States to devise another approach, or which is the popular vote, and to make sure that the bar that we have that deals with the electoral college and bars the count of the popular vote to the extent that one person, one vote, I think, has to be reviewed. There has to be a congressional review of this. There is too much at stake and too much emphasis on the right to a vote that we cannot let Americans vote for their President.

And I say that some of the discussions around the idea of the electoral college were that maybe the voters were not informed enough, maybe they were not at a level of education that we should entrust to them the idea of the situation dealing with the popular vote. So I think the issue is that we need to make sure that the one vote, one person counts. We talk about it all the time, and we don't seem to act on it. Let's hold hearings. That is important.

Let me quickly go to the aftermath of these elections that has really disturbed many of us. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports more than 201 incidents of election-related harassment and intimidation across the country as of November 11, 5 p.m. They range from anti-Black to antiwoman, to anti-LGBT incidents.

People are hurting. There were many examples of vandalism and epithets directed at individuals. Oftentimes, the types of harassment overlapped, and many incidents, though not all, involved direct references to the Trump campaign.

□ 1915

Let me give you some examples. This is an example from the Southern Poverty Law Center: My 12-year-old daughter is an African American. A boy approached her and said, “Now that Trump is President, I am going to shoot you and all the Blacks I can find.” We reported it to the school, who followed up with my daughter and the boy appropriately.

Another at this time in the college setting: The day after the presidential election, my friend, a Black female freshman in a Boston-area college heard a White female student say, “This is their punishment for 8 years of

Black people.” When she turned around to see who said it, the White student laughed at her.

In Louisiana, a woman was harassed by White men in a passing car, which was a frequently reported venue of harassment since election day: I was standing at a red light waiting to cross the street. A black truck with three White men pulled up to the red light. One of them yelled something inappropriate. The other two began to laugh. One began to chant “Trump” as they drove away.

I have an employee who happens to be Hispanic who was coming to work in my own hometown and was told, “Wet-back in a suit, go home.”

“Death to diversity” was written on a banner displayed on our library—this happened, I think, in Colorado—for people to see, as well as written on posters across the campus, as well as White males going up to women saying unfortunate things about grabbing unfortunate things.

This is from Austin, Texas: Harassment, today a young Latino man in his 20s and a coworker of mine were walking into work as a truck slowed down and two White men threw a bag of garbage onto him and yelled, “You are going back to where you came from.”

There are, obviously, many such instances. When asked about this, to his credit, Mr. Trump said to stop it. That is not going to be enough. That will not answer the thousands upon thousands of those who are protesting and the thousands upon thousands of those who are looking for leadership to be able to suggest that we are, in fact, a nation that represents all people.

Now, it is the prerogative of the person who got elected and who will be honored to serve as the President of the United States, it will be their privilege to select persons that will lead. We do know that there is discussion about an individual for the Secretary of State, and I choose to cite this as an individual who is now possibly being looked at for the many conflicts of interest that they will have.

This is the highest office in the land. There must be a responsible ordering of those who are actually able to do the job. It is important to reward your friends. But these are important governmental positions that will either be the face—the Secretary of State—of the United States internationally or the Attorney General who will be the chief law enforcement officer or in the White House staff will likewise be the face of the President of the United States.

In the last week, an individual has now been selected who was in the campaign as the chief strategist—that is the face of the White House—that has given a signal to White supremacists that they will be represented at the highest levels. It is clearly documented of the kinds of actions that this indi-

vidual has been engaged in. The ex-wife indicated in a court document that he didn’t want the girls going to school with Jews. He said that he doesn’t like Jews.

Heading up a periodical that deals with the alt-right movement which has been known to deal with skinheads and various issues that are just completely untoward in a country that is 21st century and that is so diverse.

So I believe that having joined my colleagues and asked for reconsideration, you have the right to choose your cabinet. You have the right to choose your various aids that you will have. But I don’t believe in this Nation that you have the right to deal with this question of these issues where people feel divided.

There is a picture here. We know that there is the burning of a church. This is the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, Mississippi, that has written on the outside of the sacred place. I began my message or my statement on the floor with a word from Psalms. And here is written, “Vote Trump.”

Now, we know that there are people that may want to provoke or not provoke, but what I think is important is that one candidate got more of the popular vote. We need to review the electoral college. Out of this election has come great concerns from the words that have been offered during the campaign that cannot be pulled back. The words that cannot be pulled back now have generated not only actions by individuals not in the government, children being maligned and attacked, individuals being attacked on the street, people feel frightened. Churches are being burned, which we passed a law some years back that it is a Federal crime to burn a church. Then to have an individual who has been associated with the kind of propaganda that, in essence, is discriminatory against so many of us as women, African Americans, Hispanics, and certainly people who have differences. Certainly we have seen potential of the KKK marching in North Carolina, been denounced by the Republican and Democratic State party chair in North Carolina; and we thank them for that.

So what does that mean for all of us?

We have work to do. We have work to do. As Justice Learned Hand observed, if we are to keep our democracy, there must be one command: Thou shalt not ration justice.

We have criminal justice reform to deal with. We have to address the individuals that have been incarcerated unfairly. We must give them a second chance. This is not myself speaking, this is religious groups speaking. This is Republicans and Democrats speaking about the importance of criminal justice reform. We have not heard any discussion on that, but we do know that there has been over 200 hateful acts in

the election aftermath. That is a problem.

We also know that the electoral college has now, again, selected an individual that did not get the most votes from the American people.

So I would offer to say that, among the work that we have to do working to rebuild America and put America first, I certainly join in that. We have some healing to do, and we should be doing this in a corrective manner. We should be doing our job and looking at some of the constitutional fractures that occurred.

Let me close on one last point that I want to make sure that, as I speak, I offer a great respect for the individuals who have offered to serve in this government. But I would be remiss if I did not cite a shocking episode that occurred on October 28, 2016, in the midst of the Presidential election. It is important for the American people to know whether they agree or disagree.

My colleagues, there lies another opportunity for an investigation because there is no more storied an agency in law enforcement than the FBI. I have the greatest respect—I have worked with them as a young lawyer, as a staffer in this body. I have been on a committee that has worked with the FBI.

What was that committee?

I served on the committee as a staffer to investigate the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy when we opened it again where Chairman Gonzalez and Chairman Stokes served as chairpersons of that committee. We worked with then-FBI agents who were willing to provide information on how things happened during that timeframe. We have always looked to them to investigate and to be the armor of investigation to find the truth. But no protocol ever suggested that any announcement about an unknown situation, unrelated to anything, could be announced and blatantly interfere in a Presidential election.

We must find out why that determination was made and what leaks were forthcoming. Many have written to determine if that is the case. So I am looking forward to a thorough investigation in the altering of the campaign landscape that occurred historically on October 28, 2016, and it did have a damaging and drastic impact statistically in a 1-to-2-point measure. That was an impact that was not the making of the American people. It was not something that was life or death.

Factually, the ultimate determination is that the announcement was irrelevant. It had nothing to do with or did not generate any new information on the particular incident that was being addressed at that time.

So I came to the floor today because I believe that we should not let things last and fester, and we in the Congress

can be factfinders in an evenhanded and unbiased way. Our Judiciary Committee set up a task force dealing with overregulation. We have done it on antitrust and we have done it on criminal justice. Right now, the Constitution is being challenged, and aspects of the Constitution, the electoral college, is being challenged.

The interference of a democratic process of the election occurred no matter what good intentions were behind it. So the American people deserve many a factfinding situation—not in any way a targeting, not in any way a finger pointing, but a pure fact-finding. This has to be corrected. Those who are charged with the responsibility of serving this Nation must do it in the context in which they do it. Investigations go on until you find the resolve of that investigation and the prosecutor, the Attorney General, makes the announcement that they will proceed to prosecute or they may not proceed to prosecute.

So I am very grateful to live in a nation that cherishes the Constitution and cherishes our Bill of Rights. I beg that we appreciate those who have sought to protest, and we appreciate those who have voted because it is a process of democracy. I will accept that. But I will also say that the voices of those who are being raised should be heard, and we as factfinders should do our job.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEWIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and November 16.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

NOTICE OF ADOPTED RULEMAKING

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Section 303 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1383, requires that, with regard to the amendment of the rules governing the procedures of the Office, the Executive Director "shall, subject to the approval of the Board [of Directors], adopt rules governing the procedures of the Office" and "[u]pon adopting rules . . . shall transmit

notice of such action together with a copy of such rules to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day of which both Houses are in session following such transmittal."

Having published a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2014, provided a comment period of at least 30 days after publication of such notice, and obtained the approval of the Board of Directors for the adoption of these rules as required by Section 303(a) and (b) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1383(a) and (b), I am transmitting the attached Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives for publication in the House section of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following the receipt of this transmittal. In accordance with Section 303(b) of the CAA, these amendments to the Procedural Rules shall be considered issued by the Executive Director and in effect as of the date on which they are published in the Congressional Record.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to Barbara J. Sapin, Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, Room LA-200, 110 2nd Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20540.

Sincerely,

BARBARA J. SAPIN,
Executive Director,
Office of Compliance.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

NOTICE OF ADOPTED RULEMAKING ("NARM"), ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, NOTICE OF ADOPTED RULEMAKING, AS REQUIRED BY 2 U.S.C. § 1383, THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED ("CAA").

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

On September 9, 2014, a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance ("Office" or "OOC"), as amended in June 2004 ("2004 Procedural Rules" or "2004 Rules") was published in the Congressional Record at S5437, and H7372. As required under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("Act") at section 303(b) (2 U.S.C. 1383(b)), a 30 day period for comments from interested parties followed. In response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Office received a number of comments regarding the proposed amendments. Specifically, the Office received comments from the Committee on House Administration, the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol, and the U.S. Capitol Police Labor Committee.

The Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance have reviewed all comments received regarding the Notice, have made certain additional changes to the proposed amendments in response thereto, and herewith issue the final Amended Procedural Rules (Rules) as authorized by section 303(b) of the Act, which states in part: "Rules shall be considered issued by the Executive Director as of the date on which they are published in the Congressional Record." See, 2 U.S.C. 1383(b).

These Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance may be found on the Office's web site: www.compliance.gov.

Supplementary Information: The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), PL

104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995. The CAA applies the rights and protections of 13 federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the Legislative Branch of Government. Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. 1381) established the Office of Compliance as an independent office within that Branch. Section 303 (2 U.S.C. 1383) directed that the Executive Director, as the Chief Operating Officer of the agency, adopt rules of procedure governing the Office of Compliance, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance. The rules of procedure generally establish the process by which alleged violations of the laws made applicable to the Legislative Branch under the CAA will be considered and resolved. The rules include procedures for counseling, mediation, and election between filing an administrative complaint with the Office of Compliance or filing a civil action in U.S. District Court. The rules also include the procedures for processing Occupational Safety and Health investigations and enforcement, as well as the process for the conduct of administrative hearings held as the result of the filing of an administrative complaint under all of the statutes applied by the Act, for appeals of a decision by a Hearing Officer to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, and for the filing of an appeal of a decision by the Board of Directors to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The rules also contain other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operation of the Office of Compliance.

The Office's response and discussion of the comments is presented below:

Discussion

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE RULES

There were a number of comments submitted in reference to the proposed amendments made to Subpart A, General Provisions of the Rules. With respect to the amendments to the Filing and Computation of Time under section 1.03(a), one commenter noted that the provisions allowing the Board, Hearing Officer, Executive Director and General Counsel to determine the method by which documents may be filed in a particular proceeding "in their discretion" are overly broad. The commenter also requested clarification on whether there would be different methods used for filing in the same case, whether five (5) additional days would be added regardless of the type of service, and whether the OOC would inform the opposing party of the prescribed dates for a response.

The Office does not find as overly broad the amendment allowing the Board, Hearing Officer, Executive Director, and General Counsel the discretion to determine the method by which documents may be filed. The 2004 version of these Rules, as well as the CAA, confer the Office and independent Hearing Officers with wide discretion in conducting hearings and other processes. The Office further finds that there is no need to clarify whether different methods can be used in the same case, as long as whatever method chosen is made clear to parties. Finally, as the Rules are clear that five additional days will be added when documents are served by mail, the Office does not believe that it is necessary to include a requirement that the OOC inform parties of the specific dates that are required for response. That information can be ascertained from information on the method of filing.

As the OOC has indicated that it intends to move toward electronic filing, one commenter voiced support for the Office's decision to permit parties to file electronically. However, the commenter indicated that it would be beneficial for the proposed Rules to contain procedures for storing electronic material in a manner that will protect confidentiality and ensure compliance with section 416 of the CAA.

The Office routinely handles all materials in a secure and confidential manner, regardless of the format. Because the Office's confidential document management is covered in its own standard operating procedures, there is no need to include those procedures in these Rules.

Section 1.03(a)(2)(ii) of the Proposed Rules provided that documents other than requests for mediation that are mailed were deemed to be filed on the date of their postmark. However, mailed requests for mediation were to be deemed filed on the date they were received in the Office. (1.03(a)(2)(i)) This was a proposed change to the Rules that had established the date of filing for requests for mediation and complaints as the date when they were received in the Office. One commenter asserted that in changing the date of filing for complaints served by mail from the date received in the Office to the date of the postmark, the rules gave a covered employee an additional five days to file an OOC complaint. Upon review of all comments, the Office has determined that, because mail delivery on the Capitol campus is irregular due to security measures, it is best to use the date of postmark as the date of filing. This will ensure that all filings that under ordinary circumstances would be timely would not be deemed untimely because of any delay in mail delivery on the Hill. This includes the filing of a request for mediation, which will be deemed received in the Office as the date of postmark. In using the postmark as the date of filing for all mailed documents, the Office sees no advantage gained in one method of filing over the other, but rather views this as a way of curtailing any disadvantage to those who use mail for filing at a time when there are often significant delays in mail delivery to offices on the Hill.

In sections 1.03(a)(3) and (4) of the Proposed Rules, the Office changed the filing deadline for fax and electronic submissions from 5:00 pm Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period to 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period. One commenter noted that while submissions under section 1.03(a)(3) require in person hand delivery by 5:00 p.m., this deadline is inconsistent with the 11:59 p.m. deadline required for faxed and electronically filed documents. The commenter stated that the filing deadlines should be the same for all types of delivery and receipt options.

This is not an unusual situation. Often there are different filing deadlines, depending on the mode of delivery. However, to ensure consistency, the Office has changed the language so that the same time will be used for filing all documents coming into the Office.

Under Proposed Rule section 1.03(a)(4), commenters noted that there was ambiguity regarding email time display and one commenter proposed the addition of a new rule requiring prompt acknowledgement of the receipt of an emailed document to ensure that it has been received by the parties.

In view of this comment, the Office added language to the Adopted Rules, providing that when the Office serves a document electronically, the service date and time will be

based on the document's timestamp information. No further change is necessary. Confirmation of the transmittal of a document can be shown from the date and timestamp on the email, which is typically more reliable than a recipient's acknowledgment.

One commenter noted that under Proposed Rule section 1.03(c), there should be some way of notifying parties when the Office is "officially closed for business." The Office determined that it is not necessary to include in the Procedural Rules how the Office will notify parties of closures. The Office generally follows the Office of Personnel Management closure policy with respect to inclement weather and other official government closures. Further, information on the Office's closures appears on the Office's website at www.compliance.gov and is provided on the Office's mainline at 202.724.9250.

In response to the proposed changes to the new section 1.06 (formerly section 1.04) in the Proposed Rules, several commenters indicated that while records of Hearing Officers may be made public if required for the purposes of judicial review under Section 407, the Procedural Rules do not address circumstances where records are also necessary for purposes of civil action review under section 408 for res judicata purposes.

After review of these comments, the Office believes that this concern is adequately addressed in the Adopted Rules. Section 1.08(d), includes a broader statement concerning the appropriate use of records in other proceedings, and allows the submission of a Hearing Officer's decision in another proceeding, as long as the requirements in section 1.08(d) are met. Nothing in these Rules prohibits a party or its representative from disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings when it is reasonably necessary to investigate claims, ensure compliance with the Act or prepare a prosecution or defense. While section 1.08(d) does allow for the submission of Hearing Officer decisions under the appropriate circumstances, it also serves to preserve the confidentiality of these records. Thus, the party making the disclosure shall take all reasonably appropriate steps to ensure that persons to whom the information is disclosed maintain the confidentiality of such information.

With respect to the new section 1.07, Designation of a Representative, a commenter noted that the requirement that only one person could be designated as a representative was problematic since there have been situations when more than one attorney would be needed to represent an employing office or employee. The suggestion was made that the limitations apply only to a party for point of contact purposes. As the purpose of limiting the number of designated representatives was to eliminate any confusion caused by having to serve more than one representative per party, the Office has modified the language to indicate that only one representative may be designated to receive service.

There were several comments to section 1.07(c) of the Proposed Regulations. The proposals to section 1.07(c) provided that in the event of a revocation of a designation of representative, the Executive Director, OOC General Counsel, Mediator, Hearing Officer or OOC Board has the discretion to grant a party "additional time . . . to allow the party to designate a new representative as consistent with the Act." The commenters noted that the CAA is a waiver of sovereign immunity that must be strictly construed and that there is no discretion to extend statutory deadlines to give a party time to

designate a new representative, including time to request counseling under section 402, to request and complete mediation under section 403, to file a complaint or initiate a civil action under section 404, or to file an appeal under section 406 of the CAA. Commenters urged that the rule be modified to clarify this point.

As the adopted language notes that additional time may be granted *only as consistent with the CAA*, it should be clear that in granting any additional time to designate a new representative, the Executive Director, OOC General Counsel, Mediator, Hearing Officer or OOC Board will ensure that statutory deadlines are observed.

Deletion of the section 1.07 of the 2004 Procedural Rules, the breach of confidentiality provision, generated the most comments. Commenters generally noted that the Proposed Procedural Rules would eliminate the existing process for filing a complaint based on violation of the confidentiality provisions of section 416 of the CAA. The effect of this proposed rule change would be that, if there was a confidentiality breach, a party could obtain relief only pursuant to an "agreement" facilitated by the Mediator during the mediation period or through sanctions issued by a Hearing Officer during a section 405 proceeding (see Proposed Procedural Rules sections 2.04(k) and 7.12(b)). Commenters expressed concern that under the Proposed Rules, if an individual violated section 416 of the CAA at any other time in the process, no remedy would be available. Most commenters felt that this was inconsistent with the confidentiality requirements of the CAA, and that the Procedural Rules should include a complaint procedure for resolving independent violations of section 416. For example, one commenter noted that, under the Proposed Procedural Rules, if parties agree to a settlement during mediation, there is no remedy available to the employing office if the employee decides to publicize the terms of the settlement or any statements made during mediation. Similarly, if a covered employee never initiates a section 405 proceeding, but instead drops the matter or initiates a section 408 proceeding, the Proposed Procedural Rules would allow the employee to publicize any statements made during mediation, with no fear of sanction. The uncertainty regarding confidentiality would result in parties being less candid in mediation and, thereby, undermine it as a dispute resolution process.

Section 1.07 of the 2004 Procedural Rules, permitting the filing with the Executive Director of stand-alone complaints of violation of the confidentiality provisions, has been deleted because the OOC Board held, as a matter of statutory interpretation of the CAA, that it did not have the statutory authority to independently resolve a breach of confidentiality action brought under the Procedural Rules, without the existence of an underlying complaint under section 405 of the CAA. *Taylor v. U.S. Senate Budget Comm.* No. 10-SN-31 (CFD), 2012 WL 588440 (OOC Board Feb. 14, 2012); see *Massa v. Katz & Rickher*, No. 10-HS-59 (CFD) (OOC Board May 8, 2012) (dismissing complaint alleging breach of confidentiality on subject-matter jurisdiction grounds because the complainant "never filed a complaint [under section 405 of the CAA] against an employing office alleging violation of sections 201-207 of the CAA."). In other words, the Board's authority to adjudicate a breach of confidentiality is limited to employment rights proceedings initiated by a complaint filed by a covered employee against an employing office alleging violations of laws specifically incorporated by the CAA under 2 U.S.C. §§1311-

1317. Section 405 of the CAA, by its terms, limits the filing of a complaint to a covered employee who has completed mediation and section 406 of the CAA limits Board review to any party aggrieved by the decision of a Hearing Officer under section 405(g) of the CAA. For this reason, the Board determined that section 1.07(e) of the Procedural Rules could only apply to those orders and decisions regarding sanctions that were in a final order issued under section 405(g). While the CAA and the procedural rules mandate that parties in counseling, mediation, and hearing maintain confidentiality, there is no statutory provision within the CAA which addresses the authority of a Hearing Officer or the Board to address independent breaches of confidentiality. See 2 U.S.C. §1416

Other commenters noted that under *Taylor*, *supra*, the Board also appears to take the position that there is no provision in the CAA authorizing an employing office to bring a breach of confidentiality claim against a complainant. See also, *Eric J.J. Massa v. Debra S. Katz and Alexis H. Rickher*, Case No.: 10-HS-59 (CFD), (May 8, 2012) and *Taylor*. One commenter strongly disagreed with this conclusion, noting that just as the confidentiality obligations of the CAA clearly and unambiguously apply equally to employing offices and employees, so too should the ability to assert claims for breach of statutory confidentiality. The commenter asserts that a contrary reading of the statute, as appears to have been implicitly suggested in the above-referenced cases (denying employing offices the ability to bring claims for breach of confidentiality against employees), is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the confidentiality provisions of the CAA.

Again, because under section 405 of the CAA, the filing of a complaint is limited to a covered employee who has completed counseling and mediation (and the General Counsel in limited circumstances), and there is no mechanism in the CAA for enforcement of confidentiality breaches outside of a section 405 proceeding, there is similarly no process in the CAA under which an employing office can initiate a breach of confidentiality claim that can be enforced. The Procedural Rules, however, do provide that within the context of a section 405 proceeding, an employing office may make a breach of confidentiality claim and the Hearing Officer is authorized to order a number of sanctions if a breach is found.

Comments were also made that limiting remedies for breaches of confidentiality to procedural and evidentiary sanctions was inappropriate and, that the effect of that limitation was to make the penalty for breach of confidentiality nonexistent for a complainant who chooses not to file a complaint with the OOC because no procedural or evidentiary sanctions would ever be applicable. The commenter requested that the Rules clarify that monetary damages may be awarded against both employing offices and employees for a demonstrated breach of confidentiality.

In the absence of any express authority, the Board has decided that “the Office and its Hearing Officers have the power to control and supervise proceedings conducted under Sections 402, 403, and 405 of the [CAA], and may rely on this power to impose appropriate sanctions for a breach of the [CAA’s] confidentiality requirements.” *Taylor v. U.S. Senate Budget Comm; Massa v. Katz & Rickher*. The Board has further held that a breach of the CAA’s confidentiality provisions does not independently entitle an employee to

monetary damages absent a violation of one of the “money-mandating” statutes it applies. *Office of the Architect of the Capitol v. Cienfuegos*, No. 11-AC-138 (CV, RP), 2014 WL 7139940, *n.1 (OOC Board Dec. 11, 2014). The Board’s authority is therefore limited to deciding breaches of confidentiality during the pendency of a complaint filed pursuant to section 405 of the CAA, and the Adopted Rules so provide.

Further, as to the deletion of section 1.07(d), covering contents or records of confidential proceedings, the comments noted that mediation does not bestow confidentiality to facts or evidence that exist outside of mediation and the language needs the significant qualification that currently exists in section 1.07(d) (“... A participant is free to disclose facts and other information obtained from any source outside of the confidential proceedings...”). The commenter recommended that the entire language of section 1.07(d) of the 2004 Procedural Rules be retained in the new Rules.

The Office agrees that including the current section 1.07(d) in the Adopted Rules (now in the Adopted Rules as section 1.08(e)) would give appropriate guidance on the contents and records of confidential proceedings.

There were multiple comments concerning the confidentiality provisions in section 1.08 of the Proposed Rules. One such comment noted that “communications between attorneys and clients should never amount to a confidentiality breach absent a protective order”; yet, with the deletion of the “Breach of Confidentiality Provisions” section, there is no timeframe listed for when a party can claim a confidentiality breach. Commenters urged the OOC to reinstitute the previous requirement. Because of the Board rulings limiting the authority of the Board to review a breach of confidentiality claim outside of a section 405 proceeding, there does not need to be a timeframe for a party to claim the breach. The claim would have to occur during the section 405 proceeding itself. Because circumstances would differ in each case, setting a time frame for a breach of confidentiality should be left up to the Hearing Officer and the OOC Board of Directors.

Commenters noted that section 1.08(c) was also inconsistent because it prohibits disclosure of a written or oral communication that is prepared for the purpose of, or occurs during, counseling. The most important document that allows for the preparation of a defense to a claim is the formal request for counseling. That written document is necessary to identify the claims that a Complainant has properly exhausted under the CAA. Some commenters requested that the Office provide the employing office with the request for counseling.

Counseling is to be strictly confidential, therefore, the request itself will not be provided to other parties by the Office. As the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia noted in *Blackmon-Malloy v. U.S. Capitol Police Bd.*, 575 F.3d 699, 713 (D.C. Cir. 2009), “Congress’s inclusion of provisions requiring the Office to issue written notices of the end of counseling and the end of mediation must be read in light of the provisions on confidentiality. Those provisions, sections 1416(a) and (b), provide that counseling and mediation, respectively, shall be strictly confidential.” 2 U.S.C. §1416(a) & (b). *Blackmon-Malloy v. U.S. Capitol Police Bd.*, 575 F.3d 699, 711 (D.C. Cir. 2009). The court noted that, “nothing in the CAA suggests Congress intended courts to engage in a mini-trial on the content of the counseling and mediation

sessions, an inquiry that would be fraught with problems. . . . Congress expressly limited the ability of the court to review the substance of compliance with these processes.” *Blackmon-Malloy v. U.S. Capitol Police Bd.*, 575 F.3d at 711.

One commenter objected to section 1.08(d) of the Proposed Rules, noting that mediators should not be able to discuss substantive matters from mediation with the Office. The commenter noted that to permit mediators to consult with the OOC regarding the substance of the mediation violates the principle that “[a]ll mediation shall be strictly confidential.” 2 U.S.C. §1416(b), and is inconsistent with the OOC’s role as a neutral. Specifically, the commenter points out that as the OOC appoints the Hearing Officer to handle the subsequent complaint, the Executive Director rules on a number of procedural issues in any subsequent case, and in view of the OOC’s adjudicative role in the complaint process, allowing the mediator to consult with the OOC regarding substantive issues related to the mediation may negatively impact the OOC’s neutrality, and/or the perception of the parties that the OOC is neutral.

The Office agrees with the commenter that under the CAA, “[a]ll mediation shall be strictly confidential.” CAA §416(b). The confidentiality provision regarding mediation is further clarified in section 2.04(j) of the Procedural Rules, which provides that the “Office will maintain the independence of the mediation process and the mediator. No individual, who is appointed by the Executive Director to mediate, may conduct or aid in a hearing conducted under section 405 of the Act with respect to the same matter or shall be subject to subpoena or any other compulsory process with respect to the same matter.” However, the CAA requires both counseling and mediation, in part, to assist employees and employing offices in reaching an early resolution of their disputes. When a neutral mediator believes that consulting with the Office on administrative, procedural, or even substantive matters will expedite and facilitate resolution of the dispute, there is no reason for the mediator not to be able to do that. In fact, the purposes of the counseling and mediation provisions are best served if the OOC encourages the mediator to do everything he or she can to expedite resolution of the matter.

Furthermore, because Mediators are barred from serving as Hearing Officers in the same case under CAA section 403(d), there is no chance that a Mediator who consults with the Office will use that information to make a determination that will be binding upon the parties. Section 403(d) of the CAA is designed to inspire confidence in and maintain the integrity of the mediation process by encouraging the parties to be frank and forthcoming, without fear that such information may later be used against them. See, e.g., 141 Cong. Rec. S629 (January 9, 1995). In essence, if the parties know that the mediator will not be involved in investigating or determining the validity of any of the allegations being made, they may be more willing to work cooperatively with the Mediator during the mediation. This is also the theory behind a key provision of the EEOC’s ADR Policy Statement: “In order to ensure confidentiality, those who serve as neutrals for the Commission should be precluded from performing any investigatory or enforcement function related to charges with which they may have been involved. The dispute resolution process must be insulated from the investigative and compliance process.” EEOC, Notice No. 915.002 (7/17/95).

Because Mediators under the CAA are insulated from the investigative and compliance process, there is no statutory or ethical bar that would prevent them from consulting with the office if it would facilitate resolution of the dispute.

One comment also noted that the proposed rule sections 1.08(b) and (c) may be read to allow a “participant” to publicize the fact that a covered employee has requested and/or engaged in counseling and mediation, and the fact that an individual has filed an OOC complaint. See also, 2.03(d), 2.04(b) and 5.01(h) (requiring the OOC—but not participants—to keep confidential the “invocation of mediation” and “the fact that a complaint has been filed with the [OOC] by a covered employee”). The Commenter notes that these disclosures would violate the strict confidentiality mandated by the CAA and that the proposed rule should not be adopted.

It is the opinion of the Office that the strict confidentiality mandated by the CAA applies to the discussions and content of conversations that go on in counseling, mediation, and the hearing, rather than the fact of filing of a request for counseling, invocation of mediation, or a complaint. Indeed, section 1.08(e), added back into the Adopted Rules, spells out that it is the information actually obtained in the counseling, mediation or hearing proceedings that is to be kept confidential, not necessarily the fact that a hearing or mediation is being held. Moreover, to ensure confidentiality and consistent with the *Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015* (PL 114-6), all participants are advised of the confidentiality requirement under the CAA.

In another comment, it was noted that the waiver provision under section 1.08(e) of the Proposed Rules was not clear and appeared to conflict with the statutory requirement of confidentiality under section 416 of the CAA. Where there is a waiver of confidentiality, it is unclear whether a waiver releases all requirements for confidentiality including making records public in proceedings, waiving the confidentiality requirements of proceedings before a Hearing Officer, and waiving the sanctions requirement under section 1.08(f). It is important that any waiver be clear as to why it would be permissible despite the language in section 416 of the CAA and how such a waiver affects documents, proceedings, and testimony. The commenter further notes that the language of the waiver does not make clear that all participants must agree to waive confidentiality and should therefore be deleted from the Rules.

The Office agrees that the waiver language in section 1.08(e) of the Proposed Rules is too confusing and not meant as a general waiver. Accordingly, the waiver language has been deleted in the Adopted Rules.

One comment noted that section 1.08(f) of the Proposed Regulations would remove the requirement that the OOC advise participants of their confidentiality obligations in a timely fashion. Section 1.06(b) of the 2004 Procedural Rules requires the OOC to provide this notification “[a]t the time that any individual... becomes a participant,” and that language is not included in Proposed Procedural Rule 1.08(f). Such early notice is critical to ensuring that CAA-mandated confidentiality is maintained and, thus, the existing rule should be retained.

The *Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015* (PL 114-6), requires the Executive Director to notify each person participating in mediation and in the hearing and deliberations process of

the confidentiality requirement and of the sanctions applicable to any person who violates the confidentiality requirement. The Office has created notifications to be provided to participants during all phases of the administrative process, including in mediation and at hearings, and includes a statement on its request for counseling form advising that “all counseling shall be strictly confidential.” Consistent with this and in agreement with the comment, section 1.08(f) of the Adopted Rules is modified to provide that, “[t]he Executive Director will advise all participants in mediation and hearing at the time they become participants of the confidentiality requirements of Section 416 of the Act and that sanctions may be imposed by the Hearing Officer for a violation of those requirements. No sanctions may be imposed except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.”

SUBPART B—PRE-COMPLAINT PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF PART A OF TITLE II OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

In reviewing the change in the Proposed Rules, the Office has decided to delete the reference in section 2.03 of the 2004 Rules to an “official” form that should be used to file a formal request for counseling and has replaced it in the Adopted Rules with the following language: “Individuals wishing to file a formal request for counseling may call the Office for a form to use for this purpose.”

There were several comments to section 2.03 of the Proposed Rules. One commenter noted that the strict confidentiality provision discussed in section 2.03(d) should refer to the confidentiality provisions described in sections 2.03(e)(1)–(2) and 1.08. In addition, the commenter maintained that the words “should be used” should be deleted and replaced with the word “shall” so that the counseling period only pertains to the enumerated items.

The Office has decided to leave the language as proposed (“should be used”) to provide the most flexibility to the Counselor and employee depending on the circumstances of each case.

There were comments that section 2.03(e)(1) of the Proposed Rules was inconsistent with the requirements in section 1.08(d). The commenter noted that, for example, section 2.03(e)(1) provides that “all counseling shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be subject to discovery.” The commenter noted that it is not clear that the Office of Compliance Procedural Rules can control the release of discoverable information in federal district court. Notwithstanding that restriction, section 2.03(e)(1) is inconsistent with the exceptions provided in section 1.08(d) which permits disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings when reasonably necessary to investigate claims, ensure compliance with the Act or prepare its prosecution or defense.

Additional comments noted that section 2.03(e)(1) of the Proposed Rule would permit the OOC to publicize certain statistical information regarding CAA proceedings, which is consistent with section 301(h)(3) of the CAA, but the proposed rule would remove this language: “. . . so long as that statistical information does not reveal the identity of the employees involved or of employing offices that are the subject of a request for counseling.” To ensure compliance with section 416 of the CAA, the rule should specify that the OOC will not publicize this detailed information in its statistical reports.

The Office believes that the CAA’s confidentiality requirements found in section 416 of the CAA confer upon it the obligation to safeguard the confidentiality of such information. It is for that reason, the language limiting the discovery of information discussed in counseling was added. To ensure that its intention to protect the information is understood, the Office has decided to keep that language in the A Rules. Further, to preserve confidentiality of statistical information released as part of the reporting under section 301(h)(3) of the CAA, language has been put back in, indicating that statistical information will not reveal the identity of individual employees or employing offices that are the subject of specific requests for counseling.

In addition, by way of clarification, the Office has added a reference in section 2.03(e)(2) of the Adopted Rules to section 416(a) of the CAA indicating that the employee and the Office may agree to waive confidentiality during the counseling process for the limited purpose of allowing the Office to notify the employing office of the allegations.

Noting that section 2.03(m) of the proposed rules requires the Capitol Police to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to permit an employee to use the Capitol Police internal grievance process, one commenter observed that there was no such requirement in section 401 of the CAA.

As the language in the proposed regulation indicates, a MOU may be necessary to address certain procedural and notification requirements. The OOC believes that the best way to work out notice and follow up details is through a MOU. However, the language does not mandate a MOU, but rather indicates that an MOU would be helpful in addressing administrative and procedural issues that could come up should the Executive Director decide to recommend that an employee use an internal process.

There were several comments noting that inclusion of “good cause” language in section 2.04(b) of the Proposed Rules would allow a covered employee additional time to file a request for mediation outside of the statutory 15-day period. The commenter asserted that there is no support for a “good cause” extension in the statute, and thus the OOC lacks authority to create such an extension in its Proposed Procedural Rules.

Typically, a final decision as to timeliness is up to the Hearing Officer and neither the Office nor the Mediator will dismiss a request for mediation where the request may be late. The intent of this amendment was to allow the Office to close the case if a request for mediation was not timely filed and make the decision not to forward for mediation. Because the 15-day time limit in which to file a request for mediation is statutory, the Office has deleted the “good cause” language from the Adopted Rules. However, a case may be closed if the request for mediation is not filed within 15 days of receipt of a Notice of the End of Counseling. In most cases, the final decision as to whether a request for mediation has been timely filed is up to the fact finder. In any event, a decision on an issue of equitable tolling would still be up to the Hearing Officer to decide.

In section 2.04(f)(2) of the Proposed Rules, language was added to the agreement to mediate that read that the Agreement to Mediate would define what is to be kept confidential during mediation. Commenters noted that everything in mediation is confidential and the statute does not permit the parties, the Mediator, or the OOC to redefine or limit what aspects of the mediation are confidential and which are not. This addition in the

Proposed Rules was intended to create a contractual agreement on confidential matters. There is no question that a person can waive confidentiality. But the default in this section should be that matters are confidential unless there is a waiver, not the other way around. Therefore, this language is being deleted from the Adopted Rules.

The Office received comments on section 2.04(g) related to the procedures by some oversight committees for approving settlements. Commenters requested that the proposed change be modified to make it clear that Members of the committees need not be present for mediation, nor must they be reachable by phone during the mediation. It is understood that in some cases, an oversight committee has specific procedures for approving settlements that might not fit exactly into the parameters established under section 2.04(g). Section 414 of the Act does provide for this. The Act states: "Nothing in this chapter shall affect the power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, to establish rules governing the process by which a settlement may be entered into by such House or by any employing office of such House." Because this provision is set forth in the Act, it is not necessary to modify the language in section 2.04(g) of the Rules.

There were additional comments to proposed Procedural Rule 2.04(g). Commenters noted that the rule as proposed would grant the Mediator the authority to require "any party" to attend a mediation meeting in person and that there was nothing in the CAA that would give a Mediator this authority. As a general rule, Mediators do not "direct" individuals to attend mediation in person, unless the Mediator believes that a specific person's presence would advance the mediation. However, the Office has revised the language in the Adopted Rules to indicate that the Mediator may "specifically request" a party or individual's presence.

One commenter stated that the OOC should not alter established practice by participating in mediations, as allowed in Section 2.04(g). In response, the Office notes that as the 2004 Rules include the Office as a possible participant in mediation, the Proposed Rules did not change established practice. However, to ensure that participation by the Office does not interfere with the mediation process, the Amended Rules include language that requires the permission of the Mediator and the parties before the Office can participate in mediation. This is not meant to require permission from the parties when the Office appoints an in-house mediator. Such an appointment is left exclusively to the Executive Director.

There were several comments to section 2.04(i) of the Proposed Rules. Commenters noted that the notice of the end of mediation period should advise the employing office of the date and mode of transmission of the notice that was sent to the complainant or add a presumption to the new rule, stating that the notice is presumed to have been received on the day it is sent by facsimile or email, or within 5 calendar days if sent by first class mail.

However, the *Technical Amendments Act* modified section 404 of the CAA and established that the deadline to elect proceedings after the end of mediation was 'not later than 90 days but not sooner than 30 days after the end of the period of mediation.' (Emphasis added) As this changed the deadline from the receipt of the notice of end of mediation to the end of the mediation period itself, section 2.04(i) of the Adopted Rules

was changed accordingly. Section 205(a), regarding election of proceedings, was also modified to reflect the changes made by *Technical Amendments Act*.

SUBPART C—COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATION, AND ENFORCEMENT UNDER SECTION 210 OF THE CAA (ADA PUBLIC SERVICES)—INSPECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

In the NPRM published on September 9, 2014, the Executive Director proposed a new Subpart C of the Procedural Rules setting forth rules and procedures for the inspection, investigation and complaint provisions contained in sections 210(d) and (f) of the CAA relating to Public Services and Accommodations under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). On September 9, 2014, the OOC Board also published a NPRM with substantive regulations implementing Section 210 of the CAA, including sections 210(d) and (f). In response to the NPRMs, the Executive Director received comments to both the proposed ADA procedural rules and the proposed substantive regulations that were similar or substantially related. While the ADA substantive regulations have been adopted by the Board of Directors, they have not yet been approved by Congress. The Executive Director has therefore decided to withdraw the proposed procedural rules contained in Subpart C relating to section 210 of the CAA. Any future procedural rules regarding the inspection, investigation and complaint provisions contained in sections 210(d) and (f) of the CAA relating to ADA Public Services and Accommodations will be promulgated when the substantive regulations implementing section 210 of the CAA have been approved.

SUBPART D—COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATION, ENFORCEMENT AND VARIANCE PROCESS UNDER SECTION 215 OF THE CAA (OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970)—INSPECTIONS, CITATIONS, AND COMPLAINTS

Regarding sections 4.02(a), 4.03(a) and (b), two commenters objected to defining "place of employment" as "any place where covered employees work." The 2004 Rules referred to "places of employment under the jurisdiction of employing offices." The language in the 2004 Procedural Rules is the same language used in section 215(c)(1) of the CAA. Section 215(c)(1) describes the authorities of the General Counsel, which are the same as those granted to the Secretary of Labor by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) of section 8 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHAct) (29 U.S.C. §§ 657(a), (d), (e), and (f)). Notably, section 8(a) grants the "right to enter without delay and at reasonable times any factory, plant, establishment, construction site, or other area, workplace or environment where work is performed by an employee of an employer." (Emphasis added). The CAA refers to the same authorities for periodic inspections as it does for requests for inspections, that is, section 215(c)(1), and therefore section 8(a) of the OSHAct. Thus, the General Counsel's authority for periodic inspections and requests for inspections covers not only legislative branch facilities that are under the jurisdiction of employing offices, such as the Hart or Rayburn office buildings, but any place where covered employees work, such as the Architect of the Capitol's workshop in the U.S. Supreme Court building. One commenter expressed concern this would mean the General Counsel could visit a telework employee's home office to conduct an inspection, since the home office is where a covered employee

works, but not where an employing office has "jurisdiction". However, the General Counsel would not inspect an area and make findings that are beyond the reach of any employing office to address. The efforts in this section of the Procedural Rules are intended to more accurately reflect, rather than broaden, its authority to inspect.

One commenter objected to language in section 4.02(a) that authorizes the General Counsel to review records "maintained by or under the control of the covered entity." The 2004 Rules refers to records "required by the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder, and other records which are directly related to the purpose of the inspection." The concern is that the General Counsel is imposing record-keeping requirements. However, the language does not require entities to create records or even to maintain records, but addresses the authority of the General Counsel to review records that are maintained. Further, whether a record is "directly related to the purpose of the inspection" is a matter that may be raised by an entity whether that language is in the section or not. The General Counsel is not seeking the right to review records that have nothing to do with the inspection. Moreover, whether a record is "directly" related is not always readily apparent when a record request is first made, and the better course is to avoid misunderstandings and delays in inspections because of a debate over degrees of relatedness.

One commenter suggested inserting the words "upon notification to the appropriate employing office(s)" in section 4.02(a) after, "the General Counsel is authorized" and before, "to enter without delay and at reasonable times, . . .". As noted above, that language is from section 8(a) of the OSHAct. There is no requirement to provide advance notice of an inspection to employing offices but in practice the approach of the General Counsel is to provide notification well in advance. The employing offices usually provide an escort for access and assistance during the inspection. The General Counsel has even rescheduled an inspection when no escort shows. The General Counsel's periodic inspection calendars are provided to employing offices at the beginning of each Congress and posted on the OOC's website.

The same commenter asked the Executive Director to revise section 4.03(a)(1) to reflect the General Counsel's practice of providing advance notice of an inspection and the scheduling of a pre-inspection opening conference. The current language requires that the General Counsel provide a copy of the notice of violation to the employing office "no later than at the time of inspection." The commenter also asked the Executive Director to revise section 4.06(a), which states that advance notice of inspections may not be given except under the situations listed in (a)(1) through (4). The Executive Director agrees that the practice of the General Counsel has defaulted to giving advance notice, as opposed to not giving advance notice. However, flexibility is still needed to inspect without advance notice, usually for exigent circumstances. In such situations, and under the 2004 Procedural Rules, the General Counsel need not first persuade an employing office that the matter falls under an exception to advance notice.

The commenter also suggested that the Executive Director revise section 4.11 on Citations to reflect other processes used by OOC, such as the Serious Deficiency Notice and case reports, adding that the General Counsel rarely issues citations and does not

issue *de minimis* violations. The commenter asked that the Executive Director change section 4.12 on Imminent Danger to include OOC's use of the Serious Deficiency Notice; change section 4.14 to require the General Counsel to notify the employing office that it failed to correct a violation before the General Counsel files a complaint, rather than having the notification be optional; and change section 4.25 on applications for temporary variances and other relief to include the Request for Modification of Abatement process used by the General Counsel.

The suggested changes regarding notification of inspections, citations, imminent danger, notification before filing a complaint, and applications for temporary variances/requests for modification of abatement, were raised by the commenter, not in response to any changes the Executive Director proposed in the NPRM. The Executive Director is therefore reluctant to discuss them without further notice and opportunity to comment for all stakeholders. While the processes of the General Counsel that have developed since 2004 in these areas are not wholly reflected in the Procedural Rules, they are not inconsistent with the Rules or with the authorities granted to the General Counsel under the CAA. They are examples of how the operational needs of the parties and OOC can be accommodated without first revising the Procedural Rules.

One commenter was supportive of OOC's effort to balance the OSHA Act, which requires citations to be posted unedited and unredacted, with concern over the disclosure of security information. More specifically, the Executive Director had added the following language to section 4.13(a) on the posting of citations: "When a citation contains security information as defined in Title 2 of the U.S. Code, section 1979, the General Counsel may edit or redact the security information from the copy of the citation used for posting or may provide to the employing office a notice for posting that describes the alleged violation without referencing the security information." However, the commenter wanted the Executive Director to go further and include other security information, such as "sensitive but unclassified" information, and to address how OOC will protect all security information it encounters during all stages of the OSH inspection process. The Executive Director does not believe the Procedural Rules are the place for setting forth OOC's safeguards and internal handling procedures for security information. The reference to 2 U.S.C. § 1979 was an effort to use an established definition of security information that applies to the Legislative Branch, rather than leaving it to the OOC to decide what is security information. A document marked as classified or sensitive but unclassified by the classifying or originating entity will be handled accordingly.

SUBPART E—COMPLAINTS

Commenters suggested deleting newly proposed language in section 5.01(b)(1) that would permit the Executive Director to return a complaint that was filed prematurely, without prejudice. The commenters asserted that the provision is unfair to employing offices and places the Executive Director in the position of giving legal advice to complainants.

The Office disagrees that allowing a complainant to cure a defect in their filing is improper, and has added language giving the Executive Director discretion to return all early filed Complaints to the complaining employee for filing within the prescribed period, and with an explanation of the applica-

ble time limits. It is clear that no complaint will be processed until it is timely. Giving the Executive Director the discretion to return a complaint in these circumstances does not give the Executive Director the authority to process a complaint that is filed prematurely.

In comments to section 5.01(g) of the proposed regulations, commenters suggested that a respondent be permitted to file a motion to dismiss in lieu of an answer. They explained that the rule should give the Hearing Officer discretion to allow a respondent to file a motion to dismiss in lieu of an answer. Otherwise, a party will be forced to waste resources responding to a complaint that may be dismissed or significantly altered by a Hearing Officer's ruling on the motion to dismiss. They conclude that filing a motion to dismiss should suspend the obligation to file an answer.

The Office declines to make this change in the Adopted Rules, believing that a direct response to the allegations is vital, and any party wishing to file a motion to dismiss in addition to an answer may do so. While a motion to dismiss option was added to the Proposed Procedural Rules because many stakeholders indicated that they would like to see it added, this language was not intended to replace the filing of an answer. When there is no adverse action like a removal or suspension, and the claim involves harassment or retaliation, the employing office has no requirement to provide the complainant with the administrative file or investigation, and there is no requirement under the Rules that the agency provide this information before the time to answer. In those circumstances, the complainant must rely on the answer for information in order to respond. While it is in the Hearing Officer's discretion whether to extend the time to allow the respondent to file an answer and to stay discovery while ruling on a motion to dismiss, the Office has decided to keep language requiring an answer. In hearings under the CAA, the time frames are typically very short and a requirement for respondent to answer keeps the process moving forward.

Sections 5.03(f) and (g) of the Proposed Rules were modified to allow a Hearing Officer to dismiss a complaint after withdrawal—with or without prejudice. Several commenters objected to this change. One commenter suggested such a dismissal be with prejudice only, another suggested the Board identify factors a Hearing Officer must consider when dismissing a complaint or permitting a complainant to re-file, and another suggested the language be modified to clarify that a Hearing Officer cannot expand a complainant's time to file a complaint—and that a complaint that would otherwise be time-barred under section 404 may not be re-filed.

While it is clear that a withdrawal of a complaint with or without prejudice cannot be used to extend the statutory time frame, the Executive Director has added language to the Adopted Rules indicating that the authority of the Hearing Officer is consistent with section 404 of the CAA.

Section 5.03(h) was added in the Proposed Rules requiring a representative to provide sufficient notice to the Hearing Officer and the parties of his or her withdrawal in a matter, and clarifying that the employee will be considered *pro se* until another representative has been designated in writing. Commenters suggested that the Board define what is meant by "sufficient" notice.

The Office recognizes that with respect to the conduct of a hearing, the Hearing Officer

is in the best position to determine what constitutes sufficient notice under the circumstances, and so must have flexibility in making determinations. Therefore, the Executive Director declines to make the changes as requested.

SUBPART F—DISCOVERY AND SUBPOENAS

In general, several commenters asserted that Proposed Procedural Rules sections 2.03(e)(1), 6.01(a), and 6.02(a) are invalid to the extent that they would limit the availability of OOC employees and records in the discovery process, because there is no statutory basis for this evidentiary privilege.

The Executive Director believes that the CAA's confidentiality requirements found in section 416 of the CAA confer upon the Office the obligation to safeguard the confidentiality of such information. Accordingly, to ensure that its intention to safeguard confidential information is clear, the Executive Director declines to make any changes in the A Rules to these sections.

In the Proposed Rules section 6.01(b) language about initial disclosure was modified to specify that information, including witness lists and discovery documents, must be provided to the opposing party within 14 days of a pre-hearing conference. A commenter suggested that this rule places an unfair burden on employing offices who should not be required to turn over witness lists and discovery documents without a request.

The Office believes that, given the limited time between the filing of a complaint and opening of the hearing, this requirement should be kept as proposed because it will promote the prompt and fair exchange of information and reduce delay in the proceedings. This process should not pose an unfair burden on employing offices because of the ready availability of the information to the employing office.

One commenter expressed concern that the changes proposed to section 6.01(c), permit the parties to engage in "reasonable prehearing discovery," without defining what types of discovery are reasonable, or the volume of discovery that is appropriate, given the limited time involved in the process. The language in the 2004 Procedural Rules, permitting discovery only as authorized by the Hearing Officer was more equitable because the Hearing Officer had greater control over the proceedings, and better ability to prevent discovery abuses, or the use of delay tactics. Additionally, application of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to the types and volume of discovery may be helpful to the parties' understanding of the process.

This comment misapprehends the Hearing Officer's authority. Section 405(e) of the CAA provides that "[r]easonable prehearing discovery may be permitted at the discretion of the hearing officer." The authority is therefore permissive, not restrictive. It has always been the policy of the Office to encourage early and voluntary exchange of relevant information and the Rules, as amended, allow a hearing officer to authorize discovery, but do not mandate it.

One commenter suggested that section 6.01(c)(1) be modified to state that, when a motion to dismiss is filed, discovery is stayed until the Hearing Officer has ruled on the motion.

The Executive Director declines to make this modification. As noted above, because the time frames in the hearing process are limited, requiring that discovery be stayed until there is a ruling on a motion to dismiss could take up valuable time. In any event, the Hearing Officer should have the most flexibility to make a decision to stay discovery depending on the circumstances of each case.

Section 6.01(d)(1) of the Proposed Rules provides: "A party must make a claim for privilege no later than the due date for the production of the information." One commenter suggested that a claim for privilege belongs to a party and cannot be waived except by the party. Thus, section 6.01(d)(1) cannot place a limitation on a party's right to assert a privilege and would be inconsistent with the inadvertent disclosure identified in section 6.01(d)(2). As an example, the commenter notes that one may have inadvertently disclosed privileged information on the last day of discovery which would require that it be returned or destroyed in accordance with section 6.01(d)(2). However, if the privilege was not asserted on the last day of discovery, the Procedural Rules would allow the opposing party to keep the inadvertently disclosed documents. Thus, by limiting the timing of the asserted privilege, a conflict is created between sections 6.01(d)(1) and 6.01(d)(2).

The Office is not attempting, by this rule, to place a limit on a party's right to assert a privilege, but rather to ensure that if a party intends to assert a privilege it does so in a timely way. Until a privilege is asserted, the assumption is that the information is not privileged. Therefore, this rule is not inconsistent with section 6.01(d)(2) that requires that information that has been claimed as privileged and inadvertently disclosed be returned or destroyed, even if disclosed on the last day of discovery.

Section 6.02(a) was modified in the Proposed Rules to clarify that OOC employees and service providers acting in their official capacities, and confidential case-related documents maintained by the OOC, cannot be subpoenaed. In addition, the rules clarify that employing offices must make their employees available for discovery and hearings without a subpoena. One commenter requested that an employing office only be required to make available witnesses under their control during actual work hours and work shifts on the day of the hearing and, otherwise, that subpoenas be used. Another commenter suggested the provision be revised to state: "Employing offices shall make reasonable efforts to make their management-level employees available for discovery and hearing without requiring a subpoena."

Often, the timing and pacing of a hearing depends on the availability of witnesses. The Executive Director believes that it is important that the parties willingly commit to the hearing process to ensure the most efficient and equitable outcome possible. By requiring employing offices to make their employees available without a subpoena, the purpose of the Proposed Rule was to ensure that employees will be readily available when called as witnesses, therefore reducing the administrative burdens on the parties, the Hearing Officer, and the Office.

SUBPART G—HEARINGS

As a general comment, one commenter stated that it was unclear what authority under the CAA the Board of Directors was utilizing to authorize a Hearing Officer to issue sanctions under sections 7.02 and 7.12(b). The commenter maintained that sanctions are not authorized under the CAA and, thus, Procedural Rules incorporating substantive provisions are beyond the scope of authority permitted under the CAA. The commenter further suggested that because sanctions provisions affect the rights of the parties, they are substantive in nature and the appropriate avenue should a substantive sanctions provision be requested is to pursue a statutory amendment to the CAA.

The Executive Director disagrees. It is clear that a Hearing Officer has the ability to use sanctions to run an orderly and proper hearing. Moreover, the CAA provides this authority. Thus, under section 405(d) of the CAA, the Hearing Officer is required to conduct the hearing in "accordance with the principles and procedures set forth in section 554 through 557 of title 5." Specifically, under 5 U.S.C. 557: "The record shall show the ruling on each finding, conclusion, or exception presented. All decisions, including initial, recommended, and tentative decisions, are a part of the record and shall include a statement of . . . the appropriate rule, order, sanction, relief, or denial thereof." Further, under section 405(g) of the CAA, "the hearing officer shall issue a written decision [that] shall . . . contain a determination of whether a violation has occurred and order such remedies as are appropriate pursuant to subchapter II of this chapter."

Another comment in this area pointed to section 7.02(b)(1)(G) of the 2004 Rules that authorizes a Hearing Officer to "order that the non-complying party, or the representative advising that party, pay all or part of the attorney's fees and reasonable expenses of the other party or parties or of the Office, caused by such non-compliance, unless the Hearing Officer or the Board finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of attorney's fees and/or expenses unjust."

The Office notes that because section 415 of the CAA requires that only funds appropriated to an account of the Office in the Treasury may be used for the payment of awards and settlements under the CAA, this provision has been deleted from the Adopted Rules.

Section 7.02(b)(4) of the Proposed Rules permits a Hearing Officer to dismiss a frivolous claim. One commenter suggested that this rule be modified to make it clear that, when a respondent has moved to dismiss a claim on the grounds that it is frivolous, no answer should be required to be filed and no discovery taken "unless and until the motion is denied." Another commenter suggested that allegations that a claim is frivolous be resolved through a motion to dismiss, referenced in section 5.01(g).

As stated previously, the Executive Director is declining to delete the requirement that an answer be filed in all complaint proceedings. Moreover, the Office recognizes that a claim alleging that a matter is frivolous may always be subject to a motion to dismiss and the Hearing Officer has the discretion to move the case as appropriate. Therefore, qualifying language need not be included in these rules. In order to clarify one point, the Office has added language indicating that a Hearing Officer may dismiss a claim, *sua sponte*, for the filing of a frivolous claim.

Some commenters noted that the CAA did not authorize each of the remedies for failure to maintain confidentiality under section 7.02(b)(5). While the Hearing Officer is authorized to issue a decision under section 405, the commenters note that Congress did not authorize remedies for breach of confidentiality. Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance is required to seek a statutory correction should it desire to provide remedies for breach of confidentiality. Where Congress sought to provide a remedy under the CAA, it specifically incorporated it. Compare 2 U.S.C. 1313(b), 2 U.S.C. 1314(b), 2 U.S.C. 1317(b), and 2 U.S.C. 1331(c) incorporating a remedy provision with the absence of a remedy provision in 2 U.S.C. 1416.

For the reasons below, the Office declines to delete this section. The CAA does provide for sanctions and remedies for the failure to maintain confidentiality. Under the Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015, section 2 U.S.C. 1416(c) of the CAA was amended to: "The Executive Director shall notify each person participating in a proceeding or deliberation to which this subsection applies of the requirements of this subsection and of the sanctions applicable to any person who violates the requirements of this subsection." (Emphasis added.)

Section 7.07 gives the Hearing Officer discretion when a party fails to appear for hearing. One commenter suggested that the rule be amended to require the complainant to appear at hearings.

The rule, as written, is intended to allow the Hearing Officer discretion to determine when the presence of a party is required for the proceeding to move forward.

With respect to sections 7.13(d) and (e), one commenter noted that these sections "purport to limit the availability of interlocutory appeals", and section 8.01(e) purports to limit the availability of judicial review. Because these issues should be addressed by substantive rulemaking, these proposed Procedural Rules are invalid and should not be adopted.

These provisions are not substantive, but are procedural. Therefore no changes need to be made. Thus, under the Proposed Rules, the time within which to file an interlocutory appeal is described in section 7.13(b); section 7.13(c) provides the standards upon which a Hearing Officer determines whether to forward a request for interlocutory review to the Board; and section 7.13(d) provides that the decision of the Hearing Officer to forward or decline to forward a request for review is not appealable. The Office's rule permitting the Hearing Officer to determine whether a question should be forwarded to the Board is consistent with judicial practice, and the Board retains discretion whether or not to entertain the appeal. Under 28 USC 1292(b):

When a district judge, in making in a civil action an order not otherwise appealable under this section,¹ shall be of the opinion that such order involves a controlling question of law as to which there is substantial ground for difference of opinion and that an immediate appeal from the order may materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation, he shall so state in writing in such order. The Court of Appeals which would have jurisdiction of an appeal of such action may thereupon, in its discretion, permit an appeal to be taken from such order, if application is made to it within ten days after the entry of the order: *Provided, however*, that application for an appeal hereunder shall not stay proceedings in the district court unless the district judge or the Court of Appeals or a judge thereof shall so order.

There were several comments on section 7.15(a) of the Proposed Regulations regarding the closing of the record of the hearing. One commenter noted that the OOC should identify what factors or guidance a Hearing Officer must follow in determining the amount of time that the record is to remain open. Another commenter objected to allowing any documents to be entered into the record after the close of a hearing.

¹Orders other than "[i]nterlocutory orders . . . granting, continuing, modifying, refusing or dissolving injunctions, or refusing to dissolve or modify injunctions. . . ."

A complete record is essential to a determination by the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer is in the best position to determine how long the record should be kept open and what information is most relevant to creating a complete record upon which to issue a decision. Because the Hearing Officer should be accorded appropriate discretion, the Executive Director sees no reason to make the changes noted.

There were several comments to section 7.16 concerning sufficient time to respond to motions. One commenter recommended that a provision be added to the Rules stating that a Hearing Officer shall provide a party at least two business days to respond to a written motion. Another commenter recommended that a rule be adopted that expressly permits the hearing to be opened just for purposes of arguing a dispositive motion, such as a motion to dismiss, thereby allowing the parties to avoid spending time and resources when a case can be dismissed because it is frivolous or because it fails to state a claim.

The Executive Director does not believe that any revisions are required to this section. As the time frames under the CAA for the issuance of the decision of a Hearing Officer are very short (a decision must be issued within 90 days of the end of the hearing), it is crucial that the Hearing Officer be accorded the most discretion in conducting the hearing.

One commenter suggested that the Rules include directions to Hearing Officers to *sua sponte* dismiss abated cases. The commenter maintained that when a Member of the House of Representatives leaves office, the Member's personal office ceases to exist and the case abates. Citing *Hamilton-Hayyim v. Office of Congressman Jackson*, Case No. 12-C-6392, 2014 WL 1227243 (N.D. 111. Mar. 25, 2014); accord *Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. v. Oklahoma*, 273 U.S. 257, 259-260 (1927); *Bowles v. Wilke*, 175 F.2d 35, 38-39 (7th Cir. 1949), the commenter noted that the CAA "demonstrates a congressional mandate . . . to end any employment action liability of that respective Member's personal office" at the time the Member leaves office. *Hamilton-Hayyim*, 2014 WL 1227243 at *2.10 When a Hearing Officer becomes aware that a Member's personal office ceases to exist, the Rules should provide that the Hearing Officer will dismiss the case, *sua sponte*.

For the reasons stated herein, the Office disagrees with this interpretation and the Executive Director declines to provide such a rule, leaving it to the Hearing Officer or Board to make the determination on the issue. An "employing office" does not cease to exist when a Member resigns or otherwise leaves office. The clear intent of the CAA is to subject the Legislative Branch to liability for violation of federal employment laws, not to subject Members personally to such liability. 2 U.S.C. § 1302. Moreover, a Member is not directly involved in the litigation, as Congress's attorneys defend the action and have the ultimate authority to make litigation decisions. Id. § 1408(d). Additionally, there is no financial risk to a Member, as any monetary settlement or award is paid from a statutory fund. Id. § 1415(a).

Courts considering this issue have reached this same conclusion. In *Hanson v. Office of Senator Mark Dayton*, 535 F. Supp. 2d 25 (D.D.C. 2008), the court found no ambiguity as to the meaning of the term "employing office" and opined that although the CAA defines "employing office" as the personal office of a Member, there is absolutely no indication in the CAA or elsewhere that Con-

gress intended the naming device to insulate former Congressional offices from suit under the CAA. The court therefore expressly held that the expiration of a Senator's term did not moot or abate the lawsuit. Indeed, the term "employing office" is merely "an organizational division within Congress, established for Congress's administrative convenience, analogous to a department within a large corporation" and the term exists solely "to be named as a defendant in [CAA] actions." *Fields v. Office of Eddie Bernice Johnson*, 459 F.3d 1, 27-29 (D.C. Cir. 2006); see *Bastien v. Office of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell*, No. 01-cv-799, 2005 WL 3334359, at *4, (D. Colo. Dec. 5, 2005) ("[T]he term 'employing office' actually refers to Congress and Congress is the responsible entity under the CAA."), quoted in 454 F.3d 1072, 1073 (10th Cir. 2006).

To the extent that the commenter disagrees with the above explanation and relies on *Hamilton-Hayyim v. Office of Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.*, No. 12-c-6392, 2014 WL 1227243 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 25, 2014), it is the belief of the Office that the case misapplied clearly established law as described above and should not affect the Procedural Rules. *Hamilton-Hayyim* conflates the issue of successor or continuing liability under Rule 25(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure with the role of an "employing office" in a suit under the CAA. As grounds for its holding, the court in *Hamilton-Hayyim* found that a suit against an employing office becomes moot or abates upon the resignation of a Member because Congress did not statutorily create successor liability which infers that "Congress certainly does not want to burden a new Member with the liability of a former Member." Id. at *2. This rationale does not comport with the CAA. There is no burden on a new Member resulting from an existing action against a former Member under the CAA because the obligation to provide a legal defense rests with the Office of House Employment Counsel and any resulting financial responsibility is paid through a fund. 2 U.S.C. § 1408, 1415(a). The Executive Director believes that the holding in *Hamilton-Hayyim* is contrary to the clear intent of the CAA which is to hold Legislative Branch employing offices, not Members, accountable for violations of specific labor and employment laws. Because an employing office does not cease to exist for purposes of suit under the CAA when a Member leaves office, the Executive Director declines to make the change suggested.

SUBPART I—OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

One commenter stated that section 9.01(a) is unclear as to what is meant by a "decision of the Office." If the procedural rule is meant to be a decision of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, the rule should be clarified. The definition of a final decision of the Office can be found in sections 405(g)² and 406(e)³ of the CAA. Therefore no further revisions are necessary.

There were comments to section 9.02(c)(2) of the Proposed Rules asking for clarification of the circumstances under which the Office or a Hearing Officer would initiate settlement discussions once the mediation period has ended. The Office sees no reason

to change the language. As there are many situations that can come up in hearing where a Hearing Officer may conclude that the parties are interested in discussing settlement, the decision as to whether to initiate settlement discussions should be left up to the Office or Hearing Officer as circumstances dictate.

One commenter noted that Proposed Procedural Rule § 9.03(d) would give the Executive Director sole authority to resolve alleged violations of settlement agreements, in the event that the parties do not agree on a method for resolving disputes. There is nothing in the CAA that gives the Executive Director the authority to resolve contractual disputes, and this rule should not be adopted.

The Office notes that the rule specifically states that the Office may provide assistance in resolving the dispute, including the services of a mediator and that allegations of a breach of a settlement will be reviewed, investigated, or mediated as appropriate. It does not say that the Executive Director will resolve those alleged violations, but rather, assist the parties in doing so.

One commenter noted that proposed Procedural Rule § 9.04 states that, after a settlement agreement has been approved by the Executive Director, "[n]o payment shall be made from such account until the time for appeal of a decision has expired." This rule should clarify that it does not apply to settlements reached in the absence of a "decision" that may be appealed.

The Office has clarified section 9.04 in the Amended Rules and included language that indicates that this rule does not apply to situations where a settlement has been reached and there is no decision that could be appealed.

EXPLANATION REGARDING THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Material from the 2004 version of the Rules is printed in roman type. The text of the adopted amendments shows *[deletions in italicized type within bold italics brackets]* and *added text in underlined bold*. Only subsections of the Rules that include adopted amendments are reproduced in this NOTICE. The insertion of a series of small dots (. . . .) indicates additional, un-amended text within a section has not been reproduced in this document. The insertion of a series of asterisks (* * * *) indicates that the un-amended text of entire sections of the Rules have not been reproduced in this document. For the text of other portions of the Rules which are not proposed to be amended, please access the Office of Compliance web site at www.compliance.gov.

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1.01 Scope and Policy

§ 1.02 Definitions

§ 1.03 Filing and Computation of Time

§ 1.04 *[Availability of Official Information]* Filing, Service, and Size *Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents*

§ 1.05 *[Designation of Representative]* Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violation of Rules; Sanctions

§ 1.06 *[Maintenance of Confidentiality]* Availability of Official Information

§ 1.07 *[Breach of Confidentiality Provisions]* Designation of Representative

§ 1.08 Confidentiality

§ 1.01 Scope and Policy.

These rules of the Office of Compliance govern the procedures for consideration and resolution of alleged violations of the laws made applicable under Parts A, B, C, and D

²Section 405 Complaint and Hearing, (g) Decision. ". . . If a decision is not appealed under section 1406 of this title to the Board, the decision shall be considered the final decision of the Office."

³Section 406 Appeal to the Board, (e) Decision. ". . . A decision that does not require further proceedings before a hearing officer shall be entered in the records of the Office as a final decision."

of title II of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995. The rules include definitions, procedures for counseling, mediation, and for electing between filing a complaint with the Office of Compliance and filing a civil action in a district court of the United States under Part A of title II. The rules also address the procedures for compliance, investigation, and enforcement under Part B of title II, [variances] and for compliance, investigation, [and] enforcement, and variance under Part C of title II. The rules include [and] procedures for the conduct of hearings held as a result of the filing of a complaint and for appeals to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance from Hearing Officer decisions, as well as other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operations of the Office of Compliance. It is the policy of the Office that these rules shall be applied with due regard to the rights of all parties and in a manner that expedites the resolution of disputes.

§ 1.02 Definitions.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in these rules, for purposes of this Part:

(b) *Covered Employee.* The term “covered employee” means any employee of

(3) the [Capitol Guide Service] Office of Congressional Accessibility Services;

(4) the Capitol Police;

(9) for the purposes stated in paragraph (q) of this section, the [General Accounting] Government Accountability Office or the Library of Congress.

(d) *Employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.* The term “employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol” includes any employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, or the Botanic Garden [or the Senate Restaurants].

(e) *Employee of the Capitol Police.* The term “employee of the Capitol Police” includes civilian employees and any member or officer of the Capitol Police.

(f) *Employee of the House of Representatives.* The term “employee of the House of Representatives” includes an individual occupying a position the pay for which is disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or another official designated by the House of Representatives, or any employment position in an entity that is paid with funds derived from the clerk-hire allowance of the House of Representatives, but not any such individual employed by any entity listed in subparagraphs [(3)] (2) through (9) of paragraph (b) above.

(g) *Employee of the Senate.* The term “employee of the Senate” includes any employee whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate, but not any such individual employed by any entity listed in subparagraphs (1) and (3) through (9) of paragraph (b) above.

(h) *Employing Office.* The term “employing office” means:

(4) the [Capitol Guide Service] Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, and the Office of Compliance; or

(5) for the purposes stated in paragraph [(q)] (r) of this section, the [General Accounting] Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress

(j) *Designated Representative.* The term “designated representative” means an individual, firm, or other entity designated in writing by a party to represent the interests of that party in a matter filed with the Office.

—Re-letter subsequent paragraphs—

[(o)] (p) *General Counsel.* The term “General Counsel” means the General Counsel of the Office of Compliance and any authorized representative or designee of the General Counsel.

[(p)] (q) *Hearing Officer.* The term “Hearing Officer” means any individual [designated] appointed by the Executive Director to preside over a hearing conducted on matters within the Office’s jurisdiction.

[(q)] (r) *Coverage of the [General Accounting] Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress and their Employees.* The term “employing office” shall include the [General Accounting] Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress, and the term “covered employee” shall include employees of the [General Accounting] Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress, for purposes of the proceedings and rulemakings described in subparagraphs (1) and (2):

§ 1.03 Filing and Computation of Time.

(a) *Method of Filing.* Documents may be filed in person, electronically, by facsimile (FAX), or by mail, including express, overnight and other expedited delivery. [When specifically requested by the Executive Director, or by a Hearing Officer in the case of a matter pending before the Hearing Officer, or by the Board of Directors in the case of an appeal to the Board, any document may also be filed by electronic transmittal in a designated format, with receipt confirmed by electronic transmittal in the same format. Requests for counseling under section 2.03, requests for mediation under section 2.04 and complaints under section 5.01 of these rules may also be filed by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In addition, the Board or a Hearing Officer may order other documents to be filed by FAX. The original copies of documents filed by FAX must also be mailed to the Office no later than the day following FAX transmission.] The filing of all documents is subject to the limitations set forth below. The Board, Hearing Officer, the Executive Director, or the General Counsel may, in their discretion, determine the method by which documents may be filed in a particular proceeding, including ordering one or more parties to use mail, FAX, electronic filing, or personal delivery. Parties and their representatives are responsible for ensuring that the Office always has their current postal mailing and e-mail addresses and FAX numbers.

(2) [Mailing] By Mail.

[(i) If mailed, including express, overnight and other expedited delivery, a request for mediation or a complaint is deemed filed on the date of its receipt in the Office.] [(ii) A document,] Documents, [other than a request for mediation, or a complaint, is] are deemed filed on the date of [its] their postmark or proof of mailing to the Office. Parties, including those using franked mail, are responsible for ensuring that any mailed document bears a postmark date or other proof of the actual date of mailing. In the absence of a legible postmark a document will be deemed timely filed if it is received by the Office at Adams Building, Room LA 200, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999, by mail within five (5) days of the expiration of the applicable filing period.

(3) *By FAX [Faxing Documents.]* Documents transmitted by FAX machine will be deemed filed on the date received at the Office at

202-426-1913, or [, in the case of any document to be filed or submitted to the General Counsel,] on the date received at the Office of the General Counsel at 202-426-1663 if received by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Faxed documents received after 5:00 PM Eastern Time will be deemed filed the following business day. A FAX filing will be timely only if the document is received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period. Any party using a FAX machine to file a document bears the responsibility for ensuring both that the document is timely and accurately transmitted and confirming that the Office has received a facsimile of the document. [The party or individual filing the document may rely on its FAX status report sheet to show that it filed the document in a timely manner, provided that the status report indicates the date of the FAX, the receiver’s FAX number, the number of pages included in the FAX, and that transmission was completed.] The time displayed as received by the Office on its FAX status report will be used to show the time that the document was filed. When the Office serves a document by FAX, the time displayed as sent by the Office on its FAX status report will be used to show the time that the document was served. A FAX filing cannot exceed 75 pages, inclusive of table of contents, table of authorities, and attachments. Attachments exceeding 75 pages must be submitted to the Office in person or by electronic delivery. The date of filing will be determined by the date the brief, motion, response, or supporting memorandum is received in the Office, rather than the date the attachments were received in the Office.

(4) *By Electronic Mail.* Documents transmitted electronically will be deemed filed on the date received at the Office at oocfile@compliance.gov, or on the date received at the Office of the General Counsel at OSH@compliance.gov if received by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Documents received electronically after 5:00 PM Eastern Time will be deemed filed the following business day. An electronic filing will be timely only if the document is received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period. Any party filing a document electronically bears the responsibility for ensuring both that the document is timely and accurately transmitted and for confirming that the Office has received the document. The time displayed as received or sent by the Office will be based on the document’s timestamp information and used to show the time that the document was filed or served.

(b) *Service by the Office.* At its discretion, the Office may serve documents by mail, FAX, electronic transmission, or personal or commercial delivery.

[(b)] (c) *Computation of Time.* All time periods in these rules that are stated in terms of days are calendar days unless otherwise noted. However, when the period of time prescribed is five (5) days or less, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, [and] federal government holidays, and other full days that the Office is officially closed for business shall be excluded in the computation. To compute the number of days for taking any action required or permitted under these rules, the first day shall be the day after the event from which the time period begins to run and the last day for filing or service shall be included in the computation. When the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, [or] federal government holiday, or a day the Office is officially closed, the last day for taking the action shall be the next regular federal government workday.

[(c)] (d) *Time Allowances for Mailing, Fax, or Electronic Delivery of Official Notices.* Whenever a person or party has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice or other document upon him or her and the notice or document is served by [regular, first-class] mail, five (5) days shall be added to the prescribed period. [Only two (2) days shall be added if a

document is served by express mail or other form of expedited delivery.] When documents are served by certified mail, return receipt requested, the prescribed period shall be calculated from the date of receipt as evidenced by the return receipt. **When documents are served electronically or by FAX, the prescribed period shall be calculated from the date of transmission by the Office.**

[(d) Service or filing of documents by certified mail, return receipt requested. Whenever these rules permit or require service or filing of documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, such documents may also be served or filed by express mail or other forms of expedited delivery in which proof of date of receipt by the addressee is provided.]

[\$9.01] § 1.04 Filing, Service, and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents.

(a) **Filing with the Office; Number and Format.** One copy of requests for counseling and mediation, requests for inspection under OSH, unfair labor practice charges, charges under titles II and III of the ADA, **[one original and three copies of]** all motions, briefs, responses, and other documents must be filed **[whenever required,]** with the Office or Hearing Officer. **[However, when a party aggrieved by the decision of a Hearing Officer or a party to any other matter or determination reviewable by the Board files an appeal or other submission with the Board, one original and seven copies of any submission and any responses must be filed with the Office. The Office, Hearing Officer, or Board may also request a]** A party **[to submit]** may file an electronic version of any submission in a **[designated]** format designated by the Executive Director, General Counsel, Hearing Officer, or Board, with receipt confirmed by electronic transmittal in the same format.

(b) **Service.** The parties shall serve on each other one copy of all motions, briefs, responses and other documents filed with the Office, other than the request for counseling, the request for mediation and complaint. Service shall be made by mailing, **by fax or e-mailing,** or by hand delivering a copy of the motion, brief, response or other document to each party, or if represented, the party's representative, on the service list previously provided by the Office. Each of these documents must be accompanied by a certificate of service specifying how, when and on whom service was made. It shall be the duty of each party to notify the Office and all other parties in writing of any changes in the names or addresses on the service list.

(d) **Size Limitations.** Except as otherwise specified **[by the Hearing Officer, or these rules,]** no brief, motion, response, or supporting memorandum filed with the Office shall exceed **35 double-spaced pages, [or 8,750 words,]** exclusive of the table of contents, table of authorities and attachments. The Board, the Executive Director, or Hearing Officer may **[waive, raise or reduce]** modify this limitation **upon motion and** for good cause shown; or on **[its]** their own initiative. Briefs, motions, responses, and supporting memoranda shall be on standard letter-size paper (8-1/2" x 11"). **To the extent that such a filing exceeds 35 double-spaced pages, the Hearing Officer, Board, or Executive Director may, in their discretion, reject the filing in whole or in part, and may provide the parties an opportunity to refile.**

[\$9.02] § 1.05 Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violation of Rules; Sanctions.

(a) **Signing.** Every pleading, motion, and other filing of a party represented by an attorney or other designated representative

shall be signed by the attorney or representative. A party who is not represented shall sign the pleading, motion or other filing. **In the case of an electronic filing, an electronic signature is acceptable.** The signature of a representative or party constitutes a certificate by the signer that the signer has read the pleading, motion, or other filing; that to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

(b) **Sanctions.** If a pleading, motion, or other filing is not signed, it shall be stricken unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the person who is required to sign. If a pleading, motion, or other filing is signed in violation of this rule, a Hearing Officer or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or upon **[its]** their own initiative, **[shall]** may impose **[upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both,]** an appropriate sanction, which may include **[an order to pay to the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, motion, or other filing, including a reasonable attorney's fee. A Hearing Officer or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or its own initiative may also impose an appropriate sanction, which may include]** the sanctions specified in section 7.02, for any other violation of these rules that does not result from reasonable error].

[\$1.04] § 1.06 Availability of Official Information.

(a) **Policy.** It is the policy of the Board, the **[Office]** Executive Director, and the General Counsel, except as otherwise ordered by the Board, to make available for public inspection and copying final decisions and orders of the Board and the Office, as specified and described in paragraph (d) below.

(c) **Copies of Forms.** Copies of blank forms prescribed by the Office for the filing of complaints and other actions or requests may be obtained from the Office **or on line at www.compliance.gov.**

(f) **Access by Committees of Congress.** **[At the discretion of the Executive Director, the]** The Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may provide to the **[Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives]** House Committee on Ethics and the **[Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate]** U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics access to the records of the hearings and decisions of the Hearing Officers and the Board, including all written and oral testimony in the possession of the Office. The identifying information in these records may be redacted at the discretion of the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall not provide such access until the individual filing the complaint at issue, and until a final decision has been entered under section 405(g) or 406(e) of the Act.

[\$1.05] § 1.07 Designation of Representative.

(a) **[An employee, other charging individual or]** A party **[a witness, a labor organization, an employing office, or an entity alleged to be responsible for correcting a violation]** wishing to be represented **[by another individual,]** must file with the Office a written notice of designation of representative. **No more than one representative, [or] firm, or other entity may be des-**

ignated as representative for a party for the purpose of receiving service, unless approved in writing by the Hearing Officer or Executive Director. The representative may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. **If the representative is an attorney, he or she may sign the designation of representative on behalf of the party.**

(b) **Service Where There is a Representative.** **[All service]** Service of documents shall be **[directed to]** on the representative unless and until such time as the represented **[individual, labor organization, or employing office]** party or representative, with notice to the party, **[specifies otherwise and until such time as that individual, labor organization, or employing office]** notifies the Executive Director, in writing, of **[an amendment]** a modification or revocation of the designation of representative. Where a designation of representative is in effect, all time limitations for receipt of materials **[by the represented individual or entity]** shall be computed in the same manner as for those who are unrepresented **[individuals or entities]**, with service of the documents, however, directed to the representative, **[as provided].**

(c) **Revocation of a Designation of Representative.** A revocation of a designation of representative, whether made by the party or by the representative with notice to the party, must be made in writing and filed with the Office. The revocation will be deemed effective the date of receipt by the Office. At the discretion of the Executive Director, General Counsel, Mediator, Hearing Officer, or Board, additional time may be provided to allow the party to designate a new representative as consistent with the Act.

[\$1.06] § 1.08 [Maintenance of] Confidentiality.

(a) **Policy.** **[In accord with section 416 of the Act, it is the policy of]** Except as provided in sections 416(d), (e), and (f) of the Act, the Office **[to]** shall maintain, to the fullest extent possible, the confidentiality in counseling, mediation, and in **[of]** the proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board in accordance with sections 416(a), (b), and (c) of the Act. **[Of the participants in proceedings conducted under sections 402, 403, 405 and 406 of the Act and these rules.]**

(b) **[At the time that any individual, employing office or party, including a designated representative, becomes a participant in counseling under section 402, mediation under section 403, the complaint and hearing process under section 405, or an appeal to the Board under section 406 of the Act, or any related proceeding, the Office will advise the participant of the confidentiality requirements of section 416 of the Act and these rules and that sanctions may be imposed for a violation of those requirements.]** Participant. For the purposes of this rule, participant means an individual or entity who takes part as either a party, witness, or designated representative in counseling under Section 402 of the Act, mediation under section 403, the complaint and hearing process under section 405, or an appeal to the Board under Section 406 of the Act, or any related proceeding which is expressly or by necessity deemed confidential under the Act or these rules.

(c) **Prohibition.** Unless specifically authorized by the provisions of the Act or by these rules, no participant in counseling, mediation or other proceedings made confidential under Section 416 of the Act ("confidential proceedings") may disclose a written or oral communication that is prepared for the purpose of or that occurs during counseling, mediation, and the proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board.

(d) **Exceptions.** Nothing in these rules prohibits a party or its representative from disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings when reasonably necessary to investigate claims, ensure compliance with the Act or prepare its prosecution or defense. However, the party making the disclosure shall take all reasonably appropriate steps to ensure that persons to

whom the information is disclosed maintain the confidentiality of such information. These rules do not preclude a Mediator from consulting with the Office with permission from the party that is the subject of the consultation, except that when the covered employee is an employee of the Office a Mediator shall not consult with any individual within the Office who might be a party or witness. These rules do not preclude the Office from reporting statistical information to the Senate and House of Representatives.

(e) Contents or Records of Confidential Proceedings. For the purpose of this rule, the contents or records of counseling, mediation or other proceeding includes the information disclosed by participants to the proceedings, and records disclosed by the opposing party, witnesses, or the Office. A participant is free to disclose facts and other information obtained from any source outside of the confidential proceedings. For example, an employing office or its representatives may disclose information about its employment practices and personnel actions, provided that the information was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, an employee who obtains that information in mediation or other confidential proceeding may not disclose such information. Similarly, information forming the basis for the allegation of a complaining employee may be disclosed by that employee, provided that the information contained in those allegations was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, the employing office or its representatives may not disclose that information if it was obtained in a confidential proceeding.

(f) Sanctions. The Executive Director will advise all participants in mediation and hearing at the time they become participants of the confidentiality requirements of Section 416 of the Act and that sanctions may be imposed by the Hearing Officer for a violation of those requirements. No sanctions may be imposed except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.

§ 1.07 Breach of Confidentiality Provisions.

(a) In General. Section 416(a) of the CAA provides that counseling under section 402 shall be strictly confidential, except that the Office and a covered employee may agree to notify the employing office of the allegations. Section 416(b) provides that all mediation shall be strictly confidential. Section 416(c) provides that all proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board, including any related records shall be confidential, except for release of records necessary for judicial actions, access by certain committees of Congress, and, in accordance with section 416(f), publication of certain final decisions. Section 416(c) does not apply to proceedings under section 215 of the Act, but does apply to the deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board under section 215. See also sections 1.06, 5.04, and 7.12 of these rules.

(b) Prohibition. Unless specifically authorized by the provisions of the CAA or by order of the Board, the Hearing Officer or a court, or by the procedural rules of the Office, no participant in counseling, mediation or other proceedings made confidential under section 416 of the CAA ("confidential proceedings") may disclose the contents or records of those proceedings to any person or entity. Nothing in these rules prohibits a bona fide representative of a party under section 1.05 from engaging in communications with that party for the purpose of participation in the proceedings, provided that such disclosure is not made in the presence of individuals not reasonably necessary to the representative's representation of that party. Moreover, nothing in these rules prohibits a party or its representative from disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings for the limited purposes of investigating claims, ensuring compliance with the Act or preparing its prosecution or defense, to the extent that such disclosure is reasonably necessary to accomplish the aforementioned purposes and provided that the party making the disclosure takes all reasonably appropriate

steps to ensure that persons to whom the information is disclosed maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(c) Participant. For the purposes of this rule, participant means any individual or party, including a designated representative, that becomes a participant in counseling under section 402, mediation under section 403, the complaint and hearing process under section 405, or an appeal to the Board under section 406 of the Act, or any related proceeding which is expressly or by necessity deemed confidential under the Act or these rules.

(d) Contents or Records of Confidential Proceedings. For the purpose of this rule, the contents or records of counseling, mediation or other proceeding includes information disclosed by participants to the proceedings, and records disclosed by either the opposing party, witnesses or the Office. A participant is free to disclose facts and other information obtained from any source outside of the confidential proceedings. For example, an employing office or its representatives may disclose information about its employment practices and personnel actions, provided that the information was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, an employee who obtains that information in mediation or other confidential proceeding may not disclose such information. Similarly, information forming the basis for the allegation of a complaining employee may be disclosed by that employee, provided that the information contained in those allegations was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, the employing office or its representatives may not disclose that information if it was obtained in a confidential proceeding.

(e) Violation of Confidentiality. Any complaint regarding a violation of the confidentiality provisions must be made to the Executive Director no later than 30 days after the date of the alleged violation. Such complaints may be referred by the Executive Director to a Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer is also authorized to initiate proceedings on his or her own initiative, or at the direction of the Board, if the alleged violation occurred in the context of Board proceedings. Upon a finding of a violation of the confidentiality provisions, the Hearing Officer, after notice and hearing, may impose an appropriate sanction, which may include any of the sanctions listed in section 7.02 of these rules, as well as any of the following:

(1) an order that the matters regarding which the violation occurred or any other designated facts shall be taken to be established against the violating party for the purposes of the action in accordance with the claim of the other party;

(2) an order refusing to allow the violating party to support or oppose designated claims or defenses, or prohibiting him from introducing designated matters in evidence;

(3) an order striking out pleadings or parts thereof, or staying further proceedings until the order is obeyed, or dismissing with or without prejudice the action or proceedings or any part thereof, or rendering a judgment by default against the violating party;

(4) in lieu of any of the foregoing orders or in addition thereto, the Hearing Officer shall require the party violating the confidentiality provisions or the representative advising him, or both, to pay, at such time as ordered by the Hearing Officer, the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, caused by the violation, unless the Hearing Officer finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust. Such an order shall be subject to review on appeal of the final decision of the Hearing Officer under section 406 of the Act. No sanctions may be imposed under this section except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.】

SUBPART B—PRE-COMPLAINT PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF PART A OF TITLE II OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

§ 2.01 Matters Covered by Subpart B

§ 2.02 Requests for Advice and Information

§ 2.03 Counseling

§ 2.04 Mediation

§ 2.05 Election of Proceeding[s]

§ 2.06 [Filing of Civil Action] Certification of the Official Record

§ 2.07 Filing of Civil Action

§ 2.01 Matters Covered by Subpart B.

(a) These rules govern the processing of any allegation that sections 201 through 206 of the Act have been violated and any allegation of intimidation or reprisal prohibited under section 207 of the Act. Sections 201 through 206 of the Act apply to covered employees and employing offices certain rights and protections of the following laws:

(10) Chapter 35 (relating to veteran's preference) of title 5, United States Code.

(11) Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

(b) This subpart applies to the covered employees and employing offices as defined in section 1.02(b) and (h) of these rules and any activities within the coverage of sections 201 through 206(a) and 207 of the Act and referenced above in section 2.01(a) of these rules.

* * * * *

§ 2.03 Counseling.

(a) Initiating a Proceeding; Formal Request for Counseling. [In order] To initiate a proceeding under these rules regarding an alleged violation of the Act, as referred to in section 2.01(a), above, an employee shall file a written request for counseling with the Office. [Regarding an alleged violation of the Act, as referred to in section 2.01(a), above.] Individuals wishing to file a formal request for counseling may call the Office for a form to use for this purpose. [All requests for counseling shall be confidential, unless the employee agrees to waive his or her right to confidentiality under section 2.03(e)(2), below.]

(b) Who May Request Counseling. A covered employee who, in good faith, believes that he or she has been or is the subject of a violation of the Act as referred to in section 2.01(a) may formally request counseling.

(c) When, How and Where to Request Counseling. A request for counseling must be in writing, and shall be filed pursuant to the requirements of section 2.03(a) of these Rules with the Office of Compliance at Room LA-200, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999; FAX 202-426-1913; TDD 202-426-1912, not later than 180 days after the alleged violation of the Act.

(d) [Purpose] Overview of the Counseling Period. The Office will maintain strict confidentiality throughout the counseling period. The [purpose of the] counseling period [shall] should be used: to discuss the employee's concerns and elicit information regarding the matter(s) which the employee believes constitute a violation(s) of the Act; to advise the employee of his or her rights and responsibilities under the Act and the procedures of the Office under these rules; to evaluate the matter; and to assist the employee in achieving an early resolution of the matter, if possible.

(e) Confidentiality and Waiver.

(1) Absent a waiver under paragraph 2, below, all counseling shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be subject to discovery. All participants in counseling shall be advised of the

requirement for confidentiality and that disclosure of information deemed confidential could result in sanctions later in the proceedings. Nothing in these rules shall prevent a counselor from consulting with personnel within the Office concerning a matter in counseling, except that, when the person being counseled is an employee of the Office, the counselor shall not consult with any individual within the Office who might be a party or witness without the consent of the person requesting counseling. Nothing contained in these rules shall prevent the Executive Director from compiling and publishing statistical information such as that required by Section 301(h)(3) of the Act, so long as that statistical information does not reveal the identity of [the employees] an individual employee [involved] or of an employing office[s] that [are] is the subject of a specific request for counseling.

(2) [The] In accord with section 416(a) of the Act, the employee and the Office may agree to waive confidentiality [of] during the counseling process for the limited purpose of allowing the Office [contacting the employing office] to [obtain information] notify the employing office of the allegations [to be used in counseling the employee or to attempt a resolution of any disputed matter(s)]. Such a limited waiver must be written on the form supplied by the Office and signed by both the counselor and the employee.

(g) Role of Counselor [in Defining Concerns]. The Counselor [may] shall:

(1) obtain the name, home and office mailing and e-mail addresses, and home and office telephone numbers of the person being counseled;

(2) obtain the name and title of the person(s) whom the employee claims has engaged in a violation of the Act, e-mail address, if known, and the employing office in which this person(s) works;

(5) obtain the name, business and e-mail addresses, and telephone number of the employee's representative, if any, and whether the representative is an attorney.

[(i)] Counselor Not a Representative. The Counselor shall inform the person being counseled that the counselor does not represent either the employing office or the employee. The Counselor provides information regarding the Act and the Office and may act as a third-party intermediary with the goals of increasing the individual's understanding of his or her rights and responsibilities under the Act and of promoting the early resolution of the matter.

[(j)](i) Duration of Counseling Period. The period for counseling shall be 30 days, beginning on the date that the request for counseling is [received by the Office] filed by the employee in accordance with section 1.03(a) of these rules, unless the employee requests in writing on a form provided by the Office to reduce the period and the [Office] Executive Director agrees [to reduce the period].

[(h)](j) Role of Counselor in Attempting Informal Resolution. In order to attempt to resolve the matter brought to the attention of the counselor, the counselor must obtain a waiver of confidentiality pursuant to section 2.03(e)(2) of these rules. If the employee executes such a waiver, the counselor may:

(1) conduct a limited inquiry for the purpose of obtaining any information necessary to attempt an informal resolution or formal settlement;

(2) reduce to writing any formal settlement achieved and secure the signatures of the employee, his or her representative, if any,

and a member of the employing office who is authorized to enter into a settlement on the employing office's behalf; and, pursuant to section 414 of the Act and section 9.05 of these rules, seek the approval of the Executive Director. Nothing in this subsection, however, precludes the employee, the employing office or their representatives from reducing to writing any formal settlement.

(k) Duty to Proceed. An employee who initiates a proceeding under this part shall be responsible at all times for proceeding, regardless of whether he or she has designated a representative, and shall notify the Office in writing of any change in pertinent contact information, such as address, e-mail, fax number, etc. An employee, however, may withdraw from counseling once without prejudice to the employee's right to reinstate counseling regarding the same matter, provided that the request to reinstate counseling is in writing and is [received in] filed with the Office not later than 180 days after the date of the alleged violation of the Act and that counseling on a single matter will not last longer than a total of 30 days.

(l) Conclusion of the Counseling Period and Notice. The Executive Director shall notify the employee in writing of the end of the counseling period~~[,] by [certified mail, return receipt requested.] first class mail, [or by] personal delivery evidenced by a written receipt, or electronic transmission.~~ The Executive Director, as part of the notification of the end of the counseling period, shall inform the employee of the right and obligation, should the employee choose to pursue his or her claim, to file with the Office a request for mediation within 15 days after receipt by the employee of the notice of the end of the counseling period.

(m) Employees of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and Capitol Police.

(1) Where an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police requests counseling under the Act and these rules, the Executive Director, in his or her sole discretion, may recommend that the employee use the [grievance] internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Architect of the Capitol and the Office or the Capitol Police and the Office addressing certain procedural and notification requirements. The term "[grievance] internal procedure(s)" refers to any internal procedure of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police, including grievance procedures referred to in section 401 of the Act, that can provide a resolution of the matter(s) about which counseling was requested. Pursuant to section 401 of the Act [and by agreement with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board], when the Executive Director makes such a recommendation, the following procedures shall apply:

(i) The Executive Director shall recommend in writing to the employee that the employee use the [grievance] internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police, as appropriate, for a period generally up to 90 days, unless the Executive Director determines, in writing, that a longer period is appropriate [for resolution of the employee's complaint through the grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police]. Once the employee notifies the Office that he or she is using the internal procedure, the employee shall provide a waiver of confidentiality to allow the Executive Director to notify the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police that the Executive Director has recommended that the employee use the internal procedure.

[(ii)] The period during which the matter is pending in the internal procedure shall not count against the

time available for counseling or mediation under the Act.

[(iii)] If the dispute is resolved to the employee's satisfaction, the employee shall so notify the Office within 20 days after the employee has been served with a final decision resulting from the internal procedure.

[(ii)] (iv) After [having contacted the Office and having utilized] using the [grievance] internal procedures [of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police], the employee may notify the Office that he or she wishes to return to the procedures under these rules:

(A) within 60 days after the expiration of the period recommended by the Executive Director, if the matter has not resulted in a final decision or a decision not to proceed; or

(B) within 20 days after service of a final decision or a decision not to proceed, resulting from the [grievance] internal procedures [of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police Board].

[(iii)] The period during which the matter is pending in the internal grievance procedure shall not count against the time available for counseling or mediation under the Act. If the grievance is resolved to the employee's satisfaction, the employee shall so notify the Office within 20 days after the employee has received service of the final decision resulting from the grievance procedure. If no request to return to the procedures under these rules is received within 60 days after the expiration of the period recommended by the Executive Director the Office will issue a Notice of End of Counseling, as specified in section 2.04(i) of these Rules.

[(v)] If a request to return to counseling is not made by the employee within the time periods outlined above, the Office will issue a Notice of the End of Counseling.

(2) Notice to Employees who Have Not Initiated Counseling with the Office. When an employee of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police raises in the internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police [Board] an allegation which may also be raised under the procedures set forth in this subpart, the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police [Board should] shall, in accordance with the MOU with the Office, advise the employee in writing that a request for counseling about the allegation must be initiated with the Office within 180 days after the alleged violation of law occurred if the employee intends to use the procedures of the Office.

(3) Notice in Final Decisions when Employees Have Not Initiated Counseling with the Office. When an employee raises in the internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police [Board] an allegation which may also be raised under the procedures set forth in this subpart, any [final] decision issued [pursuant to the procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police Board should] under such procedure, shall, pursuant to the MOU with the Office, include notice to the employee of his or her right to initiate the procedures under these rules within 180 days after the alleged violation occurred.

(4) Notice in Final Decisions when There Has Been a Recommendation by the Executive Director. When the Executive Director has made a recommendation under paragraph 1 above, the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police [Board should] shall, pursuant to the MOU with the Office, include with the final decision notice to the employee of his or her right to resume the procedures under these rules within 20 days after service on the employee of the final decision and shall transmit a copy of the final decision, settlement agreement, or other final disposition of the case to the Executive Director.

§ 2.04 Mediation.

(a) **[Explanation] Overview.** Mediation is a process in which employees, employing offices and their representatives, if any, meet separately and/or jointly with a **[neutral] Mediator** trained to assist them in resolving disputes. As **[parties to] participants** in the mediation, employees, employing offices, and their representatives discuss alternatives to continuing their dispute, including the possibility of reaching a voluntary, mutually satisfactory resolution. The **[neutral] Mediator** has no power to impose a specific resolution, and the mediation process, whether or not a resolution is reached, is strictly confidential, pursuant to section 416 of the Act.

(b) **Initiation.** Not more than 15 days after receipt by the employee of the notice of the conclusion of the counseling period under section 2.03(1), the employee may file with the Office a written request for mediation. **Except to provide for the services of a Mediator and notice to the employing office, the invocation of mediation shall be kept confidential by the Office.** The request for mediation shall contain the employee's name, **home and e-mail addresses, [and] telephone number, and the name of the employing office that is the subject of the request.** Failure to request mediation within the prescribed period **[will] may** preclude the employee's further pursuit of his or her claim. **If a request for mediation is not filed within 15 days of receipt of a Notice of the End of Counseling, the case may be closed and the employee will be so notified.**

(d) **Selection of [Neutrals] Mediators; Disqualification.** Upon receipt of the request for mediation, the Executive Director shall assign one or more **[neutrals] Mediators from a master list developed and maintained pursuant to section 403 of the Act, to commence the mediation process.** In the event that a **[neutral] Mediator** considers him or herself unable to perform in a neutral role in a given situation, he or she shall withdraw from the matter and immediately shall notify the Office of the withdrawal. Any party may ask the Office to disqualify a **[neutral] Mediator** by filing a written request, including the reasons for such request, with the Executive Director. This request shall be filed as soon as the party has reason to believe there is a basis for disqualification. The Executive Director's decision on this request shall be final and unreviewable.

(e) **Duration and Extension.**

(2) The **[Office] Executive Director** may extend the mediation period upon the joint written request of the parties, or of the appointed mediator on behalf of the parties, **[to the attention of the Executive Director].** The request shall be written and filed with the **[Office] Executive Director** no later than the last day of the mediation period. The request shall set forth the joint nature of the request and the reasons therefore, and specify when the parties expect to conclude their discussions. Requests for additional extensions may be made in the same manner. Approval of any extensions shall be within the sole discretion of the **[Office] Executive Director.**

(f) **Procedures.**

(1) The **[Neutral's] Mediator's Role.** After assignment of the case, the **[neutral] Mediator** will promptly contact the parties. The **[neutral] Mediator** has the responsibility to conduct the mediation, including deciding how many meetings are necessary and who may participate in each meeting. The **[neutral] Mediator** may accept and may ask the parties to provide written submissions.

(2) The Agreement to Mediate. At the commencement of the mediation, the **[neutral] Mediator** will ask the **[parties] participants and/or their representatives** to sign an agreement prepared by the Office ("the Agreement to Mediate"). The Agreement to Mediate will set out the conditions under which mediation will occur, including the requirement that the participants adhere to the confidentiality of the process **and a notice that a breach of the mediation agreement could result in sanctions later in the proceedings.** The Agreement to Mediate will also provide that the parties to the mediation will not seek to have the Counselor or the **[neutral] Mediator** participate, testify or otherwise present evidence in **any subsequent administrative action under section 405 or any civil action under section 408 of the Act or any other proceeding.**

(g) **Who May Participate.** The covered employee, **[and] the employing office, their respective representatives, and the Office may meet, jointly or separately, with the neutral.** A representative of the employee and a representative of the employing who has actual authority to agree to a settlement agreement on behalf of the employee or the employing office, **as the case may be, must be present at the mediation or must be immediately accessible by telephone during the mediation.] may elect to participate in mediation proceedings through a designated representative, provided, that the representative has actual authority to agree to a settlement agreement or has immediate access to someone with actual settlement authority, and provided further, that should the Mediator deem it appropriate at any time, the physical presence in mediation of any party may be specifically requested. The Office may participate in the mediation process, with permission of the Mediator and the parties. The Mediator will determine, as best serves the interests of mediation, whether the participants may meet jointly or separately with the Mediator.**

(h) **Informal Resolutions and Settlement Agreements.** At any time during mediation the parties may resolve or settle a dispute in accordance with section **[9.05] 9.03** of these rules.

(i) **Conclusion of the Mediation Period and Notice.** If, at the end of the mediation period, the parties have not resolved the matter that forms the basis of the request for mediation, the Office shall provide the employee, and the employing office, and their representatives, with written notice that the mediation period has concluded. The written notice **[to the employee] will be [sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or will be] personally delivered evidenced by a written receipt, or sent by first class mail, e-mail, or fax. I, and it] The notice will specify the date the mediation period ended and also [notify] provide information about the employee's [of his or her] right to elect to file a complaint with the Office in accordance with section 405 of the Act and section 5.01 of these rules or to file a civil action pursuant to section 408 of the Act and section [2.06] 2.07 of these rules.**

(j) **Independence of the Mediation Process and the [Neutral] Mediator.** The Office will maintain the independence of the mediation process and the **[neutral] Mediator.** No individual, who is appointed by the Executive Director to mediate, may conduct or aid in a hearing conducted under section 405 of the Act with respect to the same matter or shall be subject to subpoena or any other compulsory process with respect to the same matter.

[(k) Confidentiality. Except as necessary to consult with the parties, the parties' their counsel or other designated representatives, the parties to, the mediation, the neutral and the Office shall not disclose, in whole or in part, any information or records obtained through, or pre-

pared specifically for, the mediation process. This rule shall not preclude a neutral from consulting with the Office, except that when the covered employee is an employee of the Office a neutral shall not consult with any individual within the Office who might be a party or witness. This rule shall also not preclude the Office from reporting statistical information to the Senate and House of Representatives that does not reveal the identity of the employees or employing offices involved in the mediation. All parties to the action and their representatives will be advised of the confidentiality requirements of this process and of the sanctions that might be imposed for violating these requirements.]

(k) **Violation of Confidentiality in Mediation.** An allegation regarding a violation of the confidentiality provisions may be made by a party in a mediation to the mediator during the mediation period and, if not resolved by agreement in mediation, to a hearing officer during proceedings brought under Section 405 of the Act.

§ 2.05 Election of Proceeding.

(a) Pursuant to section 404 of the Act, not later than 90 days after **[a covered employee receives notice of] the end of mediation** under section 2.04(i) of these rules, but no sooner than 30 days after that date, the covered employee may either:

(2) file a civil action in accordance with section 408 of the Act and section **[2.06] 2.07**, below, in the United States **[District Court] district court** for the district in which the employee is employed or for the District of Columbia.

(b) A covered employee who files a civil action pursuant to section **[2.06] 408 of the Act**, may not thereafter file a complaint under section **[5.01] 405 of the Act** on the same matter.

§ 2.06 Certification of the Official Record.

(a) **Certification of the Official Record shall contain the date the Request for Counseling was made; the date and method of delivery the Notification of End of Counseling Period was sent to the complainant; the date the Notice was deemed by the Office to have been received by the complainant; the date the Request for Mediation was filed; and the date the mediation period ended.**

(b) **At any time after a complaint has been filed with the Office in accordance with section 405 of the Act and the procedure set out in section 5.01, below; or a civil action filed in accordance with section 408 of the Act and section 2.07, below, in the United States District Court, a party may request and receive from the Office Certification of the Official Record.**

(c) **Certification of the Official Record will not be provided until after a complaint has been filed with the Office or the Office has been notified that a civil action has been filed in district court.**

§ [2.06] 2.07 Filing of Civil Action.

(a) **Filing.** Section 404 of the Act provides that as an alternative to filing a complaint under section 408 of the Act and section 5.01 of these rules, a covered employee **[who receives notice of the end of mediation pursuant to section 403 of the Act and section 2.04(i) of these rules] may elect to file a civil action in accordance with Section 408 of the Act in the United States district court for the district in which the employee is employed or for the District of Columbia.**

(b) **Time for Filing.** A covered employee may file such a civil action no earlier than 30 days after **[receipt of the notice under the section 2.04(i),] the end of the mediation period under section 2.04(i), but no later than 90 days after that [receipt] date.**

(c) *Communication Regarding Civil Actions Filed with District Court.* The party filing any civil action with the United States District Court pursuant to sections 404(2) and 408 of the Act shall provide a written notice to the Office that the party has filed a civil action, specifying the district court in which the civil action was filed and the case number. **Failure to notify the Office that such action has been filed may result in delay in the preparation and receipt of the Certification of the Official Record.**

SUBPART C—[RESERVED (SECTION 210—ADA PUBLIC SERVICES)]

SUBPART D—COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATION, ENFORCEMENT AND VARIANCE PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 215 OF THE CAA (OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970)—INSPECTIONS, CITATIONS, AND COMPLAINTS

- § 4.01 Purpose and Scope
- § 4.02 Authority for Inspection
- § 4.03 Request for Inspections by Employees and Employing Offices
- § 4.04 Objection to Inspection
- § 4.05 Entry Not a Waiver
- § 4.06 Advance Notice of Inspection
- § 4.07 Conduct of Inspections
- § 4.08 Representatives of Employing Offices and Employees
- § 4.09 Consultation with Employees
- § 4.10 Inspection Not Warranted; Informal Review
- § 4.11 Citations
- § 4.12 Imminent Danger
- § 4.13 Posting of Citations
- § 4.14 Failure to Correct a Violation for Which a Citation Has Been Issued; Notice of Failure to Correct Violation; Complaint
- § 4.15 Informal Conferences
- Rules of Practice for Variances, Limitations, Variations, Tolerances, and Exemptions**
- § 4.20 Purpose and Scope
- § 4.21 Definitions
- § 4.22 Effect of Variances
- § 4.23 Public Notice of a Granted Variance, Limitation, Variation, Tolerance, or Exemption
- § 4.24 Form of Documents
- § 4.25 Applications for Temporary Variances and other Relief
- § 4.26 Applications for Permanent Variances and other Relief
- § 4.27 Modification or Revocation of Orders
- § 4.28 Action on Applications
- § 4.29 Consolidation of Proceedings
- § 4.30 Consent Findings and Rules or Orders
- § 4.31 Order of Proceedings and Burden of Proof
- Inspections, Citations and Complaints**

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§ 4.02 Authority for Inspection.

(a) Under section 215(c)(1) of the CAA, upon written request of any employing office or covered employee, the General Counsel is authorized to enter without delay and at reasonable times any place where covered employees work ("place of employment") [of employment under the jurisdiction of an employing office]; to inspect and investigate during regular working hours and at other reasonable times, and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, any such place of employment, and all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment and materials therein; to question privately any employing office, operator, agent or employee; and to review records maintained by or under the control of the covered entity. [Required by the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder, and other records which are directly related to the purpose of the inspection.]

* * * * *

§ 4.03 Requests for Inspections by Employees and Covered Employing Offices.

(a) *By Covered Employees and Representatives.*

(1) Any covered employee or representative of covered employees who believes that a violation of section 215 of the CAA exists in any place of employment [under the jurisdiction of employing offices] may request an inspection of such place of employment by giving notice of the alleged violation to the General Counsel. Any such notice shall be reduced to writing on a form available from the Office, shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the employee or the representative of the employees. A copy shall be provided to the employing office or its agent by the General Counsel or the General Counsel's designee no later than at the time of inspection, except that, upon the written request of the person giving such notice, his or her name and the names of individual employees referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or on any record published, released, or made available by the General Counsel.

(b) *By Employing Offices.* Upon written request of any employing office, the General Counsel or the General Counsel's designee shall inspect and investigate places of employment [under the jurisdiction of employing offices] under section 215(c)(1) of the CAA. Any such requests shall be reduced to writing on a form available from the Office.

* * * * *

§ 4.10 Inspection Not Warranted; Informal Review.

(a) If the General Counsel's designee determines that an inspection is not warranted because there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or danger exists with respect to a notice of violation under section 4.03(a), he or she shall notify the party giving the notice [in writing] of such determination in writing. The complaining party may obtain review of such determination by submitting and serving a written statement of position with the General Counsel [,] and [, at the same time, providing] the employing office [with a copy of such statement by certified mail]. The employing office may submit and serve an opposing written statement of position with the General Counsel [,] and [, at the same time, provide] the complaining party [with a copy of such statement by certified mail]. Upon the request of the complaining party or the employing office, the General Counsel, at his or her discretion, may hold an informal conference in which the complaining party and the employing office may orally present their views. After considering all written and oral views presented, the General Counsel shall affirm, modify, or reverse the designee's determination and furnish the complaining party and the employing office with written notification of this decision and the reasons therefor. The decision of the General Counsel shall be final and not reviewable.

* * * * *

§ 4.11 Citations.

(a) If, on the basis of the inspection, the General Counsel believes that a violation of any requirement of section 215 of the CAA, [or of] including any occupational safety or health standard promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under Title 29 of the U.S. Code, section 655, or of any other regulation [standard], rule or order promulgated pursuant to section 215 of the CAA, has occurred, he or she shall issue to the em-

ploying office responsible for correction of the violation, [as determined under section 1.106 of the Board's regulations implementing section 215 of the CAA,] either a citation or a notice of de minimis violations that [have] has no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health. An appropriate citation or notice of de minimis violations shall be issued even though, after being informed of an alleged violation by the General Counsel, the employing office immediately abates, or initiates steps to abate, such alleged violation. Any citation shall be issued with reasonable promptness after termination of the inspection. No citation may be issued under this section after the expiration of 6 months following the occurrence of any alleged violation unless the violation is continuing or the employing office has agreed to toll the deadline for filing the citation.

* * * * *

§ 4.13 Posting of Citations.

(a) Upon receipt of any citation under section 215 of the CAA, the employing office shall immediately post such citation, or a copy thereof, unedited, at or near each place an alleged violation referred to in the citation occurred, except as provided below. Where, because of the nature of the employing office's operations, it is not practicable to post the citation at or near each place of alleged violation, such citation shall be posted, unedited, in a prominent place where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. For example, where employing offices are engaged in activities which are physically dispersed, the citation may be posted at the location to which employees report each day. Where employees do not primarily work at or report to a single location, the citation may be posted at the location from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. When a citation contains security information as defined in Title 2 of the U.S. Code, section 1979, the General Counsel may edit or redact the security information from the copy of the citation used for posting or may provide to the employing office a notice for posting that describes the alleged violation without referencing the security information. The employing office shall take steps to ensure that the citation or notice is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material. Notices of de minimis violations need not be posted.

(b) Each citation, notice, or a copy thereof, shall remain posted until the violation has been abated, or for 3 working days, whichever is later. The pendency of any proceedings regarding the citation shall not affect its posting responsibility under this section unless and until the Board issues a final order vacating the citation.

* * * * *

§ 4.15 Informal Conferences.

At the request of an affected employing office, employee, or representative of employees, the General Counsel may hold an informal conference for the purpose of discussing any issues raised by an inspection, citation, or notice issued by the General Counsel. Any settlement entered into by the parties at such conference shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director under section 414 of the CAA and section [9.05] [9.03] of these rules. If the conference is requested by the employing office, an affected employee or the employee's representative shall be afforded an opportunity to participate, at the

discretion of the General Counsel. If the conference is requested by an employee or representative of employees, the employing office shall be afforded an opportunity to participate, at the discretion of the General Counsel. Any party may be represented by counsel at such conference.

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SUBPART E—COMPLAINTS

§ 5.01 Complaints

§ 5.02 Appointment of the Hearing Officer

§ 5.03 Dismissal, Summary Judgment, and Withdrawal of Complaint

§ 5.04 Confidentiality

§ 5.01 Complaints.

(a) Who May File.

(1) An employee who has completed the mediation period under section 2.04 may timely file a complaint with the Office alleging any violation of sections 201 through 207 of the Act [.], under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or any other statute made applicable under the Act.

(2) The General Counsel may timely file a complaint alleging a violation of section 210, 215 or 220 of the Act.

(b) When to File.

(1) A complaint may be filed by an employee no sooner than 30 days after [the date of receipt of the notice under section 2.04(i)] the end of the mediation period, but no later than 90 days after [receipt of that notice] that date. In cases where a complaint is filed with the Office sooner than 30 days after [the date of receipt of the notice under section 2.04(i)] end of the mediation period, the Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may return the complaint to the employee for filing during the prescribed period without prejudice and with an explanation of the prescribed period of filing.

(c) Form and Contents.

(1) Complaints Filed by Covered Employees. A complaint shall be in writing and may be written or typed on a complaint form available from the Office. All complaints shall be signed by the covered employee, or his or her representative, and shall contain the following information:

(i) the name, mailing and e-mail addresses, and telephone number(s) of the complainant;

(v) a brief description of why the complainant believes the challenged conduct is a violation of the Act or the relevant sections of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act and the section(s) of the Act involved;

(vii) the name, mailing and e-mail addresses, and telephone number of the representative, if any, who will act on behalf of the complainant.

(2) Complaints Filed by the General Counsel. A complaint filed by the General Counsel shall be in writing, signed by the General Counsel or his designee and shall contain the following information:

(i) the name, mail and e-mail addresses, if available, and telephone number of, as applicable, (A) each entity responsible for correction of an alleged violation of section 210(b), (B) each employing office alleged to have violated section 215, or (C) each employing office and/or labor organization alleged to have violated section 220, against which complaint is brought;

(e) Service of Complaint. Upon receipt of a complaint or an amended complaint, the Office shall serve the respondent, or its designated representative, by hand delivery [or certified mail] or first class mail, e-mail, or facsimile

with a copy of the complaint or amended complaint and [a copy of these rules] written notice of the availability of these rules at www.compliance.gov. A copy of these rules may also be provided if requested by either party. The Office shall include a service list containing the names and addresses of the parties and their designated representatives.

(f) Answer. Within 15 days after receipt of a copy of a complaint or an amended complaint, the respondent shall file an answer with the Office and serve one copy on the complainant. [The answer shall contain a statement of the position of the respondent on each of the issues raised in the complaint or amended complaint, including admissions, denials, or explanations of each allegation made in the complaint and any affirmative defenses or other defenses to the complaint.] In answering a complaint, a party must state in short and plain terms its defenses to each claim asserted against it and admit or deny the allegations asserted against it by an opposing party. Failure to [file an answer] deny an allegation, other than one relating to the amount of damages, or to raise a claim or defense as to any allegation(s) shall constitute an admission of such allegation(s). Affirmative defenses not raised in an answer that could have reasonably been anticipated based on the facts alleged in the complaint shall be deemed waived. A respondent's motion for leave to amend an answer to interpose a denial or affirmative defense will ordinarily be granted unless to do so would unduly prejudice the rights of the other party or unduly delay or otherwise interfere with or impede the proceedings.

(g) Motion to Dismiss. In addition to an answer, a respondent may file a motion to dismiss, or other responsive pleading with the Office and serve one copy on the complainant. Responses to any motions shall be in compliance with section 1.04(c) of these rules.

(h) Confidentiality. The fact that a complaint has been filed with the Office by a covered employee shall be kept confidential by the Office, except as allowed by these rules.

§ 5.02 Appointment of the Hearing Officer.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the Executive Director will appoint an independent Hearing Officer, who shall have the authority specified in sections 5.03 and 7.01(b) below. The Hearing Officer shall not be the Counselor involved in or the [neutral] Mediator who mediated the matter under sections 2.03 and 2.04 of these rules.

§ 5.03 Dismissal, Summary Judgment and Withdrawal of Complaints.

(f) Withdrawal of Complaint by Complainant. At any time a complainant may withdraw his or her own complaint by filing a notice with the Office for transmittal to the Hearing Officer and by serving a copy on the employing office or representative. Any such withdrawal must be approved by the Hearing Officer and may be with or without prejudice to refile at the Hearing Officer's discretion, consistent with section 404 of the CAA.

(g) Withdrawal of Complaint by the General Counsel. At any time prior to the opening of the hearing the General Counsel may withdraw his complaint by filing a notice with the Executive Director and the Hearing Officer and by serving a copy on the respondent. After opening of the hearing, any such withdrawal must be approved by the Hearing Officer and may be with or without prejudice to refile at the Hearing Officer's discretion, consistent with section 404 of the CAA.

(h) Withdrawal From a Case by a Representative. A representative must provide sufficient notice to the Hearing Officer and the parties of record of his or her withdrawal. Until the party designates another rep-

resentative in writing, the party will be regarded as *pro se*.

§ 5.04 Confidentiality.

Pursuant to section 416(c) of the Act, except as provided in sub-sections 416(d), (e) and (f), all proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board, including any related records, shall be confidential. Section 416(c) does not apply to proceedings under section 215 of the Act, but does apply to the deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board under section 215. A violation of the confidentiality requirements of the Act and these rules [could] may result in the imposition of procedural or evidentiary sanctions. [Nothing in these rules shall prevent the Executive Director from reporting statistical information to the Senate and House of Representatives, so long as that statistical information does not reveal the identity of the employees involved or of employing offices that are the subject of a matter.] See also sections [1.06] [1.08] [1.07] [1.09] and 7.12 of these rules.

SUBPART F—DISCOVERY AND SUBPOENAS

§ 6.01 Discovery

§ 6.02 Requests for Subpoenas

§ 6.03 Service

§ 6.04 Proof of Service

§ 6.05 Motion to Quash

§ 6.06 Enforcement

§ 6.01 Discovery.

(a) [Explanation] Description. Discovery is the process by which a party may obtain from another person, including a party, information, not privileged, reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, for the purpose of assisting that party in developing, preparing and presenting its case at the hearing. No discovery, oral or written, by any party shall [This provision shall not be construed to permit any discovery, oral or written, to] be taken of or from an employee of the Office of Compliance, [or the] Counselor(s), or Mediator [the neutral(s) involved in counseling and mediation.], including files, records, or notes produced during counseling and mediation and maintained by the Office.

(b) Initial Disclosure. [Office Policy Regarding Discovery. It is the policy of the Office to encourage the early and voluntary exchange of relevant and material nonprivileged information between the parties, including the names and addresses of witnesses and copies of relevant and material documents, and to encourage Hearing Officers to develop procedures which allow for the greatest exchange of relevant and material information and which minimizes the need for parties to formally request such information.] Within 14 days after the pre-hearing conference or as soon as the information is known, and except as otherwise stipulated or ordered by the Hearing Officer, a party must, without awaiting a discovery request, provide to the other parties: the name and, if known, mail and e-mail addresses and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information that the disclosing party may use to support its claims or defenses; and a copy or a description by category and location of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support its claims or defenses.

(c) Discovery Availability. Pursuant to section 405(e) of the Act, the Hearing Officer in his or her discretion may permit reasonable prehearing discovery. In exercising that discretion, the Hearing Officer may be guided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the underlying statute.

(1) The [Hearing Officer may authorize] parties may take discovery by one or more of the following methods: depositions upon oral examination or written questions; written interrogatories; production of documents or

things or permission to enter upon land or other property for inspection or other purposes; physical and mental examinations; and requests for admission.

(2) The Hearing Officer may adopt standing orders or make any order setting forth the forms and extent of discovery, including orders limiting the number of depositions, interrogatories, and requests for production of documents, and may also limit the length of depositions.

(d) Claims of Privilege.

(1) **Information Withheld.** Whenever a party withholds information otherwise discoverable under these rules by claiming that it is privileged or confidential or subject to protection as hearing or trial preparation materials, the party shall make the claim expressly in writing and shall describe the nature of the documents, communications or things not produced or disclosed in a manner that, without revealing the information itself privileged or protected, will enable other parties to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection. **A party must make a claim for privilege no later than the due date for the production of the information.** (2) **Information Produced As Inadvertent Disclosure.** If information produced in discovery is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as hearing preparation material, the party making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party disclosed it before being notified; and may promptly present the information to the Hearing Officer or the Board under seal for a determination of the claim. The producing party must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

§ 6.02 Request for Subpoena.

(a) *Authority to Issue Subpoenas.* At the request of a party, a Hearing Officer may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and for the production of correspondence, books, papers, documents, or other records. The attendance of witnesses and the production of records may be required from any place within the United States. However, no subpoena requested by any party may be issued for the attendance or testimony of an employee *[with]* of the Office of Compliance, a Counselor or a Mediator, acting in their official capacity, including files, records, or notes produced during counseling and mediation and maintained by the Office. Employing offices shall make their employees available for discovery and hearing without requiring a subpoena.

(d) *Rulings.* The Hearing Officer shall promptly rule on the request for the subpoena.

* * * * *

SUBPART G—HEARINGS

§ 7.01 The Hearing Officer

§ 7.02 Sanctions

§ 7.03 Disqualification of the Hearing Officer

§ 7.04 Motions and Prehearing Conference

§ 7.05 Scheduling the Hearing

§ 7.06 Consolidation and Joinder of Cases

§ 7.07 Conduct of Hearing; Disqualification of Representatives

§ 7.08 Transcript

§ 7.09 Admissibility of Evidence

§ 7.10 Stipulations

§ 7.11 Official Notice

§ 7.12 Confidentiality

§ 7.13 Immediate Board Review of a Ruling by a Hearing Officer

§ 7.14 Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; Posthearing Briefs

§ 7.15 Closing the Record of the Hearing

§ 7.16 Hearing Officer Decisions; Entry in Records of the Office; Corrections to the Record; Motions to Alter, Amend or Vacate the Decision

§ 7.01 The Hearing Officer.

(b) *Authority.* Hearing Officers shall conduct fair and impartial hearings and take all necessary action to avoid undue delay in the disposition of all proceedings. They shall have all powers necessary to that end unless otherwise limited by law, including, but not limited to, the authority to:

(14) maintain and enforce the confidentiality of proceedings; and

§ 7.02 Sanctions.

(b) The Hearing Officer may impose sanctions upon the parties under, but not limited to, the circumstances set forth in this section.

(1) *Failure to Comply with an Order.* When a party fails to comply with an order (including an order for the taking of a deposition, for the production of evidence within the party's control, or for production of witnesses), the Hearing Officer may:

[(a)](A) draw an inference in favor of the requesting party on the issue related to the information sought;

[(b)](B) stay further proceedings until the order is obeyed;

[(c)](C) prohibit the party failing to comply with such order from introducing evidence concerning, or otherwise relying upon, evidence relating to the information sought;

[(d)](D) permit the requesting party to introduce secondary evidence concerning the information sought;

[(e)](E) strike, in whole or in part, *[any part of]* the complaint, briefs, answer, or other submissions of the party failing to comply with the order, as appropriate;

[(f)](F) direct judgment against the non-complying party in whole or in part; *[or]*

[(g)] order that the non-complying party, or the representative advising that party, pay all or part of the attorney's fees and reasonable expenses of the other party or parties or of the Office, caused by such non-compliance, unless the Hearing Officer or the Board finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of attorney's fees and/or expenses unjust.]

(2) *Failure to Prosecute or Defend.* If a party fails to prosecute or defend a position, the Hearing Officer may dismiss the action with prejudice or *[rule for the complainant]* decide the matter, where appropriate.

(4) *Filing of frivolous claims.* If a party files a frivolous claim, the Hearing Officer may dismiss the claim, sua sponte, in whole or in part, with prejudice or decide the matter for the party alleging the filing of the frivolous claim.

(5) *Failure to maintain confidentiality.* An allegation regarding a violation of the confidentiality provisions may be made to a Hearing Officer in proceedings under Section 405 of the CAA. If, after notice and hearing, the Hearing Officer determines that a party has violated the confidentiality provisions, the Hearing Officer may:

(A) direct that the matters related to the breach of confidentiality or other designated facts be taken as established for purposes of the action, as the prevailing party claims;

(B) prohibit the party breaching confidentiality from supporting or opposing designated claims or defenses, or from introducing designated matters in evidence;

(C) strike the pleadings in whole or in part;

(D) stay further proceedings until the breach of confidentiality is resolved to the extent possible;

(E) dismiss the action or proceeding in whole or in part; or

(F) render a default judgment against the party breaching confidentiality.

(c) No sanctions may be imposed under this section except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.

* * * * *

§ 7.04 Motions and Prehearing Conference.

(b) *Scheduling of the Prehearing Conference.* Within 7 days after assignment, the Hearing Officer shall serve on the parties and their designated representatives written notice setting forth the time, date, and place of the prehearing conference, except that the Executive Director may, for good cause, extend up to an additional 7 days the time for serving notice of the prehearing conference.

(c) *Prehearing Conference Memoranda.* The Hearing Officer may order each party to prepare a prehearing conference memorandum. At his or her discretion, the Hearing Officer may direct the filing of the memorandum after discovery by the parties has concluded. *[That]* The memorandum may include:

(3) the specific relief, including, where known, a calculation of *[the amount of]* any monetary relief *[.]* or damages that is being or will be requested;

(4) the names of potential witnesses for the party's case, except for potential impeachment or rebuttal witnesses, and the purpose for which they will be called and a list of documents that the party is seeking from the opposing party, and, if discovery was permitted, the status of any pending request for discovery. (It is not necessary to list each document requested. Instead, the party may refer to the request for discovery.); and

(d) At the prehearing conference, the Hearing Officer may discuss the subjects specified in paragraph (c) above and the manner in which the hearing will be conducted *[and proceed]*. In addition, the Hearing Officer may explore settlement possibilities and consider how the factual and legal issues might be simplified and any other issues that might expedite the resolution of the dispute. The Hearing Officer shall issue an order, which recites the action taken at the conference and the agreements made by the parties as to any of the matters considered and which limits the issues to those not disposed of by admissions, stipulations, or agreements of the parties. Such order, when entered, shall control the course of the proceeding, subject to later modification by the Hearing Officer by his or her own motion or upon proper request of a party for good cause shown.

§ 7.05 Scheduling the Hearing.

(b) *Motions for Postponement or a Continuance.* Motions for postponement or for a continuance by either party shall be made in writing to the *[Office]* Hearing Officer, shall set forth the reasons for the request, and shall state whether the opposing party consents to such postponement. Such a motion may be granted by the Hearing Officer upon a showing of good cause. In no event will a hearing commence later than 90 days after the filing of the complaint.

§ 7.06 Consolidation and Joinder of Cases.

* * * * *

(b) Authority. The Executive Director prior to the assignment of a complaint to a Hearing Officer; a Hearing Officer during the hearing; or the Board [the Office, or a Hearing Officer] during an appeal may consolidate or join cases on their own initiative or on the motion of a party if to do so would expedite processing of the cases and not adversely affect the interests of the parties, taking into account the confidentiality requirements of section 416 of the Act.

§ 7.07 Conduct of Hearing; Disqualification of Representatives.

(c) No later than the opening of the hearing, or as otherwise ordered by the Hearing Officer, each party shall submit to the Hearing Officer and to the opposing party typed lists of the hearing exhibits and the witnesses expected to be called to testify, excluding impeachment or rebuttal witnesses [expected to be called to testify].

(f) Failure of either party to appear, present witnesses, or respond to an evidentiary order may result in an adverse finding or ruling by the Hearing Officer. At the discretion of the Hearing Officer, the hearing may also be held in the absence of the complaining party if the representative for that party is present.

[(f)(g) If the Hearing Officer concludes that a representative of an employee, a witness, a charging party, a labor organization, an employing office, or an entity alleged to be responsible for correcting a violation has a conflict of interest, he or she may, after giving the representative an opportunity to respond, disqualify the representative. In that event, within the time limits for hearing and decision established by the Act, the affected party shall be afforded reasonable time to retain other representation.]

§ 7.08 Transcript.

(b) Corrections. Corrections to the official transcript will be permitted. Motions for correction must be submitted within 10 days of service of the transcript upon the [party] parties. Corrections of the official transcript will be permitted only upon approval of the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer may make corrections at any time with notice to the parties.

* * * * *

§ 7.12 Confidentiality.

(a) Pursuant to section 416 of the Act and section 1.08 of these Rules, all proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board, including the transcripts of hearings and any related records, shall be confidential, except as specified in sections 416(d), (e), and (f) of the Act and section 1.08(d) of these Rules. All parties to the proceeding and their representatives, and witnesses who appear at the hearing, will be advised of the importance of confidentiality in this process and of their obligations, subject to sanctions, to maintain it. This provision shall not apply to proceedings under section 215 of the Act, but shall apply to the deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board under that section.

(b) Violation of Confidentiality. An allegation regarding a violation of confidentiality occurring during a hearing may be resolved by a Hearing Officer in proceedings under Section 405 of the CAA. After providing notice and an opportunity to the parties to be heard, the Hearing Officer, in accordance with section 1.08(f) of these Rules, may make a finding of a violation of confidentiality and impose appropriate procedural or evidentiary sanctions, which may include any of the sanctions listed in section 7.02 of these Rules.

§ 7.13 Immediate Board Review of a Ruling by a Hearing Officer.

* * * * *

(b) Time for Filing. A motion by a party for interlocutory review of a ruling of the Hearing Officer shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 5 days after service of the ruling upon the parties. The motion shall include arguments in support of both interlocutory review and the determination requested to be made by the Board upon review. Responses, if any, shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 3 days after service of the motion.

[(b)(c) Standards for Review. In determining whether to certify and forward a request for interlocutory review to the Board, the Hearing Officer shall consider all of the following:

[(c) Time for Filing. A motion by a party for interlocutory review of a ruling of the Hearing Officer shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 5 days after service of the ruling upon the parties. The motion shall include arguments in support of both interlocutory review and the determination requested to be made by the Board upon review. Responses, if any, shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 3 days after service of the motion.]

(d) Hearing Officer Action. If all the conditions set forth in paragraph [(b)(c)] above are met, the Hearing Officer shall certify and forward a request for interlocutory review to the Board for its immediate consideration. Any such submission shall explain the basis on which the Hearing Officer concluded that the standards in paragraph [(b)(c)] have been met. The decision of the Hearing Officer to forward or decline to forward a request for review is not appealable.

(e) Grant of Interlocutory Review Within Board's Sole Discretion. Upon the Hearing Officer's certification and decision to forward a request for review, [T]he Board, in its sole discretion, may grant interlocutory review. The Board's decision to grant or deny interlocutory review is not appealable.

[(g) Denial of Motion not Appealable; Mandamus. The grant or denial of a motion for a request for interlocutory review shall not be appealable. The Hearing Officer shall promptly bring a denial of such a motion, and the reasons therefor, to the attention of the Board. If, upon consideration of the motion and the reason for denial, the Board believes that interlocutory review is warranted, it may grant the review sua sponte. In addition, the Board may in its discretion, in extraordinary circumstances, entertain directly from a party a writ of mandamus to review a ruling of a Hearing Officer.]

[(h)(g) Procedures before Board. Upon its [acceptance of a ruling of the Hearing Officer for] decision to grant interlocutory review, the Board shall issue an order setting forth the procedures that will be followed in the conduct of that review.

[(i)(h) Review of a Final Decision. Denial of interlocutory review will not affect a party's right to challenge rulings, which are otherwise appealable, as part of an appeal to the Board under section 8.01 from the Hearing Officer's decision issued under section 7.16 of these rules.

§ 7.14 Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; Posthearing Briefs.

[(a)] May be [Filed] Required. The Hearing Officer may [permit] require the parties to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and/or posthearing briefs on the factual and the legal issues presented in the case.

[(b) Length. No principal brief shall exceed 50 pages, or 12,500 words, and no reply brief shall exceed 25 pages, or 6,250 words, exclusive of tables and pages limited only to quotations of statutes, rules, and the like. Motions to file extended briefs shall be granted only for good

cause shown; the Hearing Officer may in his or her discretion also reduce the page limits. Briefs in excess of 10 pages shall include an index and a table of authorities.

(c) Format. Every brief must be easily readable. Briefs must have double spacing between each line of text, except for quoted texts and footnotes, which may be single-spaced.]

§ 7.15 Closing the Record of the Hearing.

(a) Except as provided in section 7.14, the record shall be closed at the conclusion of the hearing. However, when the Hearing Officer allows the parties to submit argument, briefs, documents or additional evidence previously identified for introduction, the record will remain open for as much time as the Hearing Officer grants for that purpose [additional evidence previously identified for introduction, the Hearing Officer may allow an additional period before the conclusion of the hearing as is necessary for that purpose].

(b) Once the record is closed, no additional evidence or argument shall be accepted into the hearing record except upon a showing that new and material evidence has become available that was not available despite due diligence prior to the closing of the record or it is in rebuttal to new evidence or argument submitted by the other party just before the record closed. [However, the] The Hearing Officer shall also make part of the record any [motions for attorney fees, supporting documentation, and determinations thereon, and] approved correction to the transcript.

§ 7.16 Hearing Officer Decisions; Entry in Records of the Office; Corrections to the Record; Motions to Alter, Amend or Vacate the Decision.

(b) The Hearing Officer's written decision shall:

- (1) state the issues raised in the complaint;
- (2) describe the evidence in the record;
- (3) contain findings of fact and conclusions of law, and the reasons or bases therefore, on all the material issues of fact, law, or discretion that were presented on the record;
- (4) contain a determination of whether a violation has occurred; and
- (5) order such remedies as are appropriate under the CAA.

[(b)(c) Upon issuance, the decision and order of the Hearing Officer shall be entered into the records of the Office.

[(c)(d) The Office shall promptly provide a copy of the decision and order of the Hearing Officer to the parties.

[(d)(e) If there is no appeal of a decision and order of a Hearing Officer, that decision becomes a final decision of the Office, which is subject to enforcement under section 8.03 of these rules.

(f) Corrections to the Record. After a decision of the Hearing Officer has been issued, but before an appeal is made to the Board, or in the absence of an appeal, before the decision becomes final, the Hearing Officer may issue an erratum notice to correct simple errors or easily correctible mistakes. The Hearing Officer may do so on motion of the parties or on his or her own motion with or without advance notice.

(g) After a decision of the Hearing Officer has been issued, but before an appeal is made to the Board, or in the absence of an appeal, before the decision becomes final, a party to the proceeding before the Hearing Officer may move to alter, amend or vacate the decision. The moving party must establish that relief from the decision is warranted because: (1) of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; (2) there is newly discovered evidence that, with reasonable diligence, could not have been discovered in time to move for a new hearing; (3) there has been fraud, misrepresentation, or misconduct by an opposing party; (4) the decision is void; or (5) the decision has been satisfied, released, or discharged; it is based on

an earlier decision that has been reversed or vacated; or applying it prospectively is no longer equitable. The motion shall be filed within 15 days after service of the Hearing Officer's decision. No response shall be filed unless the Hearing Officer so orders. The filing and pendency of a motion under this provision shall not relieve a party of the obligation to file a timely appeal or operate to stay the action of the Hearing Officer unless so ordered by the Hearing Officer.

SUBPART H—PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE BOARD

§ 8.01 Appeal to the Board

§ 8.02 Reconsideration

§ 8.03 Compliance with Final Decisions, Requests for Enforcement

§ 8.04 Judicial Review

§ 8.05 Application for Review of an Executive Director Action

§ 8.06 Exceptions to Arbitration Awards

§ 8.07 Expedited Review of Negotiability

§ 8.08 Procedures of the Board in Impasse Proceedings

§ 8.01 Appeal to the Board.

(a) No later than 30 days after the entry of the final decision and order of the Hearing Officer in the records of the Office, an aggrieved party may seek review of that decision and order by the Board by filing with the Office a petition for review by the Board. The appeal must be served on the opposing party or its representative.

(b)(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, within 21 days following the filing of a petition for review to the Board, the appellant shall file and serve a supporting brief in accordance with section **[9.01] 1.04** of these rules. That brief shall identify with particularity those findings or conclusions in the decision and order that are challenged and shall refer specifically to the portions of the record and the provisions of statutes or rules that are alleged to support each assertion made on appeal.

(3) **[Upon written delegation by the Board,] In any case in which the Board has not rendered a determination on the merits, the Executive Director is authorized to: determine any request for extensions of time to file any post-petition for review document or submission with the Board [in any case in which the Executive Director has not rendered a determination on the merits.]; determine any request for enlargement of page limitation of any post-petition for review document or submission with the Board; or require proof of service where there are questions of proper service. [Such delegation shall continue until revoked by the Board.]**

(d) Upon appeal, the Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the reasons for its decision. The Board may **dismiss the appeal** or affirm, reverse, modify or remand the decision and order of the Hearing Officer in whole or in part. Where there is no remand the decision of the Board shall be entered in the records of the Office as the final decision of the Board and shall be subject to judicial review.

(e) The Board may remand the matter to **[the] a Hearing Officer for further action or proceedings, including the reopening of the record for the taking of additional evidence. The decision by the Board to remand a case is not subject to judicial review under Section 407 of the Act. The procedures for a remanded hearing shall be governed by subparts F, G, and H of these Rules. The Hearing Officer shall render a decision or report to the Board, as ordered, at the conclusion of proceedings on the remanded matters. [Upon receipt of the decision or report, the Board shall determine whether the views of the parties on the content of the decision or report should be obtained in writing and, where necessary, shall fix by order the time for the sub-**

mission of those views.] A decision of the Board following completion of the remand shall be entered in the records of the Office as the final decision of the Board and shall be subject to judicial review under Section 407 of the Act.

(h) *Record.* The docket sheet, complaint and any amendments, notice of hearing, answer and any amendments, motions, rulings, orders, stipulations, exhibits, documentary evidence, any portions of depositions admitted into evidence, docketed Memoranda for the Record, or correspondence between the Office and the parties, and the transcript of the hearing (together with any electronic recording of the hearing if the original reporting was performed electronically) together with the Hearing Officer's decision and the petition for review, any response thereto, any reply to the response and any other pleadings shall constitute the record in the case.

(j) **An appellant may move to withdraw a petition for review at any time before the Board renders a decision. The motion must be in writing and submitted to the Board. The Board, at its discretion, may grant such a motion and take whatever action is required.**

§ 8.02 Reconsideration.

After a final decision or order of the Board has been issued, a party to the proceeding before the Board, who can establish in its moving papers that reconsideration is necessary because the Board has overlooked or misapprehended points of law or fact, may move for reconsideration of such final decision or order. The motion shall be filed within 15 days after service of the Board's decision or order. No response shall be filed unless the Board so orders. The filing and pendency of a motion under this provision shall not relieve a party of the obligation to file a timely appeal or operate to stay the action of the Board unless so ordered by the Board. **The decision to grant or deny a motion for reconsideration is within the sole discretion of the Board and is not appealable.**

§ 8.03 Compliance with Final Decisions, Requests for Enforcement.

(a) Unless the Board has, in its discretion, stayed the final decision of the Office during the pendency of an appeal pursuant to section 407 of the Act, and except as provided in sections 210(d)(5) and 215(c)(6) of the Act, a party required to take any action under the terms of a final decision of the Office shall carry out its terms promptly, and shall within 30 days after the decision or order becomes final and goes into effect by its terms, provide the Office and all other parties to the proceedings with a compliance report specifying the manner in which compliance with the provisions of the decision or order has been accomplished. If complete compliance has not been accomplished within 30 days, the party required to take any such action shall submit a compliance report specifying why compliance with any provision of the decision or order has not yet been fully accomplished, the steps being taken to assure full compliance, and the anticipated date by which full compliance will be achieved. **A party may also file a petition for attorneys fees and/or damages unless the Board has, in its discretion, stayed the final decision of the Office during the pendency of the appeal pursuant to Section 407 of the Act.**

(d) **To the extent provided in Section 407(a) of the Act and Section 8.04 of this section, the appropriate [Any] party may petition the Board for enforcement of a final decision of the Office or**

the Board. The petition shall specifically set forth the reasons why the petitioner believes enforcement is necessary.

§ 8.05 Application for Review of an Executive Director Action.

For additional rules on the procedures pertaining to the Board's review of an Executive Director action in Representation proceedings, refer to Parts 2422.30–31 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

§ 8.06 Expedited Review of Negotiability Issues.

For additional rules on the procedures pertaining to the Board's expedited review of negotiability issues, refer to Part 2424 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

§ 8.07 Review of Arbitration Awards.

For additional rules on the procedures pertaining to the Board's review of arbitration awards, refer to Part 2425 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

§ 8.08 Procedures of the Board in Impasse Proceedings.

For additional rules on the procedures of the Board in impasse proceedings, refer to Part 2471 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

SUBPART I—OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

[§ 9.01 Filing, Service and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and other Documents.]

§ 9.02 Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violations of Rules; Sanctions]

[§ 9.03] § 9.01 Attorney's Fees and Costs

[§ 9.04] § 9.02 Ex parte Communications

[§ 9.05] § 9.03 Informal Resolutions and Settlement Agreements

[§ 9.06] § 9.04 Revocation, Amendment or Waiver of Rules

[§ 9.01 Filing, Service, and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents.]

(a) *Filing with the Office; Number.* One original and three copies of all motions, briefs, responses, and other documents, must be filed, whenever required, with the Office or Hearing Officer. However, when a party aggrieved by the decision of a Hearing Officer or a party to any other matter or determination reviewable by the Board files an appeal or other submission with the Board, one original and seven copies of any submission and any responses must be filed with the Office. The Office, Hearing Officer, or Board may also request a party to submit an electronic version of any submission in a designated format, with receipt confirmed by electronic transmittal in the same format.

(b) *Service.* The parties shall serve on each other one copy of all motions, briefs, responses and other documents filed with the Office, other than the request for counseling, the request for mediation and complaint. Service shall be made by mailing or by hand delivering a copy of the motion, brief, response or other document to each party, or if represented, the party's representative, on the service list previously provided by the Office. Each of these documents, must be accompanied by a certificate of service specifying how, when and on whom service was made. It shall be the duty of each party to notify the Office and all other parties in writing of any changes in the names or addresses on the service list.

(c) *Time Limitations for Response to Motions or Briefs and Reply.* Unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer or these rules, a party shall file a response to a motion or brief within

15 days of the service of the motion or brief upon the party. Any reply to such response shall be filed and served within 5 days of the service of the response. Only with the Hearing Officer's advance approval may either party file additional responses or replies.

(d) *Size Limitations.* Except as otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer or these rules, no brief, motion, response, or supporting memorandum filed with the Office shall exceed 35 pages, or 8,750 words, exclusive of the table of contents, table of authorities and attachments. The Board, the Office, Executive Director, or Hearing Officer may waive, raise or reduce this limitation for good cause shown or on its own initiative. Briefs, motions, responses, and supporting memoranda shall be on standard letter-size paper (8-1/2" x 11").

§9.02 Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violation of Rules; Sanctions

Every pleading, motion, and other filing of a party represented by an attorney or other designated representative shall be signed by the attorney or representative. A party who is not represented shall sign the pleading, motion or other filing. The signature of a representative or party constitutes a certificate by the signer that the signer has read the pleading, motion, or other filing; that to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation. If a pleading, motion, or other filing is not signed, it shall be stricken unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the person who is required to sign. If a pleading, motion, or other filing is signed in violation of this rule, a Hearing Officer or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or upon its own initiative, shall impose upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both, an appropriate sanction, which may include an order to pay to the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, motion, or other filing, including a reasonable attorney's fee. A Hearing Officer, the Executive Director, or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or its own initiative may also impose an appropriate sanction, which may include the sanctions specified in section 7.02, for any other violation of these rules that does not result from reasonable error.]

§9.03] §9.01 Attorney's Fees and Costs.

(a) *Request.* No later than [20] 30 days after the entry of a final [Hearing Officer's] decision of the Office, [under section 7.16, or after service of a Board decision by the Office the complainant, if he or she is a] the prevailing party[.] may submit to the Hearing Officer or Arbitrator who [heard] decided the case initially a motion for the award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs, following the form specified in paragraph (b) below. [All motions for attorney's fees and costs shall be submitted to the Hearing Officer.] The Hearing Officer or Arbitrator, after giving the respondent an opportunity to reply, shall rule on the motion. Decisions regarding attorney's fees and costs are collateral and do not affect the finality or appealability of a final decision issued by the [Hearing Officer] Office. [A ruling on a motion for attorney's fees and costs may be appealed together with the final decision of the Hearing Officer. If the motion for attorney's fees is ruled on after the final decision has been issued by the Hearing Officer, the ruling may be appealed in the same manner as a final decision, pursuant to section 8.01 of these Rules.]

(b) *Form of Motion.* In addition to setting forth the legal and factual bases upon which the attorney's fees and/or costs are sought, a motion for an award of attorney's fees and/or costs shall be accompanied by:

(3) the attorney's customary billing rate for similar work with evidence that the rate is consistent with the prevailing community rate for similar services in the community in which the attorney ordinarily practices; [and]

(4) an itemization of costs related to the matter in question[.]; and

(5) evidence of an established attorney-client relationship.

§9.04] §9.02 Ex parte Communications.

(a) *Definitions.*

(3) For purposes of section [9.04] 9.02, the term *proceeding* means the complaint and hearing proceeding under section 405 of the CAA, an appeal to the Board under section 406 of the CAA, a pre-election investigatory hearing under section 220 of the CAA, and any other proceeding of the Office established pursuant to regulations issued by the Board under the CAA

(c) *Prohibited Ex Parte Communications and Exceptions.*

(2) *The Hearing Officer or the Office may initiate attempts to settle a matter at any time. The parties may agree to waive the prohibitions against ex parte communications during settlement discussions, and they may agree to any limits on the waiver.*

—Renumber subsequent paragraphs—

§9.05] §9.03 Informal Resolutions and Settlement Agreements.

(b) *Formal Settlement Agreement.* The parties may agree formally to settle all or part of a disputed matter in accordance with section 414 of the Act. In that event, the agreement shall be in writing and submitted to the Executive Director for review and approval. The settlement is not effective until it has been approved by the Executive Director. If the Executive Director does not approve the settlement, such disapproval shall be in writing, shall set forth the grounds therefor, and shall render the settlement ineffective.

(c) *Requirements for a Formal Settlement Agreement.* A formal settlement agreement requires the signature of all parties or their designated representatives on the agreement document before the agreement can be submitted to the Executive Director for signature. A formal settlement agreement should not be submitted to the Executive Director for signature until the appropriate revocation periods have expired. A formal settlement agreement cannot be rescinded after the signatures of all parties have been affixed to the agreement, unless by written revocation of the agreement voluntarily signed by all parties, or as otherwise permitted by law.

(d) *Violation of a Formal Settlement Agreement.* If a party should allege that a formal settlement agreement has been violated, the issue shall be determined by reference to the formal dispute resolution procedures of the agreement. Settlements should include specific dispute resolution procedures. If the [particular] formal settlement agreement does not have a stipulated method for dispute resolution of an alleged violation [of the agreement], the Office may provide assistance in resolving the dispute, including the services of a Mediator at the discretion

of the Executive Director. [the following dispute resolution procedure shall be deemed to be a part of each formal settlement agreement approved by the Executive Director pursuant to section 414 of the Act:] Where the settlement agreement does not have a stipulated method for resolving violation allegations, [Any complaint] an allegation [regarding] of a violation [of a formal settlement agreement] may be filed with the Executive Director, but no later than 60 days after the party to the agreement becomes aware of the alleged violation. Such [complaints] may be referred by the Executive Director to a Hearing Officer for a final decision. The procedures for hearing and determining such complaints shall be governed by subparts F, G, and H of these Rule.] allegations will be reviewed, investigated or mediated by the Executive Director or designee, as appropriate.

§9.06] §9.04 Payments required pursuant to Decisions, Awards, or Settlements under section 415(a) of the Act.

Whenever a final decision or award pursuant to sections 405(g), 406(e), 407, or 408 of the Act, or an approved settlement pursuant to section 414 of the Act, require the payment of funds pursuant to section 415(a) of the Act, the decision, award, or settlement shall be submitted to the Executive Director to be processed by the Office for requisition from the account of the Office of Compliance in the Department of the Treasury, and payment. No payment shall be made from such account until the time for appeal of a decision has expired, unless a settlement has been reached in the absence of a decision to be appealed.

§9.07] §9.05 Revocation, Amendment or Waiver of Rules.

(a) The Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Board, may revoke or amend these rules by publishing proposed changes in the Congressional Record and providing for a comment period of not less than 30 days. Following the comment period, any changes to the rules are final once they are published in the Congressional Record.

(b) The Board or a Hearing Officer may waive a procedural rule contained in this Part in an individual case for good cause shown if application of the rule is not required by law.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV,

7466. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Compliance, transmitting notice of adopted amendments to the Rules of Procedure, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1383(b); Public Law 104-1, Sec. 303(b) (109 Stat. 28), was taken from the Speaker's table, referred jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5843. A bill to establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity; with an amendment (Rept. 114-826). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 5877. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and the United

States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act of 2014 to promote cooperative homeland security research and antiterrorism programs relating to cybersecurity; and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-827, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 5877 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DENHAM (for himself, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. COOK, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. ISSA, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 6316. A bill to stop the Secretary of the Army from recouping a bonus or similar benefit provided to members of the California Army National Guard between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2010, unless the Secretary can prove that the member knowingly secured the bonus or similar benefit through fraud or misrepresentation or knowingly failed to perform the service requirement upon which the bonus or similar benefit was conditioned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. JONES, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 6317. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans with service-connected disabilities related to mental health are not barred, because of such disabilities, from readjustment counseling and related mental health services under such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. CLAY, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. WELCH, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

H.R. 6318. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide an increase in premium pay for certain Federal employees performing protective services during any year in which a presidential election is held, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6319. A bill to absolve debts resulting from the payment of certain recruitment and reenlistment bonuses to members of the California National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6320. A bill to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to a prospective FHA borrower who is a veteran, to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the provision of a certificate of eligibility for VA home loans during

the pre-separation counseling for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6321. A bill to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BERA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. DENT, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HANNA, Mr. HARPER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. HILL, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MARINO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NUNES, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. SALMON, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. FARENTHOLD):

H.R. 6322. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Norman Yoshio Mineta in recognition of his courageous, principled dedication to public service, civic engagement, and civil rights; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. BERA, Mr. COOK, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. LEE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HONDA, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARR, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NUNES, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. KNIGHT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. BECERRA, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BASS, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. HAHN, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. DAVIS of California):

H.R. 6323. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H. Con. Res. 172. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that public health professionals should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States on "Public Health Thank You Day", November 21, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DENHAM:

H.R. 6316.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 6317.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof".

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 6318.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6319.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6320.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6321.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HONDA:

H.R. 6322.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 6323.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 20: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 379: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 525: Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 546: Mr. LATTA, Mr. MICA, Mr. RENACCI, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 711: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 799: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 836: Mr. SANFORD.
H.R. 841: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 923: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 973: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1188: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1220: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. THORNBERRY.
H.R. 1247: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1287: Mr. LABRADOR.
H.R. 1355: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 1391: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1453: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1559: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 1571: Mr. TIPTON.
H.R. 1598: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1608: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. HILL, and Mr. MICA.
H.R. 1686: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 1706: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1814: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H.R. 2216: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2224: Mr. McNERNEY and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 2280: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2412: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 2450: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2493: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. ESTY.
H.R. 2500: Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 2553: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 2622: Mr. MASSIE and Mrs. COMSTOCK.
H.R. 2692: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 2694: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 2887: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2963: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 2972: Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 3012: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 3119: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3163: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 3166: Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 3238: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3339: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3520: Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 3535: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 3656: Ms. GABBARD and Mr. ENGEL.
H.R. 3666: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. DELANEY, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 3706: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAHN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 3861: Mr. BEYER and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 3884: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 3885: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 4055: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4073: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4144: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4146: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4147: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4184: Ms. TITUS and Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H.R. 4204: Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 4355: Ms. BROWN of Florida and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 4445: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 4526: Mr. BYRNE and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 4559: Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 4603: Ms. GRAHAM.
H.R. 4622: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 4625: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4668: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4683: Ms. SINEMA and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 4794: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 4795: Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. RENACCI.
H.R. 4813: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 4818: Mr. HILL and Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 4907: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ASHFORD, Mrs. BLACK, and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 4919: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RIBBLE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4938: Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MESSER, Mr. ISSA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. KATKO, Mr. HARPER, Mr. STEWART, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4989: Mr. HONDA and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5076: Mr. GOODLATTE.
H.R. 5083: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
H.R. 5085: Ms. FUDGE, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HONDA, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 5235: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SPEIER, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 5256: Mr. GALLEGO and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 5332: Mr. ROSKAM and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 5373: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. HECK of Washington.
H.R. 5418: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 5422: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 5474: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5488: Mr. HONDA, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 5506: Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 5619: Mr. JONES, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 5621: Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 5622: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 5624: Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 5695: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 5732: Mr. YOHIO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. TORRES, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 5734: Mrs. BLACKBURN.
H.R. 5855: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 5928: Mr. ELLISON.
H.R. 5942: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 5955: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 5961: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. DUFFY.
H.R. 5974: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 6003: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 6036: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROYCE.
H.R. 6048: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 6072: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6073: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6097: Miss RICE of New York.
H.R. 6108: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mrs. TORRES.
H.R. 6117: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6122: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 6131: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 6149: Mr. MCGOVERN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 6164: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 6168: Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 6197: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 6205: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
H.R. 6208: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 6212: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 6265: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 6275: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. LEE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 6287: Mr. BYRNE and Mrs. ROBY.
H.R. 6297: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. KING of New York.
H. Con. Res. 161: Mr. DESANTIS, Mr. JONES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. KILMER.
H. Res. 12: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
H. Res. 289: Mr. GUTIÉRREZ.
H. Res. 540: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TSONGAS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H. Res. 647: Mr. TED LIEU of California and Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H. Res. 683: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
H. Res. 750: Mr. SHERMAN.
H. Res. 848: Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, and Ms. PINGREE.
H. Res. 854: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 861: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. BEYER, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KATKO, Mr. NOLAN, and Mr. MEEKS.
H. Res. 871: Mr. WALZ.
H. Res. 885: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. VALADAO.
H. Res. 899: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. TAKANO.

SENATE—Tuesday, November 15, 2016

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, You have told us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that it is Your will for us to be thankful in every circumstance. So today we thank You for the orderly transition of governmental power and for the substantive contributions to liberty of President Barack Obama. We are grateful for his labors of faith, patience, and hope. We are thankful for his dependence on You.

Lord, we also express gratitude for the limitless possibilities available to President-Elect Donald Trump. May he receive inspiration from Your declaration in Psalm 75:6 and 7 that elevation comes neither from the east, west, south or north, but You are the sovereign judge who puts down one and lifts up another.

Lord, we give You our thanksgiving for our lawmakers, old and new. Bless and keep them in all they think, say, and do.

Finally, we thank You for the life and legacy of Gwen Ifill.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3464 AND H.R. 6094

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3464) to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employ-

ees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand appointments were made during the adjournment of the Senate, and I ask they be stated for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-198, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Creating Options for Veterans' Expedited Recovery (COVER Commission): Dr. Wayne Jonas of Virginia (Veteran) and Jon Soltz of Virginia (Veteran).

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 112-272, appoints the following individual to be a member of the World War I Centennial Commission: Terry Hamby of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader and the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Rick McCubbin of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader and the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Michael Walters of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-215, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission: the Honorable JOHN MCCAIN and the Honorable ORRIN G. HATCH.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 98-183, as amended by Public Law 103-419, reappoints the following individual to

the United States Commission on Civil Rights: David Kladney of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Katherine Tobin of Virginia.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-196, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission: Members of the Senate: the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. of Pennsylvania and the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN of New Hampshire. Private Citizens: Dr. Andrew Hohns of Pennsylvania, David Cohen of Pennsylvania, Heather Murren of Nevada, and James Swanson of the District of Columbia.

THE ELECTION AND WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have had a regularly scheduled election in this country every 2 years since 1788. This year's campaign was long and it was tough, and I think everyone is glad it is over. I think Americans are ready to come together and move the country forward.

As President Obama reminded us, we are all on one team. This is an intramural scrimmage. We are not Democrats first. We are not Republicans first. We are Americans first. We are patriots first. Now, as he put it, we are all rooting for the success of the President-elect for uniting and leading the country.

I want to congratulate President-Elect Trump on his victory. I want to thank the American people for placing their trust in this Senate majority and the House majority as well. Speaker RYAN and I had productive discussions with the President-elect last week. We are both looking forward to working with him, but first there is work to be done in the current session of the Senate.

We will welcome some new Members, beginning with orientation this week. We will bid farewell to some dear colleagues. We will finish the work that remains before us.

So welcome back, everyone. We still have some work to do, and with some cooperation from both sides, we will get it done.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATE CHAPLAIN AND WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the prayer of Admiral Black. He always does his best to set the tone. I appreciate the tone that he has set this afternoon. I appreciate him and what he does very much.

I welcome everyone back. We have been gone quite some time. We have a lot of work to do the next few weeks, and we will do our best to get it done as quickly as we can.

REMEMBERING GWEN IFILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to say just a few words about Gwen Ifill. It really was too bad that she died at age 61. She was a woman who broke barriers. Every step of her life was something new and inspirational for those around her.

I watch the "NewsHour" as often as I can, and I will miss her. I thought she had such a fine way of presenting herself in the news that she reported. Every night she would do the nightly review. She was really a good person, and I will miss her. I think we all will.

THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been in politics for five decades. I have not seen anything like what we are seeing today in America. The man who lost the popular vote by 2 million votes is now the President-elect. I will repeat that. A man who lost the election by 2 million votes or more is now the President-elect.

His election has sparked a wave of hate crimes across America. This is a simple statement of fact, but it raises critical questions for us as a country and as a nation. How do we respond to the election of Donald Trump?

The Democrats want to work with Mr. Trump when we can. I understand and respect the impulse because Democrats like to get things done. That is why most of us are in government in the first place.

For example, Democrats have been trying for multiple decades to get Republicans to invest in our deteriorating infrastructure. What kind of makeup do we have in the infrastructure? Some say \$1 trillion; some say \$3 trillion. It is really badly in need of help and repair. It is an automatic job creator. Over these decades, each time we tried to do something on infrastructure, Republicans obstructed. So if we can finally get Republicans to make the job-creating infrastructure investments we have been seeking for years, that would

be a welcome development for the Senate and the country.

If Trump wants to pursue policies that will help working people, Democrats will take a pragmatic approach. Democrats have a responsibility to improve the lives of Americans, but we also have other responsibilities. We have a responsibility to be the voice of millions of Americans sitting at home, afraid that they are not welcome anymore in Donald Trump's America. We have a responsibility to prevent Trump's bullying, aggressive behavior from becoming normalized in the eyes of Americans, especially to the many young people who are watching and wondering, for example, if sexual assault is now a laughing matter.

We have a responsibility to say that it is not normal for the KKK and groups like the Klan to celebrate the election of a President they view as their champion with a victory parade. They have one scheduled. In other words, we have a responsibility to lead.

Outside this Senate Chamber, workers can be heard hammering away on the platform for the inauguration ceremony. It will take months to do it, but it will be done right. In 65 days Donald Trump will step onto that platform. For 4 years he will wield the loudest and most powerful microphone in the world. But even as those workers hammer away on Trump's platform, and even as we as leaders accept the results of this election, we must also give voice to those who are afraid because there are many who are afraid.

Indeed, a majority of Americans opposed Donald Trump. Many of my Republican colleagues in this Chamber opposed Trump. They were not alone. Trump will be the first President to take office having lost the popular vote by 2 million.

Every day for the past week, the majority of American voters have awakened to a difficult reality: Not only did the man who lost the popular vote win the election, but his election sparked a rise in hate crimes and threats of violence. Since Election Day, the Southern Poverty Law Center has reported hundreds of incidents of harassment and intimidation. The last count reported is 315 from their calculations.

Overwhelmingly, the hateful acts are anti-Muslim, anti-Hispanic, anti-African American, anti-woman, anti-LGBT, anti-Semitic, and anti-Asian.

I have heard these stories from friends and family. My and my wife's Nevada physician is a Pakistani-American of Muslim faith. We think so much of him. We have known each other for 35 years. The day after the election my friend was in a restaurant in Las Vegas having dinner. A man approached him in a threatening manner and said: Where are you from? He said: Where are you from? The man said: I'm local. The doctor said: So am I.

That same night, in another restaurant in Las Vegas, another friend of

mine who is also a Pakistani-American physician was having dinner. A man walked up to him in the same manner and said: Where are you from? He said he was from Pakistan. The other man said: Why don't you go back?

One of my staffers has a daughter in middle school. I have known that little girl since she was a little baby. The day after the election, the principal addressed the entire student body on the school's PA system because of two incidents that had occurred that he wanted to talk about. In one instance, a boy yelled at a Latina student, saying he was glad she was being deported now that Trump was President.

Another boy was sent home for yelling a derogatory, hateful term to an African-American student. The boy justified himself by saying he could use that language now that Trump was President.

In Spokane, WA, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center was defaced with the same hateful word.

Those are only a few examples that people close to me have related. But these disturbing accounts have been heard across America.

I have a compilation of many of these incidents. One is from NBC news. Another is from another publication. There is a headline: "Hundreds of Hate Crimes Reported Since the Election." Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that they be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[Nov. 14, 2016]

NBC—HUNDREDS OF HATE CRIMES REPORTED SINCE ELECTION: SPLC CHELSEA BAILEY

More than 300 incidents of harassment or intimidation have been reported following Donald Trump's election Tuesday night, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) told NBC News Monday.

The SPLC first published its report on post-election incidents on Friday but said reports have continued to stream in. They found that harassment most commonly occurred in K-12 schools and on university campuses. Many, though not all incidents, involved direct references to the Trump campaign, according to the group's report.

The anti-intolerance watchdog said it will continue to tally incidents of hate and harassment reported through social media, news reports and direct submissions to its website.

The Law Center said they were unable to independently verify each incident reported, but NBC News has separately confirmed dozens.

Some incidents of hate crimes that NBC News has confirmed independently:

On Sunday, a rector found the words "Trump Nation, Whites Only" scrawled on the walls of the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour in Silver Spring, Maryland. The church offers weekly Spanish-language services.

The University of Michigan issued a campus safety alert Sunday after a Muslim student told police a white male demanded she remove her hijab or he would "set her on fire with a lighter." Police are investigating.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered state police to open a multi-agency

hate crimes investigation into reports that a swastika and the word "Trump" was spray painted on the walls of a residence hall at SUNY Geneseo.

In Philadelphia, police are searching for the man who graffitied "Trump Rules" and "Black B* * *" onto the hood of a woman's van.

Parishioners found graffiti on the walls of St. David's Episcopal Church in Indiana. A swastika, "Heil Trump" and "F* * * Church" were spray painted on the walls of the church, which performs same-sex weddings, WTHR reports.

"Colored" and "Whites Only" signs were placed above drinking fountains at First Coast High School in Jacksonville, Florida, a district spokeswoman confirmed with NBC News.

Mere hours after Trump won the election, "Make America White Again" was scrawled across the wall of a softball field in Wellsville, New York. Police are investigating.

Also on Monday, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting division also released its annual "Hate Crimes Statistics" report, tracking the number of bias-motivated incidents reported to law enforcement officials in 2015. The number of hate crimes rose 6 percent in 2015, according to the report, and the vast majority (59 percent) of victims were targeted because of their race or ethnicity.

Attacks motivated by religious bias and sexual orientation were also among the most frequently reported types of hate crimes. The number of reported anti-Muslim hate crimes spiked in 2015, growing by an astonishing 66 percent, according to the FBI report.

In all, more than 5,800 incidents of hate crimes were reported to authorities, involving 7,121 victims. Of the known offenders, "48.4 percent were white, 24.3 percent were African American, and race was unknown for 16.2 percent of offenders," according to the report.

Related: How the 2016 Election Exposed America's Racial and Cultural Divides.

In addition to monitoring anti-Arab bias, the report also tracked incidents of anti-religious bias for seven additional religions for the first time. The expanded report now tracks anti-religious bias against Buddhist, Eastern Orthodox, Hindu, Jehovah's Witness, Mormon, Sikh and other Christian victims.

Monday's report marks the 25th anniversary of the FBI's efforts to compile data around hate crimes. The report contains data from nearly 15,000 law enforcement agencies.

[Updated: Nov. 14, 2016]

BUZZFEED—HERE ARE 26 REPORTED RACIST INCIDENTS AFTER DONALD TRUMP'S VICTORY
TASNEEM NASRULLA

"THIS IS THE NORMAL."

1. Threatening "vigilante" fliers calling for torture of "university leaders spouting off all this diversity garbage" were posted in bathrooms across Texas State University after Donald Trump's win in the elections.

"Now that our man TRUMP is elected and republicans own both the senate and the house—time to organize tar and feather VIGILANTE SQUADS and go arrest and torture those deviant university leaders spouting off all this Diversity Garbage," the fliers, which were glued to bathrooms and minors in buildings across the campus, said.

Other fliers criticized the the concept of diversity and its proponents.

One flier said, "NO OTHER RACE (BUT WHITES) HAS BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO

assure that all non-whites receive a 'fair shake' in being part of American life, even to the detriment and social well-being of 'our own kinds' (whites)." The flier said "multiculturalism" and "diversity" and "code-words for white genocide."

The Texas State University Police was investigating the incident, President Denise M. Trauth said in a statement. Trauth said she was aware of reports of "action and expression that have occurred on campus following the recent elections in our country."

"Actions such as pasting flyers to bathroom mirrors amounts to criminal activity, and our university police are investigating these incidents," Trauth said. "Texas State strives to maintain an atmosphere that protects free speech, but one that is respectful to other members of the Bobcat community."

The university police did not return BuzzFeed News' request for comment.

2. Racial slurs and threats, including the n-word, "Go back to Africa," and "Whites only," along with pro-Trump slogans were found scrawled in a high school bathroom in Minnesota on Nov. 9.

Police said they were investigating the graffiti found in the boys bathroom at Maple Grove Senior High School. The graffiti included F* * *allPorchmonkeys, #Whitesonly, Trump Train, #Gobacktoafrika and "Make America Great Again."

According to police, the "racist" messages were written during the school day on Nov. 9.

"This type of behavior is highly offensive, will not be tolerated and does not reflect the views of the Maple Grove community," police said in a statement.

In a letter to students' families, the school's principal, Bart Becker, said he was "horrificed" by the "serious and disturbing racial incident."

"We immediately launched an investigation into this incident and we will take swift and appropriate action based on the investigation findings," Becker said. "We will work very hard to identify who did this horrible act and determine how we can support the students and the staff who have been affected by it."

3. Mehreen Kasana, an editor in New York City who was wearing a scarf around her head the day after the election, said that a man told her, "Your time's up, girlie."

Mehreen Kasana @mehreenkasana

I have a scarf on. Passed by someone on the platform today and he says, "Your time's up, girlie." 8:50 AM—9 Nov 2016

Kasana, a Muslim woman, told BuzzFeed News that she didn't usually cover her head but her younger sister observes the hijab. She said she wore a scarf on Nov. 9 because of the cold.

Kasana said that while she was passing by people at the subway station, a "white man who had to be in his mid-30s, holding a briefcase and a newspaper first looked at me and grunted. Then he said, 'Your time's up, girlie.'"

According to Kasana no one at the station did anything. "I almost always fight back but I think that moment was so replete with defeat and misery that, out of the sheer need to protect myself, I remained silent," she said. "The last thing I needed was to get pushed on the tracks."

4. Middle schoolers in Michigan chanted "Build the wall" in their lunchroom on Nov. 9.

Philip Lewis @Phil Lewis

Middle school students in Royal Oak, Michigan chanting "Build The Wall!"

9:55 AM—10 Nov 2016

A group of middle schoolers in Royal Oak, Michigan, broke out in a "build the wall" chant inside their cafeteria on Wednesday, echoing one of Trump's rallying cries during his campaign.

"Because of the strong emotions and intensity of rhetoric that the posting of this incident to social media has elicited, we have had parents express concern regarding student safety," Superintendent of schools Shawn Lewis-Lakin said in a statement Thursday.

5. A "Make America White Again" sign with a swastika was graffitied on a softball dugout wall in a park in Wellsville, New York.

Brian Quinn @brianqwdr

Trump has spoken about "Making America great again," but someone else had a different message recently in Wellsville.

1:38 PM—9 Nov 2016

Wellsville Village Police Chief Tim O'Grady told the Wellsville Daily that no one had filed a complaint about the graffiti, which was spotted on Nov. 9. He said the wall was on a privately owned field. "Unless somebody makes a complaint, we don't have any cause for action," O'Grady said. "It's vandalism, we'll look into it."

On Saturday, New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced a joint investigation involving New York State Police and the State Division of Human Rights looking into the graffiti, calling it a hate crime.

"New York has zero tolerance for bigotry, fear and hatred, and those who seek to undermine the core values this state and nation were founded upon," Cuomo said in the statement. "I have ordered a full investigation into this deplorable act."

Sixty-seven percent of votes in Allegany County, where Wellsville is located, went to Trump-Pence.

6. Photos of a black baby doll which appeared to be hung in an elevator in Canisius College in New York on the night of Nov. 8, surfaced on social media.

Jordan Roth @Baby Jay1221

This baby doll was found in a freshman elevator last night at Canisius. I don't care who you are or what your beliefs are this is awful
3:51 PM—9 Nov 2016

The Tuesday-night incident prompted Canisius President John Hurley to send a campuswide letter strongly condemning the act, which he called "extremely troubling on several levels," the Buffalo News reported.

He later issued a detailed message describing two separate incidents—placing the doll in the elevator and the use of the doll in a residence hall room—which involved two unrelated sets of students.

According to the public safety report, the doll was first placed in an elevator as a prank to startle people and the two strings at the doll's neck were part of its construction. Hurley said there was no evidence that the doll was hung in the elevator as several social media posts appeared to suggest.

The elevator prank set off a chain of events "on a night when the results of the presidential election had many students feeling distressed and vulnerable" Hurley said, adding that those involved in the elevator prank would be disciplined.

The doll was then later put in residence hall room where it was hung from the curtain rod, according to the report. Students took photos of it and created memes using language about "Trump fans" which were then posted to social media, according to Hurley.

"It's evident that what may have started as a thoughtless, insensitive prank earlier in

the evening in the elevator degraded into a very offensive, inappropriate act later that night," he said.

The students involved in the residence hall incident have been involuntarily suspended from the college pending the outcome of disciplinary cases against them, the consequences of which could include dismissal from the college, Hurley said.

7. A "fair skinned male" allegedly pulled at a woman's hijab on Nov. 8, choking her and causing her to fall, San Jose State University police said in an alert to students.

Pam Howell @BookaliciousPam

San Jose State University sent an email that a woman had her hijab ripped off by a white male with such force it choked her as she fell.

9:08 PM—9 Nov 2016

It wasn't clear whether the woman was attacked because of her hijab, and the university said the case was under investigation.

"We are of course very concerned that this has occurred on our campus," a spokeswoman told the Mercury News. "No one should experience this kind of behavior at San Jose State."

Doaa Abdelrahman, the president of the Muslim Student Association at San Jose State, told the Mercury News that she knew the victim and believed the attack was related to Trump's campaign on election night.

"I've experienced racism for my religion since age 9," Abdelrahman said. "I think Trump is the cause of a lot of segregation and division between people."

8. "Trump" was scrawled on the door of a Muslim prayer room at New York University on Nov. 9.

The incident at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering was reported by the NYU Muslim Students Association (MSA).

The day after Trump was elected president, a Muslim student making his way to the prayer room found "Trump" scribbled across the front of prayer space door, Afraz Khan, the president of NYU MSA, told BuzzFeed News.

"Our campus is not immune to the bigotry that grips America," the MSA said in a Facebook post.

The incident was reported to university officials, whom Khan said were doing a "wonderful job in supporting us."

In the wake of the vandalism, the MSA organized a rally and called on fellow students "to show support that fear and intimidation have no place on our campus."

Within 24 hours, more than 1,000 people signed up as supporters "to denounce this hate," Khan said.

"Nothing like this has happened before at NYU and we pray this is the first and last incident," he said.

9. "F* * * your safe space," "Build wall," and "Trump" were scrawled in chalk at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Nov. 8.

The Vermilion @TheVermilion

PRO-Trump chalk was littered in front of the EGD library last night.

10:32 AM—9 Nov 2016

Other graffiti scrawled on campus after Trump's win included "Democrats can kiss Trump's a* * *"

Campus maintenance workers washed away some of the reported graffiti, while campus police were investigating several more reports of pro-Trump graffiti across the campus, the Advertiser reported.

10. "Black lives don't matter and neither does your votes," was spray-painted across a wall in Durham, North Carolina on Nov. 9.

Derrick Lewis @DerrickQLewis

Someone spray painted "Black lives don't matter and neither does your votes" on a wall in Durham overnight.

3:27 PM—9 Nov 2016

Community members gathered Thursday and cleaned up the message, WNCN reported.

11. After one photo went viral, Southern Illinois University issued a statement saying they were aware of offensive social media posts and were reviewing the incidents.

"This week's presidential election was extremely divisive and emotions are running high," the interim chancellor, Brad Colwell, said in the statement. "A number of people have contacted my office regarding offensive behavior and comments, including social media posts. While federal law prohibits us from discussing issues related to specific students, please know that we deeply share your concerns. We are reviewing every incident and will take appropriate action."

Colwell said that while discussions about the future of the country were important, he urged students to do so in a "civil manner that respects everyone's right to agree or to disagree."

Colwell issued his statement after a viral social media post showed two students from wearing blackface and standing in front of a Confederate flag.

However, one of the students in the photo later wrote on Facebook that the picture had been taken out of context. She said she had been wearing a "boscia face mask" in front of a Confederate flag she had ripped because she does not support it.

12. A Muslim student at San Diego State University (SDSU) was attacked and robbed by two men "who made comments about President-Elect Trump and the Muslim community" on Nov. 9, the SDSU police said in a safety alert.

A Muslim student at San Diego State University (SDSU) was attacked and robbed by two men "who made comments about President-Elect Trump and the Muslim community" on Nov. 9, the SDSU police said in a safety alert.

The two suspects, a white male and a Hispanic male, confronted the student in a stairwell in what police described as a "hate crime, robbery and vehicle theft."

The two men "made comments about President-Elect Trump and the Muslim community, confronted her and grabbed her purse and backpack," according to police. They also took her car keys and stole her vehicle.

"Comments made to the student indicate she was targeted because of her Muslim faith, including her wearing of a traditional garment and hijab," SDSU police said in a statement provided to BuzzFeed News.

13. Two men in a pickup truck with a Trump flag drove to Wellesley College, a women's liberal arts school in Massachusetts and Hillary Clinton's alma mater, stopped in front of a house for students of African descent, and "antagonized" and screamed "Trump" and "Make America Great Again" on Nov. 9, according to accounts from students and college officials.

Wellesley police confirmed the incident and said the two "disruptive individuals" were asked to leave the property.

The two men, who were students at Babson College, were expelled from their fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon. The fraternity said that both men's actions were "abhorrent" in a statement.

"This type of abusive, misogynistic behavior has no place in our society, and we're proud of our chapter swiftly removing these men from our organization," the fraternity

said, Babson College was investigating both men's actions, which the president described as "highly offensive, incredibly insensitive, and simply not acceptable."

14. A Facebook post on Nov. 9 appeared to show a Trump supporter in a car that had Trump flags and anti-Muslim stickers including "All Muslims are terrorists, deport them all."

A Facebook post on Nov. 9 appeared to show a Trump supporter in a car that had Trump flags and anti-Muslim stickers including "All Muslims are terrorists, deport them all."

The Facebook user posted a video showing the truck with a Confederate flag on the front bumper and also stickers saying, "Kill all Muslims" and "All Muslims are child molesters." The user later deleted the Facebook post.

15. Yarden Katz, a fellow at Harvard Medical School, said that he witnessed a US postal worker telling a man who appeared to be of Hispanic descent, "Go back to your country. This is Trump land" at a gas station in Massachusetts on Nov. 9.

Yarden Katz @yardenkatz

My letter to @USPS about what I witnessed today in Cambridge, Massachusetts. #Trump

5:46 PM—9 Nov 2016

USPS said the issue had been "escalated to the appropriate members of USPS management." Katz told BuzzFeed News that it was an "appalling incident."

"I was taken aback by how brazen it was on the part of the USPS worker to make racist comments, in broad daylight, in a supposedly progressive town. It clearly looks like part of a bigger national trend," he said.

16. A swastika, "Seig Heil 2016," and the word "Trump" with the T replaced with a swastika were graffitied on the windows on an empty store in South Philly on Wednesday, Philly.com reported.

Philly.com @phillydotcom

PhillyClout: "Sieg Heil," swastikas, racist Trump graffiti appear in South Philly.

<http://bit.ly/2fSN1kN>

2:10 PM—9 Nov 2016

The graffiti was spray-painted on the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht or "Night of the Broken Glass"—a wave anti-Jewish pogroms in Nazi Germany in 1938.

Police also investigated several other incidents of pro-Trump racist graffiti, including the words "Trump Rules" and "Black B * * *," spray-painted across a car belonging to a 62-year-old black woman, Philly.com reported.

17. Chris Weatherd, a former University of Tennessee linebacker, posted a video that appeared to show his car vandalized with the n-word and "Trump" on Nov. 9 in Knoxville.

Chris Weatherd™ @ChrisWeatherd Whoever did this I'm throwin' hands

11:08 AM—9 Nov 2016

Weatherd told BuzzFeed News that he woke up on Wednesday morning to find that someone had used washable paint to vandalize his car with racial slurs.

He did not file a police report, but said that a family member of the person who did it had apologized to him. Weatherd did not wish to disclose the identity of the alleged suspect, but said it was a neighbor who was a Trump supporter.

He said that while he wasn't "entirely upset" about it, he posted it to Twitter to show that "this is the normal."

18. Rochelle Abraham posted a picture of a car with a Confederate flag and "Kill Kill Kill" signs in Needham, Massachusetts, the morning after Trump's victory.

Abraham told BuzzFeed News that she spotted the car, which had a POW flag, an American flag, and the Confederate flag, on the morning on Nov. 9.

"I was already feeling off center with respect to what a Trump presidency would mean for myself and those that I love," Abraham said. "First and foremost I fear for what this means for my 26-year-old son. The current murders of young unarmed black men, Giuliani era stop-and-frisk and just so much on my mind after hearing the final results. The last thing I expected to see was this atrocious, blatant display of hurtful disrespect, racism, and bigotry," she said.

While she did not see any Trump signs on the car, "just the fact that I saw this the day after the election kind of speaks for itself," she said.

19. A student at the New School in New York City on Nov. 12 tweeted a photo of what appears to be a swastika that was drawn on the door of her dorm where she lived with other Jewish women.

sam @samlichtenstein

We woke up to this on our door, in a dorm at @TheNewSchool, where 3 Jewish women live.

@ShaunKing @deray @parsonsdsgn

11:06 AM—12 Nov 2016

Samantha Lichtenstein told BuzzFeed News in an email that one of her roommates first saw the symbol when she was on her way out of the dorm this morning. She took a photo of it and sent it to her.

"My roommate and I walked around the rest of the floor to see the symbol on 3 other doors," Lichtenstein wrote. "We knocked on the doors to tell them of the defamation."

The roommates have notified and filed reports with campus security as well as the NYPD.

"We are extremely heartbroken. This may have been someone trying to play a joke, but this is not funny. And it was not just one door; 4 different doors were targeted, and only on our floor," Lichtenstein wrote.

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio retweeted Lichtenstein on Saturday along with a short statement.

"Hate speech is reprehensible, and has no place in NYC," de Blasio said. "To the affected, we stand with you. To the perpetrators, we are better than this."

David E. Van Zandt, president of the New School, also tweeted in support of the students, calling it "abhorrent" and saying he was taking "immediate and appropriate action."

20. A woman was forced to remove her hijab on Nov. 11 by a man who threatened to set her on fire with a lighter. The incident took place at the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor.

"As told to the Ann Arbor Police, a student was approached by an unknown man, who demanded she remove her hijab or he would set her on fire with a lighter," according to crime report posted on the university's website.

"She complied and left the area. The Ann Arbor Police are actively investigating," the statement read.

The suspect has been described as a "white male, 20-30 years old, average height, athletic build, bad body odor, unkempt appearance, intoxicated with slurred speech," according to the school's site.

Ann Arbor Police Sgt. Patrick Maguire told BuzzFeed News that the department is actively investigating the incident and is soliciting more information.

21. Several black UPenn students received racist and threatening messages Friday, including invites to a "daily lynching."

Chidera @chiderasiegbu

Black students throughout @Penn's campus, like myself, have been added to this hateful GroupMe. I am petrified and all I want to do is cry.

2:30 PM—11 Nov 2016

Several black UPenn students reported being added to a GroupMe chat included pictures of lynchings, derogatory terms and threats Friday.

University officials said the FBI and university police were contacted, and the messages were linked back to a University of Oklahoma student more than 1,400 miles away. The student has not been identified, but officials said he has been suspended in connection to the incident. Read more about it here.

22. A student at Bowling Green State University in Ohio reported being assaulted by three white men and called a racial slur, the university said.

A student at Bowling Green State University in Ohio reported being assaulted by three white men and called a racial slur, the university said.

"We immediately reached out to the student," Thomas J. Gibson, the university's vice president for student affairs, said in a statement. "Today, she filed a report with the Bowling Green Police Department. They are investigating."

23. A swastika was spray-painted on a sidewalk in New York's Brooklyn Jewish neighborhood of Crown Heights.

Mordechai Lightstone @Mottel

BREAKING: Swastika spray painted on Montgomery St in heart of Jewish Crown Heights. Note: This is not a first here (h/t @HirshelTzig)

11:35 AM—13 Nov 2016

The Nazi symbol was painted on the corners of Montgomery St. and Brooklyn Ave, Crown Heights resident Mordechai Lightstone told BuzzFeed News.

Lightstone noted this was not the first time a graffiti swastika has appeared in the neighborhood.

24. A Spanish-language sign at an Episcopal church in Silver Spring, Maryland—a heavily Latino neighborhood just outside Washington D.C.—was vandalized on Saturday night with the words "TRUMP NATION" and "WHITES ONLY."

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington wrote on Facebook she is "heartsick" at the vandalism at the Episcopal Church of Our Saviour.

Bishop Budde added that she "can only imagine how the people of Our Saviour, one of the most culturally diverse parishes in the diocese, feel." Read more about it here.

25. A Michigan police officer was suspended after flying a confederate flag at an anti-Trump rally on Nov. 11.

Traverse City officer Michael Peters has been suspended with pay after he drove a pickup truck with a Confederate flag to an anti-Donald Trump protest and reportedly got into a confrontation with a demonstrator. Peters was off duty at the time.

Police chief Jeff O'Brien promised an internal investigation to determine if Peters broke department rules. Read more about the incident here.

26. A church in Indiana was discovered vandalized with slurs on Nov. 13.

St. David's Episcopal Church in Bean Blossom, Indiana was reportedly spray painted with a swastika, an anti-gay slur, and "Heil Trump."

Rev. Kelsey Hutto, a priest at the St. David's Episcopal Church, told BuzzFeed News

that she was disappointed after the graffiti was discovered on the walls Sunday, but that they wouldn't "let the actions of a few damper our love of Christ and the world."

"We will continue to live out our beliefs and acceptance of all people and respecting the dignity of every human being," Hutto said to BuzzFeed News. "We pray for the perpetrators as well as those who the derogatory marks were directed at."

Hutto said that they needed to respond to hateful acts with love.

"Anyone is welcome on the sacred ground of the church," Hutto continued. "This act was an act of separation. Separation of us from each other and a separation from God which is the definition of a sin."

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what was just entered into the RECORD are references that are being made. They are awful. They are hateful. They are frightening. They are scary. I invite any of my colleagues to read these horrible acts, and I invite any Senator, Democrat or Republican, to come right down to this floor today and defend any one of them. It is an example of hate and prejudice. I don't believe anyone wants to defend hateful acts being committed in President-Elect Trump's name.

It leads to one unavoidable conclusion. Many of our fellow Americans believe that Trump's election validates the kind of bullying and aggressive behavior Trump modeled on a daily basis. How do we teach our children that bragging about sexual assault is abhorrent if we rush into the arms of the man who dismissed it as "locker room talk"? If we fail to hold Trump accountable, we all bear a measure of responsibility for normalizing his behavior.

Here is a letter from a seventh grader from Rhode Island. She wrote the day after the election, and I will quote from the letter:

I'm extremely scared, especially being a woman of color, that the president of the country that I was born and live in is making me feel unsafe when I usually don't feel unsafe. It is even scarier because this man who is now the president of the United States of America has said such rude, ignorant and disrespectful things about women and all different types of people and is now in charge of our country. I want to feel safe in my country but I no longer can feel safe with someone like Donald Trump leading the country.

Our President is supposed to make people feel safe, but on Wednesday, a seventh grade girl awoke feeling frightened to be a woman of color in America because Donald Trump was President-elect. If we ignore her voice and other voices, this seventh grader will be left to conclude that we as a nation find her fear acceptable.

How do we show her that she does not have to be afraid? The first step is facing reality. No matter how hard the rest of us work, the main responsibility lies within the man who inspired the fear. President-Elect Trump must act immediately to make Americans like that seventh grade girl feel they are welcome in his America.

Healing the wounds he inflicted will take more than words. Talk is cheap and tweets are cheaper. Healing the wounds is going to take action, but so far, rather than healing these wounds, Trump's actions have deepened them. In one of his very first, if not his first official act, he appointed a man seen as a champion of White supremacy as the No. 1 strategist in the White House—the No. 1, everybody else under him.

According to CNN, "White nationalist leaders are praising Donald Trump's decision to name [Stephen Bannon] as his chief strategist." In the same article, White nationalist leaders say they see Bannon "as an advocate for policies they favor."

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Bannon "was the main driver behind Breitbart becoming a white ethno-nationalist propaganda mill."

When asked to comment on Bannon's hiring, KKK leader David Duke told CNN, "I think that's excellent."

A court filing stated that Bannon said "that he doesn't like Jews and that he doesn't like the way they raise their kids to be 'whiny brats' and that he didn't want [his] girls to go to school with Jews."

By placing a champion of White supremacists a step away from the Oval Office, what message does Trump send to the young girl who woke up Wednesday morning in Rhode Island afraid to be a woman of color in America? It is certainly not a message of healing.

If Trump is serious about seeking unity, the first thing he should do is rescind his appointment of Steve Bannon. Rescind it. Don't do it. Think about this. Don't do it. As long as a champion of racial division is a step away from the Oval Office, it will be impossible to take Trump's efforts to heal the Nation seriously.

So I say to Donald Trump: Take responsibility. Rise to the dignity of the Office of the President of the United States instead of hiding behind your Twitter account and show America that racism, bullying, and bigotry have no place in the White House or in America.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Republican whip.

THE ELECTION AND SENATE PRIORITIES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the election of November 8 and the opportunities we have, working together going forward, to turn the direction of the country around. Unfortunately, I found myself sitting here listening to the latest tirade by the Democratic leader against the President-elect and his team. Surely he is entitled to his opinion, but he does nothing to contribute to the healing of our country after a very polarizing, hotly contested election by continuing to pile on the President-elect and his team.

We had an election. The American people voted. The American people chose their next President. But to come here after the election, after the American people have spoken and made that choice, and continue to disparage their choice for the next President, as well as the leadership in the House and the Senate, really just smacks of—well, we used to call people like that sore losers. But, frankly, what he does is he also contributes to the coarsening of our discourse and debate here in the Senate.

I had to check the Standing Rules of the Senate to see whether rule XIX, which governs the terms of debate, would cover the President or the President-elect because certainly—when the Senate rules say that "no Senator in debate shall directly or indirectly by any form of words impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming of a Senator," certainly the Democratic leader's comments, although not technically within the ambit of the rule, violate the spirit of the rule and the sort of debate and discussions we ought to be having here in a civilized and civil and dignified sort of way.

I realize the Democratic leader will be leaving the Senate at the end of this year. I hope we can return to the sort of civil and dignified discourse and differences of opinion that we surely will have from time to time about matters of policy. This is the Senate, for heaven's sake. This is where those differences are supposed to be debated and litigated and discussed and then we vote. But the sort of recriminations that the Democratic leader keeps coming back to just strike me as inappropriate and uncalled for.

Rather than contribute to the sort of healing of our Nation that Secretary Clinton—who, by the way, had more to complain about than the Democratic leader does in terms of the outcome; she ended up on the short end of the stick—or the President of the United States, President Obama—the comments they have made, the gracious comments recognizing the importance of a peaceful transition of power from one Presidency to another—that is the sort of tone I wish we would hear more

of here in the Senate and in the country generally, not pour gasoline on the fire, as the Democratic leader continues to do.

It is true that we had an earth-shaking event occur on November 8—the election of Donald J. Trump as the 45th President of the United States. I believe the reason Mr. Trump was elected is because the American people want change. They are eager for Washington to tackle the big challenges we are facing as a nation, from terror threats abroad to a stagnant economy here at home. They are looking forward to an administration that believes the rules apply to all of us equally—in other words, equal justice under the law, not that a separate set of rules applies to the Washington elites or those who can get away with it, that a different set of rules applies to them than applies to the rest of us in the country. They want equal justice under the law. They want restoration of the rule of law—something we have not seen in the outgoing administration because of an overpoliticized Department of Justice, among many other reasons.

I personally look forward to working with the President-elect in the years ahead to address issues that are important to my State and to families across the country.

I am grateful, as well, that the American people have entrusted such a big task to Republicans, who will lead both Chambers of Congress. In an election year that no one could predict—in fact, almost every prediction I made was wrong—in an election year where very few people were right about their predictions as to the ultimate outcome, we see a clear theme emerge: People want something different from business as usual when it comes to politics. They want us to shift gears. They felt it was necessary to get the country back on the right track. I agree with them.

I will note the one thing the American people did not want to change, and that is the Republican majority of the Senate. That led to the reelection of Republican Senators in States such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, in addition to the new Member of our conference from the great State of Indiana. I look forward to welcoming all of them, as well as our new Democratic colleagues, and invite them to work with us to try to meet the challenges of these times and to work together to solve the challenges and problems that confront the American people.

But it is very clear that the American people wanted a change in the White House. They did not want to change Republican majorities in both Chambers of Congress. They did not want to do that. Voters were able to cut through the noise and see what we have been able to accomplish so far—not that they gave us the Good Housekeeping seal of approval, but they have

seen a difference in the last 2 years under a Republican majority in the Senate, and apparently they saw enough that they liked that they wanted to keep us in the majority. They have seen a Senate that has prioritized the American people, that has carefully and methodically returned the Senate back to the basics of doing our job, which is legislating. That includes passing key pieces of legislation through Congress, like the first multiyear highway bill in a decade. I realize that does not excite a lot of people, but it is the basic fundamental job of the Senate and the Congress to legislate, to deal with our infrastructure needs, as the Democratic leader talked about. We actually did deal with some of our major infrastructure needs by passing the first multiyear highway bill in a decade, which is important to our economy, to public safety, and to the quality of the environment. That represents a substantial accomplishment.

We also passed the first education reform law since No Child Left Behind, which was admittedly controversial. We repealed the common core mandates and devolved more authority from Washington, DC, back to the States, back to our school administrators and parents and teachers where it belongs.

We should have learned by now the hard way that when somebody has a bright idea here in Washington, DC, that has not been tried and tested across the rest of the country in the laboratories of democracy known as our States, we are just as likely to get it wrong. I would say Exhibit No. 1 or A for that is ObamaCare. Trying to take one-sixth of our economy and transform it in a way that does not get the buy-in of both political parties, much less the American people, only to see those promises not kept—that does nothing to promote public confidence in their government.

We did pass the Every Student Succeeds Act, which does send some of that power back home.

We have done a number of other things, including one that I am particularly proud of, which was to help root out human trafficking and protect the victims of this heinous crime—the first major human trafficking legislation passed perhaps in 25 years, and more resources are now available to the victims of human trafficking so that they can begin to heal.

We proved that we could get some things done—not as much as we would have liked but some substantial things.

As the Presiding Officer knows, lifting the crude oil export ban has been very important to the energy producers here in the United States and will go a long way to making sure they get a fair price for their product on the world markets. It will also give us a chance to help some of our allies

around the world against whom energy is used as a weapon by people who would cut off their supply to electricity, oil, gas, and other energy sources as a way to keep them in tow.

We also passed major legislation to address the growing opioid epidemic hurting families across the country.

Under Republican leadership, the Senate saw all 12 appropriations bills pass out of their respective committees for the first time since 2009 and the first balanced budget passed since 2001. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues saw fit to filibuster those Senate appropriations bills, which is why we are here after the election in the waning days of 2016 to try to make sure that we pay the bills and keep the government up and running in a lameduck session.

This is not a great way to do business, and this isn't our first choice. But because of the filibuster of those appropriations bills—even though they passed out by overwhelming bipartisan majorities and represent policies that are agreed to by both political parties—here we are.

We have also had more participation on a bipartisan basis by Members of the Senate in the legislative process. There were more votes on amendments—more than 250 during this Congress. This is because of the determined leadership of our majority leader, Senator McCONNELL, who has seen fit to restore the power to committee chairmen to have the freedom and flexibility to lead their committees while allowing Members, on a bipartisan basis, to contribute to legislation before it comes to the floor and is subject to further action. I believe the result is the creation of solid legislation that will stand over time—not partisan or ramming legislation through because you can do it but building consensus and trying to address problems on a step-by-step basis.

With the election behind us, the Senate can begin looking to next year. We are eager to finish our work this year, which I am sure we will shortly, and are looking to what we might be able to do with what the American voters have given us in terms of majorities in both Houses and President-Elect Trump. As I said, I look forward to working with the new President to improve the lives of the men and women working day in and day out across the country. This is an exciting moment for them and for us. It is good news that we have been provided this opportunity.

Fortunately, the Senate will continue to have a major role to play. Over the last few months, we spent a lot of time talking about what was at stake in this election. At the forefront was the U.S. Supreme Court. So I look forward to hearing who President Trump will nominate to fill the seat being vacated by the death of Justice

Scalia. I hope that the Senate Judiciary Committee will take that nomination up on a timely basis and that we will quickly move forward once the nomination is made.

We have a lot more work to do. Over the last 8 years, the Obama administration has been marked by a go-it-alone attitude. Remember, the President said he had a phone and a pen, and he was quite prepared to act and not consult with Congress. Of course, that resulted in a flood of Executive orders and unilateral actions that won't live out his term of office. When he becomes President, I am confident President-Elect Trump will reverse many of those Executive orders, and we will work with the administration to repeal much of the overregulation that is strangling small businesses and our economy.

Going into this year's Presidential election, we all knew that the President-elect would have a decision to make—either to shore up President Obama's policies and further those burdensome regulations that were created by his administration or to rip up those that are in place or were put in place unilaterally and instead work with Congress on a bipartisan basis. After all, we are the elected representatives of the American people. It is our firm desire to unleash the sleeping giant of the American economy, and I believe we can, given the outcome of this election.

Fortunately, President Trump appears to be eager to work with us to help grow American jobs, strengthen our economy, and make sure that the next generation is better off than those before it. As I said, that means pushing back on harmful regulations that have been promulgated by, for example, Obama's Environmental Protection Agency. It certainly means repealing ObamaCare, a law that was jammed through on a party-line vote and that has not worked as it was promised to work.

We have a lot of work ahead of us. I believe we also have a mandate from the American people, who are sick and tired of business as usual, ready for change and for a government that works for them and not against them.

I look forward to being part of that change. I am grateful the American people have given us the opportunity to serve.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. AYOTTE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OPIOID ADDICTION

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, last month, Democratic staff on the Finance Committee put out a report documenting the staggering shortage of treatment services in America for those suffering from opioid addiction. This report surveyed a cross-section of American communities and found there is a yawning treatment gap keeping many from getting the help they need. Nearly 90 percent of Americans suffering from opioid addiction, according to the most current analyses, are not receiving the treatment they need—90 percent. The treatment gap is caused by a shortage of available treatment services across the country, and even where these services do exist, they are overwhelmed by demand. This gap is straining rural communities that are already struggling to provide other essential medical services. Asking these communities to provide care when they are stretched in such incredibly thin ways forces them into impossible choices. The result is even more lives in America are lost to opioid addiction.

Earlier this year, after Congress passed legislation called CARA authorizing anti-addiction programs, Members did an awful lot of celebrating, an awful lot of victory laps, and fired off a forest of press releases, but that act didn't put a penny into these essential treatment programs. I just wanted to come to the floor because we are looking at another crucial time to help those suffering from addiction. The press releases don't do anything for people suffering from these horrible illnesses who might turn next to heroin, and when nearly 9 out of 10 addicted to opioids aren't getting treatment, clearly there is much more that needs to be done so it is critical in this lameduck session to follow through with funding.

I have been encouraged by several of the conversations that have taken place over the last few days about finding a path forward to ensuring there be real funds for treating opioid addiction, but I have seen some of these debates before, and I have been encouraged before only to see the chance for progress stall out. I would like to note that I believe there is a special reason right now to stand up for patients and make sure they have access to treatment, that they have what they need.

In the next few weeks, the Congress is going to consider another piece of legislation called the 21st Century Cures Act. This will be a bill designed to encourage research and scientific development of new pharmaceuticals, fast-tracking the development of pharmaceuticals.

I don't take a backseat to anyone when it comes to supporting innovation and scientific research. In fact, early in my Senate days, I chaired the Senate's Science Subcommittee so I know how important it is. At the same time, this piece of legislation will also

offer a great benefit to the large pharmaceutical companies in America. The Congress will be considering the Cures bill with the backdrop of so many who are addicted to opioids not being able to get access to treatment, and they are going to be concerned about how there will be more research for new drugs because we want to see these cures. They are going to ask: How are we going to afford them? We want the cures, but we also want to be able to afford these medicines.

Every time we look at a football game, we see dozens of ads for blockbuster drugs, but Americans watch those ads and say: Yes, we want those cures, yes, we want the scientific progress, but please, Congress, think about policies that are going to allow us to get those drugs. It is no wonder a recent editorial pointed out it was cheaper to fly round trip to India for a hepatitis C treatment than to get it here in the United States. People see these bills piling up. If they are able to afford their medications today, they are saying: Are we going to lose access tomorrow?

To me, here is the bottom line for the fall. Here is the bottom line for where we ought to go. Yes, we should support medical breakthroughs and research into cures, but let us not keep the patients out of the debate. Let us make sure we add the funds needed for treatment for those who are addicted to opioids, and as we look at this issue of cures, let us also look at policies to make sure people can afford their medicines.

The Committee on Finance has been looking at these issues. For example, recently, I raised a serious objection when I learned a panel meant to be studying how to turn the tide on opioid addiction was stocked with people closely tied to opioid manufacturers. We blew the whistle on that and four nominees to the panel were dismissed.

We have a lot to do this fall. I know time is short, but, yes, let us promote these new cures; yes, let us make sure people who are addicted to opioids have new opportunities for treatment; and as we look at drug development, let us make sure we don't see so many Americans on the outside looking in as prices go up and up and up. There is more work to be done on both fronts: ensuring access to new science, ensuring access to treatment services, ensuring access to affordable medicines. That is what we ought to be focusing on this fall.

With that, I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES VOICES ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I ask that the Gold Star Families Voices Act be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Committee on Rules and Administration is discharged from and the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4511, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4511) to amend the Veterans' Oral History Project Act to allow the collection of video and audio recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Missouri.

OPIOID ABUSE

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I am pleased to be here to talk about this bill. First of all, following up on what my friend just talked about on opioid abuse, I want to particularly thank the Chair for her leadership on this issue. Really, as the chairman of the appropriating committee that looked at this before we had any legislation, it was largely the Chair's effort that made us triple the amount of money we were committing to this cause over a year ago. I thank her for understanding this and advocating for it as one of the two or three earliest Members to bring to the attention of the Senate that this is a problem that affects rural America, urban America, small States, and big States. I thank her for her leadership.

Because of that, last year we had a 284-percent increase in the money committed to that. We doubled that amount again this year. Assuming we are able to move forward with the Labor, Health and Human Services bill this year, it will be virtually a 600-percent increase. We are already halfway there, and that first half was largely because of the Presiding Officer's understanding of this issue, and I am grateful for that.

Madam President, on the bill before the body today, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the Gold Star Families Voices Act. The legislation passed the House unanimously in September. I hope the Senate will do the same today.

In 2000, Congress created the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress. That project was designed to collect and catalog the stories of American war veterans. The purpose of the project was "to preserve the memories of this Nation's war veterans so that Americans of all current and future generations may hear directly from veterans and better appreciate the realities of war and the sacrifices made by those who served in uniform during wartime."

To date, the Veterans History Project has collected the oral history records of over 100,000 veterans who have served in the military since World War I—100,000 stories preserved that wouldn't have been otherwise.

As important and extensive as that project is, as important as those 100,000 memories are, today the project only includes firsthand narratives. Now, what does that mean? That means that only people who are telling their own story are included in the stories we have created and have been able to secure because of the Veterans History Project, which effectively excludes the stories of veterans who didn't return from the battlefield—the men and women who lost their lives defending this country. This legislation would ensure the stories of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice would now be included in the archives.

How would this work? This bill would allow the family members of veterans who are missing in action or who have died as a result of their service to participate in the project and tell the stories of their loved ones. Immediate family members who can participate include parents, spouses, siblings, and children of veterans who were not able to tell their own story. We wouldn't be who we are today if it wasn't for the acts of courage and selflessness of our fallen heroes. We owe it to them, but we also owe it to their families to know of their names, their deeds, the honorable service they gave the country, and we need to preserve those memories. The families of these fallen heroes are in the best position to share their stories so future generations of Americans may never forget the people we owe our freedom to and have not been able to have their story told up until now. I think this legislation will make a great program even better and hope my colleagues will agree.

I thank the American Gold Star mothers for fighting to make this bill a priority. I thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH, who introduced this legislation in the House and who has been its ultimate champion. I was happy to be able to lead this bill through the Rules Committee.

I urge all my colleagues to join me today in helping to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and make sure their stories and those of their loved ones become part of this historic record.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise to bring up two key priorities—two important unmet needs—which I hope this body and the U.S. House will act on immediately and certainly by the end of the year.

The first is the Steve Gleason Act, legislation I drafted which passed last year but for a limited period of time.

We need to make that permanent for reasons I will explain.

The second even broader need is to ensure that victims of the recent flooding in Louisiana—many families whose lives were devastated in incalculable terms—get the aid they need. We made an important downpayment on that before we wrapped up business before the elections, with the understanding that we would clearly revisit the issue between now and the end of the year.

Madam President, first, the Steve Gleason Act. As I said, I am very happy that last year the Senate and the House passed my legislation, the bipartisan Steve Gleason Act of 2015. It provided immediate relief to ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, and other similar patients who needed the help to make sure they had access to important, life-changing medical equipment.

I first heard about this need in 2014, when thousands of patients, patient advocates, and others came to Congress in order to bring attention to the devastating consequences of what was then a brandnew Medicare policy. The devices they were concerned with are critical for patients who have lost their ability to speak, to communicate with friends and family and doctors, to call 911 in case of emergency, ALS patients and others with similar debilitating diseases. These patients are locked in, unable to communicate, and it is only because of miraculous, relatively new devices that they can communicate with caregivers and the outside world. In most cases, this involves their using a computer screen and keypad, where they literally make eye contact with the keyboard on a computer screen, type out a message, and then the computer through a computer voice articulates that message to caregivers, family, doctors, and the outside world.

Because of a Medicare change—an unprovoked, unnecessary change in Medicare policy—many of these patients were denied access to these life-changing devices. The devices were literally confiscated in thousands of cases. They were not allowed to use this technological miracle to make them more fully independent.

Thank goodness, entered Steve Gleason, a superadvocate for the ALS community, an ALS patient himself. Steve is a former player for the New Orleans Saints. He famously blocked a punt during the first game in which the Saints reopened the Superdome after Hurricane Katrina; then, a few years after that, he was diagnosed with ALS himself.

Just as he gave the city of New Orleans a rallying point around which to rebuild after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, through his organization Team Gleason, Steve also gives the ALS community and their families hope and a rallying point with his motto: "No White Flags."

I believe Steve's wife Michel summed up the cause of ALS patients like Steve

and their loved ones succinctly when she said:

What causes me the most pain is the loss of his voice, I love hearing his voice. I want him to talk to me, and to our son Rivers. This disease takes his body; to take his voice just seems unfair.

Of course, this is where this life-changing device and this similar medical equipment helps plug the gap. This is why the horrible reversal in Medicare policy caused so many problems.

Steve and I worked together on legislation that would reverse that policy change and would give folks with ALS their voices back. Steve was my guest at the State of the Union speech in 2015. That day, we met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Burwell and were able to build major momentum, resulting in Members on both sides of the aisle and both houses of Congress coming together and eventually passing my Steve Gleason Act of 2015, which became law on July 30 of last year. Senator KLOBUCHAR from Minnesota and Senator KING from Maine were especially supportive and aggressive in getting this bill to the finish line, and I thank them again for their partnership and their support.

The act reinstated the longstanding Medicare policy to offer immediate relief for patients experiencing incredible difficulty accessing the important life-changing equipment I described. The Steve Gleason Act of 2015 was a huge win for thousands of ALS patients, their families, caregivers, and others, but we need to make this act permanent. It is of limited duration as it was passed last year. We need to make it permanent. It is as simple as that. We need to do it between now and the end of the year.

So I encourage all of my colleagues to come together, as we did last year, to take this commonsense step to empower these patients to be in touch with the outside world and their family and their caregivers—literally give them voice, literally empower them, as Steve has inspired and empowered so many others with ALS.

FUNDING FOR LOUISIANA FLOOD VICTIMS

Madam President, I also rise to talk about another key unmet need that is even of broader scope. As I said a few minutes ago, that is the urgent need between now and the end of the year to pass emergency help for the recent flood victims of Louisiana who were devastated by the consequences of that enormous flood.

Unfortunately, because there were lots of other things in the news at the time when that flooding happened in Greater Baton Rouge and Acadiana, a lot of Members and folks around the Nation don't fully appreciate and understand the gravity of that flooding. It was way underreported in the national media. It was way underappreciated and not fully understood by us in the Congress. We have solved some

of that in the months since then, but still, to this day, so many Americans don't understand the gravity of that flooding.

The flooding I am describing a few months ago in Greater Baton Rouge and Acadiana in Louisiana is the fourth worst natural disaster we have experienced in a decade or more, only behind Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, and Hurricane Ike—the fourth worst natural disaster by any reasonable metric, such as FEMA individual assistance. Louisiana had over 114,000 homes—114,000 homes—with a verified loss. Let's do a comparison to understand the scope of that.

In 2016, Missouri had horrendous flooding, very serious flooding, and I certainly supported an appropriate response there. That was about 2,500 individual registrations. South Carolina had even greater flooding in 2015. That was 26,000 individual registrations. Northern and Central Louisiana in March of this year had major flooding. That was 40,000 individual registrations. We are talking 114,000 homes with verified loss. That is comparable to the loss in New York State from Superstorm Sandy. In Superstorm Sandy, there were 124,000 homes with verified loss in New York—about the same number. Again, we are talking about 114,000 homes in Louisiana. Now, that was not all of Superstorm Sandy, just New York. I am not counting New Jersey. That was another significant number, but that gives us a sense of the magnitude we are talking about.

I thank all of our colleagues and our colleagues in the House and President Obama for proposing the beginning of an appropriate response. Before we broke for the elections, we did pass significant emergency funding to go beyond the normal help in the Stafford Act and other statutes that pertain to FEMA and related agencies. About \$400 million was sent to the flood victims in Louisiana, but by any metric, that can only be the beginning. In fact, President Obama at the time and Congressional leaders at the time pledged that this would be the beginning and that we would come back now and, between now and the end of the year, finish an appropriate response.

I mentioned losses in New York caused by Superstorm Sandy. It was just a little more losses on homes flooded than we are talking about in Louisiana, and yet New York received \$8.6 billion related to that in emergency CDBG funds. We are not asking for near that amount, but that gives you a sense of the magnitude of the need. Certainly, the request the Governor and others—including myself and Senator CASSIDY—have put forward is fully justified by the numbers, by the metrics.

I would simply ask all of our colleagues in the Senate and all of our colleagues in the House to do the right

thing—to look at the facts, to look at the figures, to look at the numbers, and to make the appropriate response, as we have in every other previous disaster, as we did in the lesser flooding in South Carolina, as we did in Missouri, as we did, certainly, with Superstorm Sandy, with Ike, Katrina, and Rita, et cetera—no special treatment. Just look at the numbers and look at the metrics. Do the right thing.

Our request from Louisiana is fully in line with that and fully justified by that precedent. It is a serious natural disaster. It was woefully underreported. So it is important that we all learn more about it, focus on it, understand the magnitude of the loss, and ensure that we respond properly and adequately before the end of the year.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of my colleagues, starting with Senator CASSIDY, to do just that.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS).

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 152 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Alexander	Corker	Hoeven
Ayotte	Cornyn	Inhofe
Baldwin	Cotton	Isakson
Barrasso	Crapo	Johnson
Bennet	Daines	Kaine
Blumenthal	Donnelly	King
Blunt	Durbin	Kirk
Booker	Enzi	Klobuchar
Boozman	Ernst	Lankford
Boxer	Feinstein	Leahy
Brown	Fischer	Lee
Burr	Flake	Manchin
Cantwell	Franken	Markey
Capito	Gardner	McCain
Cardin	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Carper	Graham	McConnell
Casey	Grassley	Menendez
Cassidy	Hatch	Merkley
Coats	Heinrich	Mikulski
Cochran	Heitkamp	Moran
Collins	Heller	Murkowski
Coons	Hirono	Murphy

Murray
Nelson
Paul
Peters
Portman
Reed
Reid
Risch
Roberts
Rounds
Rubio

Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott
Shaheen
Shelby
Stabenow
Sullivan
Tester
Thune

Tillis
Toomey
Udall
Vitter
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz Perdue Sessions

The bill (H.R. 4511) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). The Senator from South Dakota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ELECTION AND REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is no doubt that the election we have just been through was a bad one. Emotions ran high on both sides and are still running. But this is hardly the first time it has happened in our history, and it won't be the last.

Take the election of 1800, for example. The campaign between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson was no picnic either. It was emotional, hard fought, and full of partisan attacks. Each side alleged that the other would bring about ruin to our young Nation.

In his novel address, the new President, Thomas Jefferson, specifically referenced the contentious process that the Nation had just gone through, but then he said the following: “[B]ut this [meaning the election] being now decided by the voice of the nation, announced according to the rules of the Constitution, all will, of course, arrange themselves under the will of the law, and unite in common efforts for the common good.”

Let me repeat that: “all will . . . arrange themselves under the will of the law, and unite in common efforts for the common good.”

That is the key. That is what separates our Nation from tyrannies and other oppressive forms of government. In the United States, we may have contentious elections. But at the end of the day, we accept the results, and we move forward for the common good. That doesn't mean we give up fighting for what we believe in, of course, but we fight within the law, not outside of it.

Our form of government endures because as a nation we respect the rule of law. But there is another thing to remember about elections—not just the

obligation that we have to accept the results and move forward, but something else, and that is what President Obama reminded us of the day after the election: We are all Americans, and at the end of the day, we are all on the same side.

Everyone is sad when their side loses an election, but the day after, we have to remember that we're actually all on one team. This is an intramural scrimmage. We're not Democrats first. We're not Republicans first. We are Americans first. We are patriots first.

That is from President Obama the day after the election. Indeed, we are Americans who believe in God-given freedoms, and what unites us is greater than what divides us. In the coming days, I look forward to working with my fellow Americans from both parties to meet the challenges that are facing our Nation.

There is one thing that this election made clear: It is that this economy is not working for American families. In one CNN exit poll last Tuesday, 63 percent of voters rated the economy as poor. That result should not surprise anyone. The last few years have been tough for American workers. Job creation has been sluggish. Wages have been stagnant. Economic growth has lagged far behind the pace of other recoveries, and opportunities for workers have been few and far between.

There is no wonder so many hard-working Americans feel that they have been left behind. To the millions of American workers who are discouraged by this economy I want to say this: We hear you. Republicans hear you. I promise you, we are going to act. Growing our economy is going to be our No. 1 priority next Congress.

There are a number of things we can do to get the economy healthy again. We can reform our Tax Code to reduce the burden on American families and businesses. Right now our Nation has the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. More and more American companies are focusing their business operations overseas because the tax situation is so much better abroad.

That means American jobs are going overseas with them. We have lost our competitive edge in an increasingly global economy. Instead of pushing corporations out of our country, we should bring our Nation's corporate tax rate in line with those of other countries to keep more jobs here in the United States.

Another big thing we can do is repeal some of the burdensome government regulations that are weighing down businesses. While some government regulations are necessary, every administration has to remember that regulations have consequences. The more resources individuals and businesses spend complying with government regulations, the less they have available to focus on the growth and innovation that drive our economy and create new opportunities for American workers.

Over the past 8 years in particular, businesses have had to devote far too many resources to complying with government regulations. That has left them with few resources to dedicate to growing and creating jobs.

Another thing we need to do is address our national debt, which has nearly doubled over the past 8 years. That debt is a drag on our economy. It slows growth and reduces economic opportunity. It is time to get our government back on a budget.

Another way we can help lift the burden on American families is by repealing and replacing ObamaCare. The President's health care law is broken. The promise of lower premiums and affordable health care has given way to the reality of giant premium increases and massive deductibles. It is time to give the American people health care reform that actually works.

Another priority of the new Republican Congress will be national security. Americans are rightfully worried about the threat posed by terrorist groups such as ISIS, which has spread violence and devastation not only in the Middle East but across Europe and beyond. We have even experienced ISIS-inspired terrorist attacks on American soil in San Bernardino and Orlando.

More recently, there were attempted bombings in New York and New Jersey and an ISIS-inspired stabbing attack in Minnesota. Republicans are committed to defeating ISIS abroad and keeping Americans safe here at home. We intend to make sure that our law enforcement agencies and our Nation's military have the tools they need to defeat terrorist threats. We will make sure that our military men and women remain the best equipped and the most prepared fighting forces on the planet.

Another key component to keeping Americans safe is securing our borders. We must have secure borders and policies that encourage legal immigration while discouraging illegal immigration.

Then there are the other priorities we need to address: confirming a Supreme Court nominee who will judge based on the law and the Constitution, protecting religious liberty, encouraging investment in our Nation's infrastructure, and more.

To all the Americans who voted for change in this election, to every worker who has felt left behind in this economy, I want to say again: We hear you. Republicans hear you. We are going to fight for your priorities here in Washington. We are committed to earning the trust that you placed in us on election day.

The election is over, and it is time to take up the work of governing the Nation. Our Nation is facing many challenges. It is time for all of us—Democrat and Republican, liberal and conservative—to unite to address them. If

we work together, I firmly believe we will once again be able to say, as President Ronald Reagan once said:

American's best days are yet to come. Our proudest moments are yet to be. Our most glorious achievements are just ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Arizona.

EARMARKS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, a lot like indigestion, the desire for earmarks keeps coming back up. Tomorrow afternoon our colleagues in the House will vote on a provision to overturn the Congressional ban on earmarking. As someone who helped put that ban in place, I believe it is important to explain why it is very much still a necessity.

Consider the following: A teapot museum in North Carolina, an indoor rain forest in Iowa, bridges to nowhere in Alaska, a sheep institute in Montana, a Woodstock museum to commemorate the 1969 concert in New York, a \$350 million rocket launch site in Mississippi that was mothballed upon completion that has been derided as the "tower to nowhere," and the weather museum in Punxsutawney, PA. These are just some of the more infamous pork projects that were tucked into bills in Congress here during the bygone earmark era.

During the heyday of earmarking in 2006, I believe there were some 16,000 earmarks spread around among the appropriations bills at that time. Members of Congress gleefully touted the outrageous manner in which billions of dollars were being misspent on obscure, parochial projects. Earmarks were the currency of what was dubbed the "favor factory" by a superlobbyist who would eventually go to jail for corruption.

Earmarks were used to reward campaign donors and political supporters and to buy and sell the votes of politicians. The deciding vote that was necessary to pass ObamaCare, for example, was secured with an earmark for Nebraska and derided as the "Cornhusker Kickback."

Republicans lost control of Congress in 2006, in part, as a result of the public's disgust with the corruption within the favor factory. When Republicans retook the House of Representatives in 2010, a moratorium was put on Congressional earmarking, which the Senate also adopted. That remains in place to this day.

Now some Republicans in the House are pushing to reopen the favor factory by lifting the moratorium, promising this time it will be different. Taxpayers ought to know that these promises are simply hogwash. Having spent years fighting against earmarks, I am disappointed that one of the very first votes after this election will be on a

Republican-led proposal to bring back earmarks.

Congress should instead immediately pass legislation to make the ban on earmarks a permanent statutory prohibition. After all, you cannot drain the swamps by feeding the alligators pork. With our national debt approaching \$20 trillion, taxpayers expect Congress to focus on cutting wasteful and unnecessary spending instead of pigging out at the trough.

One of the worst parts of earmarks is that we spend our time here when we are earmarking not providing oversight for the massive appropriations bills that get passed. That is the worst part of it. We spend time doling out what amounts to a small portion of the Federal budget, but it takes so much time and effort from Members and their staffs just to secure that small bit of money that we are not spending the time we should providing oversight on the rest of the budget. That is the biggest crime of earmarks.

Instead of bringing them back, I hope that we will actually pass a statutory prohibition that will remain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, like the majority of Americans who supported the Democratic candidate for President in the most recent election, I was disappointed by the results. But last Wednesday, I publicly congratulated President-Elect Donald Trump. I believe the bedrock principle of America is that we select our leaders and then come together as a country to try to find common ground and move forward.

On election night, the President-elect said:

Now it is time for America to bind the wounds of division. To all Republicans and Democrats and independents across the Nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people.

I agree with the President-elect's statement. During the campaign, President-Elect Donald Trump used incendiary and offensive language about immigrants and immigration. I condemned those remarks at the time. I remain concerned about their impact on our Nation.

But all Americans have an obligation to give this incoming President a chance. I am hopeful that he will keep his promise of election night to bind the wounds of division, to bring our Nation together. If he does, I look for opportunities where we can work together. As a first step in bringing our Nation together, I hope Mr. Trump will change his rhetoric and his approach to immigration.

As the President-elect knows, we are a nation of immigrants, and immigration makes us stronger. Like me, Mr.

Trump is the son of an immigrant. When Mr. Trump takes the oath of office in January, the United States will have a First Lady who is an immigrant for only the second time in our history and for the first time since 1801 when President John Quincy Adams's wife, Louisa Catherine Adams, was the First Lady of the United States.

During the campaign, Mr. Trump pledged to deport all 11 million undocumented immigrants, but in an interview with "60 Minutes," he recently said he wanted to focus on deporting undocumented immigrants with criminal records. He acknowledged that millions of undocumented immigrants are "terrific people."

I wish to speak for a few moments about some of those terrific people. These words are important to me. I listened to them carefully.

It was 15 years ago when I introduced a bill known as the DREAM Act. My cosponsor at that time was Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah. This bipartisan bill recognized the fact that many of the undocumented in America were brought here as children. They didn't make the family decision to get in the car, to head for America—adults did. Some of them were only infants. But they came to this country, and they have lived in this country since. They go to school in America. They stand and pledge allegiance in the classroom to the only flag they have ever known. They speak English, and they believe their future is in this country.

These were the DREAMers, and our bill said: Give them a chance. If they finish school and they have no serious criminal record, give them a chance to earn their way to legalization and citizenship.

Well, for 15 years this bill has been pending. Sometimes, it passes the Senate. Sometimes, it passed the House. It never quite passed both Chambers in the same year, and so it is still an aspiration and not legislation.

It was 6 years ago when I wrote a letter to the President, President Obama, joined by Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana. On a bipartisan basis, we asked the President of the United States to protect these young DREAMers who grew up in America from deportation.

These kids deserve a chance. We have invested in them. We have given them a good education in American schools, and it makes no sense to squander their talents by deporting them to countries they barely know.

The President, President Obama, responded. He established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. DACA provides temporary, renewable, legal status to immigrant students who arrive in the United States as children. Approximately 740,000 of these young people have come forward and signed up for DACA. DACA has allowed them a

chance, without the fear of deportation, to contribute more fully to our country as soldiers, nurses, teachers, engineers, and police officers. DACA is based on the DREAM Act. It gives these undocumented students who grew up in this country a chance to earn their way toward legal status.

It is clearly legal. Like every President before him, President Obama has had the authority to set immigration policy, and the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Federal Government has broad authority in this area.

DACA is not just legal. It makes sense. The Department of Homeland Security only has enough funding to deport a small fraction of undocumented immigrants. So the President—our current President—and the President-elect say: Let's focus on those who might cause harm to America. I agree with them. That is just common sense.

But at the same time, President Obama has said: Why would we want to waste resources deporting young immigrant students who grew up in this country and are making a great contribution? During the campaign, President-Elect Trump pledged that he would end DACA. I hope that he will reconsider that position.

I have come to the floor over the last several years to tell the stories of these DREAMers. I can give speeches all day about who they are, but some of them have the courage to step up and really tell America who they are.

Today I wish to speak to you about one of them. His name is Oscar Cornejo, Jr. In the year 2000, when Oscar was only 5 years old, his family came to the United States from Mexico. Oscar grew up in Park City. It is a small, northern suburb of Chicago, in my home State of Illinois.

He was quite a student. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society and an Illinois State scholar. He received several Advanced Placement awards and graduated high school magna cum laude. This is what Oscar said about his high school years:

My parents always instilled in me the value of an education, which is one of the main reasons they decided to leave everything in Mexico and come to the United States. I dedicated myself solely to my education to honor the sacrifices my parents made.

It was because of those outstanding academic achievements in high school that Oscar was admitted to Dartmouth College, an Ivy League school in Hanover, NH. He is the first member of his family even to attend college.

Oscar has excelled at Dartmouth. During his freshman year, Oscar received the William S. Churchill prize for outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the college in the areas of "fairness, respect for duty, and citizenship."

Oscar serves on the student board that judges violations of the Dartmouth honor code. He cofounded and codirected the college's first immigrant rights organization, and now he is in his senior year at Dartmouth.

He wants to be a teacher. He has applied to graduate school at the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers at Phillips Academy. He wrote a letter to me and said:

When I received my DACA, the threat of deportation had been lifted and I felt I could actually achieve my dreams. DACA has allowed me to work for the first time and the money I earn goes to support my education and my family.

Oscar and so many other DREAMers have so much to give to America. If we eliminate DACA, Oscar will lose his legal status. He will be subject to deportation at any moment, and he could be deported back to Mexico, a country where he hasn't lived for 15 years.

Will America be a stronger country if we lose Oscar Cornejo or if he stays here and becomes a teacher? I think the answer is very clear.

I hope that President-Elect Trump will consider that this young man is in a different category than someone who came into this country and committed a serious crime. This is a young man who did just the opposite. He led a good life. He was successful in high school. He has gone to college without any Federal assistance whatsoever. He doesn't qualify for a penny, yet he has excelled and still, despite all these struggles, wants to give back to this Nation, the only country he has ever called home. Losing him would be a loss to America.

I appeal to the President-elect: Think long and hard about the future of this country. Realize that he and I—the President-elect and myself—as first-generation Americans, have to understand that it is immigration that has brought so much by way of diversity and talent to the great United States. We can't shut down DACA. That would be horrible. It would mean that 744,000 young people such as Oscar, protected from deportation, would wake up the next morning wondering if that knock on the door was the last they would hear as a resident of America. I am going to fight for Oscar and for the 744,000 who qualify for DACA and for the DREAMers like them who came here as children and simply asked for a chance.

There is real division in the Senate, the House, and in the country when it comes to immigration. As I have told these stories on the floor—almost 100 of them now—I have noticed a number of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle say: That really is a different situation. This is a young child who should be given a chance. Now is the time for America—this Nation of immigrants—to heal our wounds that divided us during this election.

I hope and pray that the President-elect, by word and action, in the coming weeks and months will truly bring us together.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON WINNING THE WORLD SERIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for 16 years, broadcaster Harry Caray was the voice of the Chicago Cubs. He wasn't in Yogi Berra's league linguistically. Harry Caray could turn a phrase.

"Holy cow!" was one of Harry Caray's signature lines. Another legendary Harry Caray line that made people jump for joy was this:

It might be. It could be. It is! A home run!

Harry Caray loved baseball. He loved Chicago. He loved the Cubs. But most of all, he loved the Cubs fans, those generations of fans who packed Wrigley Field every year, almost certain that their team would lose but hoping for a miracle. Harry Caray once said of the citizens of Cubs Nation:

This has been the remarkable thing about the fans in Chicago, they keep drawing an average of a million-three a year, and when the season's over and they've won their usual 71 games, you feel that those fans deserve a medal.

Well, Harry Caray passed away in 1998. But like every Cubs fan, he believed until his final breath that the Chicago Cubs, those loveable losers, would one day reclaim the title as Major League Baseball's World Series champions, a title they held and won in 1908.

Well, Harry Caray was right. The day came. Miraculously, in the early morning hours of November 3, in the 10th inning of the 7th and deciding game against the gritty, formidable Cleveland Indians, the Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series. That heart-stopping game 7—in fact, the whole series—was a contest for the ages and one that Cubs fans will be talking about for generations.

Let me say it again. The Cubs' improbable, come-from-behind World Series championship marks the first time since 1908 that the Cubs won the World Series. Their 108-year drought with our World Series trophy marked the longest losing streak of any team in any sport in the United States of America. But all those years of dashed hopes and deferred dreams are history.

The curse of the billy goat and the omen of the black cat are all dead. Fly the W and hoist the trophy. The 2016 Chicago Cubs are the World Series champs, the very best in baseball. They posted the winningest record in Major League Baseball, with 103 victories to 58 losses, and they finished 17½ games ahead in their division, ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals, always a formidable baseball team. It was the first time the Cubs had posted the most wins in baseball since 1945 and the first time the

Northsiders had won 100 games since 1935.

In postseason play, the Cubs launched a ninth-inning comeback to take the National League division series against the Giants in four games. Then it was the Dodgers. After losing in back-to-back shutouts, trailing the Dodgers 2 to 1 in the series, the Cubs rallied to beat the Dodgers in six games and claimed their first National League championship in 17 years.

For generations, the World Series has broken many a Cubs fan's heart. After winning the Fall Classic in 1907 and 1908, the Cubs went on to lose the World Series in 1910, 1918, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, and 1945, their last World Series appearance until this year.

Yet, against history and against reason, as the 2016 World Series began, Cubs fans dared to believe. Maybe this was the year. Their faith was tested. The Cleveland Indians are a great and gutsy ball club. They took an early and commanding control of the Series, leading the Cubs three games to one in the best of seven.

Then the magic started. With their backs to the wall, one defeat away from elimination, the Cubs roared back to win the final three games of the Series and brought the World Series trophy home to Chicago. They clinched the World Series in game 7 with an 8-to-7 win in extra innings. The game was tied 6 to 6 after nine innings. The suspense was heightened by a rain delay that was called just as the 10th inning was about to start. The rain stopped the game for 17 minutes. The Cubs scored 2 runs when they came back in the top of the 10th inning on a double by Ben Zobrist and a single by Miguel Montero.

The Indians scored a run in the bottom of the 10th inning, but it wasn't enough. The final score: Cubs 8, Indians 7.

Ben Zobrist was named World Series MVP. It was only the sixth time in World Series history that a team had come back from a deficit of three games to win a championship. The last team to pull it off was the Kansas City Royals in 1985.

This World Series victory was truly a team victory. Every member of the team and organization deserves credit.

Cubs General Manager Theo Epstein, destined for the National Baseball Hall of Fame, arrived in Chicago in 2011 with the challenge of rebuilding an organization that had tried everything to no avail. It took him five seasons, three managers, and dozens of trades, but he won. After game 7, he said he was just proud to bring the World Series trophy back to Chicago for Cubs legends Billy Williams and the late Ernie Banks and Ron Santo and for the generations of fans who never stopped hoping.

What can we say about Cubs Manager Joe Maddon? He urged his players in

spring training to “Embrace the Target.” When the chips were down, he had never doubted the Cubs were the finest team. While some may view his style as unorthodox, his confidence in his players carried over onto the field. The Cubs never panicked. They got their job done.

Maddon spent decades in Major League Baseball before coming to the Cubs. With this World Series trophy, he joins a small list of managers to win pennants in the American and National Leagues. He earned the 2015 National League Manager of the Year, and I am betting he is going to claim the title again this year.

I congratulate the players—the World Series champion Cubs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the players.

There being no objection, the names were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Anthony Rizzo;
Kris Bryant;
Javier Baez;
Addison Russell;
Miguel Montero;
Willson Contreras;
Jon Lester;
Jake Arrieta;
Kyle Hendricks;
John Lackey;
Aroldis Chapman;
Jason Heyward;
Dexter Fowler;
Jorge Soler;
Chris Coghlan;
Albert Almora, Jr.;
Mike Montgomery;
Carl Edwards, Jr.;
Pedro Strop;
Hector Rondon;
Travis Wood; and
Justin Grimm.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to wrap up. I see the majority leader is on the floor, but I know he is a big sports fan.

Catcher David Ross, playing in the final game of his career, made history when he hit a home run in the fifth inning of game 7 to give the Chicago Cubs a 6-to-3 lead. At 39 years of age, almost 40—a senior by baseball standards—Ross became the oldest player ever to hit a home run in World Series game 7.

Kyle Schwarber—what a comeback—tore his ACL in the third game of the season and worked his whole season in physical rehab to try to come back. He made it just in time to play in the World Series. He ignited the Cubs’ 10th inning rally in game 7 with a lead-off single and finished the Series with a .412 average and two RBIs.

And then there is Ben Zobrist, the pride of Eureka, IL, and the MVP of 2016.

I want to also congratulate the Cleveland Indians’ manager Terry Francona and their entire organization and one of their best and most loyal fans, Senator SHERROD BROWN. As

Terry Francona said after game 7, they tried until there was nothing left.

The epicenter of Cubs Nation is on the North Side of Chicago, but it is much bigger. It reaches across America. The Cubs Nation has fans in every city. Probably the most amazing parade I have ever attended—and I have been to hundreds—was the Cubs’ victory parade. They estimated the crowd at 5 million. I tell you what, I think they are right. The population of the city of Chicago is 2½ million, just to give an idea of how many they drew.

I will close with a short story. Although that 108 years between World Series victories brought much heartache to the Cubs Nation, there was joy after the drought. Quite a bit of that joy was listening to the legendary broadcaster who preceded Harry Caray as the voice of the Cubs. His name was Jack Brickhouse—or just “Brick” to his friends. He was born in Peoria and he was the first voice of the Cubs. He was the play-by-play announcer from 1948 until 1981. He called games for the White Sox, the Bears, and the Bulls. No wonder he is in both the Baseball and the Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

On May 12, 1970, he was in the broadcaster’s booth when “Mr. Cub,” the great Ernie Banks, reached a milestone few players ever achieve. Pat Jarvis was pitching for the Braves, and this is how Brickhouse called the play:

Jarvis fires away. That’s a fly ball, deep to left, back . . . Hey! Hey! Ernie Banks got number 500! Everybody on your feet. This . . . is . . . it!

And then Jack Brickhouse added his signature refrain: “Wheeeeeee!”

When the Cubs won this World Series, I suspect that up in Heaven Brickhouse, Caray, Banks, Santo, and countless other Cubs’ players joined those fans who had been waiting for that World Series for 108 years. At long last, the Cubs are baseball’s real champions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, before my friend from Illinois leaves the floor, among the fascinating stories connected with the Cubs’ great victory, was it not the case they found three 108-year-old women? I believe one lived in New Hampshire. I read a story about her. And then I guess the other two were still in Chicago; is that correct?

Mr. DURBIN. That is how I remember it, yes. I don’t know if you read the epilogue, but one of those 108-year-old women passed away within a few days of the Cubs’ win of the World Series.

Mr. McCONNELL. Satisfied, I am sure, and ready to finally go on.

Mr. DURBIN. Died with a smile.

Mr. McCONNELL. It was a great, great story. Congratulations.

AMERICAN ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Daniel Coats, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, John McCain, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING BERLIN FOREST HOWARD III

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a distinguished Kentuckian and beloved member of the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park family who I regret has recently passed away: Berlin Forest Howard III. Mr. Howard was lost while performing his job in service to our national parks. He was 27 years old.

On August 22 of this year, a tragic accident befell him as he was mowing the lawn in the park, and he was pronounced dead shortly after being rushed to the Middleboro Appalachian Regional Hospital.

Mr. Howard’s loss has been felt by many and has inspired those who were close to him to reflect on what joy he brought to all those around him. Mr. Howard had a happy, bright aura about him. He was someone who would always be caught smiling and bringing

light to others with his positive attitude. He was dedicated to the national park and proud of his Appalachian heritage. His memory will continue on through his two children, Reid and Xander.

My thoughts go out to the Howard family during this time of grief. I want to thank Mr. Howard for his many years of dedication to preserving a park that is a treasure, not just for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, but also the Nation. I am sure my Senate colleagues join me in expressing gratitude and admiration for Mr. Howard's life and legacy of service as well.

An area publication, the Mountain News WYMT, published an article on this sad incident. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From WYMT, Aug. 23, 2016]

FRIENDS MOURN THE LOSS OF MAN KILLED
WHILE MOWING GRASS
(By Caleb Noe)

BELL COUNTY, Ky.—Across the country, park rangers wear a black band across their badges, mourning the loss of one of their own.

"The Cumberland Gap staff is a family in itself. Knowing that one of our own is no longer with us is definitely having its toll," said Supervisory Park Ranger Carol Borneman.

Berlin Forest Howard III, 27, a maintenance worker at Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, was killed on the job while mowing the grass.

We're told the incident happened just off of Pinnacle View Road, at the national park Monday morning, when a van collided with Howard, who was on a riding lawn mower at the time.

"It's just hard to understand. It just makes us all think about telling our children every day how much we love them, because you don't know when you're going to have that chance again," said Bruce Thompson, a family friend.

Bruce Thompson watched Howard grow up in Middlesboro and says it's hard to find another young man as compassionate, caring, and hard-working.

"[He] just absolutely loved life. He'd do anything to help you. It didn't matter what time of day it was. If he could help you, he'd help you. It's hard to find that caliber of a person," said Thompson.

Recently, Howard took an interest in golf and actually won a "closest to the pin" contest at Middlesboro Country Club, just last Tuesday.

"He was very dedicated to trying to master the game," said Thompson.

Friends and family members will try to come to terms with the loss of a son, brother, and father.

TRIBUTE TO LEONARD DISHMAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a venerable Kentuckian and veteran, Leonard Dishman. Mr. Dishman, along with a group of other veterans, was recently a participant in an honor flight visit to

Washington, DC, and he was also recently recognized for his accomplishments in service by his hometown of Monticello.

World War II veteran Leonard Dishman experienced an unforgettable day on October 1 of this year when he, along with 75 other veterans, participated in honor flight. This memorable day began for Mr. Dishman at 4 a.m., when he and his daughter departed for the Lexington airport.

Upon arrival, he and his fellow veterans were greeted by Governor Matt Bevin and others who were there to wish them a good trip. Mr. Dishman's guardian for the trip, Larry West, commander for the local Disabled American Veterans, expressed how honored and proud he was to be a part of such an "inspirational day."

Honor flight provides an opportunity for veterans to visit the memorials in Washington honoring their service to our country. When Mr. Dishman and the other veterans landed in DC, they were given a police escort to every stop they made in the city. They visited the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and Arlington Cemetery before they flew back to Lexington in the evening, where they were welcomed back by lines of people waving flags.

Mr. Dishman told his guardian, Larry West, that it had been "the best day of his life." That same day, Mr. Dishman, a native of Monticello, was escorted by police with his family back to his hometown, where he was presented with a declaration proclaiming October 1, 2016, "Leonard Dishman Day."

Honor flight is very close to my heart, as my own father served in World War II in the European theater, and I am grateful to have had the privilege of meeting with several honor flight participants in the past. I am extremely proud to represent Leonard Dishman, such a remarkable man and veteran here in the Senate, and I extend my thanks for his service. I am sure my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for his service as well. He truly represents the best of Kentucky.

An area publication, the Outlook, recently published an article detailing Mr. Dishman's day with the Honor Flight program. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Outlook, Oct. 12, 2016]

DISHMAN HAS MEMORABLE DAY ON HONOR
FLIGHT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Saturday, October 1 is a day that 91-year-old Leonard Dishman will never forget. He packed a whole lot of memorable experiences in less than 24 hours, beginning with an early morning flight from Lexington to Washington, D.C. and ending with a special ceremony commemorating a day in his honor back in his hometown of Monticello.

Dishman, a World War II veteran, was among 75 veterans who participated in Honor

Flight that day. Dishman, like so many veterans, had never gotten the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial, until he participated in Honor Flight.

Honor Flight's mission is to fly World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C. for a one-day, all-expenses-paid visit to the memorials that are dedicated to their service and sacrifices. The October 1 Honor Flight was one of only two this year, and it was sponsored by Toyota Manufacturing.

The day began very early for Dishman and his family, according to his daughter, Anneda Guffey. They left for the airport about 4 a.m. Once at the airport, the celebration began, as organizers had put together a big send-off for the veterans. Governor Matt Bevin and others were there to wish them well on their day.

Larry West, commander for the local Disabled American Veterans, served as Dishman's guardian for the trip.

"It was such an honor for me to be a part of this," West said. "It was just an inspirational day, and I am proud to have been part of it."

West and other members of the local D.A.V. learned more about Honor Flight when Gary Campbell from the organization spoke to them about it earlier this year. Since Dishman was the oldest member of the local D.A.V., West thought it would be a great experience for him. He noted that the priority of Honor Flight is to involve World War II veterans.

Also at the send-off were members of a sorority that provided breakfast for the veterans and their families. Once the plane landed in Washington, D.C. the group enjoyed a police escort to every stop along the way.

West noted that they also visited the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam War Memorial. The group went to Arlington Cemetery, where they watched the changing of the guard and the placing of the wreaths.

After a jam-packed day of touring different memorials, the veterans and their guardians flew back into the Lexington airport, where a heroes' welcome awaited them.

Two lines of people waited, waving flags and cheering. West noted it was just like a parade.

"Leonard worked the crowd . . . He had a ball," said West. "He told me later that this was the best day of his life."

It was about to get even better, as the group of local residents returned to Monticello. Dishman and his family were greeted by policemen who escorted them to the area near Ringley Tire on North Main Street. Family and friends greeted Dishman and he was presented with a proclamation designating October 1, 2016 as "Leonard Dishman Day."

The proclamation noted the many military accomplishments of Dishman, including receiving the Bronze Star of the Philippine Islands for Liberation, two overseas bars, the Atlantic Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Army of Occupation Medal of Japan, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and the American Defense Medal.

Dishman was named the D.A.V. Veteran of the Year in 2011.

Dishman was overwhelmed by the turnout and the reception he received.

"I want to express my appreciation to D.A.V. Commander Larry West, who was my guardian for the day, to the Monticello Women's Club, the Monticello Police Department, the Wayne County Sheriff's Department and the Monticello Fire Department,

as well as the citizens of Monticello and my family and friends, all of whom took part in this event," stated Dishman. "It was thrilling to see how our little town pulled together and accomplished an event my family and I will never forget. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this amazing gift you gave me."

TRIBUTE TO DON PARRISH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a distinguished Kentuckian and honorable veteran of the Vietnam war, Don Parrish. More than four decades ago, Mr. Parrish and his hometown of Bardstown, KY, suffered great loss: In the summer of 1969, four Bardstown soldiers Mr. Parrish knew well were killed in service to our country. This loss was one of the worst suffered by any town in the war. As the years pass, Mr. Parrish finds himself more and more emotional regarding his time in uniform.

In October of 1968, Mr. Parrish was deployed to Vietnam with the C Battery of the Kentucky Army National Guard. Mr. Parrish and his fellow soldiers were reportedly the best firing battery in all of Southeast Asia. The battery consisted of childhood friends, brothers, and cousins. As boys who had grown up together to become men, they operated flawlessly as a unit.

The battery was "infused" with soldiers from New Hampshire, a precaution taken in an effort to prevent too many men from the same hometown from remaining a part of one unit in case of fatal attacks. Regrettably, that did not prevent an attack by the Viet Cong on Firebase Tomahawk, resulting in the tragic loss of four of Mr. Parrish's Bardstown comrades and fellow servicemen.

Mr. Parrish, a native of Bardstown, where he still lives today, worked for many years operating his family's business manufacturing concrete blocks. Eventually he and his wife Judy opened a bookstore together, which they ran for almost 20 years. Mr. Parrish is now a volunteer member of KET's Friends Board, which promotes KET in counties all over Kentucky.

I am tremendously proud to represent such a remarkable man and veteran here in the Senate, and I extend my thanks for Don Parrish's service. I am sure my colleagues join me in expressing gratitude for his service as well. He represents the finest of Kentucky.

A Kentucky publication, KET Visions, recently published an interview with Mr. Parrish about his experience in Vietnam. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From KET Visions, Nov. 2016]

HOMETOWN HERO PARRISH SERVED, SUFFERED LOSS IN VIETNAM WAR

Don Parrish has always been able to talk about his Vietnam experiences. Not that it isn't difficult. His losses—and they were great—affect him more and more as the years pass. Emotions rise more readily to the surface.

"As time moves on, my emotions get worse," said Parrish, who deployed to Vietnam in October 1968 with "C" Battery of the Kentucky Army National Guard, an artillery unit of men from Bardstown and the surrounding area.

"We went to Washington last fall to help our daughter and her husband move into a new apartment. While we were there, we went to the wall," he said, his voice breaking as he remembered visiting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"It was tough. I've been there many times, and the crazy thing about it is that it gets tougher every time."

Parrish, a member of KET's Friends Board, a volunteer organization which promotes KET in counties statewide, was born and raised in Bardstown, where he still lives. He operated his family business manufacturing concrete blocks for many years, and later opened a bookstore he and his wife, Judy, operated for nearly two decades.

Parrish's National Guard battery was "infused" with soldiers from New Hampshire. Infusion was a military policy designed to prevent too many men from the same hometown from dying in a single incident from the same unit.

In Bardstown's case, however, the policy wasn't enough to thwart fate.

During their training and tour, the soldiers from Nelson County worked seamlessly as perhaps only men who had once been boys together can. In fact, the unit not only contained boyhood friends, but seven sets of brothers and many cousins as well.

"We were declared to be the top firing battery in all of Southeast Asia because we were so effective and efficient," he said with pride. "Why? Because we went to school together and we knew each other. So when it came time to do our job, we did it well."

An attack by the Viet Cong on a rainy night at the difficult-to-defend Firebase Tomahawk, however, was too much for even the best of the best. In that summer of 1969, four Bardstown boys were killed, plus another from "A" Battery of nearby Carrollton.

The story of that loss, one of the worst suffered from any town during the war, has brought news outlets, television documentaries, and authors to Parrish's door, and he has been interviewed by CNN, CBS Sunday Morning, and more about the fatal attack. He also shared his experience with KET in Kentucky Veterans of the Vietnam War: In Their Own Words.

"There are a lot of guys who don't talk about it—except to me," said Parrish, who returned to Vietnam and Firebase Tomahawk in 1995, accompanied by other vets and WHAS-TV, which produced a program on the trip.

"War is really difficult to win when you are on the enemy's turf. That war could have been won had restraints been removed," he said.

"In fact, it is said by many, and I agree with them, that the war was won—because its purpose was to stop the spread of Communism among the Far Eastern nations. And to that end, we won the war."

When Parrish talks about Vietnam, he also remembers the good times, the camaraderie,

and fond memories, like the two guys from Bloomfield, Ky., who raced one another with 95-pound Howitzer rounds in each hand.

He has photographs, now fading, of the people he met—like the Catholic priest who still served at the same church when Parrish returned in 1995. The stray dogs they adopted. The bunkers where they slept at night. These memories became a part of who he is.

"I'm proud of my service," Parrish reflected. "I think we did well, and I'm sorry to lose friends, but that's a part of war—a terrible part of war."

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN HATFIELD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate a distinguished Kentuckian and accomplished attorney, Martin Hatfield. Mr. Hatfield recently received the honor of being selected as Pulaski County's "Attorney of the Year."

Mr. Hatfield, a native of Nancy, KY, graduated from Nancy High School in 1976. The importance of a good education was instilled in him from a young age by his parents who themselves were educators. There was no question Mr. Hatfield would continue his education after graduating high school, but he was not yet ready to leave home. When the Somerset Community College presented him with a scholarship to play basketball, Mr. Hatfield accepted, allowing him not only to stay close to home, but also to fulfill his dream of playing college basketball.

Upon graduating from SCC, he decided to move on to Eastern Kentucky University. Mr. Hatfield, interested in pursuing a career in Federal law enforcement, began working as a dispatcher and deputy sheriff with the Pulaski County Sheriff's office. Watching the trials sparked his love for the legal side of the justice system and inspired him to apply to law school.

Mr. Hatfield was accepted to the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law, from which he graduated in 1981 and returned to Pulaski County. He served as an assistant Commonwealth's attorney for Pulaski and Rockcastle Counties and then went on to serve as assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Kentucky for 16 years before running for the position of Pulaski County attorney.

In an effort to give back to the community that had given so much to his family throughout his life, Mr. Hatfield ran for county attorney and has held the position since his election in 2010. He now also serves on the boards of many organizations, such as the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Governor's Kentucky Criminal Justice Council. Recently, he was appointed by Governor Matt Bevin as one of three county attorneys from across Kentucky to serve on the Attorney General's Prosecutors Advisory Council.

This year, Martin Hatfield was chosen as Pulaski County's "Attorney of the Year," and he attributes his success to the support of his family, the education and confidence boost provided to him by SCC, and the dedication of his staff. I want to congratulate Mr. Hatfield for his years of service as an attorney in Pulaski County. I am sure his wife and children are very proud of him, and Kentucky is glad to have benefitted from his work and service.

An area publication, the Commonwealth Journal, recently published an article announcing Mr. Hatfield as county "Attorney of the Year." I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Commonwealth Journal, Sept. 6, 2016]

**SOMERSET COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT: PULASKI COUNTY ATTORNEY
MARTIN HATFIELD**

Although he now serves his home community in a high-profile role, Pulaski County Attorney Martin Hatfield wasn't always a fan of the limelight. In fact, the Nancy native and basketball stand-out credits his time at Somerset Community College (SCC) with helping him become more confident in himself as a student and leader.

Hatfield graduated from Nancy High School in 1976. His parents, Avery and Lois Hatfield, always encouraged education in their home.

"My parents were both educators," Hatfield said. "My sisters and I saw the value of having a good education firsthand. High school was seen as a milestone in the educational process, not the end."

Given that Hatfield was expected to continue his education after high school, and had the opportunity to play college basketball, his decision to attend Somerset Community College was an easy one, he said.

"At 17, I wasn't ready to leave home," Hatfield said. "SCC was part of the University of Kentucky system and had a basketball team. I was offered a scholarship to play there and took the opportunity."

Most of Hatfield's memories and stories about his college days at SCC revolved around his time on the court.

"Playing at SCC gave me the opportunity to fulfill a dream of playing basketball in college," said Hatfield, who was part of the last organized SCC basketball team. "The community really pitched in to support the program by feeding us, giving us a place to practice and play, and by attending the games."

After graduating from SCC, Hatfield chose to transfer to Eastern Kentucky University. He wanted to go into federal law enforcement, so he paid his dues by working as a dispatcher and deputy sheriff with the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office and watching trials. There, he developed a love for the legal side of the justice system and was later accepted to the University of Louisville School of Law, now known as the Brandeis School of Law.

Hatfield graduated from law school in 1981 and came back to his home county to give back.

"I chose to come back home," Hatfield said. "I knew I wanted to marry and have a

family someday and that I wanted to raise my children here in Pulaski County. My wife (Debbie, a kindergarten teacher at Pulaski Elementary) and I have done just that. Pulaski County has been very good to my family throughout the years, which is one reason I ran for County Attorney . . . to give back to a community that has given so much to me."

In addition to his service as County Attorney, a role he has held since being elected in 2010, Hatfield also serves on the boards of the Somerset-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Governor's Kentucky Criminal Justice Council, Kentucky County Attorneys Association, Somerset Community College Foundation, and is the Kentucky County Attorney's representative to the Kentucky Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee. He was also recently appointed by Governor Matt Bevin as one of three county attorneys from across Kentucky to serve on the Attorney General's Prosecutors Advisory Council. He is a member of Sievers Lodge #491 and First Baptist Church. Most recently, Hatfield was recognized as Outstanding County Attorney at the Kentucky Prosecutors Conference.

Before becoming the Pulaski County Attorney, Hatfield served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Kentucky for 16 years. Prior to that, he served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Pulaski and Rockcastle counties for almost five years.

His path, he said, has been greatly influenced by his family and education.

"SCC provided someone like me, who was a little shy and backward, with the opportunity to not only learn, but to be comfortable in a new environment," Hatfield said.

Hatfield's sisters both attended SCC as well, he said, and having the opportunity to know everyone from the college president to his professors to his teammates, made a difference.

"I grew so much during my time at SCC," Hatfield said. "My self-esteem was built through small classes and professors who took a personal interest in me. When I left SCC, I knew I could excel in a college environment."

Today, Hatfield stays connected to the college through his service on the SCC Foundation board.

"This is a small community," he said. "We all live here and are invested in each other. I feel certain the education I received at SCC played a big role in my success in life and supporting our local educational opportunities only strengthens our city and county for the next generation."

Spending his career in public service, Hatfield said, has given him the opportunity to help set people up to achieve and succeed, not fail.

"It all starts with good raising and good education, and I was blessed to have both," Hatfield said. "As County Attorney, one of the things I try to do is to help people understand what tools they need to change their lives and become contributing members of their community. I firmly believe education is one of the major tools necessary to accomplish that."

**RECOGNIZING MANCHESTER
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Manchester Memorial Hospital lo-

cated in Manchester, KY. Originally the Oneida Mountain Hospital founded in the mid to late 1920s, Manchester Memorial Hospital is now a 63-bed, acute care, nonprofit Christian community hospital.

James Anderson Burns and Dr. C. Adeline McConville, an optometrist from New York City, founded the original hospital in the early 1900s. In the late 1930s, when McConville's failing health forced her to retire, a board of trustees was selected, and the hospital deeded to the State of Kentucky so it could receive State funding. In 1952, the State returned the hospital back to the remaining original trustees.

The doors reopened in 1955 and by the mid-1960s, the hospital had an average occupancy of 139 percent. The logical next step was to build a new hospital. After many years of hard work fundraising and negotiating, construction was completed in 1971 on a tract of land in the Lytleton area.

I would like to extend my thanks to the leadership and staff at Manchester Memorial for their hard work and dedication to helping the people of Kentucky, and I congratulate them on 45 years in their new hospital. Though it started small, today Manchester Memorial Hospital has more than 500 employees and averages 60,000 patient visits each year. It is the parent organization for five home healthcare offices serving 14-plus counties in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia and has been twice named a "100 Top Hospital in America."

An area publication, the Manchester Enterprise, recently published a piece announcing the 45th anniversary of Manchester Memorial Hospital. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From The Manchester Enterprise, Sept. 8, 2016]

MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OPENS THEIR DOORS

In September 1971 patients were transferred from Oneida Hospital to the new Memorial Hospital

Manchester Memorial Hospital is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year. The hospital started from humble beginnings as Oneida Mountain Hospital, which began in the mid-to-late 20s by founder James Anderson Burns, founder of Oneida Baptist Institute, and Dr. C. Adeline McConville, an optometrist from New York City.

It was Anderson's dream to bring a hospital to the area, and Dr. McConville was captivated by his pursuit of it. She pledged to return to the mountains with him and work to open a hospital.

Dr. McConville operated the hospital until the late 1930s, when failing health forced her to retire.

A Board of Trustees was selected and the hospital deeded to the state of Kentucky so it could receive state funding. It operated under their leadership until 1952, when the state returned the hospital back to the remaining original trustees.

The late Mr. Thomas Britton sought diligently for an organization to come operate

the hospital. Through the advice of a friend, he contacted the Seventh Day Adventist Church and they accepted the challenge.

Due to the building being vacant, their first task was to make it usable again. Through various donations they re-opened the doors after a three-year hiatus on August 22, 1955.

Over the years, the hospital continued to grow and by the mid-60s had an average occupancy of 139 percent. There were times when the 22-bed hospital had 49 patients. The clinic was equally as crowded. The choice was obvious—build a new hospital.

Fund raising began with the plan to build another hospital in the Oneida area. Plans were drawn and submitted, but the Department of Health would not approve the site.

Hospital Administrator Herb Davis, with Dr. W.E. Becknell, negotiated through Mr. Saul Goins to build the hospital on a tract of land in the Lyttleton area that Mr. Goins farmed on. But there was a problem; there was no bridge to the land.

Mr. Isom Hensley started a letter-writing campaign to the Department of Highways to request a bridge be built. The State approved the bridge, and now the attention turned to raising money for construction.

Mrs. Marie Langdon and Mr. Bill Baker started soliciting donations for the construction. The Clay County Jaycees each pledged \$200 apiece towards the construction.

The dream of a new hospital became a reality in late 1969 as approval was given and construction began in 1970. The hospital was completed in mid-1971 and the transfer of patients from Oneida to Manchester was made in September of that year.

Here's a look at the story from September 9, 1971 where the hospital was moved from Oneida to Manchester:

Patients and equipment vacated the century-old Oneida Hospital in what was described as one of the quickest moves in the annals of hospital history.

Herb Davis, administrator of Memorial Hospital in Manchester, said the 23 patients at Oneida were moved in "record time" and without a "single incident." All were brought to the new Memorial Hospital in Manchester.

Only three of the patients were able to sit up for the ride from Oneida to Manchester.

The move was accomplished through the help of both local funeral homes, who provided ambulances and personnel to transport the patients 17 miles in distance.

At the same time the patients were moving, much of the medical care equipment needed by patients was moved.

In one case, a patient was taken off the operating table following surgery and the table was removed while he was in recovery to be transported.

Statistics on the move as released by hospital officials list Mrs. Webb, 93, of Burning Springs as the last patient to leave Oneida Hospital.

Mrs. Ester McIntosh was the last person to receive surgery in the old hospital, and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Jones were parents of the last baby born at the hospital.

The first baby born at Memorial Hospital in Manchester was born to Cassie and Charles Stewart of Sibert, Ky.

The move was accomplished through a 40-hour continuous effort by many of the hospital's staff, who got things ready for the move, then set up again when the move was complete.

By noon, Tuesday, eight new babies had been born at the hospital and 29 patients were on the register.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA, October 6, 2016.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-42, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$65.3 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-42

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Republic of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.
Other \$65.3 million.
Total \$65.3 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Non-MDE:

Two (2) Cessna AC-208 aircraft with dual rail Hellfire launcher capability on each wing.

Two (2) AN/ALE-47 Electronic Countermeasure Dispensers.

Two (2) AAR-60 Missile Launch Warning Systems.

Four (4) AN/AAQ-35 (Wescam MX-15D) Electro-Optical Infrared Imaging Systems.

Two (2) LAU-131-A Launchers.

Additionally, non-MDE includes contractor aircraft modifications, spare parts, publication updates, aircraft ferry, and miscellaneous parts. The total estimated program cost is \$65.3 million.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IQ-D-QAH for \$20M signed on 13 Feb 2009 for C/AC-208

CLS, Transmittal 11-23. IQ-D-QAF for \$5M signed 26 Oct 2008 for C/AC-208 CLS, Transmittal 11-23.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: None.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Iraq—AC-208 Aircraft

The Government of Iraq requests to purchase two (2) Cessna AC-208 aircraft that include: dual rail LAU-131 Hellfire launcher capability on each wing, AN/ALE-47 electronic countermeasure dispenser, AN/AAR-60 Missile Launch Warning System, AN/AAQ-35 Electro-Optical Infrared Imaging System, contractor aircraft modifications, spare parts, publication updates, aircraft ferry, and miscellaneous parts. The estimated total case value is \$65.3 million.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner. This proposed sale directly supports Iraq and serves the interests of the people of Iraq and the United States.

Iraq originally purchased three (3) AC-208 and three (3) C-208 aircraft in 2008. The Cessna aircraft are used to support Iraqi military operations against al-Qaeda affiliate and Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) forces. The purchase of two (2) additional aircraft enables the Iraqi Air Force to continue its fight against ISIL. Iraq will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor is Orbital ATK, Falls Church, VA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. or contractor representatives to Iraq.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All defense articles and services are approved for release by our foreign disclosure office.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-42

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Cessna AC-208: The Armed Caravan is a specifically modified Cessna C-208 capable of operating in austere environments while providing real-time intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and low collateral damage kinetic strike capabilities. It is equipped with an integrated electro-optical and infrared (EO/IR) laser sensor suite which gives it a day/night ISR capability with a laser illuminator, range finder, and designator to allow employment of the AGM-114M missile through a 1760 mil bus interface. The aircraft has two external hard points for weapons and fuel carriage. The Iraq variant will be equipped for use with AGM-114 missiles already in country. Critical components (cockpit and engine) will have aircraft armor able to withstand small arms fire. Hardware and software are UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

2. The proposed configuration includes the AN/ALE-47 Countermeasure Dispenser Set (CMDS), the AN/AAR-60 Missile Approach Warning System, the AN/AAQ-35 MX (Wescam MX-15D) Electro-Optical Infrared Imaging System, and dual rail LAU-131 Hellfire launcher capability on each wing.

3. The AN/ALE-47 CMDS provides an integrated threat-adaptive, computer controlled capability for dispensing chaff, flares, and active radio frequency expendables. The AN/ALE-47 system enhances aircraft survivability in sophisticated threat environments.

4. The threats countered by the CMDS include radar-directed anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), radar command-guided missiles, radar homing guided missiles, and infrared guided missiles. The U.S. is not providing any threat data. The system is internally mounted and may be operated as a stand-alone system or integrated with other on-board electronic warfare and avionics systems. Expendable routines tailored to the immediate aircraft and threat environment may be dispensed using one of four operational modes. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Software is SECRET. Technical data and documentation provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

5. The AN/AAR-60 Missile Approach Warning System is a passive, true imaging sensor device that is optimized to detect the radiation signature of a threat missile's exhaust plume within the ultra violet solar blind spectral band. Functionally, the architecture detects incoming missile threats and indicates their direction of arrival with the 'maximum' of warning time. Hardware and software are UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

6. The AN/AAQ-35 MX (Wescam MX-15D) is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi field of view electro-optical infrared imaging system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

7. The LAU-131 launcher is tube shaped, 59.8 inches in length, and 10.125 inches in diameter. It weighs 65 pounds and is capable of carrying seven rockets (2.75 inch or 70mm). Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Technical data and documentation provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

8. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

9. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

10. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Iraq.

DEFENSE SECURITY,
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-49, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$81.4 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: The Government of Egypt.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$56.4 million.
Other \$25.0 million.
Total \$81.4 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Sixty-seven (67) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).

Non-MDE: This request also includes the following Non-MDE: OCONUS Installation/Integration, Installation Mounting Kits, Countermeasure Dispenser Test Set AN/ALM-294, Technical Assistance, U.S. Government Training and OCONUS Contractor Training, publications and technical documents, quality assurance and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (VGJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: EG-B-VBT, A04 (02 JUL 15, TCV: \$17.8M).

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 6, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Egypt—Description of Sale: Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) for AH-64E Apache, UH-60 Blackhawks and CH-47 Chinook Helicopters

The Government of Egypt has requested a possible sale of:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Sixty-seven (67) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS).

This request also includes the following Non-MDE: OCONUS Installation/Integration, Installation Mounting Kits, Countermeasure Dispenser Test Set AN/ALM-294, Technical Assistance, U.S. Government Training and OCONUS Contractor Training, publications and technical documents, quality assurance and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost is \$81.4 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner that has been

and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale of the CMWS will equip the Egyptian Air Force's fleet of multi-mission helicopters with a detection system for infrared missile threats. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be BAE Systems and DynCorp. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of two (2) U.S. Government and two (2) contractor representatives to Egypt to support delivery of such equipment, installation and integration, maintenance and to provide technical support and equipment familiarization. Additionally, this program will require multiple trips involving U.S. Government and contractor personnel to participate in technical reviews, training and installation.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. AN/AAR-57—Common Missile Warning System (CMWS)—The Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) provides superior detection of infrared missile threats for rotary-wing, transport, and tactical aircraft. It is the detection component of a suite of countermeasures to increase survivability of current generation combat, airlift, and special operations aircraft against the threat posed by infrared guided missiles. It also provides automatic, passive missile detection, threat declaration, crew warning, software reprogramming, false alarm suppression and cues to other on-board systems, such as dispensers, which may be utilized for flare decoys. Each platform includes: Electro-optical Missile Sensors, and Electronic Control Unit (ECU), Sequencer, and the Improved Countermeasures Dispenser (ICMD). The ECU hardware is classified CONFIDENTIAL; releasable technical manuals for operation and maintenance are classified SECRET.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software equipment, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which may reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Egypt can provide substantially the same degree of protection for this technology as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Egypt.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA, October 13, 2016.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of

the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-38, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$194 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES WORM
(For J.W. Rixey, Vice Admiral, USN,
Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-38

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$62 million.

Other \$132 million.

Total \$194 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Six (6) AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel F1 Radars.

Non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE): The Government of Kuwait requested a limited competition between three (3) U.S. vendors to procure a total of six (6) Short Range, Gap Filler Radars (e.g., AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel F1, AN/TPS-77, or AN/TPS-703) and one (1) Long Range Radar (e.g., AN/TPS-77 or AN/TPS-78). Only one of the radars under consideration, the AN/MPQ-64 is Major Defense Equipment (MDE). The remaining radars identified by Kuwait for consideration are non-MDE. Additionally, Kuwait is requesting one (1) Long Range Radar with Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) capability on the Long Range Radar, upgrades to existing AN/FPS 117 (V) 3 Long Range Radars, upgrades to airfield radome and communications systems, upgrade secure Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems, site surveys, installation and checkout, site acceptance testing, interim contractor support, construction, contractor logistics support (CLS), spares, support equipment and training. Cost for additional non-MDE is \$132 million. The total overall estimated cost is \$194 million.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X7-D-DAB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 13, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Government of Kuwait—Radar Field System

The Government of Kuwait has requested a possible total sale of six (6) Short Range Radars, otherwise known as Gap Filler Radars, one (1) Long Range Radar with Primary Surveillance Radar (PSR) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) arrays, upgrades to existing AN/FPS 117 (V) 3 Long Range Radar, upgrades to airfield radome and communications systems, upgrade to secure Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems, site surveys, installation and checkout, site acceptance testing, interim contractor support,

construction, contractor logistics support, spares, support equipment, and training. The total estimated value of this sale is \$194 million.

The Government of Kuwait requested a limited competition between three (3) U.S. vendors to procure a total of six (6) Short Range, Gap Filler Radars (e.g., AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel F1, AN/TPS-77, or AN/TPS-703) and one (1) Long Range Radar (e.g., AN/TPS-77 or AN/TPS-78). Only one of the radars under consideration, the AN/MPQ-64 is Major Defense Equipment (MDE). The remaining radars identified by Kuwait for consideration are non-MDE.

This proposed sale supports U.S. Government national security goals by aiding a Major non-NATO Ally in the reduction of transnational threats, weapons proliferation, and the movement and support of international terrorists.

The Government of Kuwait desires the radar field system in order to improve early warning, enhance internal and external security, and protect national sovereignty. The system provides situational awareness for Kuwaiti security forces to detect and interdict fixed and rotary wing aircraft. This procurement provides coverage for Kuwait's northern and eastern borders.

The prime contractor will be determined by competition between Lockheed Martin, Bethesda, Maryland, Northrop Grumman, Falls Church, Virginia, and the Raytheon Company, Waltham, Massachusetts. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

This procurement includes a small number of U.S. contractor system and maintenance advisors under a long-term operations and maintenance support package. The exact number of personnel and period of performance is yet to be finalized. This purchase will not substantially alter the U.S. Government presence in Kuwait.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-38

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel Radar System is a fielded air defense radar system in the Army inventory. Sentinel is a derivative of the AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder System used for artillery detection and the AN/TPQ-36A Norwegian adapted Hawk system. Sentinel is a mobile, phased-array radar that provides highly accurate 3 dimensional radar track data to using systems via the Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD) Command, Control, and Intelligence (C2I) node. Sentinel acquires, tracks, and reports cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, fixed and rotary wing aircraft in clutter and electronic counter measures environments. The Sentinel Export configuration (AN/MPQ-64F1) is a derivative of the U.S. Army's Improved Sentinel Radar.

2. The Sentinel consists of a radar-based sensor system with the M1152 HighMobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) as the prime mover and the MEP-1041 Advanced Mobile Medium Power Source (AMMPS) Tactical Quiet Generator as the power source. The sensor is an advanced battlefield radar capable of X-band air defense phased-array with an instrumented range of 75 kilometers with a rotating antenna providing 360 degree azimuth coverage for acquisition and tracking.

3. Sentinel has only one item currently designated Critical Program Information (CPI) and that is the Sentinel software modules containing routines for electronic counter-counter measures (ECCM) that have been determined to be a CPI.

4. These items are classified IAW EO 12958 section 1.5, Classification categories as category 1.5(e) because they contain scientific, technological, or economic matters relative to the national security. Reports, test data, and all Sentinel related media that discloses operational parameters, performance, characteristics, ECCM techniques, vulnerabilities, limitations or performance weaknesses shall be classified at the highest level based on the information being conveyed as referenced in the Sentinel Security Classification Guide. Distribution of technical performance and system capabilities reports and data shall only be released up to the CONFIDENTIAL level. It is not possible to obtain the Sentinel wartime reserved frequencies by reverse engineering, testing, or analyzing the unclassified Sentinel end item.

5. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

DEFENSE SECURITY

COOPERATION AGENCY,

Arlington, VA, October 21, 2016.

Hon. BOB CORKER,

Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-45, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$75 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-45

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) (U) Prospective Purchaser: United Arab Emirates (UAE).

(ii) (U) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$ 0 million.

Other \$75 million.

Total \$75 million.

(iii) (U) DESCRIPTION AND QUANTITY OR QUANTITIES OF ARTICLES OR SERVICES UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR PURCHASE:

Non-MDE:

The United Arab Emirates Air Force requests participation in military exercises, aerial refueling, airlift and ferry support, training aids/devices/munitions, technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. There is no MDE associated with this potential sale. The total estimated cost is \$75.0 million.

(iv) (U) Military Department: Air Force (X7-D-NAF Amendment 4).

(v) (U) Prior Related Cases, if any: AE-D-NAF—\$49M—20 Mar 12.

(vi) (U) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) (U) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) (U) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 21, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

(U) United Arab Emirates (UAE)—Exercise Participation Support

(U) The Government of the UAE requested a possible sale to include participation in military exercises, aerial refueling, airlift and ferry support, training aids/devices/munitions, technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated cost is \$75 million.

(U) This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major regional ally which has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

(U) This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the ability of the UAE to employ its fighter aircraft in a multi-country coalition environment, such as Red Flag and Green Flag exercises. Participating in major exercises has enhanced the UAE's continued and consistent role in support of Coalition Operations. The UAE is a steadfast coalition partner in the fight against radical Islamic forces such as ISIL and Al Qaeda (AQAP) in the Arabian Peninsula.

(U) The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

(U) Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the UAE.

(U) There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale. All defense articles and services are approved for release by our foreign disclosure office.

HONORING SERGEANT ANTHONY BEMINIO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, early this month, in my home State of Iowa, a tragedy took place that shocked our entire State. On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, the lives of Des Moines Police Sergeant Anthony Beminio and Urbandale Police Officer Justin Martin were taken at the hands of an assailant. It is almost unimaginable for somebody to attack the people who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. Unfortunately, it is a threat all too familiar for everybody who has a family member in law enforcement. Just after 1 a.m. on November 2, police responded to a report of shots fired and discovered that Officer Martin was shot and killed in his car while he was on duty. A short while later, Sergeant Anthony Beminio was found shot and killed in his car. He was believed to have been responding to the report of shots fired when he was killed by the lone assailant who moments

earlier had allegedly killed Officer Martin. Police do not have a motive for the shootings.

Nothing excuses the unforgivable act of attacking a police officer. I praise these heroes who gave their lives carrying out their mission to protect and serve.

Sergeant Anthony "Tony" Beminio joined the Des Moines police force in 2005, after serving with the Indianola Police Department for 4 years. By all accounts, he was a talented athlete, a great detective, and he will be remembered by his friends as a professional man who was always smiling. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Simpson College in 2001 and then a master's of science degree from the University of Cincinnati prior to becoming a police officer.

Sergeant Beminio took after his father, Frank Beminio, who served as a member of the Belmond Police Department for 17 years, 8 of which were as chief of police. As a school resource officer at Roosevelt and East high schools, Tony was cherished by students and faculty. It takes a special kind of person to be a school resource officer, and Tony was an outstanding role model who had a good relationship with the students he served.

My thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Sergeant Beminio in this difficult time. I want to express my deepest condolences to Sergeant Beminio's wife, Zoe; his three children, Cameron, Haley, and Maddoz; and his parents, Patricia and Frank Beminio.

These trying times serve as a reminder to show our appreciation to those who watch over our communities and run to danger. We can look to the words of wisdom from an Iowa mother who lost her son, Officer Carlos Puente-Morales, in the line of duty earlier this year. As she said, "We shouldn't wait for a tragedy to recognize our heroes." We should all live by this sentiment and show appreciation to the brave men and women who walk in the footsteps of Sergeant Beminio and Officer Martin to protect and serve our communities across the country.

HONORING OFFICER JUSTIN MARTIN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, early this month, in my home State of Iowa, a tragedy took place that shocked our entire State. On Wednesday, November 2, 2016, the lives of Des Moines Police Sergeant Anthony Beminio and Urbandale Police Officer Justin Martin were taken at the hands of an assailant. It is almost unimaginable for somebody to attack the people who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. Unfortunately, it is a threat all too familiar for everybody who has a family member in law enforcement.

Just after 1 a.m. on November 2, police responded to reports of shots fired and discovered that Officer Martin was shot and killed in his car while he was on duty. A short while later, Sergeant Anthony Beminio was found shot and killed in his car. He was believed to have been responding to the report of shots fired when he was killed by the lone assailant who moments earlier had allegedly killed Officer Martin. At this time, police do not have a motive for the shootings.

Nothing excuses the unforgivable act of attacking a police officer. I praise these heroes who gave their lives carrying out their mission to protect and serve.

Justin Martin obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Simpson College, with a lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. As Officer Martin's father said, "He went into law enforcement for one reason—because he wanted to help people." Justin achieved that dream when he joined the Urbandale Police Department in 2015.

I want to express my deepest sympathy to Officer Martin's parents, Randy and Jayne Martin; his brother Ryan Martin; his maternal grandmother, Ann Margaret Krommendyk; his paternal grandparents, Gene and Carolyn Martin, as well as his extended family and friends for their loss. Officer Martin was an Eagle Scout. He was active in many extracurricular activities such as football, swimming, and he also played the trombone. Officer Martin, like Sergeant Beminio, was a fine example of a community leader whom our young people should aspire to be like. By all accounts, he was a well-rounded, upstanding citizen. Officer Martin left a lasting impact on the communities he was part of, and we should follow the example that he set for us.

These trying times serve as a reminder to show our appreciation to those who watch over our communities and run to danger. We can look to the words of wisdom from an Iowa mother who lost her son, Officer Carlos Puente-Morales, in the line of duty earlier this year. As she said, "We shouldn't wait for a tragedy to recognize our heroes." We should all live by this sentiment and show appreciation to the brave men and women who walk in the footsteps of Officer Martin and Sergeant Beminio to protect and serve our communities across the country.

RECOGNIZING FALMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend the Falmouth Middle School of Falmouth, ME, on being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This outstanding middle school is one of only

329 schools across the country to receive this prestigious recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

Falmouth Middle School is among a select group of schools to achieve the Blue Ribbon designation not once, but twice. Since receiving its first award in 2008, the school has continued to excel as a community of collaborative and engaged learners who value diversity, kindness, creativity, excellence, responsibility for self, and service to others.

This award recognizes the hard work and determination of Falmouth Middle School's pupils and staff. This is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and staff at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Falmouth Middle School is known for its extensive extracurricular activities in academics, athletics, and the arts, which help forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. Just this year, three new after-school clubs were formed—in French, writing, and dance—driven by enthusiastic students and guided by involved teachers.

This Blue Ribbon award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Falmouth Middle School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING REEDS BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend Reeds Brook Middle School of Hampden, ME, on being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. This outstanding middle school is one of only 329 schools across the country to receive Blue Ribbon recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in stu-

dent achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

The Blue Ribbon designation continues Reeds Brook's tradition of quality education. In 1997, just 2 years after it opened, the school became just one of five middle schools in Maine to be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Today, after earning reaccreditation in 2007, Reeds Brook Middle School is one of just three Maine middle schools to achieve that distinction.

This award recognizes the hard work and determination of Reeds Brook Middle School's pupils, teachers, and staff. It is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and educators at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction. A strong commitment to professional development ensures that teachers and staff, as well as students, are lifelong learners.

Reeds Brook excels as a school built on a foundation of responsibility, respect, honesty, and compassion. Through a unique weekly trading card program, teachers and staff recognize students who demonstrate those values, instilling a sense of individual and school pride.

Reeds Brook Middle School is known for its extensive extracurricular activities in academics, athletics, and the arts, and students are encouraged to pursue their interests. An on-site garden and greenhouse promote volunteerism throughout the community. Students serve their community by working with the local food pantry and recycling center.

Two projects underscore the values that guide Reeds Brook Middle School. Students avidly support the Special Olympics, championing and cheering not just their team, but also athletes from other schools. Through an ongoing project, students meet with and interview local veterans, preserving the veterans' living histories and honoring their service.

This Blue Ribbon award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Reeds Brook Middle School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire Hampden community for this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING SEA ROAD SCHOOL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am delighted to commend the Sea Road School of Kennebunk, ME, on being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon

School of Excellence. This outstanding elementary school is one of only 329 schools across the country to receive this prestigious recognition from the U.S. Department of Education.

Created in 1982, the Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior in their States or that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement. The schools singled out for this national recognition are models of high educational standards and accountability.

This award recognizes the hard work and determination of the Sea Road School's pupils and staff. Sea Road School is a top-performing school on State-required assessments, and staff at the school use assessments throughout the academic year as a tool for improving and customizing instruction.

Students also participate in extra-curricular activities, which helps forge a strong school community where students are connected and encouraged to pursue their interests. Indeed, a successful vote on a town ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags in Kennebunk this spring started with research and advocacy by Sea Road School students.

Sea Road School is a member of Regional School Unit 21. Six years ago, Kennebunkport Consolidated School, another member, was also named a Blue Ribbon School. RSU 21 is the first administrative unit in Maine to have two schools attain this distinction.

This Blue Ribbon award is a tribute not only to the students, but also to the administrators, teachers, staff, and parents of Sea Road School. Together, they are succeeding in their mission to generate excitement and momentum for learning. They are making a difference in the lives of their students, helping them reach their full potential as independent, responsible learners and citizens. I congratulate the entire community for this well-deserved recognition.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JAMES B. BARLOW

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to remember the late James "Jim" B. Barlow.

On October 19, 2016, Oregon lost a great one in Mr. Barlow. To many Oregonians, Mr. Barlow was not only an incredible teacher and community leader, but an extremely loyal friend, brother, uncle, and husband.

Throughout his life, Mr. Barlow was a fierce advocate for Oregon's schools and students. He attended Lewis and Clark College and Oregon State University before teaching at three different Oregon public institutions. His countless teaching awards on both the local and national level, including "Teacher of the Year," speak volumes about Mr.

Barlow's pedagogical excellence. He furthered his dedication to students when he served as a senior leader on the Oregon High School International Relations League Model United Nations and the Oregon Council for the Social Studies and Advanced Placement Teachers of the State of Oregon.

In 1964, he took political learning and engagement to another level when he founded the Model Presidential Nominating Convention. These conventions were entirely student-led, but made possible with the encouragement and guidance of Mr. Barlow. The conventions became critical in Oregon's Presidential politics, as national leaders such as Robert Kennedy, George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton visited and gave speeches to thousands of Oregon high school students.

Mr. Barlow understood, as demonstrated by these model conventions, that civic engagement is fundamental to our "We the People" democracy. In his teaching and leadership, Mr. Barlow spread the message that it is up to all of us to create the change we wish to see in the world.

With his involvement in Oregon schools, model conventions, and his local church, Mr. Barlow became an example of how we can make a significant impact in our communities through simple acts of participation and leadership.

We need more leaders like Jim Barlow in our Nation. I thank Mr. Barlow for his decades-long devotion to his students and to our great State of Oregon. My thoughts are with his family and loved ones as they honor his memory and the truly impressive legacy he leaves behind.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the

House of Representatives announcing the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3283. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic."

H.R. 3004. An act to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission.

H.R. 3937. An act to designate the building utilized as a United States courthouse located at 150 Reade Circle in Greenville, North Carolina, as the "Randy D. Doub United States Courthouse".

H.R. 5147. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to require restrooms in public buildings to be equipped with baby changing facilities.

H.R. 5578. An act to establish certain rights for sexual assault survivors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5883. An act to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to clarify the duties relating to services furnished in connection with the buying or selling of livestock in commerce through online, video, or other electronic methods, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills were signed on October 3, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CASSIDY).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 29, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 246. An act to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2733. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5944. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to certain grant assurances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5946. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any prizes or awards won in competition in the Olympic Games or the Paralympic Games.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 2015, the enrolled bills were signed on October 3, 2016, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. CASSIDY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 985. An act to enable concrete masonry products manufacturers to establish, finance, and carry out a coordinated program of research, education, and promotion to improve, maintain, and develop markets for concrete masonry products.

H.R. 1192. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with a complex metabolic or autoimmune disease, a disease resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance, or complications caused by such a disease, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1209. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

H.R. 2566. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

H.R. 2669. An act amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2713. An act to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4365. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

H.R. 4665. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1192. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with a complex metabolic or autoimmune disease, a disease resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance, or complications caused by such a disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

H.R. 1209. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2669. An act amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on provision of misleading or inaccurate caller identification information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2713. An act to amend title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 3464. A bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6094. An act to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on October 3, 2016, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 246. An act to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 3283. An act to designate the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Pueblo, Colorado, as the "PFC James Dunn VA Clinic."

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7068. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Flupyradifurone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9951-68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7069. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluopicolide; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9951-60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7070. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale and Disposal of National Forest System Timber; Forest Products for Traditional and Cultural Purposes" (RIN0596-AD00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7071. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2015 Inventory of Contracted Services"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7072. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Mark O. Schissler, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7073. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, United States Navy Reserve, and her advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7074. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant Gen-

eral Robert P. Otto, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7075. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's 2016 compensation program adjustments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7076. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Robert L. Thomas, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7077. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs" (RIN2506-AC40) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7078. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards for Covered Clearing Agencies" (RIN3235-AL48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7079. A communication from the Division Chief, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minerals Management: Adjustment of Cost Recovery Fees" (RIN1004-AE47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7080. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final map and boundary for the Skagit Wild and Scenic River, added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7081. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coordination of Federal Authorizations for Electric Transmission Facilities" (RIN1901-AB36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7082. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Rio de Flag, Flagstaff, Arizona project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7083. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9953-18-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7084. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Oklahoma; Revisions to Major New Source Review Permitting" (FRL No. 9951-54-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7085. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington; General Regulations for Air Pollution Sources" (FRL No. 9953-04-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7086. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Missouri State Implementation Plan for the 2008 Lead Standard" (FRL No. 9952-79-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7087. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Deadline for Action on the August 2016 Section 126 Petition From Delaware" (FRL No. 9952-97-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7088. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chemical Data Reporting; 2016 Submission Period Extension" (FRL No. 9952-64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7089. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Permits and Permits by Rule for the Federal Minor New Source Review Program in Indian Country for Six Source Categories" (FRL No. 9953-18-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7090. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead" (FRL No. 9952-87-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7091. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Correction to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter" (FRL No. 9953-20-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7092. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; TN; Revisions to Logs and Reports for Startups, Shutdowns and Malfunctions" (FRL No. 9953-05-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7093. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events" (FRL No. 9952-89-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 22, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7094. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice of Arrival for Importations of Pesticides and Pesticidal Devices" (RIN1515-AE12) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7095. A communication from the Deputy Director, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program" (RIN0970-AC67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7096. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Reform of Requirements for Long-Term Care Facilities" ((RIN0938-AR61) (CMS-3260-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7097. A communication from the Director, Tax Policy and Administration Strategic Issues Team, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a list of Government Accountability Office employees designated to have access to tax returns and return information for the purpose of carrying out audits of the Internal Revenue Service and the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7098. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7099. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7100. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Depart-

ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Tunisia, Eritrea, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Other Changes" (RIN1400-AD95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7101. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7102. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders Reporting Requirements" (RIN0930-AA22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7103. A communication from the Director, Directorate of Whistleblower Protection Programs, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for the Handling of Retaliation Complaints Under the Employee Protection Provision of the Seaman's Protection Act, as Amended" (RIN1218-AC58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7104. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-91; Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2005-91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7105. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments" (FAC 2005-91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7106. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Limitation on Allowable Government Contractor Employee Compensation Costs" (RIN9000-AM75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7107. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Contractors Performing Private Security Functions" (RIN9000-AN07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7108. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition

Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; New Designated Countries—Ukraine and Moldova" (RIN9000-AN25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7109. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Consolidation and Bundling" (RIN9000-AM92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7110. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Unique Identification of Entities Receiving Federal Awards" (RIN9000-AN00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7111. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Sole Source Contracts for Women-Owned Small Businesses" (RIN9000-AN13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7112. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation: Non-Retaliation for Disclosure of Compensation Information" (RIN9000-AN10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7113. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Updating Federal Contractor Reporting of Veterans' Employment" (RIN9000-AN14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7114. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Prohibition on Contracting with Corporations with Delinquent Taxes or a Felony Conviction" (RIN9000-AN05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7115. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-91; Introduction" (FAC 2005-91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7116. A communication from the Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2015 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7117. A communication from the Project Manager, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Enhancing Opportunities for H-1B1, CW-1, and E-3 Non-immigrants and EB-1 Immigrants" (RIN1615-AC00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7118. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Changes to Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Rules of Practice" (RIN0651-AC35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7119. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Three Synthetic Phenethylamines Into Schedule I" (Docket No. DEA-423) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7120. A communication from the Chief Impact Analyst, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telephone Enrollment in the VA Healthcare System" (RIN2900-AP68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7121. A communication from the Acting Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Adjustment Act Amendments (RIN2900-AP78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7122. A joint communication from the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7123. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Enable Railroad Police Officers to Access Public Safety Interoperability and Mutual Aid Channels" ((FCC 16-113) (PSHSB Docket No. 15-199)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7124. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security

Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Proposed Amendments to the Service Rules Governing Public Safety Narrowband Operation in the 769-775/799-805 MHz Bands; National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Petition for Rulemaking on Aircraft Voice Operations at 700 MHz; National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Petition for Rulemaking to Revise 700 MHz Narrowband Channel Plan; Region 24 700 MHz Regional Planning committee Petition for Rulemaking; and State of Louisiana Petition for Rulemaking" ((FCC 16-111) (PSHSB Docket No. 13-87; RM-11433; WT Docket No. 96-86; PS Docket No. 06-229; and RM-11577)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 26, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7125. A communication from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2015 Annual Report to the President and Congress; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7126. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, Amtrak's fiscal year 2017 General and Legislative Annual Report; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7127. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of the Willcox Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 27, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7128. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Reporting Requirements; Unused Catch Carryover" (RIN0648-BD73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7129. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2016 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure in the Eastern Pacific Ocean" (RIN0648-XE729) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7130. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2016 Commercial Accountability Measures and Closure for Bluefin Tilefish in the South Atlantic Region" (RIN0648-XE629) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7131. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursu-

ant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Extension of the 2016 Gulf of Mexico Private Angling recreational red Snapper Season" (RIN0648-XE674) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7132. A communication from the Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Amendment Relating to Multi-year Contract Authority for acquisition of Property" (RIN9000-AN24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7133. A communication from the Acting Deputy Director of Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees; Correction" (RIN0572-AC34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7134. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus mycoides isolate J; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9947-92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7135. A communication from the Program Specialist of the Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OCC Guidelines Establishing standards for Recovery Planning by Certain Large Insured National Banks, Insured Federal Savings Associations, and Insured Federal Branches; Technical Amendments" (RIN1557-AD96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7136. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Determination to Approve Site-Specific Flexibility for Closure and Monitoring of the Picacho Landfill" (FRL No. 9953-45-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7137. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Oil and Gas Extraction Point Source Category—Implementation Date Extension" (FRL No. 9953-26-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7138. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Availability of Date Allocations of

Cross-State Air Pollution Rule allowances to Existing Electricity Generating Units” (FRL No. 9953-30-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7139. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Nebraska’s Air Quality Implementation Plans; Title 129, Chapters 5, 9, 22, 30, and 34, and State Operating Permit Programs” (FRL No. 9953-57-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7140. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Nebraska’s Air Quality Implementation Plans; Revisions to Title 129, Chapters 4, 19, and 22” (FRL No. 9953-61-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7141. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of Missouri’s Air Quality Implementation Plans and Operating Permits Program; Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule and Non-substantive Definition and Language Changes” (FRL No. 9953-34-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7142. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of California Air Plan revisions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 9951-67-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7143. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and San Diego County Air Pollution Control District” (FRL No. 9952-13-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7144. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants, State of Wyoming; Control of Emissions From Existing Hospital/Medical/Infections Waste Incinerator Units, Plan Revision” (FRL No. 9953-13-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7145. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Washington: Updates to Incorporation by Reference and Miscellaneous Revisions” (FRL No. 9953-50-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7146. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Philadelphia County Reasonably Available Control Technology Under the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9953-52-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7147. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of air Quality Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards” (FRL No. 9952-82-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7148. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Limited Approval and Limited Disapproval of Air quality Implementation Plans; California; Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits” (FRL No. 9950-74-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7149. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air plan Approval; Mississippi; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9953-35-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7150. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Temporary Alternate Opacity Limits for American Electric Power, Rockport” (FRL No. 9953-14-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7151. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Volatile Organic Compounds” (FRL No. 9953-64-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7152. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Interstate Transport Rule for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS” (FRL No. 9950-30-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7153. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Replacement Period for Livestock Sold on Account of Drought” (Notice 2016-60) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7154. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Liabilities Recognized as Recourse Partnership Liabilities Under Section 752” ((RIN1545-BM84) (TD 9788)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7155. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0123-2016-0134); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7156. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits” (29 CFR Parts 4022 and 4044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7157. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report (AFR) for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7158. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Spiny Dogfish Fishery; 2016-2018 Specifications” (RIN0648-BF88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7159. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Adjustment to 2016 Northern Albacore Tuna and Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quotas” (RIN0648-XE726) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7160. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department

of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Complex Fishery; Framework Adjustment 3 and 2016–2017 Specifications” (RIN0648-BF87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7161. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Skate Complex; Framework Adjustment 3; Correction” (RIN0648-BF87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7162. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “International Fisheries; Tuna and Tuna-Like Species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean; Fishing Restrictions Regarding Mobulid Rays” (RIN0648-BF65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7163. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery Off the Southern Atlantic States; Regulatory Amendment 25” (RIN0648-BF61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7164. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Mariana Archipelago Fisheries; Remove the CNMI Medium and Large Vessel Bottomfish Prohibited Areas” (RIN0648-BF37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7165. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; 2016 U.S. Territorial Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits” (RIN0648-XE284) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7166. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6671)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7167. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-5814)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7168. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5591)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7169. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9108)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7170. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-6550)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7171. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6901)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7172. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8135)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7173. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6665)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7174. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Services B.V. Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5035)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7175. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9070)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7176. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6146)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7177. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Agusta S.p.A. Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3781)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7178. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5392)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7179. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Type Certificate Previously Held by Saab, AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6668)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7180. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-4229)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7181. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0077)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7182. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Lakota, SD” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6115)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7183. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Jetmore, KS” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-7002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7184. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Brookshire, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0742)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7185. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D Airspace; Peru, IN” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6006)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7186. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Ithaca, NY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-8816)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7187. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Truckee, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4074)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7188. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace, and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Troy, AL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0726)) received during adjournment of the Senate

in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7189. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class D Airspace; Vancouver, WA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4133)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7190. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Sioux City, IA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-7487)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7191. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class E Airspace; Alliance, NE; and Amendment of Class E Airspace for the Following Nebraska Towns; Albion, NE; Alliance, NE; Gothenburg, NE; Holdrege, NE; Imperial, NE; Lexington, NE; and Millard Airport, Omaha, NE” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5388)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7192. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Tall Ships Challenge Great Lakes 2016, Fairport Harbor, OH, Bay City, MI, Chicago, IL, Green Bay, WI, Duluth, MN, Erie, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0267)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7193. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Parts and Accessories Necessary for Safe Operation; Windshield-Mounted Technologies” ((RIN2126-AB94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7194. A communication from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “System Safety Program” ((RIN2130-AC31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7195. A communication from the President of the United States to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to targeted missile strikes on radar facilities in Houthi-controlled territory in Yemen, received during adjournment of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7196. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tolfenpyrad; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 9951-57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7197. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Dichlorimid; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9951-90) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7198. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Acrylic acid-butyl acrylate-styrene copolymer; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 9952-34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7199. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Isotetamid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 9952-59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7200. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Metaldehyde; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9951-78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7201. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Decreased Assessment Rate” (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0084) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7202. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate” (Docket No. AMS-FV-15-0035) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7203. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Implementation of Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Rewards” (RIN0584-AE42) received during adjournment

of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7204. A communication from the Acting Director of the Legislative Affairs Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agricultural Conservation Easement Program" (RIN0578-AA61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7205. A communication from the Chief of the Financial Management and Agreements Division, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Administrative Policy for Non-Assistance Cooperative Agreements" (RIN0518-AA06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7206. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clearing Requirement Determination under Section 2(h) of the Commodity Exchange Act for Interest Rate Swaps" (RIN3038-AE20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7207. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the merger of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs and the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installation and Environment; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7208. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identification (ID) Cards for Members of the Uniformed Services, Their Dependents, and Other Eligible Individuals" (RIN0790-AJ37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7209. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Prohibition on Use of any Cost-Plus System of Contracting for Military Construction and Military Family Housing Projects" ((RIN0750-AI87) (DFARS Case 2015-D040)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7210. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Display of Hotline Posters" ((RIN0750-AI94) (DFARS Case 2016-D018)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7211. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition

Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Network Penetration Reporting and Contracting for Cloud Services" ((RIN0750-AI61) (DFARS Case 2013-D018)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7212. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Rights in Technical Data" ((RIN0750-AI91) (DFARS Case 2016-D008)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7213. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-7214. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of funding for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-7215. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7216. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7217. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7218. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7219. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7220. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7221. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7222. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978, received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7223. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7224. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment Company Swing Pricing" (RIN3235-AL61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7225. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment Company Liquidity Risk Management Programs" (RIN3235-AL61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7226. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment Company Reporting Modernization" (RIN3235-AL42) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7227. A communication from the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bank Enterprise Award System" ((RIN1505-AA91) (12 CFR Part 1806)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7228. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules: The Federal Reserve Board's Framework for Implementing the U.S. Basel III Countercyclical Capital Buffer" (RIN7100-AE43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7229. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community

Eligibility; Louisa County, VA, and Unincorporated Areas” ((44 CFR Part 64) (Docket No. FEMA–2016–0002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7230. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Procedures for Determining Eligibility for Access to Classified Matter or Special Nuclear Material” (RIN1992-AA36) received in the Office of the President of Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7231. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment” (RIN1904-AD65) received in the Office of the President of Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7232. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Certain Categories of General Service Lamps” (RIN1904-AD64) received in the Office of the President of Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7233. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Format and Dimensions of Maps and Drawings Required by the Commission’s Hydropower Program” ((RIN1902-AE90) (Docket No. RM14-20-000)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7234. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reliability Standard for Transmission System Planned Performance for Geomagnetic Disturbance Events” ((RIN1902-0264) (Docket No. RM15-11-000)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7235. A communication from the Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Land Exchange Procedures and Procedures to Amend the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920” (RIN1090-AA98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 29, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7236. A communication from the Conservation Policy Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Non-Subsistence Take of Wildlife, and Public Participation and Closure Procedures, on National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska” (RIN1018-BA31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7237. A communication from the Department Program Director, Office of Acquisition and Property Management, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision to Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment Regulations” (RIN1090-AB12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7238. A communication from the Special Agent in Charge of the Branch of Investigations, Office of Law Enforcement, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Penalties; Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties” (RIN1018-BB32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7239. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Foreign Species Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Taxonomic Correction for the Grand Cayman Ground Iguana” (RIN1018-BB69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7240. A communication from the Acting Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for *Chamaecrista lineata* var. *keyensis* (Big Pine Partridge Pea), *Chamaesyce deltoidea* ssp. *serpyllum* (Wedge Spurge), and *Linum arenicola* (Sand Flax), and Threatened Species Status for *Argythamnia blodgettii* (Blodgett’s Silverbush)” (RIN1018-AZ95) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7241. A communication from the Unified Listing Team Manager, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for 49 Species From the Hawaiian Islands” (RIN1018-BB07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7242. A communication from the Chief of the Listing and Policy Support Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revisions to the Regulations for Petitions” (RIN1018-BA53 and RIN0648-BF06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7243. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for *Lepidium papilliferum* (Slickspot Peppergrass) Throughout Its Range” (RIN1018-BA27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7244. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Suwannee Moccasinshell” (RIN1018-BB09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7245. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Amending the Formats of the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants” (RIN1018-AU62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7246. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Migratory Bird Hunting; Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds” (RIN1018-BA70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7247. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Miami Tiger Beetle (*Cicindelia floridana*)” (RIN1018-BA16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7248. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, the Northern DPS of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog, and the Yosemite Toad” (RIN1018-AY07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7249. A communication from the Acting Manager of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for *Platanthera integrilabia* (White Fringeless Orchid)” (RIN1018-BA93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7250. A communication from the Acting Manager of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Acuna Cactus and the Fickeisen Plains Cactus” (RIN1018-AZ43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7251. A communication from the Acting Manager of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Elfin-woods Warbler with 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BA94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7252. A communication from the Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken Removed From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BB67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7253. A communication from the Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Kentucky Arrow Darter with 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-AZ09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7254. A communication from the Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Kentucky Arrow Darter" (RIN1018-BB05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7255. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for Five Species From American Samoa" (RIN1018-AZ97) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7256. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Aquatic Invasive Species, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing 10 Freshwater Fish and 1 Crayfish" (RIN1018-AY69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7257. A communication from the Manager of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake" (RIN1018-BA98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7258. A communication from the Manager of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and

Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Critical Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet" (RIN1018-BA91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7259. A communication from the Chief of the Wildlife Trade and Conservation Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inclusion of Four Native U.S. Freshwater Turtle Species in Appendix III Of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)" (RIN1018-AZ53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7260. A communication from the Conservation Policy Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2016-2017 Refuge-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations" (RIN1018-BB31) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7261. A communication from the Chief of the Recovery and State Grants Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing the San Miguel Island Fox, Santa Rosa Island Fox, and Santa Cruz Island Fox from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, and Reclassifying the Santa Catalina Island Fox from Endangered to Threatened" (RIN1018-BA71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7262. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Denial of Request for Extension of Attainment Date for 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS; California; San Joaquin Valley Serious Non-attainment Area" (FRL No. 9953-66-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7263. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Missouri's Air Quality Implementation Plans, Operating Permits Program, and 112(1) Plan; Construction Permits Required" (FRL No. 9953-77-Region 7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7264. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Butte County Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9952-17-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7265. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan Revisions to Primary Air Quality Standards, Minor Source Baseline Date, Incorporation by Reference and 2008 Ozone NAAQS Infrastructure Requirements for CAA Section 110(a) (2) (C) and (D) (i) (II); Wyoming" (FRL No. 9953-78-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7266. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Revision of Regulations for Sulfur Content of Fuel Oil" (FRL No. 9953-74-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7267. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Update to the Refrigerant Management Requirements under the Clean Air Act" ((RIN2060-AS51) (FRL No. 9950-28-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7268. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Public Notice Provisions in Clean Air Act Permitting Programs" ((RIN2060-AS59) (FRL No. 9954-10-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7269. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan; California; Calaveras County, Chico (Butte County), San Francisco Bay Area and San Luis Obispo County (Eastern San Luis Obispo) Base Year Emission Inventories for the 2008 Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 9954-20-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7270. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Revisions to the Utah Division of Administrative Rules, R307-300 Series; Area Source Rules for Attainment of Fine Particulate Matter Standards." (FRL No. 9954-14-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7271. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Disapproval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Interstate Transport for Utah" (FRL

No. 9954-13-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7272. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Removal of Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements." (FRL No. 9954-21-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7273. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; KY; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program" (FRL No. 9954-08-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7274. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2016 National Pool" (Rev. Proc. 2016-52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7275. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition to No Rule List for Section 851" (Rev. Proc. 2016-50) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7276. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Election to take disaster loss deduction for preceding year." ((RIN1545-BM03) (TD 9789)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7277. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicable Federal Rates—November 2016" (Rev. Rul. 2016-26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7278. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures under Section 165(i)" (Rev. Proc. 2016-53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7279. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 707 Regarding Disguised Sales, Generally" ((RIN1545-BK29) (TD 9787)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7280. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Per Diem Rates 2016-2017" (Notice 2016-58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7281. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System ("EPCRS") Update" (Rev. Proc. 2016-51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7282. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Credit for Increasing Research Activities" ((RIN1545-BC70) (TD 9786)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7283. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Contingency to Satisfy CRAT Exhaustion Test" (Rev. Proc. 2016-49) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7284. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fringe Benefits Aircraft Valuation Formula" (Rev. Rul. 2016-24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7285. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA): Impact on U.S. Industries and Consumers and on Drug Crop Eradication and Crop Substitution, 2015"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7286. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund" (RIN1505-AC52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7287. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-078); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7288. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-075); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7289. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-046); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7290. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-057); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7291. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-066); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7292. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-067); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7293. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-090); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7294. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-085); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7295. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-070); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7296. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-052); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7297. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 15-138); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7298. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-058); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7299. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Revision of U.S. Munitions List Category XII" (RIN1400-AD32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7300. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Assistance for Palestinian Security Forces and Benchmarks for Palestinian Security Assistance Funds"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7301. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0135 - 2016-0141); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7302. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Student

Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College And Higher Education Grant Program" (RIN1840-AD19) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7303. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Teacher Preparation Issues" (RIN1840-AD07) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7304. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7305. A communication from the Executive Director of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2016 annual report of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7306. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Department of Labor's 2015 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7307. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7308. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Payment of Premiums; Late Payment Penalty Relief" (RIN1212-AB32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7309. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Feed Grade Sodium Formate" (Docket No. FDA-2014-F-0988) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7310. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food and Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals; Definition of Qualified Auditor; Announcement of Effective Date" (Docket Nos. FDA-2011-N-0920 and FDA-2011-N-0922) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7311. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions and Modifications to the List of Drug Products That Have Been Withdrawn or Removed From the Market for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness" ((RIN0910-AH08) (Docket No. FDA-1999-N-0194)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7312. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Custom Devices; Technical Amendment" (Docket No. FDA-2016-N-2518) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7313. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "ONC Health IT Certification Program: Enhanced Oversight and Accountability" (RIN0955-AA00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7314. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-490, "Motor Vehicle Collision Recovery Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7315. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-491, "Safe at Home Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7316. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-492, "Rent Control Hardship Petition Limitation Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7317. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-493, "Wage Theft Prevention Correction and Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7318. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-494, "Interior Design Charitable Event Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7319. A communication from the Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7320. A communication from the Director of Regulation, Legislation, and Interpretation, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishing Paid Sick Leave for Federal Contractors" (RIN1235-AA13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7321. A communication from the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Contracting Out School Food Services Failed to Control Costs as Promised"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7322. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7323. A communication from the Inspector General of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from October 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7324. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Repayment by VA of Educational Loans for Certain Psychiatrists" (RIN2900-AP57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 3, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7325. A communication from the Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans" (RIN2900-AP84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7326. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation, received in the office of the President of the Senate on September 28, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7327. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; 2016 Bigeye Tuna Longline Fishery Closure" (RIN0648-XE719) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7328. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reapportionment of the 2016 Gulf of Alaska Pacific Halibut Prohibited Species Catch Limits for the Trawl Deep-Water and

Shallow-Water Fishery Categories” (RIN0648-XE728) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7329. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Tribal Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas” (RIN0648-BF58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7330. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species; Fishing Effort Limits in Purse Seine Fisheries for 2016” (RIN0648-BF93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7331. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “NASA Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Revised Voucher Submission & Payment Process” (RIN2700-AE34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7332. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Connect America Fund; Universal Service Reform—Mobility Fund; Connect America Fund—Alaska Plan” (RIN3060-AF85) (FCC 16-115) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7333. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities” (RIN1018-BA99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7334. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Disclosure of Written Consumer Product Warranty Terms and Conditions; Pre-Sale Availability of Written Warranty Terms” (RIN3084-AB24 and RIN3084-AB25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7335. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations; Atchafalaya River,

Morgan City, LA” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0757)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7336. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations; Ohio River, Madison, IN” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0717)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7337. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations; International Jet Sports Boating Association; Lake Havasu City, AZ” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0733)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7338. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulations and Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays within the Fifth Coast Guard District” ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0854)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7339. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; 22nd International Seapower Symposium Special Events, Rosecliff Mansion and Newport Marriott Hotel, Newport, RI” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0813)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7340. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Security Zone; 22nd International Seapower Symposium, Goat Island, Newport, RI” ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0790)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7341. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; New River, Fort Lauderdale, FL” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2015-0271)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7342. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Keweenaw Waterway, Houghton and Hancock, MI” ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0582)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7343. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Diving Operations, Delaware River, Philadelphia, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0899)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7344. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Allegheny River, Ohio River, Monongahela River, Pittsburgh, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0912)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7345. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Dredging, Shark River, NJ” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0824)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7346. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; 100th Ore Dock Anniversary Celebration; Chequamegon Bay, Ashland, WI” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0918)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7347. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Main Branch of the Chicago River, Chicago, IL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0883)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7348. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Temporary Change to Date and Location for Recurring Pittsburgh Steelers Fireworks Display within the Eighth Coast Guard District, Pittsburgh, PA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0895)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7349. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza, Capitola, CA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0825)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7350. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled

“Safety Zone; Arkansas River, Little Rock, AR” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0885)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7351. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; South Branch of the Chicago River and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, Chicago, IL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-08451)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7352. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Columbia River, Sand Island, WA” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0818)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7353. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; Navy UNDET, Apra Outer Harbor, GU” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0791)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7354. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; M/V Zhen Hua, Blount Island Marine Terminal Crane Movement; St. Johns River, Jacksonville, FL” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0828)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7355. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; The Perry Group Fireworks Display, Put-in-Bay, OH” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0822)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 5, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7356. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Special Local Regulation; Ohio River, Owensboro, KY” ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0864)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7357. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (44); Amdt. No. 3712” ((RIN2120-AA65)) received dur-

ing adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7358. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (32); Amdt. No. 3713” ((RIN2120-AA65)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7359. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (25); Amdt. No. 3714” ((RIN2120-AA65)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7360. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (67); Amdt. No. 3711” ((RIN2120-AA65)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7361. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E; Tekamah, NE” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6989)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7362. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E; Indiana, PA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6138)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7363. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E; Glasgow, KY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6134)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7364. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Hagerstown, MD” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4513)) received during adjournment

of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7365. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace, Falmouth, MA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5444)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7366. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Colored Federal Airway B-1; Alaska” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-4648)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7367. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class E Airspace; Napa, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5574)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7368. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6640)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7369. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-3629)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7370. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 529” ((RIN2120-AA63)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7371. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Continental Motors, Inc. Reciprocating Engines” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-0069)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7372. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cancellation of Standard Instrument Approach Procedures as Part of the National Procedures Assessment (NPA) Initiative" (RIN2120-AA65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7373. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8471) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7374. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6148) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7375. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aerosystems) Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9114) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7376. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turboprop and Turboshaft Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-4866) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7377. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6551) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7378. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9168) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7379. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5872) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7380. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5307) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7381. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; REIMS AVIATION S.A. Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-8161) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7382. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8470) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7383. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-6418) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7384. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-8132) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7385. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5039) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7386. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" (RIN2120-

AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0828) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7387. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-9116) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7388. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-3703) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7389. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-5042) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7390. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2015-0935) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7391. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1068) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7392. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2016-3992) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-208. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Texas expressing support for the study and regulation of modern agricultural technologies and expressing opposition to regulatory action that results in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 642

Whereas, A sustainable agricultural system is crucial to the continued production of food, feed, and fiber to meet both domestic and global demand; and

Whereas, In the United States, the agriculture and production industries employ precision farming equipment, protection chemistries, genetic engineering or enhancement, agricultural nutrients and other modern technologies; such advanced practices protect the safety of the public an environmental impact while expanding yields improving profitability, and ensuring an abundant and afford supply; and

Whereas, Agricultural pests present significant dangers to the industry and to global supplies of the products, they attack; accordingly, the environmental risks of forgoing advances in agricultural technologies that protect crops are severe; excessive regulation may scuttle or discourage the use of agricultural chemicals that could improve human welfare;

Whereas, Crop protection is among the most studied and highly regulated of all industries, at both the state and federal levels; the use of sound science should be the bedrock of our nation's regulatory scheme for the agriculture and food production industries, as these industries are critical to the economic vitality of Texas and the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby express support for the use of sound science to study and regulate such modern agricultural technologies as crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered or enhanced traits, and nutrients; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate express opposition to legislative or regulatory action at any level that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of the State forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-209. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to rectify the revenue sharing inequalities between coastal and interior energy producing states; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 66

Whereas, since 1920, interior states have been allowed to keep fifty percent of the oil, gas, and coal production revenues generated in their states from mineral production on federal lands within their borders, including royalties, severance taxes, and bonuses; and

Whereas, coastal states with onshore and offshore oil and gas production face inequities under the federal energy policies because those coastal states have not been

party to this same level of revenue sharing partnership with the federal government; and

Whereas, coastal energy producing states have a limited partnership with the federal government that provides for them to retain very little revenue generated from their offshore energy production, energy that is produced for use throughout the nation; and

Whereas, in 2006 congress passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) that will fully go into effect in 2017; an act that calls for a sharing of thirty-seven and five tenths percent of coastal production revenues with four gulf states with a cap of five hundred million dollars per year; and

Whereas, the Fixing America's Inequities with Revenues (FAIR) Act would have addressed the inequity suffered by coastal oil and gas producing states by accelerating the implementation of GOMESA as well as by gradually lifting all revenue sharing caps but the legislation died with the close of the previous congress; and

Whereas, with the state and its offshore waters taken alone, Louisiana is the ninth largest producer of oil in the United States in 2014 while including offshore oil from federal waters, it was the second largest oil producer in the country; and when taken alone Louisiana was the fourth largest producer of gas in the United States in 2013 while including the Gulf of Mexico waters, it was the second largest producer in the United States; and

Whereas, with nineteen operating refineries in the state, Louisiana was second only to Texas as of January 2014 in both total and operating refinery capacity, accounting for nearly one-fifth of the nation's total refining capacity; and

Whereas, Louisiana's contributions to the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve with two facilities located in the state consisting of twenty-nine caverns capable of holding nearly three hundred million barrels of crude oil; and

Whereas, with three onshore liquified natural gas facilities, more than any other state in the country, and the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, the nation's only deepwater oil port, Louisiana plays an essential role in the movement of natural gas from the United States Gulf Coast region to markets throughout the country; and

Whereas, it is apparent that Louisiana plays an essential role in supplying the nation with energy and it is vital to the security of our nation's energy supply, roles that should be recognized and compensated at an appropriate revenue sharing level; and

Whereas, the majority of the oil and gas production from the Gulf of Mexico enters the United States through coastal Louisiana with all of the infrastructure necessary to receive and transport such production, infrastructure that has for many decades damaged the coastal areas of Louisiana, an impact that should be compensated through appropriate revenue sharing with the federal government; and

Whereas, because Louisiana is losing more coastal wetlands than any other state in the country, in 2006 the people of Louisiana overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment dedicating revenues received from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas activity to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly impacted by coastal wetland losses; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana has developed a science-based "Comprehensive Master

Plan for a Sustainable Coast" which identifies and prioritizes the most efficient and effective projects in order to meet the state's critical coastal protection and restoration needs; and

Whereas, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is making great progress implementing the projects in the "Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast" with all available funding, projects that are essential to the protection of the infrastructure that is critical to the energy needs of the United States; and

Whereas, in order to properly compensate the coastal states for the infrastructure demands that result from production of energy and fuels that heat and cool the nation's homes, offices, and businesses and fuel the nation's transportation needs, revenue sharing for coastal states needs to be at the same rate as interior states that produce oil, gas, and coal. Therefore, be it

Resolved That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to treat mineral and gas production in the Gulf Coastal states in a manner that is at least equal to onshore oil, gas, and coal production in interior states for revenue purposes; and to rectify the revenue sharing inequities between coastal and interior energy producing states in order to address the nationally significant crisis of wetland loss in the state of Louisiana. Be it further

Resolved That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-210. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts supporting the friendship between Massachusetts and Taiwan in the international community; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, the United States and Taiwan share an important relationship supported by common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and a free market economy; and

Whereas, President Ma Ying-Jeou has worked to uphold democratic principles in Taiwan, ensure the prosperity of Taiwan's more than 23 million people, promote Taiwan's international standing and improve relations between the United States and Taiwan; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth has enjoyed a close friendship with Taiwan, marked by strong bilateral trade, educational and cultural exchange, scientific and technological development and tourism; and

Whereas, New England has exported more than \$1 billion in goods to Taiwan of which the Commonwealth exported \$825 million in commodities, mostly in machinery, computer and electronic products and chemicals; and

Whereas, the United States has maintained and developed its commercial ties with Taiwan since 1979 and Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States while the United States is Taiwan's largest foreign investor; and

Whereas, Taiwan has been a member of the United States Visa Waiver Program since November 1, 2012, reflecting the cooperation between the United States and Taiwan and making travel for business and tourism more convenient; and

Whereas, Taiwan has made significant contributions toward peace in the region

through discussions regarding the use of resources in the surrounding seas; and

Whereas, Taiwan is a key transport hub in the Asia-Pacific region and has jurisdiction over the 176,000 square nautical miles of the Taipei Flight Information region and has attended the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, assembly as a special guest since 2013; and

Whereas, Taiwan is committed to ICAO standards and seeks to expand its meaningful participation in the ICAO including attending technical and regional meetings and related activities; and

Whereas, Taiwan strives to be included in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has expressed a keen interest in the global effort to address climate change; Now therefore be it,

Resolved, That the Massachusetts General Court hereby reaffirms the friendship between the Commonwealth and Taiwan; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, to the Presiding Officer of each branch of Congress and the members thereof from the Commonwealth, to the Honorable Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth, to the Honorable Ma Ying-Jeou, President of Taiwan and Scott Lai, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the city of Boston.

POM-211. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado concerning atrocities against Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-1913

Whereas, Those who commit or support atrocities against Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities, including Yezidis, Turkmen, Sabean-Mandeans, Kaka'e, Shi'a, and Kurds, and who target them specifically for ethnic or religious reasons, intend to exterminate or to force the migration or submission of anyone who does not share their views concerning religion; and

Whereas, Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities have been an integral part of the cultural fabric of the Middle East for millennia; and

Whereas, Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities have been murdered; subjugated; forced to emigrate; and have suffered grievous bodily and psychological harm, including sexual enslavement and abuse, inflicted in a deliberate and calculated manner in violation of the laws of their respective nations, the laws of war, laws and treaties forbidding crimes against humanity, and the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, signed in Paris on December 9, 1948 (the Convention); and

Whereas, These atrocities are undertaken with the specific intent to bring about the eradication and displacement of their communities and the destruction of their cultural heritage in violation of local laws, the laws of war, laws and treaties that punish crimes against humanity, and the Convention; and

Whereas, Local, national, and international laws and treaties, as well as the Convention, condemn murder, massacre, forced migration, extrajudicial punishment, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, torture, rape, and persecution of individuals based upon their religion, and these crimes shall be punished, whether they are com-

mitted by constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials, or private individuals; and

Whereas, Article I of the Convention and international and local laws confirm that genocide and crimes against humanity, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, are crimes that governmental authorities are obligated to prevent and to punish; and

Whereas, Article II of the Convention declares that "genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; [and] (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group"; and

Whereas, Article III of the Convention affirms that "the following acts shall be punishable: (a) Genocide; (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide; (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide; (d) Attempt to commit genocide; [and] (e) Complicity in genocide"; and

Whereas, A March 13, 2015, report of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights prepared at the request of the Government of Iraq stated "[e]thnic and religious groups targeted by ISIL include Yezidis, Christians, Turkmen, Sabean-Mandeans, Kaka'e, Kurds and Shi'a" and that "[i]t is reasonable to conclude that some of the incidents [in Iraq in 2014-2015] . . . may constitute genocide"; and

Whereas, Attacks on Yezidis included the mass killing of men and boys and the enslavement and forcible transfer of women and children; and

Whereas, On July 10, 2015, Pope Francis, Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, declared that Middle Eastern Christians are facing genocide, a reality that must be "denounced", and that "[i]n this third world war, waged piecemeal, which we are now experiencing, a form of genocide is taking place, and it must end"; now, therefore, Be It

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That we, the members of the General Assembly, find that:

(1) The atrocities committed against Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities who are targeted specifically for religious reasons constitute, and are hereby declared to be, crimes against humanity and genocide; and

(2) Each of the contracting parties to the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, signed in Paris on December 9, 1948, and to other international agreements forbidding war crimes and crimes against humanity, particularly the governments of countries and their nationals who are in any way supporting these crimes, are reminded of their legal obligations under the Convention and those international agreements; and

(3) Every government and multinational body should call the atrocities being committed in the name of religion by their rightful names—"crimes against humanity", "war crimes", and "genocide"; and

(4) The United Nations and the United Nations Secretary-General should assert lead-

ership by calling the atrocities being committed in these places by their rightful names—"war crimes", "crimes against humanity", and "genocide"; and

(5) The member states of the United Nations, with an urgent appeal to the Arab States that wish to uphold religious freedom, tolerance, and justice:

(A) Should join in this resolution;

(B) Should collaborate on measures to prevent further war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; and

(C) Should collaborate on the establishment and operation of domestic, regional, and international tribunals to punish those responsible for the ongoing crimes; and

(6) The governments of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Lebanese Republic, and other countries, including Turkey, Greece, the United States of America, and the member states of the European Union, are commended for having sheltered and protected those fleeing the violence of ISIS (Daesh) and other extremists until they can safely return to their homes in Iraq and Syria; and

(7) All those who force the migration of religious communities from their ancestral homelands, where they have lived and practiced their faith in safety and stability for hundreds of years—including specifically the Nineveh Plain, a historic heartland of Christianity in Iraq, and Mount Sinjar, the historic home of the Yezidis—should be tracked, sanctioned, arrested, prosecuted, and punished in accordance with the laws of the place where their crimes were committed and under applicable international criminal statutes and conventions. Be It Further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Barack Obama; Vice President Joe Biden; Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate; Harry Reid, Minority Leader, United States Senate; Paul Ryan, Speaker, United States House of Representatives; Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader, United States House of Representatives; Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives; Colorado's congressional delegation; the Syrian American Council; the African Community Center of Denver; Lutheran Family Services; the Colorado Coalition for Genocide Awareness and Action; the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation; the St. Rafka Mission of Hope and Mercy; former Colorado State Senator Thomas J. Wiens; Peter Boyles; and Father Andre Y. Mahanna.

POM-212. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts calling on the United States Congress to consider nationwide adoption of Massachusetts firearms laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, on the most recent scorecard of state gun laws prepared by the Law Center to prevent gun violence, the Commonwealth received the highest letter grade awarded, an A-, and ranked fifth overall in the country; and

Whereas, the Violence Policy Center reports that the Commonwealth has the third lowest gun death rate in the nation; and

Whereas, shootings in Orlando, Florida, Charleston, South Carolina, Newtown, Connecticut and Aurora, Colorado have sparked a national debate on gun violence prevention; and

Whereas, progress by the Commonwealth to reduce gun deaths is unsupported by states with less rigorous standards and by a lack of a clear, uniform, and sensible national reform; and

Whereas, it is in the interest of all who reside in the Commonwealth to ensure that our existing laws are enforced and not undercut by neighboring states; Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Massachusetts Senate calls upon the leadership of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to carefully examine and consider for adoption the model set forth in current Massachusetts firearms law; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the United States Senate and to the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation.

POM-213. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma urging the Congress of the United States, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states for the purpose of proposing amendments to the United States Constitution related to balancing the federal budget, imposing fiscal restraints on the federal government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limiting the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, the founders of the Constitution of the United States, through the enactment of Article V, empowered state legislators to be guardians of liberty against future abuses of power by the federal government; and

Whereas, the federal government has created a crushing national debt through improper and imprudent spending; and

Whereas, the federal government has invaded the legitimate roles of the states through the manipulative process of federal mandates, most of which are unfunded to a great extent; and

Whereas, the federal government has ceased to live under a proper interpretation of the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, it is the solemn duty of the states to protect the liberty of our people, particularly for the generations to come, by proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States through a convention of the states under Article V of the United States Constitution to place clear restraints on these and related abuses of power; and

Whereas, the citizens of the State of Oklahoma believe that it is in the best interest of the people of the United States to amend the United States Constitution in order to adopt a balanced budget amendment and to address the areas of overreach of the federal government; and

Whereas, as early as 1976, the Thirty-fifth Oklahoma Legislature enacted House Joint Resolution No. 1049, calling for an Article V Convention for the purpose of preparing and submitting to the states an amendment "requiring in the absence of a national emergency that the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenue for that fiscal year"; and

Whereas, the Thirty-fifth Oklahoma Legislature acknowledged in House Joint Resolution No. 1049 the critical need for a federal balanced budget amendment with the prophetic statement "believing that fiscal irresponsibility at the federal level, with the inflation which results from this policy, is the greatest threat which faces our nation, we

firmly believe that constitutional restraint is necessary to bring the fiscal discipline needed to restore fiscal responsibility"; and

Whereas, pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, each state may request Congress to provide for a convention to propose amendments. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 2nd Session of the 55th Oklahoma Legislature:

Section 1. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby makes two separate applications to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States. The first such application is set forth in Sections 2 through 5 of this resolution. The second such application is set forth in Sections 6 through 9 of this resolution.

Section 2. The Oklahoma Legislature hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring that in the absence of a national emergency the total of all federal appropriations made by the Congress for any fiscal year may not exceed the total of all estimated federal revenues for that fiscal year, together with any related and appropriate fiscal restraints.

Section 3. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives from this state; also to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of the legislative houses in several states, requesting their cooperation.

Section 4. This application is to be considered as covering the same subject matter as the presently outstanding balanced budget applications from other states, including, but not limited to, previously adopted applications from Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and West Virginia; and this application shall be aggregated with same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds (⅔) of states necessary to require the calling of a convention, but shall not be aggregated with any applications on any other subject.

Section 5. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds (⅔) of the several states have made applications on the same subject, or until December 31, 2023, whichever occurs earlier. It supersedes all previous applications by this Legislature on the same subject.

Section 6. The Legislature of the State of Oklahoma hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

Section 7. This application shall be aggregated with the applications of Georgia (SR736, 2014), Florida (SM476, 2014), Alaska (HJR22, 2014), Alabama (HJR112, 2015), Ten-

nessee (SJR67, 2016) and Indiana (SJR14, 2016) together with any future applications for a convention for the specific and exclusive purpose of proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States limited to the purposes stated herein.

Section 8. The Secretary of State is hereby directed to transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to transmit copies to the members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives from this state, and to transmit copies hereof to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

Section 9. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds (⅔) of the several states have made applications on the same subject, or until December 31, 2023, whichever occurs earlier.

POM-214. A resolution adopted by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, urging the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to repeal its prohibition on men who have had sex with men within 12 months from donating blood; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-215. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to an amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of September 29, 2016, the following reports of committees were submitted on October 27, 2016:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2418. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering online recruitment of violent extremists (Rept. No. 114-365).

S. 1526. A bill to amend title 10 and title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for construction and design services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, to amend title 31 and 41, United States Code, to improve the payment protections available to construction contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers for work performed, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-366).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1717. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to exempt old vessels that only operate within inland waterways from the fire-retardant materials requirement if the owners of such vessels make annual structural alterations to at least 10 percent of the areas of the vessels that are not constructed of fire-retardant materials (Rept. No. 114-367).

S. 1916. A bill to include skilled nursing facilities as a type of health care provider under section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (Rept. No. 114-368).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,

with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2325. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and to support collection of priority coastal geospatial data to inform and improve local, State, regional, and Federal capacities to manage the coastal region, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-369).

S. 1551. A bill to provide for certain requirements relating to the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority stewardship transition.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1490. A bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-370).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2219. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-371).

S. 3088. A bill to provide a deadline for compliance with an alternate safety compliance program and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-372).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2564. A bill to modernize prior legislation relating to Dine College (Rept. No. 114-373).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2. A bill to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor to James C. McCloughan for acts of valor during the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. CAPITO:

S. 3. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional new markets tax credits for distressed coal communities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KIRK, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. BURR):

S.J. Res. 40. A joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S.J. Res. 41. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 217

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to protect a woman's right to determine whether and when to bear a child or end a pregnancy by limiting restrictions on the provision of abortion services.

S. 578

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 578, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive co-insurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 689

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow deductions and credits relating to expenditures in connection with marijuana sales conducted in compliance with State law.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exempt from registration brokers performing services in connection with the transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the

Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

S. 1139

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1302, a bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1512, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1679

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1679, a bill to amend the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 to require that certain buildings and personal property be covered by flood insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1715

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1715, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims.

S. 2031

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2031, a bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2033

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2033, a bill to provide that 6 of the 12 weeks of parental leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2175, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of podiatrists in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2253

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2253, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide veterans affected by closures of educational institutions certain relief and restoration of educational benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2275

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2275, a bill to provide for automatic acquisition of United States citizenship for certain internationally adopted individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 2332

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2332, a bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to establish a permanent background check system.

S. 2346

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2346, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily allow expensing of certain costs of replanting citrus plants lost by reason of casualty.

S. 2424

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2427, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 2595

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator

from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 2679

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2679, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn pits.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2782

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2782, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of pediatric subspecialists in the National Health Service Corps program, and for other purposes.

S. 2912

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2912, a bill to authorize the use of unapproved medical products by patients diagnosed with a terminal illness in accordance with State law, and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2932, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the provision of emergency medical services.

S. 2934

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of S. 2934, a bill to ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the national instant criminal background check system and require a background check for every firearm sale.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 3042

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3042, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the scope of procedural rights of members of the uniformed services with respect to their employment and reemployment rights, and for other purposes.

S. 3043

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3043, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program establishing a patient self-scheduling appointment system, and for other purposes.

S. 3111

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3111, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the 7.5 percent threshold for the medical expense deduction for individuals age 65 or older.

S. 3115

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3115, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to a national pediatric research network.

S. 3124

At the request of Mrs. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3124, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 3130

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3130, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a permanent Independence at Home medical practice program under the Medicare program.

S. 3162

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3162, a bill to

provide for the consideration of energy storage systems by electric utilities as part of a supply side resource process, and for other purposes.

S. 3179

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3179, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and extend the credit for carbon dioxide sequestration.

S. 3183

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3183, a bill to prohibit the circumvention of control measures used by Internet ticket sellers to ensure equitable consumer access to tickets for any given event, and for other purposes.

S. 3198

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3198, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the provision of adult day health care services for veterans.

S. 3203

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3203, a bill to provide for economic development and access to resources in Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 3240

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3240, a bill to prohibit the use of premiums paid to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation as an offset for other Federal spending.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3281, a bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

S. 3295

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3295, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

S. 3304

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3304, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3304, *supra*.

S. 3328

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Min-

nesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3328, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reform the rights and processes relating to appeals of decisions regarding claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3348

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3348, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require candidates of major parties for the office of President to disclose recent tax return information.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to amend section 2709 of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that the Government may obtain a specified set of electronic communication transactional records under that section, and to make permanent the authority for individual terrorists to be treated as agents of foreign powers under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

S. 3371

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3371, a bill to amend titles II, XVIII, and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the affordability and enrollment procedures of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3421

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3421, a bill to require air carriers to provide all flight attendants with scheduled rest periods of at least 10 consecutive hours between duty periods and to comply with fatigue management plans for flight attendants that have been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.

S. 3431

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3431, a bill to coordinate and advance fibrosis research activities at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

S. 3436

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3436, a bill to prevent

proposed regulations relating to restrictions on liquidation of an interest with respect to estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes from taking effect.

S. 3441

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3441, a bill to provide for the vacating of certain convictions and expungement of certain arrests of victims of human trafficking.

S. 3464

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3464, a bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 537

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 537, a resolution expressing profound concern about the ongoing political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela, urging the release of political prisoners, and calling for respect of constitutional and democratic processes.

S. RES. 590

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 590, a resolution commemorating 100 years of health care services provided by Planned Parenthood.

S. RES. 612

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 612, a resolution recognizing the Weatherization Assistance Program during its 40th anniversary year for its history of reducing the energy costs of families with low incomes, making low-income households healthier and safer, positively impacting the environment, and supporting jobs and new technology.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC
WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 15, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., in the President's Room of the Capitol.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS
MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2016 third quarter Mass Mailing report is Tuesday, October 25, 2016. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable pdf document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically or delivered to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Senate Office of Public Records is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

NOTICE OF ADOPTED
RULEMAKING

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached documentation from the Office of Compliance be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2016.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Section 303 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), 2 U.S.C. 1383, requires that, with regard to the amendment of the rules governing the procedures of the Office, the Executive Director "shall, subject to the approval of the Board [of Directors], adopt rules governing the procedures of the Office . . ." and "[u]pon adopting rules . . . shall transmit notice of such action together with a copy of such rules to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate for publication in the Congressional Record on the first day of which both Houses are in session following such transmittal."

Having published a general notice of proposed rulemaking in the Congressional Record on September 9, 2014, provided a comment period of at least 30 days after publication of such notice, and obtained the approval of the Board of Directors for the adoption of these rules as required by Section 303(a) and (b) of the CAA, 2 U.S.C. 1383(a) and (b), I am transmitting the attached Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance to the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate for publication in the Senate section of the Congressional Record on the first day on which both Houses are in session following the receipt of this transmittal. In accordance with Section

303(b) of the CAA, these amendments to the Procedural Rules shall be considered issued by the Executive Director and in effect as of the date on which they are published in the Congressional Record.

Any inquiries regarding this notice should be addressed to Barbara J. Sapin, Executive Director of the Office of Compliance, Room LA-200, 110 2nd Street, S.E., Washington, DC 20540.

Sincerely,

BARBARA J. SAPIN,
Executive Director,
Office of Compliance.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
THE OFFICE OF COMPLIANCENOTICE OF ADOPTED RULEMAKING ("NARM"),
ADOPTED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES
OF PROCEDURE, NOTICE OF ADOPTED
RULEMAKING, AS REQUIRED BY 2
U.S.C. §1383, THE CONGRESSIONAL AC-
COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995, AS
AMENDED ("CAA").

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

On September 9, 2014, a Notice of Proposed Amendments to the Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance ("Office" or "OOC"), as amended in June 2004 ("2004 Procedural Rules" or "2004 Rules") was published in the Congressional Record at S5437, and H7372. As required under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 ("Act") at section 303(b) (2 U.S.C. 1383(b)), a 30 day period for comments from interested parties followed. In response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Office received a number of comments regarding the proposed amendments. Specifically, the Office received comments from the Committee on House Administration, the Office of the Senate Chief Counsel for Employment, the U.S. Capitol Police, the Architect of the Capitol, and the U.S. Capitol Police Labor Committee.

The Executive Director and the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance have reviewed all comments received regarding the Notice, have made certain additional changes to the proposed amendments in response thereto, and herewith issue the final Amended Procedural Rules (Rules) as authorized by section 303(b) of the Act, which states in part: "Rules shall be considered issued by the Executive Director as of the date on which they are published in the Congressional Record." See, 2 U.S.C. 1383(b).

These Procedural Rules of the Office of Compliance may be found on the Office's web site: www.compliance.gov.

Supplementary Information: The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA), PL 104-1, was enacted into law on January 23, 1995. The CAA applies the rights and protections of 13 federal labor and employment statutes to covered employees and employing offices within the Legislative Branch of Government. Section 301 of the CAA (2 U.S.C. 1381) established the Office of Compliance as an independent office within that Branch. Section 303 (2 U.S.C. 1383) directed that the Executive Director, as the Chief Operating Officer of the agency, adopt rules of procedure governing the Office of Compliance, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance. The rules of procedure generally establish the process by which alleged violations of the laws made applicable to the Legislative Branch under the CAA will be considered and resolved. The rules include procedures for counseling, mediation, and election between filing an administrative complaint with the Office of Compliance or filing a civil action in U.S. District Court. The rules also include

the procedures for processing Occupational Safety and Health investigations and enforcement, as well as the process for the conduct of administrative hearings held as the result of the filing of an administrative complaint under all of the statutes applied by the Act, for appeals of a decision by a Hearing Officer to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, and for the filing of an appeal of a decision by the Board of Directors to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The rules also contain other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operation of the Office of Compliance.

The Office's response and discussion of the comments is presented below:

Discussion

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF
THE RULES

There were a number of comments submitted in reference to the proposed amendments made to Subpart A, General Provisions of the Rules. With respect to the amendments to the Filing and Computation of Time under section 1.03(a), one commenter noted that the provisions allowing the Board, Hearing Officer, Executive Director and General Counsel to determine the method by which documents may be filed in a particular proceeding "in their discretion" are overly broad. The commenter also requested clarification on whether there would be different methods used for filing in the same case, whether five (5) additional days would be added regardless of the type of service, and whether the OOC would inform the opposing party of the prescribed dates for a response.

The Office does not find as overly broad the amendment allowing the Board, Hearing Officer, Executive Director, and General Counsel the discretion to determine the method by which documents may be filed. The 2004 version of these Rules, as well as the CAA, confer the Office and independent Hearing Officers with wide discretion in conducting hearings and other processes. The Office further finds that there is no need to clarify whether different methods can be used in the same case, as long as whatever method chosen is made clear to parties. Finally, as the Rules are clear that five additional days will be added when documents are served by mail, the Office does not believe that it is necessary to include a requirement that the OOC inform parties of the specific dates that are required for response. That information can be ascertained from information on the method of filing.

As the OOC has indicated that it intends to move toward electronic filing, one commenter voiced support for the Office's decision to permit parties to file electronically. However, the commenter indicated that it would be beneficial for the proposed Rules to contain procedures for storing electronic material in a manner that will protect confidentiality and ensure compliance with section 416 of the CAA.

The Office routinely handles all materials in a secure and confidential manner, regardless of the format. Because the Office's confidential document management is covered in its own standard operating procedures, there is no need to include those procedures in these Rules.

Section 1.03(a)(2)(ii) of the Proposed Rules provided that documents other than requests for mediation that are mailed were deemed to be filed on the date of their postmark. However, mailed requests for mediation were to be deemed filed on the date they were received in the Office. (1.03(a)(2)(i)) This was a

proposed change to the Rules that had established the date of filing for requests for mediation and complaints as the date when they were received in the Office. One commenter asserted that in changing the date of filing for complaints served by mail from the date received in the Office to the date of the postmark, the rules gave a covered employee an additional five days to file an OOC complaint. Upon review of all comments, the Office has determined that, because mail delivery on the Capitol campus is irregular due to security measures, it is best to use the date of postmark as the date of filing. This will ensure that all filings that under ordinary circumstances would be timely would not be deemed untimely because of any delay in mail delivery on the Hill. This includes the filing of a request for mediation, which will be deemed received in the Office as the date of postmark. In using the postmark as the date of filing for all mailed documents, the Office sees no advantage gained in one method of filing over the other, but rather views this as a way of curtailing any disadvantage to those who use mail for filing at a time when there are often significant delays in mail delivery to offices on the Hill.

In sections 1.03(a)(3) and (4) of the Proposed Rules, the Office changed the filing deadline for fax and electronic submissions from 5:00 pm Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period to 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period. One commenter noted that while submissions under section 1.03(a)(3) require in person hand delivery by 5:00 p.m., this deadline is inconsistent with the 11:59 p.m. deadline required for faxed and electronically filed documents. The commenter stated that the filing deadlines should be the same for all types of delivery and receipt options.

This is not an unusual situation. Often there are different filing deadlines, depending on the mode of delivery. However, to ensure consistency, the Office has changed the language so that the same time will be used for filing all documents coming into the Office.

Under Proposed Rule section 1.03(a)(4), commenters noted that there was ambiguity regarding email time display and one commenter proposed the addition of a new rule requiring prompt acknowledgement of the receipt of an emailed document to ensure that it has been received by the parties.

In view of this comment, the Office added language to the Adopted Rules, providing that when the Office serves a document electronically, the service date and time will be based on the document's timestamp information. No further change is necessary. Confirmation of the transmittal of a document can be shown from the date and timestamp on the email, which is typically more reliable than a recipient's acknowledgment.

One commenter noted that under Proposed Rule section 1.03(c), there should be some way of notifying parties when the Office is "officially closed for business." The Office determined that it is not necessary to include in the Procedural Rules how the Office will notify parties of closures. The Office generally follows the Office of Personnel Management closure policy with respect to inclement weather and other official government closures. Further, information on the Office's closures appears on the Office's website at www.compliance.gov and is provided on the Office's mainline at 202.724.9250.

In response to the proposed changes to the new section 1.06 (formerly section 1.04) in the Proposed Rules, several commenters indicated that while records of Hearing Officers

may be made public if required for the purposes of judicial review under Section 407, the Procedural Rules do not address circumstances where records are also necessary for purposes of civil action review under section 408 for res judicata purposes.

After review of these comments, the Office believes that this concern is adequately addressed in the Adopted Rules. Section 1.08(d), includes a broader statement concerning the appropriate use of records in other proceedings, and allows the submission of a Hearing Officer's decision in another proceeding, as long as the requirements in section 1.08(d) are met. Nothing in these Rules prohibits a party or its representative from disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings when it is reasonably necessary to investigate claims, ensure compliance with the Act or prepare a prosecution or defense. While section 1.08(d) does allow for the submission of Hearing Officer decisions under the appropriate circumstances, it also serves to preserve the confidentiality of these records. Thus, the party making the disclosure shall take all reasonably appropriate steps to ensure that persons to whom the information is disclosed maintain the confidentiality of such information.

With respect to the new section 1.07, Designation of a Representative, a commenter noted that the requirement that only one person could be designated as a representative was problematic since there have been situations when more than one attorney would be needed to represent an employing office or employee. The suggestion was made that the limitations apply only to a party for point of contact purposes. As the purpose of limiting the number of designated representatives was to eliminate any confusion caused by having to serve more than one representative per party, the Office has modified the language to indicate that only one representative may be designated to receive service.

There were several comments to section 1.07(c) of the Proposed Regulations. The proposals to section 1.07(c) provided that in the event of a revocation of a designation of representative, the Executive Director, OOC General Counsel, Mediator, Hearing Officer or OOC Board has the discretion to grant a party "additional time . . . to allow the party to designate a new representative as consistent with the Act." The commenters noted that the CAA is a waiver of sovereign immunity that must be strictly construed and that there is no discretion to extend statutory deadlines to give a party time to designate a new representative, including time to request counseling under section 402, to request and complete mediation under section 403, to file a complaint or initiate a civil action under section 404, or to file an appeal under section 406 of the CAA. Commenters urged that the rule be modified to clarify this point.

As the adopted language notes that additional time may be granted *only as consistent with the CAA*, it should be clear that in granting any additional time to designate a new representative, the Executive Director, OOC General Counsel, Mediator, Hearing Officer or OOC Board will ensure that statutory deadlines are observed.

Deletion of the section 1.07 of the 2004 Procedural Rules, the breach of confidentiality provision, generated the most comments. Commenters generally noted that the Proposed Procedural Rules would eliminate the existing process for filing a complaint based on violation of the confidentiality provisions of section 416 of the CAA. The effect of this

proposed rule change would be that, if there was a confidentiality breach, a party could obtain relief only pursuant to an "agreement" facilitated by the Mediator during the mediation period or through sanctions issued by a Hearing Officer during a section 405 proceeding (see Proposed Procedural Rules sections 2.04(k) and 7.12(b)). Commenters expressed concern that under the Proposed Rules, if an individual violated section 416 of the CAA at any other time in the process, no remedy would be available. Most commenters felt that this was inconsistent with the confidentiality requirements of the CAA, and that the Procedural Rules should include a complaint procedure for resolving independent violations of section 416. For example, one commenter noted that, under the Proposed Procedural Rules, if parties agree to a settlement during mediation, there is no remedy available to the employing office if the employee decides to publicize the terms of the settlement or any statements made during mediation. Similarly, if a covered employee never initiates a section 405 proceeding, but instead drops the matter or initiates a section 408 proceeding, the Proposed Procedural Rules would allow the employee to publicize any statements made during mediation, with no fear of sanction. The uncertainty regarding confidentiality would result in parties being less candid in mediation and, thereby, undermine it as a dispute resolution process.

Section 1.07 of the 2004 Procedural Rules, permitting the filing with the Executive Director of stand-alone complaints of violation of the confidentiality provisions, has been deleted because the OOC Board held, as a matter of statutory interpretation of the CAA, that it did not have the statutory authority to independently resolve a breach of confidentiality action brought under the Procedural Rules, without the existence of an underlying complaint under section 405 of the CAA. *Taylor v. U.S. Senate Budget Comm.* No. 10-SN-31 (CFD), 2012 WL 588440 (OOC Board Feb. 14, 2012); see *Massa v. Katz & Rickher*, No. 10-HS-59 (CFD) (OOC Board May 8, 2012) (dismissing complaint alleging breach of confidentiality on subject-matter jurisdiction grounds because the complainant "never filed a complaint [under section 405 of the CAA] against an employing office alleging violation of sections 201-207 of the CAA."). In other words, the Board's authority to adjudicate a breach of confidentiality is limited to employment rights proceedings initiated by a complaint filed by a covered employee against an employing office alleging violations of laws specifically incorporated by the CAA under 2 U.S.C. §§1311-1317. Section 405 of the CAA, by its terms, limits the filing of a complaint to a covered employee who has completed mediation and section 406 of the CAA limits Board review to any party aggrieved by the decision of a Hearing Officer under section 405(g) of the CAA. For this reason, the Board determined that section 1.07(e) of the Procedural Rules could only apply to those orders and decisions regarding sanctions that were in a final order issued under section 405(g). While the CAA and the procedural rules mandate that parties in counseling, mediation, and hearing maintain confidentiality, there is no statutory provision within the CAA which addresses the authority of a Hearing Officer or the Board to address independent breaches of confidentiality. See 2 U.S.C. §1416.

Other commenters noted that under *Taylor*, *supra*, the Board also appears to take the position that there is no provision in the CAA authorizing an employing office to

bring a breach of confidentiality claim against a complainant. See also, *Eric J.J. Massa v. Debra S. Katz and Alexis H. Rickher*, Case No.: 10-HS-59 (CFD), (May 8, 2012) and *Taylor*. One commenter strongly disagreed with this conclusion, noting that just as the confidentiality obligations of the CAA clearly and unambiguously apply equally to employing offices and employees, so too should the ability to assert claims for breach of statutory confidentiality. The commenter asserts that a contrary reading of the statute, as appears to have been implicitly suggested in the above-referenced cases (denying employing offices the ability to bring claims for breach of confidentiality against employees), is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the confidentiality provisions of the CAA.

Again, because under section 405 of the CAA, the filing of a complaint is limited to a *covered employee* who has completed counseling and mediation (and the General Counsel in limited circumstances), and there is no mechanism in the CAA for enforcement of confidentiality breaches outside of a section 405 proceeding, there is similarly no process in the CAA under which an employing office can *initiate* a breach of confidentiality claim that can be enforced. The Procedural Rules, however, do provide that within the context of a section 405 proceeding, an employing office may make a breach of confidentiality claim and the Hearing Officer is authorized to order a number of sanctions if a breach is found.

Comments were also made that limiting remedies for breaches of confidentiality to procedural and evidentiary sanctions was inappropriate and, that the effect of that limitation was to make the penalty for breach of confidentiality nonexistent for a complainant who chooses not to file a complaint with the OOC because no procedural or evidentiary sanctions would ever be applicable. The commenter requested that the Rules clarify that monetary damages may be awarded against both employing offices and employees for a demonstrated breach of confidentiality.

In the absence of any express authority, the Board has decided that “the Office and its Hearing Officers have the power to control and supervise proceedings conducted under Sections 402, 403, and 405 of the [CAA], and may rely on this power to impose appropriate sanctions for a breach of the [CAA’s] confidentiality requirements.” *Taylor v. U.S. Senate Budget Comm; Massa v. Katz & Rickher*. The Board has further held that a breach of the CAA’s confidentiality provisions does not independently entitle an employee to monetary damages absent a violation of one of the “money-mandating” statutes it applies. *Office of the Architect of the Capitol v. Cienfuegos*, No. 11-AC-138 (CV, RP), 2014 WL 7139940, *n.1 (OOC Board Dec. 11, 2014). The Board’s authority is therefore limited to deciding breaches of confidentiality during the pendency of a complaint filed pursuant to section 405 of the CAA, and the Adopted Rules so provide.

Further, as to the deletion of section 1.07(d), covering contents or records of confidential proceedings, the comments noted that mediation does not bestow confidentiality to facts or evidence that exist outside of mediation and the language needs the significant qualification that currently exists in section 1.07(d) (“... A participant is free to disclose facts and other information obtained from any source outside of the confidential proceedings . . .”). The commenter recommended that the entire language of

section 1.07(d) of the 2004 Procedural Rules be retained in the new Rules.

The Office agrees that including the current section 1.07(d) in the Adopted Rules (now in the Adopted Rules as section 1.08(e)) would give appropriate guidance on the contents and records of confidential proceedings.

There were multiple comments concerning the confidentiality provisions in section 1.08 of the Proposed Rules. One such comment noted that “communications between attorneys and clients should never amount to a confidentiality breach absent a protective order”; yet, with the deletion of the “Breach of Confidentiality Provisions” section, there is no timeframe listed for when a party can claim a confidentiality breach. Commenters urged the OOC to reinstitute the previous requirement. Because of the Board rulings limiting the authority of the Board to review a breach of confidentiality claim outside of a section 405 proceeding, there does not need to be a timeframe for a party to claim the breach. The claim would have to occur during the section 405 proceeding itself. Because circumstances would differ in each case, setting a time frame for a breach of confidentiality should be left up to the Hearing Officer and the OOC Board of Directors.

Commenters noted that section 1.08(c) was also inconsistent because it prohibits disclosure of a written or oral communication that is prepared for the purpose of, or occurs during, counseling. The most important document that allows for the preparation of a defense to a claim is the formal request for counseling. That written document is necessary to identify the claims that a Complainant has properly exhausted under the CAA. Some commenters requested that the Office provide the employing office with the request for counseling.

Counseling is to be strictly confidential, therefore, the request itself will not be provided to other parties by the Office. As the Circuit Court for the District of Columbia noted in *Blackmon-Malloy v. U.S. Capitol Police Bd.*, 575 F.3d 699, 713 (D.C. Cir. 2009), “Congress’s inclusion of provisions requiring the Office to issue written notices of the end of counseling and the end of mediation must be read in light of the provisions on confidentiality. Those provisions, sections 1416(a) and (b), provide that counseling and mediation, respectively, shall be strictly confidential.” 2 U.S.C. §1416(a) & (b). *Blackmon-Malloy v. U.S. Capitol Police Bd.*, 575 F.3d 699, 711 (D.C. Cir. 2009). The court noted that, “nothing in the CAA suggests Congress intended courts to engage in a mini-trial on the content of the counseling and mediation sessions, an inquiry that would be fraught with problems. . . . Congress expressly limited the ability of the court to review the substance of compliance with these processes.” *Blackmon-Malloy v. U.S. Capitol Police Bd.*, 575 F.3d at 711.

One commenter objected to section 1.08(d) of the Proposed Rules, noting that mediators should not be able to discuss substantive matters from mediation with the Office. The commenter noted that to permit mediators to consult with the OOC regarding the substance of the mediation violates the principle that “[a]ll mediation shall be strictly confidential,” 2 U.S.C. §1416(b), and is inconsistent with the OOC’s role as a neutral. Specifically, the commenter points out that as the OOC appoints the Hearing Officer to handle the subsequent complaint, the Executive Director rules on a number of procedural issues in any subsequent case, and in view of the OOC’s adjudicative role in the complaint

process, allowing the mediator to consult with the OOC regarding substantive issues related to the mediation may negatively impact the OOC’s neutrality, and/or the perception of the parties that the OOC is neutral.

The Office agrees with the commenter that under the CAA, “[a]ll mediation shall be strictly confidential.” CAA §416(b). The confidentiality provision regarding mediation is further clarified in section 2.04(j) of the Procedural Rules, which provides that the “Office will maintain the independence of the mediation process and the mediator. No individual, who is appointed by the Executive Director to mediate, may conduct or aid in a hearing conducted under section 405 of the Act with respect to the same matter or shall be subject to subpoena or any other compulsory process with respect to the same matter.” However, the CAA requires both counseling and mediation, in part, to assist employees and employing offices in reaching an early resolution of their disputes. When a neutral mediator believes that consulting with the Office on administrative, procedural, or even substantive matters will expedite and facilitate resolution of the dispute, there is no reason for the mediator not to be able to do that. In fact, the purposes of the counseling and mediation provisions are best served if the OOC encourages the mediator to do everything he or she can to expedite resolution of the matter.

Furthermore, because Mediators are barred from serving as Hearing Officers in the same case under CAA section 403(d), there is no chance that a Mediator who consults with the Office will use that information to make a determination that will be binding upon the parties. Section 403(d) of the CAA is designed to inspire confidence in and maintain the integrity of the mediation process by encouraging the parties to be frank and forthcoming, without fear that such information may later be used against them. See, e.g., 141 Cong. Rec. S629 (January 9, 1995). In essence, if the parties know that the mediator will not be involved in investigating or determining the validity of any of the allegations being made, they may be more willing to work cooperatively with the Mediator during the mediation. This is also the theory behind a key provision of the EEOC’s ADR Policy Statement: “In order to ensure confidentiality, those who serve as neutrals for the Commission should be precluded from performing any investigatory or enforcement function related to charges with which they may have been involved. The dispute resolution process must be insulated from the investigative and compliance process.” EEOC, Notice No. 915.002 (7/17/95).

Because Mediators under the CAA are insulated from the investigative and compliance process, there is no statutory or ethical bar that would prevent them from consulting with the office if it would facilitate resolution of the dispute.

One comment also noted that the proposed rule sections 1.08(b) and (c) may be read to allow a “participant” to publicize the fact that a covered employee has requested and/or engaged in counseling and mediation, and the fact that an individual has filed an OOC complaint. See also, 2.03(d), 2.04(b) and 5.01(h) (requiring the OOC—but not participants—to keep confidential the “invocation of mediation” and “the fact that a complaint has been filed with the [OOC] by a covered employee”). The Commenter notes that these disclosures would violate the strict confidentiality mandated by the CAA and that the proposed rule should not be adopted.

It is the opinion of the Office that the strict confidentiality mandated by the CAA

applies to the discussions and content of conversations that go on in counseling, mediation, and the hearing, rather than the fact of filing of a request for counseling, invocation of mediation, or a complaint. Indeed, section 1.08(e), added back into the Adopted Rules, spells out that it is the information actually obtained in the counseling, mediation or hearing proceedings that is to be kept confidential, not necessarily the fact that a hearing or mediation is being held. Moreover, to ensure confidentiality and consistent with the *Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015* (PL 114-6), all participants are advised of the confidentiality requirement under the CAA.

In another comment, it was noted that the waiver provision under section 1.08(e) of the Proposed Rules was not clear and appeared to conflict with the statutory requirement of confidentiality under section 416 of the CAA. Where there is a waiver of confidentiality, it is unclear whether a waiver releases all requirements for confidentiality including making records public in proceedings, waiving the confidentiality requirements of proceedings before a Hearing Officer, and waiving the sanctions requirement under section 1.08(f). It is important that any waiver be clear as to why it would be permissible despite the language in section 416 of the CAA and how such a waiver affects documents, proceedings, and testimony. The commenter further notes that the language of the waiver does not make clear that all participants must agree to waive confidentiality and should therefore be deleted from the Rules.

The Office agrees that the waiver language in section 1.08(e) of the Proposed Rules is too confusing and not meant as a general waiver. Accordingly, the waiver language has been deleted in the Adopted Rules.

One comment noted that section 1.08(f) of the Proposed Regulations would remove the requirement that the OOC advise participants of their confidentiality obligations in a timely fashion. Section 1.06(b) of the 2004 Procedural Rules requires the OOC to provide this notification “[a]t the time that any individual... becomes a participant,” and that language is not included in Proposed Procedural Rule 1.08(f). Such early notice is critical to ensuring that CAA-mandated confidentiality is maintained and, thus, the existing rule should be retained.

The *Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015* (PL 114-6), requires the Executive Director to notify each person participating in mediation and in the hearing and deliberations process of the confidentiality requirement and of the sanctions applicable to any person who violates the confidentiality requirement. The Office has created notifications to be provided to participants during all phases of the administrative process, including in mediation and at hearings, and includes a statement on its request for counseling form advising that “all counseling shall be strictly confidential.” Consistent with this and in agreement with the comment, section 1.08(f) of the Adopted Rules is modified to provide that, “[t]he Executive Director will advise all participants in mediation and hearing at the time they become participants of the confidentiality requirements of Section 416 of the Act and that sanctions may be imposed by the Hearing Officer for a violation of those requirements. No sanctions may be imposed except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.”

SUBPART B—PRE-COMPLAINT PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF PART A OF TITLE II OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

In reviewing the change in the Proposed Rules, the Office has decided to delete the reference in section 2.03 of the 2004 Rules to an “official” form that should be used to file a formal request for counseling and has replaced it in the Adopted Rules with the following language: “Individuals wishing to file a formal request for counseling may call the Office for a form to use for this purpose.”

There were several comments to section 2.03 of the Proposed Rules. One commenter noted that the strict confidentiality provision discussed in section 2.03(d) should refer to the confidentiality provisions described in sections 2.03(e)(1)–(2) and 1.08. In addition, the commenter maintained that the words “should be used” should be deleted and replaced with the word “shall” so that the counseling period only pertains to the enumerated items.

The Office has decided to leave the language as proposed (“should be used”) to provide the most flexibility to the Counselor and employee depending on the circumstances of each case.

There were comments that section 2.03(e)(1) of the Proposed Rules was inconsistent with the requirements in section 1.08(d). The commenter noted that, for example, section 2.03(e)(1) provides that “all counseling shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be subject to discovery.” The commenter noted that it is not clear that the Office of Compliance Procedural Rules can control the release of discoverable information in federal district court. Notwithstanding that restriction, section 2.03(e)(1) is inconsistent with the exceptions provided in section 1.08(d) which permits disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings when reasonably necessary to investigate claims, ensure compliance with the Act or prepare its prosecution or defense.

Additional comments noted that section 2.03(e)(1) of the Proposed Rule would permit the OOC to publicize certain statistical information regarding CAA proceedings, which is consistent with section 301(h)(3) of the CAA, but the proposed rule would remove this language: “. . . so long as that statistical information does not reveal the identity of the employees involved or of employing offices that are the subject of a request for counseling.” To ensure compliance with section 416 of the CAA, the rule should specify that the OOC will not publicize this detailed information in its statistical reports.

The Office believes that the CAA’s confidentiality requirements found in section 416 of the CAA confer upon it the obligation to safeguard the confidentiality of such information. It is for that reason, the language limiting the discovery of information discussed in counseling was added. To ensure that its intention to protect the information is understood, the Office has decided to keep that language in the A Rules. Further, to preserve confidentiality of statistical information released as part of the reporting under section 301(h)(3) of the CAA, language has been put back in, indicating that statistical information will not reveal the identity of individual employees or employing offices that are the subject of specific requests for counseling.

In addition, by way of clarification, the Office has added a reference in section 2.03(e)(2) of the Adopted Rules to section 416(a) of the CAA indicating that the employee and the

Office may agree to waive confidentiality during the counseling process for the limited purpose of allowing the Office to notify the employing office of the allegations.

Noting that section 2.03(m) of the proposed rules requires the Capitol Police to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to permit an employee to use the Capitol Police internal grievance process, one commenter observed that there was no such requirement in section 401 of the CAA.

As the language in the proposed regulation indicates, a MOU may be necessary to address certain procedural and notification requirements. The OOC believes that the best way to work out notice and follow up details is through a MOU. However, the language does not mandate a MOU, but rather indicates that an MOU would be helpful in addressing administrative and procedural issues that could come up should the Executive Director decide to recommend that an employee use an internal process.

There were several comments noting that inclusion of “good cause” language in section 2.04(b) of the Proposed Rules would allow a covered employee additional time to file a request for mediation outside of the statutory 15-day period. The commenter asserted that there is no support for a “good cause” extension in the statute, and thus the OOC lacks authority to create such an extension in its Proposed Procedural Rules.

Typically, a final decision as to timeliness is up to the Hearing Officer and neither the Office nor the Mediator will dismiss a request for mediation where the request may be late. The intent of this amendment was to allow the Office to close the case if a request for mediation was not timely filed and make the decision not to forward for mediation. Because the 15-day time limit in which to file a request for mediation is statutory, the Office has deleted the “good cause” language from the Adopted Rules. However, a case may be closed if the request for mediation is not filed within 15 days of receipt of a Notice of the End of Counseling. In most cases, the final decision as to whether a request for mediation has been timely filed is up to the fact finder. In any event, a decision on an issue of equitable tolling would still be up to the Hearing Officer to decide.

In section 2.04(f)(2) of the Proposed Rules, language was added to the agreement to mediate that read that the Agreement to Mediate would define what is to be kept confidential during mediation. Commenters noted that everything in mediation is confidential and the statute does not permit the parties, the Mediator, or the OOC to redefine or limit what aspects of the mediation are confidential and which are not. This addition in the Proposed Rules was intended to create a contractual agreement on confidential matters. There is no question that a person can waive confidentiality. But the default in this section should be that matters are confidential unless there is a waiver, not the other way around. Therefore, this language is being deleted from the Adopted Rules.

The Office received comments on section 2.04(g) related to the procedures by some oversight committees for approving settlements. Commenters requested that the proposed change be modified to make it clear that Members of the committees need not be present for mediation, nor must they be reachable by phone during the mediation. It is understood that in some cases, an oversight committee has specific procedures for approving settlements that might not fit exactly into the parameters established under section 2.04(g). Section 414 of the Act does

provide for this. The Act states: “Nothing in this chapter shall affect the power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, to establish rules governing the process by which a settlement may be entered into by such House or by any employing office of such House.” Because this provision is set forth in the Act, it is not necessary to modify the language in section 2.04(g) of the Rules.

There were additional comments to proposed Procedural Rule 2.04(g). Commenters noted that the rule as proposed would grant the Mediator the authority to require “any party” to attend a mediation meeting in person and that there was nothing in the CAA that would give a Mediator this authority. As a general rule, Mediators do not “direct” individuals to attend mediation in person, unless the Mediator believes that a specific person’s presence would advance the mediation. However, the Office has revised the language in the Adopted Rules to indicate that the Mediator may “specifically request” a party or individual’s presence.

One commenter stated that the OOC should not alter established practice by participating in mediations, as allowed in Section 2.04(g). In response, the Office notes that as the 2004 Rules include the Office as a possible participant in mediation, the Proposed Rules did not change established practice. However, to ensure that participation by the Office does not interfere with the mediation process, the Amended Rules include language that requires the permission of the Mediator and the parties before the Office can participate in mediation. This is not meant to require permission from the parties when the Office appoints an in-house mediator. Such an appointment is left exclusively to the Executive Director.

There were several comments to section 2.04(i) of the Proposed Rules. Commenters noted that the notice of the end of mediation period should advise the employing office of the date and mode of transmission of the notice that was sent to the complainant or add a presumption to the new rule, stating that the notice is presumed to have been received on the day it is sent by facsimile or email, or within 5 calendar days if sent by first class mail.

However, the *Technical Amendments Act* modified section 404 of the CAA and established that the deadline to elect proceedings after the end of mediation was “not later than 90 days but not sooner than 30 days after the end of the period of mediation.” (Emphasis added) As this changed the deadline from the receipt of the notice of end of mediation to the end of the mediation period itself, section 2.04(i) of the Adopted Rules was changed accordingly. Section 205(a), regarding election of proceedings, was also modified to reflect the changes made by *Technical Amendments Act*.

SUBPART C—COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATION, AND ENFORCEMENT UNDER SECTION 210 OF THE CAA (ADA PUBLIC SERVICES)—INSPECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

In the NPRM published on September 9, 2014, the Executive Director proposed a new Subpart C of the Procedural Rules setting forth rules and procedures for the inspection, investigation and complaint provisions contained in sections 210(d) and (f) of the CAA relating to Public Services and Accommodations under Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). On September 9, 2014, the OOC Board also published a NPRM with substantive regulations implementing Section 210 of the CAA, including sections

210(d) and (f). In response to the NPRMs, the Executive Director received comments to both the proposed ADA procedural rules and the proposed substantive regulations that were similar or substantially related. While the ADA substantive regulations have been adopted by the Board of Directors, they have not yet been approved by Congress. The Executive Director has therefore decided to withdraw the proposed procedural rules contained in Subpart C relating to section 210 of the CAA. Any future procedural rules regarding the inspection, investigation and complaint provisions contained in sections 210(d) and (f) of the CAA relating to ADA Public Services and Accommodations will be promulgated when the substantive regulations implementing section 210 of the CAA have been approved.

SUBPART D—COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATION, ENFORCEMENT AND VARIANCE PROCESS UNDER SECTION 215 OF THE CAA (OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970)—INSPECTIONS, CITATIONS, AND COMPLAINTS

Regarding sections 4.02(a), 4.03(a) and (b), two commenters objected to defining “place of employment” as “any place where covered employees work.” The 2004 Rules referred to “places of employment under the jurisdiction of employing offices.” The language in the 2004 Procedural Rules is the same language used in section 215(c)(1) of the CAA. Section 215(c)(1) describes the authorities of the General Counsel, which are the same as those granted to the Secretary of Labor by subsections (a), (d), (e), and (f) of section 8 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHAct) (29 U.S.C. §§657(a), (d), (e), and (f)). Notably, section 8(a) grants the “right to enter without delay and at reasonable times any factory, plant, establishment, construction site, or other area, workplace or environment where work is performed by an employee of an employer.” (Emphasis added). The CAA refers to the same authorities for periodic inspections as it does for requests for inspections, that is, section 215(c)(1), and therefore section 8(a) of the OSHAct. Thus, the General Counsel’s authority for periodic inspections and requests for inspections covers not only legislative branch facilities that are under the jurisdiction of employing offices, such as the Hart or Rayburn office buildings, but any place where covered employees work, such as the Architect of the Capitol’s workshop in the U.S. Supreme Court building. One commenter expressed concern this would mean the General Counsel could visit a telework employee’s home office to conduct an inspection, since the home office is where a covered employee works, but not where an employing office has “jurisdiction”. However, the General Counsel would not inspect an area and make findings that are beyond the reach of any employing office to address. The efforts in this section of the Procedural Rules are intended to more accurately reflect, rather than broaden, its authority to inspect.

One commenter objected to language in section 4.02(a) that authorizes the General Counsel to review records “maintained by or under the control of the covered entity.” The 2004 Rules refers to records “required by the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder, and other records which are directly related to the purpose of the inspection.” The concern is that the General Counsel is imposing record-keeping requirements. However, the language does not require entities to create records or even to maintain records, but addresses the authority of the General Counsel to review records that are

maintained. Further, whether a record is “directly related to the purpose of the inspection” is a matter that may be raised by an entity whether that language is in the section or not. The General Counsel is not seeking the right to review records that have nothing to do with the inspection. Moreover, whether a record is “directly” related is not always readily apparent when a record request is first made, and the better course is to avoid misunderstandings and delays in inspections because of a debate over degrees of relatedness.

One commenter suggested inserting the words “upon notification to the appropriate employing office(s)” in section 4.02(a) after, “the General Counsel is authorized” and before, “to enter without delay and at reasonable times, . . .”. As noted above, that language is from section 8(a) of the OSHAct. There is no requirement to provide advance notice of an inspection to employing offices but in practice the approach of the General Counsel is to provide notification well in advance. The employing offices usually provide an escort for access and assistance during the inspection. The General Counsel has even rescheduled an inspection when no escort shows. The General Counsel’s periodic inspection calendars are provided to employing offices at the beginning of each Congress and posted on the OOC’s website.

The same commenter asked the Executive Director to revise section 4.03(a)(1) to reflect the General Counsel’s practice of providing advance notice of an inspection and the scheduling of a pre-inspection opening conference. The current language requires that the General Counsel provide a copy of the notice of violation to the employing office “no later than at the time of inspection.” The commenter also asked the Executive Director to revise section 4.06(a), which states that advance notice of inspections may not be given except under the situations listed in (a)(1) through (4). The Executive Director agrees that the practice of the General Counsel has defaulted to giving advance notice, as opposed to not giving advance notice. However, flexibility is still needed to inspect without advance notice, usually for exigent circumstances. In such situations, and under the 2004 Procedural Rules, the General Counsel need not first persuade an employing office that the matter falls under an exception to advance notice.

The commenter also suggested that the Executive Director revise section 4.11 on Citations to reflect other processes used by OOC, such as the Serious Deficiency Notice and case reports, adding that the General Counsel rarely issues citations and does not issue *de minimis* violations. The commenter asked that the Executive Director change section 4.12 on Imminent Danger to include OOC’s use of the Serious Deficiency Notice; change section 4.14 to require the General Counsel to notify the employing office that it failed to correct a violation before the General Counsel files a complaint, rather than having the notification be optional; and change section 4.25 on applications for temporary variances and other relief to include the Request for Modification of Abatement process used by the General Counsel.

The suggested changes regarding notification of inspections, citations, imminent danger, notification before filing a complaint, and applications for temporary variances/requests for modification of abatement, were raised by the commenter, not in response to any changes the Executive Director proposed in the NPRM. The Executive Director is therefore reluctant to discuss them without

further notice and opportunity to comment for all stakeholders. While the processes of the General Counsel that have developed since 2004 in these areas are not wholly reflected in the Procedural Rules, they are not inconsistent with the Rules or with the authorities granted to the General Counsel under the CAA. They are examples of how the operational needs of the parties and OOC can be accommodated without first revising the Procedural Rules.

One commenter was supportive of OOC's effort to balance the OSHA Act, which requires citations to be posted unedited and unredacted, with concern over the disclosure of security information. More specifically, the Executive Director had added the following language to section 4.13(a) on the posting of citations: "When a citation contains security information as defined in Title 2 of the U.S. Code, section 1979, the General Counsel may edit or redact the security information from the copy of the citation used for posting or may provide to the employing office a notice for posting that describes the alleged violation without referencing the security information." However, the commenter wanted the Executive Director to go further and include other security information, such as "sensitive but unclassified" information, and to address how OOC will protect all security information it encounters during all stages of the OSH inspection process. The Executive Director does not believe the Procedural Rules are the place for setting forth OOC's safeguards and internal handling procedures for security information. The reference to 2 U.S.C. §1979 was an effort to use an established definition of security information that applies to the Legislative Branch, rather than leaving it to the OOC to decide what is security information. A document marked as classified or sensitive but unclassified by the classifying or originating entity will be handled accordingly.

SUBPART E—COMPLAINTS

Commenters suggested deleting newly proposed language in section 5.01(b)(1) that would permit the Executive Director to return a complaint that was filed prematurely, without prejudice. The commenters asserted that the provision is unfair to employing offices and places the Executive Director in the position of giving legal advice to complainants.

The Office disagrees that allowing a complainant to cure a defect in their filing is improper, and has added language giving the Executive Director discretion to return all early filed Complaints to the complaining employee for filing within the prescribed period, and with an explanation of the applicable time limits. It is clear that no complaint will be processed until it is timely. Giving the Executive Director the discretion to return a complaint in these circumstances does not give the Executive Director the authority to process a complaint that is filed prematurely.

In comments to section 5.01(g) of the proposed regulations, commenters suggested that a respondent be permitted to file a motion to dismiss in lieu of an answer. They explained that the rule should give the Hearing Officer discretion to allow a respondent to file a motion to dismiss in lieu of an answer. Otherwise, a party will be forced to waste resources responding to a complaint that may be dismissed or significantly altered by a Hearing Officer's ruling on the motion to dismiss. They conclude that filing a motion to dismiss should suspend the obligation to file an answer.

The Office declines to make this change in the Adopted Rules, believing that a direct re-

sponse to the allegations is vital, and any party wishing to file a motion to dismiss in addition to an answer may do so. While a motion to dismiss option was added to the Proposed Procedural Rules because many stakeholders indicated that they would like to see it added, this language was not intended to replace the filing of an answer. When there is no adverse action like a removal or suspension, and the claim involves harassment or retaliation, the employing office has no requirement to provide the complainant with the administrative file or investigation, and there is no requirement under the Rules that the agency provide this information before the time to answer. In those circumstances, the complainant must rely on the answer for information in order to respond. While it is in the Hearing Officer's discretion whether to extend the time to allow the respondent to file an answer and to stay discovery while ruling on a motion to dismiss, the Office has decided to keep language requiring an answer. In hearings under the CAA, the time frames are typically very short and a requirement for respondent to answer keeps the process moving forward.

Sections 5.03(f) and (g) of the Proposed Rules were modified to allow a Hearing Officer to dismiss a complaint after withdrawal—with or without prejudice. Several commenters objected to this change. One commenter suggested such a dismissal be with prejudice only, another suggested the Board identify factors a Hearing Officer must consider when dismissing a complaint or permitting a complainant to re-file, and another suggested the language be modified to clarify that a Hearing Officer cannot expand a complainant's time to file a complaint—and that a complaint that would otherwise be time-barred under section 404 may not be re-filed.

While it is clear that a withdrawal of a complaint with or without prejudice cannot be used to extend the statutory time frame, the Executive Director has added language to the Adopted Rules indicating that the authority of the Hearing Officer is consistent with section 404 of the CAA.

Section 5.03(h) was added in the Proposed Rules requiring a representative to provide sufficient notice to the Hearing Officer and the parties of his or her withdrawal in a matter, and clarifying that the employee will be considered pro se until another representative has been designated in writing. Commenters suggested that the Board define what is meant by "sufficient" notice.

The Office recognizes that with respect to the conduct of a hearing, the Hearing Officer is in the best position to determine what constitutes sufficient notice under the circumstances, and so must have flexibility in making determinations. Therefore, the Executive Director declines to make the changes as requested.

SUBPART F—DISCOVERY AND SUBPOENAS

In general, several commenters asserted that Proposed Procedural Rules sections 2.03(e)(1), 6.01(a), and 6.02(a) are invalid to the extent that they would limit the availability of OOC employees and records in the discovery process, because there is no statutory basis for this evidentiary privilege.

The Executive Director believes that the CAA's confidentiality requirements found in section 416 of the CAA confer upon the Office the obligation to safeguard the confidentiality of such information. Accordingly, to ensure that its intention to safeguard confidential information is clear, the Executive Director declines to make any changes in the A Rules to these sections.

In the Proposed Rules section 6.01(b) language about initial disclosure was modified to specify that information, including witness lists and discovery documents, must be provided to the opposing party within 14 days of a pre-hearing conference. A commenter suggested that this rule places an unfair burden on employing offices who should not be required to turn over witness lists and discovery documents without a request.

The Office believes that, given the limited time between the filing of a complaint and opening of the hearing, this requirement should be kept as proposed because it will promote the prompt and fair exchange of information and reduce delay in the proceedings. This process should not pose an unfair burden on employing offices because of the ready availability of the information to the employing office.

One commenter expressed concern that the changes proposed to section 6.01(c), permit the parties to engage in "reasonable prehearing discovery," without defining what types of discovery are reasonable, or the volume of discovery that is appropriate, given the limited time involved in the process. The language in the 2004 Procedural Rules, permitting discovery only as authorized by the Hearing Officer was more equitable because the Hearing Officer had greater control over the proceedings, and better ability to prevent discovery abuses, or the use of delay tactics. Additionally, application of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to the types and volume of discovery may be helpful to the parties' understanding of the process.

This comment misapprehends the Hearing Officer's authority. Section 405(e) of the CAA provides that "[r]easonable prehearing discovery may be permitted at the discretion of the hearing officer." The authority is therefore permissive, not restrictive. It has always been the policy of the Office to encourage early and voluntary exchange of relevant information and the Rules, as amended, allow a hearing officer to authorize discovery, but do not mandate it.

One commenter suggested that section 6.01(c)(1) be modified to state that, when a motion to dismiss is filed, discovery is stayed until the Hearing Officer has ruled on the motion.

The Executive Director declines to make this modification. As noted above, because the time frames in the hearing process are limited, requiring that discovery be stayed until there is a ruling on a motion to dismiss could take up valuable time. In any event, the Hearing Officer should have the most flexibility to make a decision to stay discovery depending on the circumstances of each case.

Section 6.01(d)(1) of the Proposed Rules provides: "A party must make a claim for privilege no later than the due date for the production of the information." One commenter suggested that a claim for privilege belongs to a party and cannot be waived except by the party. Thus, section 6.01(d)(1) cannot place a limitation on a party's right to assert a privilege and would be inconsistent with the inadvertent disclosure identified in section 6.01(d)(2). As an example, the commenter notes that one may have inadvertently disclosed privileged information on the last day of discovery which would require that it be returned or destroyed in accordance with section 6.01(d)(2). However, if the privilege was not asserted on the last day of discovery, the Procedural Rules would allow the opposing party to keep the inadvertently disclosed documents. Thus, by limiting the timing of the asserted privilege, a

conflict is created between sections 6.01(d)(1) and 6.01(d)(2).

The Office is not attempting, by this rule, to place a limit on a party's right to assert a privilege, but rather to ensure that if a party intends to assert a privilege it does so in a timely way. Until a privilege is asserted, the assumption is that the information is not privileged. Therefore, this rule is not inconsistent with section 6.01(d)(2) that requires that information that has been claimed as privileged and inadvertently disclosed be returned or destroyed, even if disclosed on the last day of discovery.

Section 6.02(a) was modified in the Proposed Rules to clarify that OOC employees and service providers acting in their official capacities, and confidential case-related documents maintained by the OOC, cannot be subpoenaed. In addition, the rules clarify that employing offices must make their employees available for discovery and hearings without a subpoena. One commenter requested that an employing office only be required to make available witnesses under their control during actual work hours and work shifts on the day of the hearing and, otherwise, that subpoenas be used. Another commenter suggested the provision be revised to state: "Employing offices shall make reasonable efforts to make their management-level employees available for discovery and hearing without requiring a subpoena."

Often, the timing and pacing of a hearing depends on the availability of witnesses. The Executive Director believes that it is important that the parties willingly commit to the hearing process to ensure the most efficient and equitable outcome possible. By requiring employing offices to make their employees available without a subpoena, the purpose of the Proposed Rule was to ensure that employees will be readily available when called as witnesses, therefore reducing the administrative burdens on the parties, the Hearing Officer, and the Office.

SUBPART G—HEARINGS

As a general comment, one commenter stated that it was unclear what authority under the CAA the Board of Directors was utilizing to authorize a Hearing Officer to issue sanctions under sections 7.02 and 7.12(b). The commenter maintained that sanctions are not authorized under the CAA and, thus, Procedural Rules incorporating substantive provisions are beyond the scope of authority permitted under the CAA. The commenter further suggested that because sanctions provisions affect the rights of the parties, they are substantive in nature and the appropriate avenue should be a substantive sanctions provision be requested to pursue a statutory amendment to the CAA.

The Executive Director disagrees. It is clear that a Hearing Officer has the ability to use sanctions to run an orderly and proper hearing. Moreover, the CAA provides this authority. Thus, under section 405(d) of the CAA, the Hearing Officer is required to conduct the hearing in "accordance with the principles and procedures set forth in section 554 through 557 of title 5." Specifically, under 5 U.S.C. 557: "The record shall show the ruling on each finding, conclusion, or exception presented. All decisions, including initial, recommended, and tentative decisions, are a part of the record and shall include a statement of . . . the appropriate rule, order, sanction, relief, or denial thereof." Further, under section 405(g) of the CAA, "the hearing officer shall issue a written decision [that] shall . . . contain a determination of whether a violation has occurred and order such

remedies as are appropriate pursuant to subchapter II of this chapter."

Another comment in this area pointed to section 7.02(b)(1)(G) of the 2004 Rules that authorizes a Hearing Officer to "order that the non-complying party, or the representative advising that party, pay all or part of the attorney's fees and reasonable expenses of the other party or parties or of the Office, caused by such non-compliance, unless the Hearing Officer or the Board finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of attorney's fees and/or expenses unjust."

The Office notes that because section 415 of the CAA requires that only funds appropriated to an account of the Office in the Treasury may be used for the payment of awards and settlements under the CAA, this provision has been deleted from the Adopted Rules.

Section 7.02(b)(4) of the Proposed Rules permits a Hearing Officer to dismiss a frivolous claim. One commenter suggested that this rule be modified to make it clear that, when a respondent has moved to dismiss a claim on the grounds that it is frivolous, no answer should be required to be filed and no discovery taken "unless and until the motion is denied." Another commenter suggested that allegations that a claim is frivolous be resolved through a motion to dismiss, referenced in section 5.01(g).

As stated previously, the Executive Director is declining to delete the requirement that an answer be filed in all complaint proceedings. Moreover, the Office recognizes that a claim alleging that a matter is frivolous may always be subject to a motion to dismiss and the Hearing Officer has the discretion to move the case as appropriate. Therefore, qualifying language need not be included in these rules. In order to clarify one point, the Office has added language indicating that a Hearing Officer may dismiss a claim, *sua sponte*, for the filing of a frivolous claim.

Some commenters noted that the CAA did not authorize each of the remedies for failure to maintain confidentiality under section 7.02(b)(5). While the Hearing Officer is authorized to issue a decision under section 405, the commenters note that Congress did not authorize remedies for breach of confidentiality. Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance is required to seek a statutory correction should it desire to provide remedies for breach of confidentiality. Where Congress sought to provide a remedy under the CAA, it specifically incorporated it. Compare 2 U.S.C. 1313(b), 2 U.S.C. 1314(b), 2 U.S.C. 1317(b), and 2 U.S.C. 1331(c) incorporating a remedy provision with the absence of a remedy provision in 2 U.S.C. 1416.

For the reasons below, the Office declines to delete this section. The CAA does provide for sanctions and remedies for the failure to maintain confidentiality. Under the Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015, section 2 U.S.C. 1416(c) of the CAA was amended to: "The Executive Director shall notify each person participating in a proceeding or deliberation to which this subsection applies of the requirements of this subsection and of the sanctions applicable to any person who violates the requirements of this subsection." (Emphasis added.)

Section 7.07 gives the Hearing Officer discretion when a party fails to appear for hearing. One commenter suggested that the rule be amended to require the complainant to appear at hearings.

The rule, as written, is intended to allow the Hearing Officer discretion to determine when the presence of a party is required for the proceeding to move forward.

With respect to sections 7.13(d) and (e), one commenter noted that these sections "purport to limit the availability of interlocutory appeals", and section 8.01(e) purports to limit the availability of judicial review. Because these issues should be addressed by substantive rulemaking, these proposed Procedural Rules are invalid and should not be adopted.

These provisions are not substantive, but are procedural. Therefore no changes need to be made. Thus, under the Proposed Rules, the time within which to file an interlocutory appeal is described in section 7.13(b); section 7.13(c) provides the standards upon which a Hearing Officer determines whether to forward a request for interlocutory review to the Board; and section 7.13(d) provides that the decision of the Hearing Officer to forward or decline to forward a request for review is not appealable. The Office's rule permitting the Hearing Officer to determine whether a question should be forwarded to the Board is consistent with judicial practice, and the Board retains discretion whether or not to entertain the appeal. Under 28 USC 1292(b):

When a district judge, in making in a civil action an order not otherwise appealable under this section,¹ shall be of the opinion that such order involves a controlling question of law as to which there is substantial ground for difference of opinion and that an immediate appeal from the order may materially advance the ultimate termination of the litigation, he shall so state in writing in such order. The Court of Appeals which would have jurisdiction of an appeal of such action may thereupon, in its discretion, permit an appeal to be taken from such order, if application is made to it within ten days after the entry of the order: *Provided, however*, that application for an appeal hereunder shall not stay proceedings in the district court unless the district judge or the Court of Appeals or a judge thereof shall so order.

There were several comments on section 7.15(a) of the Proposed Regulations regarding the closing of the record of the hearing. One commenter noted that the OOC should identify what factors or guidance a Hearing Officer must follow in determining the amount of time that the record is to remain open. Another commenter objected to allowing any documents to be entered into the record after the close of a hearing.

A complete record is essential to a determination by the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer is in the best position to determine how long the record should be kept open and what information is most relevant to creating a complete record upon which to issue a decision. Because the Hearing Officer should be accorded appropriate discretion, the Executive Director sees no reason to make the changes noted.

There were several comments to section 7.16 concerning sufficient time to respond to motions. One commenter recommended that a provision be added to the Rules stating that a Hearing Officer shall provide a party at least two business days to respond to a written motion. Another commenter recommended that a rule be adopted that expressly permits the hearing to be opened just

¹Orders other than "[i]nterlocutory orders . . . granting, continuing, modifying, refusing or dissolving injunctions, or refusing to dissolve or modify injunctions. . . ."

for purposes of arguing a dispositive motion, such as a motion to dismiss, thereby allowing the parties to avoid spending time and resources when a case can be dismissed because it is frivolous or because it fails to state a claim.

The Executive Director does not believe that any revisions are required to this section. As the time frames under the CAA for the issuance of the decision of a Hearing Officer are very short (a decision must be issued within 90 days of the end of the hearing), it is crucial that the Hearing Officer be accorded the most discretion in conducting the hearing.

One commenter suggested that the Rules include directions to Hearing Officers to *sua sponte* dismiss abated cases. The commenter maintained that when a Member of the House of Representatives leaves office, the Member's personal office ceases to exist and the case abates. Citing *Hamilton-Hayyim v. Office of Congressman Jackson*, Case No. 12-C-6392, 2014 WL 1227243 (N.D. 111. Mar. 25, 2014); accord *Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. v. Oklahoma*, 273 U.S. 257, 259–260 (1927); *Bowles v. Wilke*, 175 F.2d 35, 38–39 (7th Cir. 1949), the commenter noted that the CAA “demonstrates a congressional mandate . . . to end any employment action liability of that respective Member's personal office” at the time the Member leaves office. *Hamilton-Hayyim*, 2014 WL 1227243 at *2.10 When a Hearing Officer becomes aware that a Member's personal office ceases to exist, the Rules should provide that the Hearing Officer will dismiss the case, *sua sponte*.

For the reasons stated herein, the Office disagrees with this interpretation and the Executive Director declines to provide such a rule, leaving it to the Hearing Officer or Board to make the determination on the issue. An “employing office” does not cease to exist when a Member resigns or otherwise leaves office. The clear intent of the CAA is to subject the Legislative Branch to liability for violation of federal employment laws, not to subject Members personally to such liability. 2 U.S.C. §1302. Moreover, a Member is not directly involved in the litigation, as Congress's attorneys defend the action and have the ultimate authority to make litigation decisions. *Id.* §1408(d). Additionally, there is no financial risk to a Member, as any monetary settlement or award is paid from a statutory fund. *Id.* §1415(a).

Courts considering this issue have reached this same conclusion. In *Hanson v. Office of Senator Mark Dayton*, 535 F. Supp. 2d 25 (D.D.C. 2008), the court found no ambiguity as to the meaning of the term “employing office” and opined that although the CAA defines “employing office” as the personal office of a Member, there is absolutely no indication in the CAA or elsewhere that Congress intended the naming device to insulate former Congressional offices from suit under the CAA. The court therefore expressly held that the expiration of a Senator's term did not moot or abate the lawsuit. Indeed, the term “employing office” is merely “an organizational division within Congress, established for Congress's administrative convenience, analogous to a department within a large corporation” and the term exists solely “to be named as a defendant in [CAA] actions.” *Fields v. Office of Eddie Bernice Johnson*, 459 F. 3d 1, 27–29 (D.C. Cir. 2006); see *Bastien v. Office of Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell*, No. 01-cv-799, 2005 WL 3334359, at *4, (D. Colo. Dec. 5, 2005) (“[T]he term ‘employing office’ actually refers to Congress and Congress is the responsible entity under the CAA.”), quoted in 454 F.3d 1072, 1073 (10th Cir. 2006).

To the extent that the commenter disagrees with the above explanation and relies on *Hamilton-Hayyim v. Office of Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.*, No. 12-c-6392, 2014 WL 1227243 (N.D. Ill. Mar. 25, 2014), it is the belief of the Office that the case misapplied clearly established law as described above and should not affect the Procedural Rules. *Hamilton-Hayyim* conflates the issue of successor or continuing liability under Rule 25(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure with the role of an “employing office” in a suit under the CAA. As grounds for its holding, the court in *Hamilton-Hayyim* found that a suit against an employing office becomes moot or abates upon the resignation of a Member because Congress did not statutorily create successor liability which infers that “Congress certainly does not want to burden a new Member with the liability of a former Member.” *Id.* at *2. This rationale does not comport with the CAA. There is no burden on a new Member resulting from an existing action against a former Member under the CAA because the obligation to provide a legal defense rests with the Office of House Employment Counsel and any resulting financial responsibility is paid through a fund. 2 U.S.C. §1408, 1415(a). The Executive Director believes that the holding in *Hamilton-Hayyim* is contrary to the clear intent of the CAA which is to hold Legislative Branch employing offices, not Members, accountable for violations of specific labor and employment laws. Because an employing office does not cease to exist for purposes of suit under the CAA when a Member leaves office, the Executive Director declines to make the change suggested.

SUBPART I—OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY

One commenter stated that section 9.01(a) is unclear as to what is meant by a “decision of the Office.” If the procedural rule is meant to be a decision of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance, the rule should be clarified. The definition of a final decision of the Office can be found in sections 405(g)² and 406(e)³ of the CAA. Therefore no further revisions are necessary.

There were comments to section 9.02(c)(2) of the Proposed Rules asking for clarification of the circumstances under which the Office or a Hearing Officer would initiate settlement discussions once the mediation period has ended. The Office sees no reason to change the language. As there are many situations that can come up in hearing where a Hearing Officer may conclude that the parties are interested in discussing settlement, the decision as to whether to initiate settlement discussions should be left up to the Office or Hearing Officer as circumstances dictate.

One commenter noted that Proposed Procedural Rule §9.03(d) would give the Executive Director sole authority to resolve alleged violations of settlement agreements, in the event that the parties do not agree on a method for resolving disputes. There is nothing in the CAA that gives the Executive Director the authority to resolve contractual disputes, and this rule should not be adopted.

The Office notes that the rule specifically states that the Office may provide assistance in resolving the dispute, including the serv-

ices of a mediator and that allegations of a breach of a settlement will be reviewed, investigated, or mediated as appropriate. It does not say that the Executive Director will resolve those alleged violations, but rather, assist the parties in doing so.

One commenter noted that proposed Procedural Rule §9.04 states that, after a settlement agreement has been approved by the Executive Director, “[n]o payment shall be made from such account until the time for appeal of a decision has expired.” This rule should clarify that it does not apply to settlements reached in the absence of a “decision” that may be appealed.

The Office has clarified section 9.04 in the Amended Rules and included language that indicates that this rule does not apply to situations where a settlement has been reached and there is no decision that could be appealed.

EXPLANATION REGARDING THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Material from the 2004 version of the Rules is printed in roman type. The text of the adopted amendments shows **[deletions in italicized type within bold italics brackets]** and **added text in underlined bold**. Only subsections of the Rules that include adopted amendments are reproduced in this NOTICE. The insertion of a series of small dots (. . . .) indicates additional, un-amended text within a section has not been reproduced in this document. The insertion of a series of asterisks (* * * *) indicates that the un-amended text of entire sections of the Rules have not been reproduced in this document. For the text of other portions of the Rules which are not proposed to be amended, please access the Office of Compliance web site at www.compliance.gov.

ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1.01 Scope and Policy

§1.02 Definitions

§1.03 Filing and Computation of Time

§1.04 **[Availability of Official Information]**

Filing, Service, and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents

§1.05 **[Designation of Representative] Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violation of Rules; Sanctions**

§1.06 **[Maintenance of Confidentiality] Availability of Official Information**

§1.07 **[Breach of Confidentiality Provisions] Designation of Representative**

§1.08 Confidentiality

§1.01 Scope and Policy.

These rules of the Office of Compliance govern the procedures for consideration and resolution of alleged violations of the laws made applicable under Parts A, B, C, and D of title II of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995. The rules include **definitions**, procedures for counseling, mediation, and for electing between filing a complaint with the Office of Compliance and filing a civil action in a district court of the United States **under Part A of title II**. The rules also address the **procedures for compliance, investigation, and enforcement under Part B of title II, [variances]** and **for compliance, investigation, [and] enforcement, and variance** under Part C of title II. **The rules include [and] procedures for the conduct of hearings held as a result of the filing of a complaint and for appeals to the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance from Hearing Officer decisions, as well as other matters of general applicability to the dispute resolution process and to the operations of the Office of Compliance. It is the policy of the Office that these rules shall be applied with due regard to the**

²Section 405 Complaint and Hearing, (g) Decision. “. . . If a decision is not appealed under section 1406 of this title to the Board, the decision shall be considered the final decision of the Office.”

³Section 406 Appeal to the Board, (e) Decision. “. . . A decision that does not require further proceedings before a hearing officer shall be entered in the records of the Office as a final decision.”

rights of all parties and in a manner that expedites the resolution of disputes.

§ 1.02 Definitions.

Except as otherwise specifically provided in these rules, for purposes of this Part:

(b) *Covered Employee.* The term “covered employee” means any employee of

(3) the **Capitol Guide Service** **Office of Congressional Accessibility Services**;
(4) the Capitol Police;

(9) for the purposes stated in paragraph (q) of this section, the **General Accounting Government Accountability Office** or the Library of Congress.

(d) *Employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol.* The term “employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol” includes any employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, or the Botanic Garden **for the Senate Restaurants**.

(e) *Employee of the Capitol Police.* The term “employee of the Capitol Police” includes civilian employees and any member or officer of the Capitol Police.

(f) *Employee of the House of Representatives.* The term “employee of the House of Representatives” includes an individual occupying a position the pay for which is disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives, or another official designated by the House of Representatives, or any employment position in an entity that is paid with funds derived from the clerk-hire allowance of the House of Representatives, but not any such individual employed by any entity listed in subparagraphs **[(3)] (2)** through (9) of paragraph (b) above.

(g) *Employee of the Senate.* The term “employee of the Senate” includes any employee whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate, but not any such individual employed by any entity listed in subparagraphs **(1) and (3)** through (9) of paragraph (b) above.

(h) *Employing Office.* The term “employing office” means:

(4) the **Capitol Guide Service** **Office of Congressional Accessibility Services**, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, and the Office of Compliance; or

(5) for the purposes stated in paragraph **[(q)] (r)** of this section, the **General Accounting Government Accountability Office** and the Library of Congress

(j) *Designated Representative.* The term “designated representative” means an individual, firm, or other entity designated in writing by a party to represent the interests of that party in a matter filed with the Office.

—Re-letter subsequent paragraphs—

[(o)](p) General Counsel. The term “General Counsel” means the General Counsel of the Office of Compliance and any authorized representative or designee of the General Counsel.

[(p)](q) Hearing Officer. The term “Hearing Officer” means any individual [designated] appointed by the Executive Director to preside over a hearing conducted on matters within the Office’s jurisdiction.

[(q)](r) Coverage of the [General Accounting] Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress and their Employees. The term “employing office” shall include the

[General Accounting] Government Accountability Office and the Library of Congress, and the term “covered employee” shall include employees of the **[General Accounting] Government Accountability Office** and the Library of Congress, for purposes of the proceedings and rulemakings described in subparagraphs (1) and (2):

§ 1.03 Filing and Computation of Time.

(a) *Method of Filing.* Documents may be filed in person, electronically, by facsimile (FAX), or by mail, including express, overnight and other expedited delivery. **[When specifically requested by the Executive Director, or by a Hearing Officer in the case of a matter pending before the Hearing Officer, or by the Board of Directors in the case of an appeal to the Board, any document may also be filed by electronic transmittal in a designated format, with receipt confirmed by electronic transmittal in the same format. Requests for counseling under section 2.03, requests for mediation under section 2.04 and complaints under section 5.01 of these rules may also be filed by facsimile (FAX) transmission. In addition, the Board or a Hearing Officer may order other documents to be filed by FAX. The original copies of documents filed by FAX must also be mailed to the Office no later than the day following FAX transmission.]** The filing of all documents is subject to the limitations set forth below. **The Board, Hearing Officer, the Executive Director, or the General Counsel may, in their discretion, determine the method by which documents may be filed in a particular proceeding, including ordering one or more parties to use mail, FAX, electronic filing, or personal delivery. Parties and their representatives are responsible for ensuring that the Office always has their current postal mailing and e-mail addresses and FAX numbers.**

(2) [Mailing] By Mail.

[(i) If mailed, including express, overnight and other expedited delivery, a request for mediation or a complaint is deemed filed on the date of its receipt in the Office.] [(ii) A document.] Documents, [other than a request for mediation, or a complaint, is] are deemed filed on the date of [its] their postmark or proof of mailing to the Office. Parties, including those using franked mail, are responsible for ensuring that any mailed document bears a postmark date or other proof of the actual date of mailing. In the absence of a legible postmark a document will be deemed timely filed if it is received by the Office at Adams Building, Room LA 200, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999, by mail within five (5) days of the expiration of the applicable filing period.

(3) **By FAX [Faxing Documents.]** Documents transmitted by FAX machine will be deemed filed on the date received at the Office at 202-426-1913, or **[, in the case of any document to be filed or submitted to the General Counsel.]** on the date received at the Office of the General Counsel at 202-426-1663 **if received by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Faxed documents received after 5:00 PM Eastern Time will be deemed filed the following business day. A FAX filing will be timely only if the document is received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period. Any party using a FAX machine to file a document bears the responsibility for ensuring both that the document is timely and accurately transmitted and confirming that the Office has received a facsimile of the document. [The party or individual filing the document may rely on its FAX status report sheet to show that it filed the document in a timely manner, provided that the status report indicates the date of the FAX, the receiver’s FAX number, the number of pages in-**

cluded in the FAX, and that transmission was completed.] The time displayed as received by the Office on its FAX status report will be used to show the time that the document was filed. When the Office serves a document by FAX, the time displayed as sent by the Office on its FAX status report will be used to show the time that the document was served. A FAX filing cannot exceed 75 pages, inclusive of table of contents, table of authorities, and attachments. Attachments exceeding 75 pages must be submitted to the Office in person or by electronic delivery. The date of filing will be determined by the date the brief, motion, response, or supporting memorandum is received in the Office, rather than the date the attachments were received in the Office.

(4) **By Electronic Mail.** Documents transmitted electronically will be deemed filed on the date received at the Office at oocefile@compliance.gov, or on the date received at the Office of the General Counsel at OSH@compliance.gov if received by 5:00 PM Eastern Time. Documents received electronically after 5:00 PM Eastern Time will be deemed filed the following business day. An electronic filing will be timely only if the document is received no later than 5:00 PM Eastern Time on the last day of the applicable filing period. Any party filing a document electronically bears the responsibility for ensuring both that the document is timely and accurately transmitted and for confirming that the Office has received the document. The time displayed as received or sent by the Office will be based on the document’s timestamp information and used to show the time that the document was filed or served.

(b) *Service by the Office.* At its discretion, the Office may serve documents by mail, FAX, electronic transmission, or personal or commercial delivery.

[(b)](c) Computation of Time. All time periods in these rules that are stated in terms of days are calendar days unless otherwise noted. However, when the period of time prescribed is five (5) days or less, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, **[and]** federal government holidays, and other full days that the Office is officially closed for business shall be excluded in the computation. To compute the number of days for taking any action required or permitted under these rules, the first day shall be the day after the event from which the time period begins to run and the last day for filing or service shall be included in the computation. When the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, **[or]** federal government holiday, or a day the Office is officially closed, the last day for taking the action shall be the next regular federal government workday.

[(c)](d) Time Allowances for Mailing, Fax, or Electronic Delivery of Official Notices. Whenever a person or party has the right or is required to do some act within a prescribed period after the service of a notice or other document upon him or her and the notice or document is served by **[regular, first-class]** mail, five (5) days shall be added to the prescribed period. **[Only two (2) days shall be added if a document is served by express mail or other form of expedited delivery.]** When documents are served by certified mail, return receipt requested, the prescribed period shall be calculated from the date of receipt as evidenced by the return receipt. **When documents are served electronically or by FAX, the prescribed period shall be calculated from the date of transmission by the Office.**

[(d) Service or filing of documents by certified mail, return receipt requested. Whenever these rules permit or require service or filing of documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, such documents may also be served or filed by express mail or other forms of expedited delivery in which proof of date of receipt by the addressee is provided.]

[§ 9.01] § 1.04 Filing, Service, and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents.

(a) *Filing with the Office; Number and Format.* One copy of requests for counseling and mediation, requests for inspection under OSH, unfair labor practice charges, charges under titles II and III of the ADA, [one original and three copies of] all motions, briefs, responses, and other documents must be filed [whenever required,] with the Office or Hearing Officer. [However, when a party aggrieved by the decision of a Hearing Officer or a party to any other matter or determination reviewable by the Board files an appeal or other submission with the Board, one original and seven copies of any submission and any responses must be filed with the Office. The Office, Hearing Officer, or Board may also request a] A party [to submit] may file an electronic version of any submission in a [designated] format designated by the Executive Director, General Counsel, Hearing Officer, or Board, with receipt confirmed by electronic transmittal in the same format.

(b) *Service.* The parties shall serve on each other one copy of all motions, briefs, responses and other documents filed with the Office, other than the request for counseling, the request for mediation and complaint. Service shall be made by mailing, by fax or e-mailing, or by hand delivering a copy of the motion, brief, response or other document to each party, or if represented, the party's representative, on the service list previously provided by the Office. Each of these documents must be accompanied by a certificate of service specifying how, when and on whom service was made. It shall be the duty of each party to notify the Office and all other parties in writing of any changes in the names or addresses on the service list.

(d) *Size Limitations.* Except as otherwise specified [by the Hearing Officer, or these rules,] no brief, motion, response, or supporting memorandum filed with the Office shall exceed 35 double-spaced pages, [or 8,750 words,] exclusive of the table of contents, table of authorities and attachments. The Board, the Executive Director, or Hearing Officer may [waive, raise or reduce] modify this limitation upon motion and for good cause shown; or on [its] their own initiative. Briefs, motions, responses, and supporting memoranda shall be on standard letter-size paper (8-1/2" x 11"). To the extent that such a filing exceeds 35 double-spaced pages, the Hearing Officer, Board, or Executive Director may, in their discretion, reject the filing in whole or in part, and may provide the parties an opportunity to refile.

[§ 9.02] § 1.05 Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violation of Rules; Sanctions.

(a) *Signing.* Every pleading, motion, and other filing of a party represented by an attorney or other designated representative shall be signed by the attorney or representative. A party who is not represented shall sign the pleading, motion or other filing. In the case of an electronic filing, an electronic signature is acceptable. The signature of a representative or party constitutes a certificate by the signer that the signer has read the pleading, motion, or other filing; that to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

(b) *Sanctions.* If a pleading, motion, or other filing is not signed, it shall be stricken unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the person who is required to sign. If a pleading, motion, or other filing is signed in violation of this rule, a Hearing Officer or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or upon [its] their own initiative, [shall] may impose [upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both,] an appropriate sanction, which may include [an order to pay to the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, motion, or other filing, including a reasonable attorney's fee. A Hearing Officer or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or its own initiative may also impose an appropriate sanction, which may include] the sanctions specified in section 7.02, for any other violation of these rules that does not result from reasonable error].

[§ 1.04] § 1.06 Availability of Official Information.

(a) *Policy.* It is the policy of the Board, the [Office] Executive Director, and the General Counsel, except as otherwise ordered by the Board, to make available for public inspection and copying final decisions and orders of the Board and the Office, as specified and described in paragraph (d) below.

(c) *Copies of Forms.* Copies of blank forms prescribed by the Office for the filing of complaints and other actions or requests may be obtained from the Office or on line at www.compliance.gov.

(f) *Access by Committees of Congress.* [At the discretion of the Executive Director, the] The Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may provide to the [Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives] House Committee on Ethics and the [Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate] U.S. Senate Select Committee on Ethics access to the records of the hearings and decisions of the Hearing Officers and the Board, including all written and oral testimony in the possession of the Office. The identifying information in these records may be redacted at the discretion of the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall not provide such access until the Executive Director has consulted with the individual filing the complaint at issue, and until a final decision has been entered under section 405(g) or 406(e) of the Act.

[§ 1.05] § 1.07 Designation of Representative.

(a) [An employee, other charging individual or] A party [a witness, a labor organization, an employing office, or an entity alleged to be responsible for correcting a violation] wishing to be represented [by another individual,] must file with the Office a written notice of designation of representative. No more than one representative, [or] firm, or other entity may be designated as representative for a party for the purpose of receiving service, unless approved in writing by the Hearing Officer or Executive Director. The representative may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. If the representative is an attorney, he or she may sign the designation of representative on behalf of the party.

(b) *Service Where There is a Representative.* [All service] Service of documents shall be [directed to] on the representative unless and until such time as the represented [individual, labor organization, or employing office] party or representative, with notice to the party, [specifies otherwise and until such time as that individual, labor organization, or employing office] notifies the Executive Director, in writing, of [an amendment] a modification or revocation of

the designation of representative. Where a designation of representative is in effect, all time limitations for receipt of materials [by the represented individual or entity] shall be computed in the same manner as for those who are unrepresented [individuals or entities], with service of the documents, however, directed to the representative[, as provided].

(c) *Revocation of a Designation of Representative.* A revocation of a designation of representative, whether made by the party or by the representative with notice to the party, must be made in writing and filed with the Office. The revocation will be deemed effective the date of receipt by the Office. At the discretion of the Executive Director, General Counsel, Mediator, Hearing Officer, or Board, additional time may be provided to allow the party to designate a new representative as consistent with the Act.

[§ 1.06] § 1.08 [Maintenance of] Confidentiality.

(a) *Policy.* [In accord with section 416 of the Act, it is the policy of] Except as provided in sections 416(d), (e), and (f) of the Act, the Office [to] shall maintain[, to the fullest extent possible, the] confidentiality in counseling, mediation, and in [of] the proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board in accordance with sections 416(a), (b), and (c) of the Act. [Of the participants in proceedings conducted under sections 402, 403, 405 and 406 of the Act and these rules.]

(b) [At the time that any individual, employing office or party, including a designated representative, becomes a participant in counseling under section 402, mediation under section 403, the complaint and hearing process under section 405, or an appeal to the Board under section 406 of the Act, or any related proceeding, the Office will advise the participant of the confidentiality requirements of section 416 of the Act and these rules and that sanctions may be imposed for a violation of those requirements.] Participant. For the purposes of this rule, participant means an individual or entity who takes part as either a party, witness, or designated representative in counseling under Section 402 of the Act, mediation under section 403, the complaint and hearing process under section 405, or an appeal to the Board under Section 406 of the Act, or any related proceeding which is expressly or by necessity deemed confidential under the Act or these rules.

(c) *Prohibition.* Unless specifically authorized by the provisions of the Act or by these rules, no participant in counseling, mediation or other proceedings made confidential under Section 416 of the Act ("confidential proceedings") may disclose a written or oral communication that is prepared for the purpose of or that occurs during counseling, mediation, and the proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board.

(d) *Exceptions.* Nothing in these rules prohibits a party or its representative from disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings when reasonably necessary to investigate claims, ensure compliance with the Act or prepare its prosecution or defense. However, the party making the disclosure shall take all reasonably appropriate steps to ensure that persons to whom the information is disclosed maintain the confidentiality of such information. These rules do not preclude a Mediator from consulting with the Office with permission from the party that is the subject of the consultation, except that when the covered employee is an employee of the Office a Mediator shall not consult with any individual within the Office who might be a party or witness. These rules do not preclude the Office from reporting statistical information to the Senate and House of Representatives.

(e) *Contents or Records of Confidential Proceedings.* For the purpose of this rule, the contents or records of counseling, mediation or other proceeding includes the information disclosed by participants to the proceedings, and records disclosed by the opposing party, witnesses, or the Office. A participant is free to disclose facts and other information obtained from any

source outside of the confidential proceedings. For example, an employing office or its representatives may disclose information about its employment practices and personnel actions, provided that the information was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, an employee who obtains that information in mediation or other confidential proceeding may not disclose such information. Similarly, information forming the basis for the allegation of a complaining employee may be disclosed by that employee, provided that the information contained in those allegations was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, the employing office or its representatives may not disclose that information if it was obtained in a confidential proceeding.

(f) **Sanctions.** The Executive Director will advise all participants in mediation and hearing at the time they become participants of the confidentiality requirements of Section 416 of the Act and that sanctions may be imposed by the Hearing Officer for a violation of those requirements. No sanctions may be imposed except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.

[§ 1.07 Breach of Confidentiality Provisions.]

(a) **In General.** Section 416(a) of the CAA provides that counseling under section 402 shall be strictly confidential, except that the Office and a covered employee may agree to notify the employing office of the allegations. Section 416(b) provides that all mediation shall be strictly confidential. Section 416(c) provides that all proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board, including any related records shall be confidential, except for release of records necessary for judicial actions, access by certain committees of Congress, and, in accordance with section 416(f), publication of certain final decisions. Section 416(c) does not apply to proceedings under section 215 of the Act, but does apply to the deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board under section 215. See also sections 1.06, 5.04, and 7.12 of these rules.

(b) **Prohibition.** Unless specifically authorized by the provisions of the CAA or by order of the Board, the Hearing Officer or a court, or by the procedural rules of the Office, no participant in counseling, mediation or other proceedings made confidential under section 416 of the CAA ("confidential proceedings") may disclose the contents or records of those proceedings to any person or entity. Nothing in these rules prohibits a bona fide representative of a party under section 1.05 from engaging in communications with that party for the purpose of participation in the proceedings, provided that such disclosure is not made in the presence of individuals not reasonably necessary to the representative's representation of that party. Moreover, nothing in these rules prohibits a party or its representative from disclosing information obtained in confidential proceedings for the limited purposes of investigating claims, ensuring compliance with the Act or preparing its prosecution or defense, to the extent that such disclosure is reasonably necessary to accomplish the aforementioned purposes and provided that the party making the disclosure takes all reasonably appropriate steps to ensure that persons to whom the information is disclosed maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(c) **Participant.** For the purposes of this rule, participant means any individual or party, including a designated representative, that becomes a participant in counseling under section 402, mediation under section 403, the complaint and hearing process under section 405, or an appeal to the Board under section 406 of the Act, or any related proceeding which is expressly or by necessity deemed confidential under the Act or these rules.

(d) **Contents or Records of Confidential Proceedings.** For the purpose of this rule, the contents or records of counseling, mediation or other proceeding includes information disclosed

by participants to the proceedings, and records disclosed by either the opposing party, witnesses or the Office. A participant is free to disclose facts and other information obtained from any source outside of the confidential proceedings. For example, an employing office or its representatives may disclose information about its employment practices and personnel actions, provided that the information was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, an employee who obtains that information in mediation or other confidential proceeding may not disclose such information. Similarly, information forming the basis for the allegation of a complaining employee may be disclosed by that employee, provided that the information contained in those allegations was not obtained in a confidential proceeding. However, the employing office or its representatives may not disclose that information if it was obtained in a confidential proceeding.

(e) **Violation of Confidentiality.** Any complaint regarding a violation of the confidentiality provisions must be made to the Executive Director no later than 30 days after the date of the alleged violation. Such complaints may be referred by the Executive Director to a Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer is also authorized to initiate proceedings on his or her own initiative, or at the direction of the Board, if the alleged violation occurred in the context of Board proceedings. Upon a finding of a violation of the confidentiality provisions, the Hearing Officer, after notice and hearing, may impose an appropriate sanction, which may include any of the sanctions listed in section 7.02 of these rules, as well as any of the following:

(1) an order that the matters regarding which the violation occurred or any other designated facts shall be taken to be established against the violating party for the purposes of the action in accordance with the claim of the other party;

(2) an order refusing to allow the violating party to support or oppose designated claims or defenses, or prohibiting him from introducing designated matters in evidence;

(3) an order striking out pleadings or parts thereof, or staying further proceedings until the order is obeyed, or dismissing with or without prejudice the action or proceedings or any part thereof, or rendering a judgment by default against the violating party;

(4) in lieu of any of the foregoing orders or in addition thereto, the Hearing Officer shall require the party violating the confidentiality provisions or the representative advising him, or both, to pay, at such time as ordered by the Hearing Officer, the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees, caused by the violation, unless the Hearing Officer finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of expenses unjust. Such an order shall be subject to review on appeal of the final decision of the Hearing Officer under section 406 of the Act. No sanctions may be imposed under this section except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.]

SUBPART B—PRE-COMPLAINT PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF PART A OF TITLE II OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995

§ 2.01 Matters Covered by Subpart B

§ 2.02 Requests for Advice and Information

§ 2.03 Counseling

§ 2.04 Mediation

§ 2.05 Election of Proceeding[s]

§ 2.06 [Filing of Civil Action] Certification of the Official Record

§ 2.07 Filing of Civil Action

§ 2.01 Matters Covered by Subpart B.

(a) These rules govern the processing of any allegation that sections 201 through 206

of the Act have been violated and any allegation of intimidation or reprisal prohibited under section 207 of the Act. Sections 201 through 206 of the Act apply to covered employees and employing offices certain rights and protections of the following laws:

(10) **Chapter 35 (relating to veteran's preference) of title 5, United States Code.**

(11) **Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.**

(b) This subpart applies to the covered employees and employing offices as defined in section 1.02(b) and (h) of these rules and any activities within the coverage of sections 201 through 206(a) and 207 of the Act and referenced above in section 2.01(a) of these rules.

* * * * *

§ 2.03 Counseling.

(a) **Initiating a Proceeding; Formal Request for Counseling.** [In order] To initiate a proceeding under these rules regarding an alleged violation of the Act, as referred to in section 2.01(a), above, an employee shall file a written request for counseling with the Office. [Regarding an alleged violation of the Act, as referred to in section 2.01(a), above.] Individuals wishing to file a formal request for counseling may call the Office for a form to use for this purpose. [All requests for counseling shall be confidential, unless the employee agrees to waive his or her right to confidentiality under section 2.03(e)(2), below.]

(b) **Who May Request Counseling.** A covered employee who, in good faith, believes that he or she has been or is the subject of a violation of the Act as referred to in section 2.01(a) may formally request counseling.

(c) **When, How and Where to Request Counseling.** A request for counseling must be in writing, and shall be filed pursuant to the requirements of section 2.03(a) of these Rules with the Office of Compliance at Room LA-200, 110 Second Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20540-1999; FAX 202-426-1913; TDD 202-426-1912, not later than 180 days after the alleged violation of the Act.

(d) **[Purpose] Overview of the Counseling Period.** The Office will maintain strict confidentiality throughout the counseling period. The [purpose of the] counseling period [shall] should be used: to discuss the employee's concerns and elicit information regarding the matter(s) which the employee believes constitute a violation(s) of the Act; to advise the employee of his or her rights and responsibilities under the Act and the procedures of the Office under these rules; to evaluate the matter; and to assist the employee in achieving an early resolution of the matter, if possible.

(e) **Confidentiality and Waiver.**

(1) Absent a waiver under paragraph 2, below, all counseling shall be kept strictly confidential and shall not be subject to discovery. All participants in counseling shall be advised of the requirement for confidentiality and that disclosure of information deemed confidential could result in sanctions later in the proceedings. Nothing in these rules shall prevent a counselor from consulting with personnel within the Office concerning a matter in counseling, except that, when the person being counseled is an employee of the Office, the counselor shall not consult with any individual within the Office who might be a party or witness without the consent of the person requesting counseling. Nothing contained in these rules shall prevent the Executive Director from compiling and publishing statistical information such as that required by Section 301(h)(3) of the Act, so long as that statistical information does not reveal

the identity of [the employees] an individual employee [involved] or of an employing office[s] that [are] is the subject of a specific request for counseling.

(2) [The] In accord with section 416(a) of the Act, the employee and the Office may agree to waive confidentiality [of] during the counseling process for the limited purpose of allowing the Office [contacting the employing office] to [obtain information] notify the employing office of the allegations [to be used in counseling the employee or to attempt a resolution of any disputed matter(s).] Such a limited waiver must be written on the form supplied by the Office and signed by both the counselor and the employee.

(g) Role of Counselor [in Defining Concerns]. The Counselor [may] shall:

(1) obtain the name, home and office mailing and e-mail addresses, and home and office telephone numbers of the person being counseled;

(2) obtain the name and title of the person(s) whom the employee claims has engaged in a violation of the Act, e-mail address, if known, and the employing office in which this person(s) works;

(5) obtain the name, business and e-mail addresses, and telephone number of the employee's representative, if any, and whether the representative is an attorney.

[(i)(h) Counselor Not a Representative. The Counselor shall inform the person being counseled that the counselor does not represent either the employing office or the employee. The Counselor provides information regarding the Act and the Office and may act as a third-party intermediary with the goals of increasing the individual's understanding of his or her rights and responsibilities under the Act and of promoting the early resolution of the matter.

[(j)(i) Duration of Counseling Period. The period for counseling shall be 30 days, beginning on the date that the request for counseling is [received by the Office] filed by the employee in accordance with section 1.03(a) of these rules, unless the employee requests in writing on a form provided by the Office to reduce the period and the [Office] Executive Director agrees [to reduce the period].

[(h)(j) Role of Counselor in Attempting Informal Resolution. In order to attempt to resolve the matter brought to the attention of the counselor, the counselor must obtain a waiver of confidentiality pursuant to section 2.03(e)(2) of these rules. If the employee executes such a waiver, the counselor may:

(1) conduct a limited inquiry for the purpose of obtaining any information necessary to attempt an informal resolution or formal settlement;

(2) reduce to writing any formal settlement achieved and secure the signatures of the employee, his or her representative, if any, and a member of the employing office who is authorized to enter into a settlement on the employing office's behalf; and, pursuant to section 414 of the Act and section 9.05 of these rules, seek the approval of the Executive Director. Nothing in this subsection, however, precludes the employee, the employing office or their representatives from reducing to writing any formal settlement.

(k) Duty to Proceed. An employee who initiates a proceeding under this part shall be responsible at all times for proceeding, regardless of whether he or she has designated a representative, and shall notify the Office in writing of any change in pertinent contact information, such as address, e-mail, fax number, etc. An em-

ployee, however, may withdraw from counseling once without prejudice to the employee's right to reinstate counseling regarding the same matter, provided that the request to reinstate counseling is in writing and is [received in] filed with the Office not later than 180 days after the date of the alleged violation of the Act and that counseling on a single matter will not last longer than a total of 30 days.

(1) Conclusion of the Counseling Period and Notice. The Executive Director shall notify the employee in writing of the end of the counseling period, by [certified mail, return receipt requested, first class mail, or by] personal delivery evidenced by a written receipt, or electronic transmission. The Executive Director, as part of the notification of the end of the counseling period, shall inform the employee of the right and obligation, should the employee choose to pursue his or her claim, to file with the Office a request for mediation within 15 days after receipt by the employee of the notice of the end of the counseling period.

(m) Employees of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol and Capitol Police.

(1) Where an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police requests counseling under the Act and these rules, the Executive Director, in his or her sole discretion, may recommend that the employee use the [grievance] internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Architect of the Capitol and the Office or the Capitol Police and the Office addressing certain procedural and notification requirements. The term "[grievance] internal procedure(s)" refers to any internal procedure of the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police, including grievance procedures referred to in section 401 of the Act, that can provide a resolution of the matter(s) about which counseling was requested. Pursuant to section 401 of the Act [and by agreement with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board], when the Executive Director makes such a recommendation, the following procedures shall apply:

(i) The Executive Director shall recommend in writing to the employee that the employee use the [grievance] internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police, as appropriate, for a period generally up to 90 days, unless the Executive Director determines, in writing, that a longer period is appropriate [for resolution of the employee's complaint through the grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police]. Once the employee notifies the Office that he or she is using the internal procedure, the employee shall provide a waiver of confidentiality to allow the Executive Director to notify the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police that the Executive Director has recommended that the employee use the internal procedure.

(ii) The period during which the matter is pending in the internal procedure shall not count against the time available for counseling or mediation under the Act.

(iii) If the dispute is resolved to the employee's satisfaction, the employee shall so notify the Office within 20 days after the employee has been served with a final decision resulting from the internal procedure.

[(ii) (iv) After [having contacted the Office and having utilized] using the [grievance] internal procedures [of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police], the employee may notify the Office that he or she wishes to return to the procedures under these rules:

(A) within 60 days after the expiration of the period recommended by the Executive

Director, if the matter has not resulted in a final decision or a decision not to proceed; or

(B) within 20 days after service of a final decision or a decision not to proceed, resulting from the [grievance] internal procedures [of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police Board].

[(iii)] The period during which the matter is pending in the internal grievance procedure shall not count against the time available for counseling or mediation under the Act. If the grievance is resolved to the employee's satisfaction, the employee shall so notify the Office within 20 days after the employee has received service of the final decision resulting from the grievance procedure. If no request to return to the procedures under these rules is received within 60 days after the expiration of the period recommended by the Executive Director the Office will issue a Notice of End of Counseling, as specified in section 2.04(i) of these Rules.

(v) If a request to return to counseling is not made by the employee within the time periods outlined above, the Office will issue a Notice of the End of Counseling.

(2) Notice to Employees who Have Not Initiated Counseling with the Office. When an employee of the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police raises in the internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police [Board] an allegation which may also be raised under the procedures set forth in this subpart, the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police [Board should] shall, in accordance with the MOU with the Office, advise the employee in writing that a request for counseling about the allegation must be initiated with the Office within 180 days after the alleged violation of law occurred if the employee intends to use the procedures of the Office.

(3) Notice in Final Decisions when Employees Have Not Initiated Counseling with the Office. When an employee raises in the internal procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police [Board] an allegation which may also be raised under the procedures set forth in this subpart, any [final] decision issued [pursuant to the procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Capitol Police Board should] under such procedure, shall, pursuant to the MOU with the Office, include notice to the employee of his or her right to initiate the procedures under these rules within 180 days after the alleged violation occurred.

(4) Notice in Final Decisions when There Has Been a Recommendation by the Executive Director. When the Executive Director has made a recommendation under paragraph 1 above, the Architect of the Capitol or the Capitol Police [Board should] shall, pursuant to the MOU with the Office, include with the final decision notice to the employee of his or her right to resume the procedures under these rules within 20 days after service on the employee of the final decision and shall transmit a copy of the final decision, settlement agreement, or other final disposition of the case to the Executive Director.

§ 2.04 Mediation.

(a) [Explanation] Overview. Mediation is a process in which employees, employing offices and their representatives, if any, meet separately and/or jointly with a [neutral] Mediator trained to assist them in resolving disputes. As [parties to] participants in the mediation, employees, employing offices, and their representatives discuss alternatives to continuing their dispute, including the possibility of reaching a voluntary, mutually satisfactory resolution. The [neutral] Mediator has no power to impose a specific resolution,

and the mediation process, whether or not a resolution is reached, is strictly confidential, pursuant to section 416 of the Act.

(b) *Initiation.* Not more than 15 days after receipt by the employee of the notice of the conclusion of the counseling period under section 2.03(1), the employee may file with the Office a written request for mediation. Except to provide for the services of a Mediator and notice to the employing office, the invocation of mediation shall be kept confidential by the Office. The request for mediation shall contain the employee's name, home and e-mail addresses, [and] telephone number, and the name of the employing office that is the subject of the request. Failure to request mediation within the prescribed period [will] may preclude the employee's further pursuit of his or her claim. If a request for mediation is not filed within 15 days of receipt of a Notice of the End of Counseling, the case may be closed and the employee will be so notified.

(d) *Selection of [Neutrals] Mediators; Disqualification.* Upon receipt of the request for mediation, the Executive Director shall assign one or more [neutrals] Mediators from a master list developed and maintained pursuant to section 403 of the Act, to commence the mediation process. In the event that a [neutral] Mediator considers him or herself unable to perform in a neutral role in a given situation, he or she shall withdraw from the matter and immediately shall notify the Office of the withdrawal. Any party may ask the Office to disqualify a [neutral] Mediator by filing a written request, including the reasons for such request, with the Executive Director. This request shall be filed as soon as the party has reason to believe there is a basis for disqualification. The Executive Director's decision on this request shall be final and unreviewable.

(e) *Duration and Extension.*

(2) The [Office] Executive Director may extend the mediation period upon the joint written request of the parties, or of the appointed mediator on behalf of the parties, to the attention of the Executive Director]. The request shall be written and filed with the [Office] Executive Director no later than the last day of the mediation period. The request shall set forth the joint nature of the request and the reasons therefore, and specify when the parties expect to conclude their discussions. Requests for additional extensions may be made in the same manner. Approval of any extensions shall be within the sole discretion of the [Office] Executive Director.

(f) *Procedures.*

(1) The [Neutral's] Mediator's Role. After assignment of the case, the [neutral] Mediator will promptly contact the parties. The [neutral] Mediator has the responsibility to conduct the mediation, including deciding how many meetings are necessary and who may participate in each meeting. The [neutral] Mediator may accept and may ask the parties to provide written submissions.

(2) The Agreement to Mediate. At the commencement of the mediation, the [neutral] Mediator will ask the [parties] participants and/or their representatives to sign an agreement prepared by the Office ("the Agreement to Mediate"). The Agreement to Mediate will set out the conditions under which mediation will occur, including the requirement that the participants adhere to the confidentiality of the process and a notice that a breach of the mediation agreement could result in sanctions later in the proceedings. The Agreement to Mediate will also provide that the parties to the

mediation will not seek to have the Counselor or the [neutral] Mediator participate, testify or otherwise present evidence in any subsequent administrative action under section 405 or any civil action under section 408 of the Act or any other proceeding.

(g) *Who May Participate.* The covered employee~~],~~ and the employing office~~],~~ their respective representatives, and the Office may meet, jointly or separately, with the neutral. A representative of the employee and a representative of the employing who has actual authority to agree to a settlement agreement on behalf of the employee or the employing office, as the case may be, must be present at the mediation or must be immediately accessible by telephone during the mediation. may elect to participate in mediation proceedings through a designated representative, provided, that the representative has actual authority to agree to a settlement agreement or has immediate access to someone with actual settlement authority, and provided further, that should the Mediator deem it appropriate at any time, the physical presence in mediation of any party may be specifically requested. The Office may participate in the mediation process, with permission of the Mediator and the parties. The Mediator will determine, as best serves the interests of mediation, whether the participants may meet jointly or separately with the Mediator.

(h) *Informal Resolutions and Settlement Agreements.* At any time during mediation the parties may resolve or settle a dispute in accordance with section [9.05] 9.03 of these rules.

(i) *Conclusion of the Mediation Period and Notice.* If, at the end of the mediation period, the parties have not resolved the matter that forms the basis of the request for mediation, the Office shall provide the employee, and the employing office, and their representatives, with written notice that the mediation period has concluded. The written notice [to the employee] will be [sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or will be] personally delivered evidenced by a written receipt, or sent by first class mail, e-mail, or fax. [, and it] The notice will specify the date the mediation period ended and also [notify] provide information about the employee's [of his or her] right to elect to file a complaint with the Office in accordance with section 405 of the Act and section 5.01 of these rules or to file a civil action pursuant to section 408 of the Act and section [2.06] 2.07 of these rules.

(j) *Independence of the Mediation Process and the [Neutral] Mediator.* The Office will maintain the independence of the mediation process and the [neutral] Mediator. No individual, who is appointed by the Executive Director to mediate, may conduct or aid in a hearing conducted under section 405 of the Act with respect to the same matter or shall be subject to subpoena or any other compulsory process with respect to the same matter.

[(k) Confidentiality. Except as necessary to consult with the parties, the parties' their counsel or other designated representatives, the parties to, the mediation, the neutral and the Office shall not disclose, in whole or in part, any information or records obtained through, or prepared specifically for, the mediation process. This rule shall not preclude a neutral from consulting with the Office, except that when the covered employee is an employee of the Office a neutral shall not consult with any individual within the Office who might be a party or witness. This rule shall also not preclude the Office from reporting statistical information to the Senate and House of Representatives that does not reveal the identity of the employees or employing offices involved in the mediation. All parties to the action and their representatives will be advised of the confidentiality require-

ments of this process and of the sanctions that might be imposed for violating these requirements.]

(k) *Violation of Confidentiality in Mediation.* An allegation regarding a violation of the confidentiality provisions may be made by a party in a mediation to the mediator during the mediation period and, if not resolved by agreement in mediation, to a hearing officer during proceedings brought under Section 405 of the Act.

§ 2.05 Election of Proceeding.

(a) Pursuant to section 404 of the Act, not later than 90 days after [a covered employee receives notice of] the end of mediation under section 2.04(i) of these rules, but no sooner than 30 days after that date, the covered employee may either:

(2) file a civil action in accordance with section 408 of the Act and section [2.06] 2.07, below, in the United States [District Court] district court for the district in which the employee is employed or for the District of Columbia.

(b) A covered employee who files a civil action pursuant to section [2.06] 408 of the Act, may not thereafter file a complaint under section [5.01] 405 of the Act on the same matter.

§ 2.06 Certification of the Official Record.

(a) Certification of the Official Record shall contain the date the Request for Counseling was made; the date and method of delivery the Notification of End of Counseling Period was sent to the complainant; the date the Notice was deemed by the Office to have been received by the complainant; the date the Request for Mediation was filed; and the date the mediation period ended.

(b) At any time after a complaint has been filed with the Office in accordance with section 405 of the Act and the procedure set out in section 5.01, below; or a civil action filed in accordance with section 408 of the Act and section 2.07, below, in the United States District Court, a party may request and receive from the Office Certification of the Official Record.

(c) Certification of the Official Record will not be provided until after a complaint has been filed with the Office or the Office has been notified that a civil action has been filed in district court.

§ [2.06] 2.07 Filing of Civil Action.

(a) *Filing.* Section 404 of the Act provides that as an alternative to filing a complaint under section 408 of the Act and section 5.01 of these rules, a covered employee [who receives notice of the end of mediation pursuant to section 403 of the Act and section 2.04(i) of these rules] may elect to file a civil action in accordance with Section 408 of the Act in the United States district court for the district in which the employee is employed or for the District of Columbia.

(b) *Time for Filing.* A covered employee may file such a civil action no earlier than 30 days after [receipt of the notice under the section 2.04(i),] the end of the mediation period under section 2.04(i), but no later than 90 days after that [receipt] date.

(c) *Communication Regarding Civil Actions Filed with District Court.* The party filing any civil action with the United States District Court pursuant to sections 404(2) and 408 of the Act shall provide a written notice to the Office that the party has filed a civil action, specifying the district court in which the civil action was filed and the case number. Failure to notify the Office that such action has been filed may result in delay in the preparation and receipt of the Certification of the Official Record.

SUBPART C—[RESERVED (SECTION 210—ADA PUBLIC SERVICES)]

SUBPART D—COMPLIANCE, INVESTIGATION, ENFORCEMENT AND VARIANCE PROCESS UNDER SECTION 215 OF THE CAA (OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970)—INSPECTIONS, CITATIONS, AND COMPLAINTS

§ 4.01 Purpose and Scope

§ 4.02 Authority for Inspection

§ 4.03 Request for Inspections by Employees and Employing Offices

§ 4.04 Objection to Inspection

§ 4.05 Entry Not a Waiver

§ 4.06 Advance Notice of Inspection

§ 4.07 Conduct of Inspections

§ 4.08 Representatives of Employing Offices and Employees

§ 4.09 Consultation with Employees

§ 4.10 Inspection Not Warranted; Informal Review

§ 4.11 Citations

§ 4.12 Imminent Danger

§ 4.13 Posting of Citations

§ 4.14 Failure to Correct a Violation for Which a Citation Has Been Issued; Notice of Failure to Correct Violation; Complaint

§ 4.15 Informal Conferences

Rules of Practice for Variances, Limitations, Variations, Tolerances, and Exemptions

§ 4.20 Purpose and Scope

§ 4.21 Definitions

§ 4.22 Effect of Variances

§ 4.23 Public Notice of a Granted Variance, Limitation, Variation, Tolerance, or Exemption

§ 4.24 Form of Documents

§ 4.25 Applications for Temporary Variances and other Relief

§ 4.26 Applications for Permanent Variances and other Relief

§ 4.27 Modification or Revocation of Orders

§ 4.28 Action on Applications

§ 4.29 Consolidation of Proceedings

§ 4.30 Consent Findings and Rules or Orders

§ 4.31 Order of Proceedings and Burden of Proof

Inspections, Citations and Complaints

* * * *

§ 4.02 Authority for Inspection.

(a) Under section 215(c)(1) of the CAA, upon written request of any employing office or covered employee, the General Counsel is authorized to enter without delay and at reasonable times any place where covered employees work ("place of employment") *[of employment under the jurisdiction of an employing office]*; to inspect and investigate during regular working hours and at other reasonable times, and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, any such place of employment, and all pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment and materials therein; to question privately any employing office, operator, agent or employee; and to review records maintained by or under the control of the covered entity. *[required by the CAA and regulations promulgated thereunder, and other records which are directly related to the purpose of the inspection.]*

* * * *

§ 4.03 Requests for Inspections by Employees and Covered Employing Offices.

(a) *By Covered Employees and Representatives.*

(1) Any covered employee or representative of covered employees who believes that a violation of section 215 of the CAA exists in any place of employment *[under the jurisdiction of employing offices]* may request an in-

spection of such place of employment by giving notice of the alleged violation to the General Counsel. Any such notice shall be reduced to writing on a form available from the Office, shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the employee or the representative of the employees. A copy shall be provided to the employing office or its agent by the General Counsel or the General Counsel's designee no later than at the time of inspection, except that, upon the written request of the person giving such notice, his or her name and the names of individual employees referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or on any record published, released, or made available by the General Counsel.

(b) *By Employing Offices.* Upon written request of any employing office, the General Counsel or the General Counsel's designee shall inspect and investigate places of employment *[under the jurisdiction of employing offices]* under section 215(c)(1) of the CAA. Any such requests shall be reduced to writing on a form available from the Office.

* * * *

§ 4.10 Inspection Not Warranted; Informal Review.

(a) If the General Counsel's designee determines that an inspection is not warranted because there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or danger exists with respect to a notice of violation under section 4.03(a), he or she shall notify the party giving the notice *[in writing]* of such determination in writing. The complaining party may obtain review of such determination by submitting and serving a written statement of position with the General Counsel *[,]* and *[, at the same time, providing]* the employing office *[with a copy of such statement by certified mail]*. The employing office may submit and serve an opposing written statement of position with the General Counsel *[,]* and *[, at the same time, provide]* the complaining party *[with a copy of such statement by certified mail]*. Upon the request of the complaining party or the employing office, the General Counsel, at his or her discretion, may hold an informal conference in which the complaining party and the employing office may orally present their views. After considering all written and oral views presented, the General Counsel shall affirm, modify, or reverse the designee's determination and furnish the complaining party and the employing office with written notification of this decision and the reasons therefor. The decision of the General Counsel shall be final and not reviewable.

* * * *

§ 4.11 Citations.

(a) If, on the basis of the inspection, the General Counsel believes that a violation of any requirement of section 215 of the CAA, for or of including any occupational safety or health standard promulgated by the Secretary of Labor under Title 29 of the U.S. Code, section 655, or of any other regulation *[standard]*, rule or order promulgated pursuant to section 215 of the CAA, has occurred, he or she shall issue to the employing office responsible for correction of the violation, as determined under section 1.106 of the Board's regulations implementing section 215 of the CAA, either a citation or a notice of de minimis violations that *[have]* has no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health. An appropriate citation or notice of de minimis violations shall be issued even though, after being informed of

an alleged violation by the General Counsel, the employing office immediately abates, or initiates steps to abate, such alleged violation. Any citation shall be issued with reasonable promptness after termination of the inspection. No citation may be issued under this section after the expiration of 6 months following the occurrence of any alleged violation unless the violation is continuing or the employing office has agreed to toll the deadline for filing the citation.

* * * *

§ 4.13 Posting of Citations.

(a) Upon receipt of any citation under section 215 of the CAA, the employing office shall immediately post such citation, or a copy thereof, unedited, at or near each place an alleged violation referred to in the citation occurred, except as provided below. Where, because of the nature of the employing office's operations, it is not practicable to post the citation at or near each place of alleged violation, such citation shall be posted, unedited, in a prominent place where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. For example, where employing offices are engaged in activities which are physically dispersed, the citation may be posted at the location to which employees report each day. Where employees do not primarily work at or report to a single location, the citation may be posted at the location from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. When a citation contains security information as defined in Title 2 of the U.S. Code, section 1979, the General Counsel may edit or redact the security information from the copy of the citation used for posting or may provide to the employing office a notice for posting that describes the alleged violation without referencing the security information. The employing office shall take steps to ensure that the citation or notice is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material. Notices of de minimis violations need not be posted.

(b) Each citation, notice, or a copy thereof, shall remain posted until the violation has been abated, or for 3 working days, whichever is later. The pendency of any proceedings regarding the citation shall not affect its posting responsibility under this section unless and until the Board issues a final order vacating the citation.

* * * *

§ 4.15 Informal Conferences.

At the request of an affected employing office, employee, or representative of employees, the General Counsel may hold an informal conference for the purpose of discussing any issues raised by an inspection, citation, or notice issued by the General Counsel. Any settlement entered into by the parties at such conference shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Director under section 414 of the CAA and section *[9.05]* 9.03 of these rules. If the conference is requested by the employing office, an affected employee or the employee's representative shall be afforded an opportunity to participate, at the discretion of the General Counsel. If the conference is requested by an employee or representative of employees, the employing office shall be afforded an opportunity to participate, at the discretion of the General Counsel. Any party may be represented by counsel at such conference.

* * * *

SUBPART E—COMPLAINTS

§ 5.01 Complaints

§ 5.02 Appointment of the Hearing Officer**§ 5.03 Dismissal, Summary Judgment, and Withdrawal of Complaint****§ 5.04 Confidentiality****§ 5.01 Complaints.****(a) Who May File.**

(1) An employee who has completed the mediation period under section 2.04 may timely file a complaint with the Office alleging any violation of sections 201 through 207 of the Act [f], under the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or any other statute made applicable under the Act.

(2) The General Counsel may timely file a complaint alleging a violation of section 210, 215 or 220 of the Act.

(b) When to File.

(1) A complaint may be filed by an employee no sooner than 30 days after [the date of receipt of the notice under section 2.04(i)] the end of the mediation period, but no later than 90 days after [receipt of that notice] that date. In cases where a complaint is filed with the Office sooner than 30 days after [the date of receipt of the notice under section 2.04(i)] end of the mediation period, the Executive Director, at his or her discretion, may return the complaint to the employee for filing during the prescribed period without prejudice and with an explanation of the prescribed period of filing.

(c) Form and Contents.

(1) Complaints Filed by Covered Employees. A complaint shall be in writing and may be written or typed on a complaint form available from the Office. All complaints shall be signed by the covered employee, or his or her representative, and shall contain the following information:

(i) the name, mailing and e-mail addresses, and telephone number(s) of the complainant;

(v) a brief description of why the complainant believes the challenged conduct is a violation of the Act or the relevant sections of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act and the section(s) of the Act involved;

(vii) the name, mailing and e-mail addresses, and telephone number of the representative, if any, who will act on behalf of the complainant.

(2) Complaints Filed by the General Counsel. A complaint filed by the General Counsel shall be in writing, signed by the General Counsel or his designee and shall contain the following information:

(i) the name, mail and e-mail addresses, if available, and telephone number of, as applicable, (A) each entity responsible for correction of an alleged violation of section 210(b), (B) each employing office alleged to have violated section 215, or (C) each employing office and/or labor organization alleged to have violated section 220, against which complaint is brought;

(e) Service of Complaint. Upon receipt of a complaint or an amended complaint, the Office shall serve the respondent, or its designated representative, by hand delivery [or certified mail] or first class mail, e-mail, or facsimile with a copy of the complaint or amended complaint and [a copy of these rules] written notice of the availability of these rules at www.compliance.gov. A copy of these rules may also be provided if requested by either party. The Office shall include a service list containing the names and addresses of the parties and their designated representatives.

(f) Answer. Within 15 days after receipt of a copy of a complaint or an amended complaint, the respondent shall file an answer

with the Office and serve one copy on the complainant. [The answer shall contain a statement of the position of the respondent on each of the issues raised in the complaint or amended complaint, including admissions, denials, or explanations of each allegation made in the complaint and any affirmative defenses or other defenses to the complaint.] In answering a complaint, a party must state in short and plain terms its defenses to each claim asserted against it and admit or deny the allegations asserted against it by an opposing party. Failure to [file an answer] deny an allegation, other than one relating to the amount of damages, or to raise a claim or defense as to any allegation(s) shall constitute an admission of such allegation(s). Affirmative defenses not raised in an answer that could have reasonably been anticipated based on the facts alleged in the complaint shall be deemed waived. A respondent's motion for leave to amend an answer to interpose a denial or affirmative defense will ordinarily be granted unless to do so would unduly prejudice the rights of the other party or unduly delay or otherwise interfere with or impede the proceedings.

(g) Motion to Dismiss. In addition to an answer, a respondent may file a motion to dismiss, or other responsive pleading with the Office and serve one copy on the complainant. Responses to any motions shall be in compliance with section 1.04(c) of these rules

(h) Confidentiality. The fact that a complaint has been filed with the Office by a covered employee shall be kept confidential by the Office, except as allowed by these rules.

§ 5.02 Appointment of the Hearing Officer.

Upon the filing of a complaint, the Executive Director will appoint an independent Hearing Officer, who shall have the authority specified in sections 5.03 and 7.01(b) below. The Hearing Officer shall not be the Counselor involved in or the [neutral] Mediator who mediated the matter under sections 2.03 and 2.04 of these rules.

§ 5.03 Dismissal, Summary Judgment and Withdrawal of Complaints.

(f) Withdrawal of Complaint by Complainant. At any time a complainant may withdraw his or her own complaint by filing a notice with the Office for transmittal to the Hearing Officer and by serving a copy on the employing office or representative. Any such withdrawal must be approved by the Hearing Officer and may be with or without prejudice to refile at the Hearing Officer's discretion, consistent with section 404 of the CAA.

(g) Withdrawal of Complaint by the General Counsel. At any time prior to the opening of the hearing the General Counsel may withdraw his complaint by filing a notice with the Executive Director and the Hearing Officer and by serving a copy on the respondent. After opening of the hearing, any such withdrawal must be approved by the Hearing Officer and may be with or without prejudice to refile at the Hearing Officer's discretion, consistent with section 404 of the CAA.

(h) Withdrawal From a Case by a Representative. A representative must provide sufficient notice to the Hearing Officer and the parties of record of his or her withdrawal. Until the party designates another representative in writing, the party will be regarded as pro se.

§ 5.04 Confidentiality.

Pursuant to section 416(c) of the Act, except as provided in sub-sections 416(d), (e) and (f), all proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board, including any related records, shall be confidential. Section 416(c) does not apply to proceedings under section 215 of the Act, but does apply to the deliberations of Hearing Officers and

the Board under section 215. A violation of the confidentiality requirements of the Act and these rules [could] may result in the imposition of procedural or evidentiary sanctions. [Nothing in these rules shall prevent the Executive Director from reporting statistical information to the Senate and House of Representatives, so long as that statistical information does not reveal the identity of the employees involved or of employing offices that are the subject of a matter.] See also sections [1.06] 1.08 [1.07] 1.09 and 7.12 of these rules.

SUBPART F—DISCOVERY AND SUBPOENAS**§ 6.01 Discovery****§ 6.02 Requests for Subpoenas****§ 6.03 Service****§ 6.04 Proof of Service****§ 6.05 Motion to Quash****§ 6.06 Enforcement****§ 6.01 Discovery.**

(a) [Explanation] Description. Discovery is the process by which a party may obtain from another person, including a party, information, not privileged, reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, for the purpose of assisting that party in developing, preparing and presenting its case at the hearing. No discovery, oral or written, by any party shall [This provision shall not be construed to permit any discovery, oral or written, to] be taken of or from an employee of the Office of Compliance, [or the] Counselor[(s)], or Mediator [the neutral(s) involved in counseling and mediation.], including files, records, or notes produced during counseling and mediation and maintained by the Office.

(b) Initial Disclosure. [Office Policy Regarding Discovery. It is the policy of the Office to encourage the early and voluntary exchange of relevant and material nonprivileged information between the parties, including the names and addresses of witnesses and copies of relevant and material documents, and to encourage Hearing Officers to develop procedures which allow for the greatest exchange of relevant and material information and which minimizes the need for parties to formally request such information.] Within 14 days after the pre-hearing conference or as soon as the information is known, and except as otherwise stipulated or ordered by the Hearing Officer, a party must, without awaiting a discovery request, provide to the other parties: the name and, if known, mail and e-mail addresses and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information that the disclosing party may use to support its claims or defenses; and a copy or a description by category and location of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support its claims or defenses.

(c) Discovery Availability. Pursuant to section 405(e) of the Act, the Hearing Officer in his or her discretion may permit reasonable prehearing discovery. In exercising that discretion, the Hearing Officer may be guided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the underlying statute.

(1) The [Hearing Officer may authorize] parties may take discovery by one or more of the following methods: depositions upon oral examination or written questions; written interrogatories; production of documents or things or permission to enter upon land or other property for inspection or other purposes; physical and mental examinations; and requests for admission.

(2) The Hearing Officer may adopt standing orders or make any order setting forth the forms and extent of discovery, including orders limiting the number of depositions, interrogatories, and requests for production of documents, and may also limit the length of depositions.

(d) *Claims of Privilege.*

(1) **Information Withheld.** Whenever a party withholds information otherwise discoverable under these rules by claiming that it is privileged or confidential or subject to protection as hearing or trial preparation materials, the party shall make the claim expressly in writing and shall describe the nature of the documents, communications or things not produced or disclosed in a manner that, without revealing the information itself privileged or protected, will enable other parties to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection. A party must make a claim for privilege no later than the due date for the production of the information. (2) **Information Produced As Inadvertent Disclosure.** If information produced in discovery is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as hearing preparation material, the party making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party disclosed it before being notified; and may promptly present the information to the Hearing Officer or the Board under seal for a determination of the claim. The producing party must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

§ 6.02 Request for Subpoena.

(a) *Authority to Issue Subpoenas.* At the request of a party, a Hearing Officer may issue subpoenas for the attendance and testimony of witnesses and for the production of correspondence, books, papers, documents, or other records. The attendance of witnesses and the production of records may be required from any place within the United States. However, no subpoena requested by any party may be issued for the attendance or testimony of an employee [with] of the Office of Compliance, a Counselor or a Mediator, acting in their official capacity, including files, records, or notes produced during counseling and mediation and maintained by the Office. Employing offices shall make their employees available for discovery and hearing without requiring a subpoena.

(d) *Rulings.* The Hearing Officer shall promptly rule on the request for the subpoena.

* * * *

SUBPART G—HEARINGS

§ 7.01 The Hearing Officer

§ 7.02 Sanctions

§ 7.03 Disqualification of the Hearing Officer

§ 7.04 Motions and Prehearing Conference

§ 7.05 Scheduling the Hearing

§ 7.06 Consolidation and Joinder of Cases

§ 7.07 Conduct of Hearing; Disqualification of Representatives

§ 7.08 Transcript

§ 7.09 Admissibility of Evidence

§ 7.10 Stipulations

§ 7.11 Official Notice

§ 7.12 Confidentiality

§ 7.13 Immediate Board Review of a Ruling by a Hearing Officer

§ 7.14 Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; Posthearing Briefs

§ 7.15 Closing the Record of the Hearing

§ 7.16 Hearing Officer Decisions; Entry in Records of the Office; Corrections to the Record; Motions to Alter, Amend or Vacate the Decision

§ 7.01 The Hearing Officer.

(b) *Authority.* Hearing Officers shall conduct fair and impartial hearings and take all necessary action to avoid undue delay in the disposition of all proceedings. They shall

have all powers necessary to that end unless otherwise limited by law, including, but not limited to, the authority to:

(14) maintain and enforce the confidentiality of proceedings; and

§ 7.02 Sanctions.

(b) The Hearing Officer may impose sanctions upon the parties under, but not limited to, the circumstances set forth in this section.

(1) *Failure to Comply with an Order.* When a party fails to comply with an order (including an order for the taking of a deposition, for the production of evidence within the party's control, or for production of witnesses), the Hearing Officer may:

[(a)](A) draw an inference in favor of the requesting party on the issue related to the information sought;

[(b)](B) stay further proceedings until the order is obeyed;

[(c)](C) prohibit the party failing to comply with such order from introducing evidence concerning, or otherwise relying upon, evidence relating to the information sought;

[(d)](D) permit the requesting party to introduce secondary evidence concerning the information sought;

[(e)](E) strike, in whole or in part, [any part of] the complaint, briefs, answer, or other submissions of the party failing to comply with the order, as appropriate;

[(f)](F) direct judgment against the non-complying party in whole or in part; or

[(g)] order that the non-complying party, or the representative advising that party, pay all or part of the attorney's fees and reasonable expenses of the other party or parties or of the Office, caused by such non-compliance, unless the Hearing Officer or the Board finds that the failure was substantially justified or that other circumstances make an award of attorney's fees and/or expenses unjust.]

(2) *Failure to Prosecute or Defend.* If a party fails to prosecute or defend a position, the Hearing Officer may dismiss the action with prejudice or [rule for the complainant] decide the matter, where appropriate.

(4) *Filing of frivolous claims.* If a party files a frivolous claim, the Hearing Officer may dismiss the claim, sua sponte, in whole or in part, with prejudice or decide the matter for the party alleging the filing of the frivolous claim.

(5) *Failure to maintain confidentiality.* An allegation regarding a violation of the confidentiality provisions may be made to a Hearing Officer in proceedings under Section 405 of the CAA. If, after notice and hearing, the Hearing Officer determines that a party has violated the confidentiality provisions, the Hearing Officer may:

(A) direct that the matters related to the breach of confidentiality or other designated facts be taken as established for purposes of the action, as the prevailing party claims;

(B) prohibit the party breaching confidentiality from supporting or opposing designated claims or defenses, or from introducing designated matters in evidence;

(C) strike the pleadings in whole or in part;

(D) stay further proceedings until the breach of confidentiality is resolved to the extent possible;

(E) dismiss the action or proceeding in whole or in part; or

(F) render a default judgment against the party breaching confidentiality.

(c) No sanctions may be imposed under this section except for good cause and the particulars of which must be stated in the sanction order.

* * * *

§ 7.04 Motions and Prehearing Conference.

(b) *Scheduling of the Prehearing Conference.* Within 7 days after assignment, the Hearing Officer shall serve on the parties and their designated representatives written notice setting forth the time, date, and place of the prehearing conference, except that the Executive Director may, for good cause, extend up to an additional 7 days the time for serving notice of the prehearing conference.

(c) *Prehearing Conference Memoranda.* The Hearing Officer may order each party to prepare a prehearing conference memorandum. At his or her discretion, the Hearing Officer may direct the filing of the memorandum after discovery by the parties has concluded. [That] The memorandum may include:

(3) the specific relief, including, where known, a calculation of [the amount of] any monetary relief [] or damages that is being or will be requested;

(4) the names of potential witnesses for the party's case, except for potential impeachment or rebuttal witnesses, and the purpose for which they will be called and a list of documents that the party is seeking from the opposing party, and, if discovery was permitted, the status of any pending request for discovery. (It is not necessary to list each document requested. Instead, the party may refer to the request for discovery.); and

(d) At the prehearing conference, the Hearing Officer may discuss the subjects specified in paragraph (c) above and the manner in which the hearing will be conducted [and proceed]. In addition, the Hearing Officer may explore settlement possibilities and consider how the factual and legal issues might be simplified and any other issues that might expedite the resolution of the dispute. The Hearing Officer shall issue an order, which recites the action taken at the conference and the agreements made by the parties as to any of the matters considered and which limits the issues to those not disposed of by admissions, stipulations, or agreements of the parties. Such order, when entered, shall control the course of the proceeding, subject to later modification by the Hearing Officer by his or her own motion or upon proper request of a party for good cause shown.

§ 7.05 Scheduling the Hearing.

(b) *Motions for Postponement or a Continuance.* Motions for postponement or for a continuance by either party shall be made in writing to the [Office] Hearing Officer, shall set forth the reasons for the request, and shall state whether the opposing party consents to such postponement. Such a motion may be granted by the Hearing Officer upon a showing of good cause. In no event will a hearing commence later than 90 days after the filing of the complaint.

§ 7.06 Consolidation and Joinder of Cases.

(b) *Authority.* The Executive Director prior to the assignment of a complaint to a Hearing Officer; a Hearing Officer during the hearing; or the Board [, the Office, or a Hearing Officer] during an appeal may consolidate or join cases on their own initiative or on the motion of a party if to do so would expedite processing of the cases and not adversely affect the interests of the parties, taking into account the confidentiality requirements of section 416 of the Act.

§ 7.07 Conduct of Hearing; Disqualification of Representatives.

* * * *

(c) No later than the opening of the hearing, or as otherwise ordered by the Hearing Officer, each party shall submit to the Hearing Officer and to the opposing party typed lists of the hearing exhibits and the witnesses expected to be called to testify, excluding impeachment or rebuttal witnesses [, expected to be called to testify].

(f) Failure of either party to appear, present witnesses, or respond to an evidentiary order may result in an adverse finding or ruling by the Hearing Officer. At the discretion of the Hearing Officer, the hearing may also be held in the absence of the complaining party if the representative for that party is present.

[(f)](g) If the Hearing Officer concludes that a representative of an employee, a witness, a charging party, a labor organization, an employing office, or an entity alleged to be responsible for correcting a violation has a conflict of interest, he or she may, after giving the representative an opportunity to respond, disqualify the representative. In that event, within the time limits for hearing and decision established by the Act, the affected party shall be afforded reasonable time to retain other representation.

§ 7.08 Transcript.

(b) **Corrections.** Corrections to the official transcript will be permitted. Motions for correction must be submitted within 10 days of service of the transcript upon the [party] parties. Corrections of the official transcript will be permitted only upon approval of the Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer may make corrections at any time with notice to the parties.

* * * * *

§ 7.12 Confidentiality.

(a) Pursuant to section 416 of the Act and **section 1.08 of these Rules**, all proceedings and deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board, including the transcripts of hearings and any related records, shall be confidential, except as specified in sections 416(d), (e), and (f) of the Act and **section 1.08(d) of these Rules**. All parties to the proceeding and their representatives, and witnesses who appear at the hearing, will be advised of the importance of confidentiality in this process and of their obligations, subject to sanctions, to maintain it. This provision shall not apply to proceedings under section 215 of the Act, but shall apply to the deliberations of Hearing Officers and the Board under that section.

(b) **Violation of Confidentiality.** An allegation regarding a violation of confidentiality occurring during a hearing may be resolved by a Hearing Officer in proceedings under Section 405 of the CAA. After providing notice and an opportunity to the parties to be heard, the Hearing Officer, in accordance with section 1.08(f) of these Rules, may make a finding of a violation of confidentiality and impose appropriate procedural or evidentiary sanctions, which may include any of the sanctions listed in section 7.02 of these Rules.

§ 7.13 Immediate Board Review of a Ruling by a Hearing Officer.

(b) **Time for Filing.** A motion by a party for interlocutory review of a ruling of the Hearing Officer shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 5 days after service of the ruling upon the parties. The motion shall include arguments in support of both interlocutory review and the determination requested to be made by the Board upon review. Responses, if any, shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 3 days after service of the motion.

[(b)](c) Standards for Review. In determining whether to certify and forward a re-

quest for interlocutory review to the Board, the Hearing Officer shall consider all of the following:

[(c) Time for Filing. A motion by a party for interlocutory review of a ruling of the Hearing Officer shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 5 days after service of the ruling upon the parties. The motion shall include arguments in support of both interlocutory review and the determination requested to be made by the Board upon review. Responses, if any, shall be filed with the Hearing Officer within 3 days after service of the motion.]

(d) **Hearing Officer Action.** If all the conditions set forth in paragraph **[(b)](c)** above are met, the Hearing Officer shall certify and forward a request for interlocutory review to the Board for its immediate consideration. Any such submission shall explain the basis on which the Hearing Officer concluded that the standards in paragraph **[(b)](c)** have been met. The decision of the Hearing Officer to forward or decline to forward a request for review is not appealable.

(e) **Grant of Interlocutory Review Within Board's Sole Discretion.** Upon the Hearing Officer's certification and decision to forward a request for review, [T]he Board, in its sole discretion, may grant interlocutory review. The Board's decision to grant or deny interlocutory review is not appealable.

[(g) Denial of Motion Not Appealable; Mandamus. The grant or denial of a motion for a request for interlocutory review shall not be appealable. The Hearing Officer shall promptly bring a denial of such a motion, and the reasons therefor, to the attention of the Board. If, upon consideration of the motion and the reason for denial, the Board believes that interlocutory review is warranted, it may grant the review sua sponte. In addition, the Board may in its discretion, in extraordinary circumstances, entertain directly from a party a writ of mandamus to review a ruling of a Hearing Officer.]

[(h)](g) Procedures before Board. Upon its [acceptance of a ruling of the Hearing Officer for] decision to grant interlocutory review, the Board shall issue an order setting forth the procedures that will be followed in the conduct of that review.

[(i)](h) Review of a Final Decision. Denial of interlocutory review will not affect a party's right to challenge rulings, which are otherwise appealable, as part of an appeal to the Board under section 8.01 from the Hearing Officer's decision issued under section 7.16 of these rules.

§ 7.14 Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law; Posthearing Briefs.

[(a)] May be [Filed] Required. The Hearing Officer may [permit] require the parties to file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and/or posthearing briefs on the factual and the legal issues presented in the case.

[(b) Length. No principal brief shall exceed 50 pages, or 12,500 words, and no reply brief shall exceed 25 pages, or 6,250 words, exclusive of tables and pages limited only to quotations of statutes, rules, and the like. Motions to file extended briefs shall be granted only for good cause shown; the Hearing Officer may in his or her discretion also reduce the page limits. Briefs in excess of 10 pages shall include an index and a table of authorities.

(c) **Format.** Every brief must be easily readable. Briefs must have double spacing between each line of text, except for quoted texts and footnotes, which may be single-spaced.]

§ 7.15 Closing the Record of the Hearing.

(a) Except as provided in section 7.14, the record shall be closed at the conclusion of

the hearing. However, when the Hearing Officer allows the parties to submit argument, briefs, documents or additional evidence previously identified for introduction, the record will remain open for as much time as the Hearing Officer grants for that purpose [additional evidence previously identified for introduction, the Hearing Officer may allow an additional period before the conclusion of the hearing as is necessary for that purpose].

(b) Once the record is closed, no additional evidence or argument shall be accepted into the hearing record except upon a showing that new and material evidence has become available that was not available despite due diligence prior to the closing of the record or it is in rebuttal to new evidence or argument submitted by the other party just before the record closed. [However, the] The Hearing Officer shall also make part of the record any [motions for attorney fees, supporting documentation, and determinations thereon, and] approved correction to the transcript.

§ 7.16 Hearing Officer Decisions; Entry in Records of the Office; Corrections to the Record; Motions to Alter, Amend or Vacate the Decision.

(b) **The Hearing Officer's written decision shall:**

- (1) state the issues raised in the complaint;
- (2) describe the evidence in the record;
- (3) contain findings of fact and conclusions of law, and the reasons or bases therefore, on all the material issues of fact, law, or discretion that were presented on the record;
- (4) contain a determination of whether a violation has occurred; and
- (5) order such remedies as are appropriate under the CAA.

[(b)](c) Upon issuance, the decision and order of the Hearing Officer shall be entered into the records of the Office.

[(c)](d) The Office shall promptly provide a copy of the decision and order of the Hearing Officer to the parties.

[(d)](e) If there is no appeal of a decision and order of a Hearing Officer, that decision becomes a final decision of the Office, which is subject to enforcement under section 8.03 of these rules.

(f) **Corrections to the Record.** After a decision of the Hearing Officer has been issued, but before an appeal is made to the Board, or in the absence of an appeal, before the decision becomes final, the Hearing Officer may issue an erratum notice to correct simple errors or easily correctable mistakes. The Hearing Officer may do so on motion of the parties or on his or her own motion with or without advance notice.

(g) After a decision of the Hearing Officer has been issued, but before an appeal is made to the Board, or in the absence of an appeal, before the decision becomes final, a party to the proceeding before the Hearing Officer may move to alter, amend or vacate the decision. The moving party must establish that relief from the decision is warranted because: (1) of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; (2) there is newly discovered evidence that, with reasonable diligence, could not have been discovered in time to move for a new hearing; (3) there has been fraud, misrepresentation, or misconduct by an opposing party; (4) the decision is void; or (5) the decision has been satisfied, released, or discharged; it is based on an earlier decision that has been reversed or vacated; or applying it prospectively is no longer equitable. The motion shall be filed within 15 days after service of the Hearing Officer's decision. No response shall be filed unless the Hearing Officer so orders. The filing and pendency of a motion under this provision shall not relieve a party of the obligation to file a timely appeal or operate to stay the action of the Hearing Officer unless so ordered by the Hearing Officer.

SUBPART H—PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE BOARD § 8.01 Appeal to the Board

§ 8.02 Reconsideration**§ 8.03 Compliance with Final Decisions, Requests for Enforcement****§ 8.04 Judicial Review****§ 8.05 Application for Review of an Executive Director Action****§ 8.06 Exceptions to Arbitration Awards****§ 8.07 Expedited Review of Negotiability****§ 8.08 Procedures of the Board in Impasse Proceedings****§ 8.01 Appeal to the Board.**

(a) No later than 30 days after the entry of the final decision and order of the Hearing Officer in the records of the Office, an aggrieved party may seek review of that decision and order by the Board by filing with the Office a petition for review by the Board. The appeal must be served on the opposing party or its representative.

(b)(1) Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, within 21 days following the filing of a petition for review to the Board, the appellant shall file and serve a supporting brief in accordance with section **[9.01] 1.04** of these rules. That brief shall identify with particularity those findings or conclusions in the decision and order that are challenged and shall refer specifically to the portions of the record and the provisions of statutes or rules that are alleged to support each assertion made on appeal.

(3) **[Upon written delegation by the Board,] In any case in which the Board has not rendered a determination on the merits, the Executive Director is authorized to: determine any request for extensions of time to file any post-petition for review document or submission with the Board [in any case in which the Executive Director has not rendered a determination on the merits,]; determine any request for enlargement of page limitation of any post-petition for review document or submission with the Board; or require proof of service where there are questions of proper service. [Such delegation shall continue until revoked by the Board.]**

(d) Upon appeal, the Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the reasons for its decision. The Board may **dismiss the appeal** or affirm, reverse, modify or remand the decision and order of the Hearing Officer in whole or in part. Where there is no remand the decision of the Board shall be entered in the records of the Office as the final decision of the Board and shall be subject to judicial review.

(e) The Board may remand the matter to **[the] a Hearing Officer for further action or proceedings, including the reopening of the record for the taking of additional evidence. The decision by the Board to remand a case is not subject to judicial review under Section 407 of the Act. The procedures for a remanded hearing shall be governed by subparts F, G, and H of these Rules.** The Hearing Officer shall render a decision or report to the Board, as ordered, at the conclusion of proceedings on the remanded matters. **[Upon receipt of the decision or report, the Board shall determine whether the views of the parties on the content of the decision or report should be obtained in writing and, where necessary, shall fix by order the time for the submission of those views.]** A decision of the Board following completion of the remand shall be entered in the records of the Office as the final decision of the Board and shall be subject to judicial review **under Section 407 of the Act.**

(h) *Record.* The **docket sheet**, complaint and any amendments, notice of hearing, answer and any amendments, motions, rulings, or-

ders, stipulations, exhibits, documentary evidence, any portions of depositions admitted into evidence, **docketed Memoranda for the Record, or correspondence between the Office and the parties**, and the transcript of the hearing (together with any electronic recording of the hearing if the original reporting was performed electronically) together with the Hearing Officer's decision and the petition for review, any response thereto, any reply to the response and any other pleadings shall constitute the record in the case.

(j) **An appellant may move to withdraw a petition for review at any time before the Board renders a decision. The motion must be in writing and submitted to the Board. The Board, at its discretion, may grant such a motion and take whatever action is required.**

§ 8.02 Reconsideration.

After a final decision or order of the Board has been issued, a party to the proceeding before the Board, who can establish in its moving papers that reconsideration is necessary because the Board has overlooked or misapprehended points of law or fact, may move for reconsideration of such final decision or order. The motion shall be filed within 15 days after service of the Board's decision or order. No response shall be filed unless the Board so orders. The filing and pendency of a motion under this provision shall not relieve a party of the obligation to file a timely appeal or operate to stay the action of the Board unless so ordered by the Board. **The decision to grant or deny a motion for reconsideration is within the sole discretion of the Board and is not appealable.**

§ 8.03 Compliance with Final Decisions, Requests for Enforcement.

(a) Unless the Board has, in its discretion, stayed the final decision of the Office during the pendency of an appeal pursuant to section 407 of the Act, and except as provided in sections 210(d)(5) and 215(c)(6) of the Act, a party required to take any action under the terms of a final decision of the Office shall carry out its terms promptly, and shall within 30 days after the decision or order becomes final and goes into effect by its terms, provide the Office and all other parties to the proceedings with a compliance report specifying the manner in which compliance with the provisions of the decision or order has been accomplished. If complete compliance has not been accomplished within 30 days, the party required to take any such action shall submit a compliance report specifying why compliance with any provision of the decision or order has not yet been fully accomplished, the steps being taken to assure full compliance, and the anticipated date by which full compliance will be achieved. **A party may also file a petition for attorneys fees and/or damages unless the Board has, in its discretion, stayed the final decision of the Office during the pendency of the appeal pursuant to Section 407 of the Act.**

(d) **To the extent provided in Section 407(a) of the Act and Section 8.04 of this section, the appropriate [Any] party may petition the Board for enforcement of a final decision of the Office or the Board. The petition shall specifically set forth the reasons why the petitioner believes enforcement is necessary.**

§ 8.05 Application for Review of an Executive Director Action.

For additional rules on the procedures pertaining to the Board's review of an Executive Director action in

Representation proceedings, refer to Parts 2422.30-31 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

§ 8.06 Expedited Review of Negotiability Issues.

For additional rules on the procedures pertaining to the Board's expedited review of negotiability issues, refer to Part 2424 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

§ 8.07 Review of Arbitration Awards.

For additional rules on the procedures pertaining to the Board's review of arbitration awards, refer to Part 2425 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

§ 8.08 Procedures of the Board in Impasse Proceedings.

For additional rules on the procedures of the Board in impasse proceedings, refer to Part 2471 of the Substantive Regulations of the Board, available at www.compliance.gov.

SUBPART I—OTHER MATTERS OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY**[§ 9.01 Filing, Service and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and other Documents.]****§ 9.02 Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violations of Rules; Sanctions]****[§ 9.03] § 9.01 Attorney's Fees and Costs****[§ 9.04] § 9.02 Ex parte Communications****[§ 9.05] § 9.03 Informal Resolutions and Settlement Agreements****[§ 9.06] § 9.04 Revocation, Amendment or Waiver of Rules****[§ 9.01 Filing, Service, and Size Limitations of Motions, Briefs, Responses and Other Documents.]**

(a) *Filing with the Office; Number.* One original and three copies of all motions, briefs, responses, and other documents, must be filed, whenever required, with the Office or Hearing Officer. However, when a party aggrieved by the decision of a Hearing Officer or a party to any other matter or determination reviewable by the Board files an appeal or other submission with the Board, one original and seven copies of any submission and any responses must be filed with the Office. The Office, Hearing Officer, or Board may also request a party to submit an electronic version of any submission in a designated format, with receipt confirmed by electronic transmittal in the same format.

(b) *Service.* The parties shall serve on each other one copy of all motions, briefs, responses and other documents filed with the Office, other than the request for counseling, the request for mediation and complaint. Service shall be made by mailing or by hand delivering a copy of the motion, brief, response or other document to each party, or if represented, the party's representative, on the service list previously provided by the Office. Each of these documents, must be accompanied by a certificate of service specifying how, when and on whom service was made. It shall be the duty of each party to notify the Office and all other parties in writing of any changes in the names or addresses on the service list.

(c) *Time Limitations for Response to Motions or Briefs and Reply.* Unless otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer or these rules, a party shall file a response to a motion or brief within 15 days of the service of the motion or brief upon the party. Any reply to such response shall be filed and served within 5 days of the service of the response. Only with the Hearing Officer's advance approval may either party file additional responses or replies.

(d) *Size Limitations.* Except as otherwise specified by the Hearing Officer or these rules, no brief, motion, response, or supporting memorandum filed with the Office shall exceed 35 pages, or 8,750 words, exclusive of the table of

contents, table of authorities and attachments. The Board, the Office, Executive Director, or Hearing Officer may waive, raise or reduce this limitation for good cause shown or on its own initiative. Briefs, motions, responses, and supporting memoranda shall be on standard letter-size paper (8-1/2" x 11").

§9.02 Signing of Pleadings, Motions and Other Filings; Violation of Rules; Sanctions

Every pleading, motion, and other filing of a party represented by an attorney or other designated representative shall be signed by the attorney or representative. A party who is not represented shall sign the pleading, motion or other filing. The signature of a representative or party constitutes a certificate by the signer that the signer has read the pleading, motion, or other filing; that to the best of the signer's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, it is well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification, or reversal of existing law, and that it is not interposed for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation. If a pleading, motion, or other filing is not signed, it shall be stricken unless it is signed promptly after the omission is called to the attention of the person who is required to sign. If a pleading, motion, or other filing is signed in violation of this rule, a Hearing Officer or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or upon its own initiative, shall impose upon the person who signed it, a represented party, or both, an appropriate sanction, which may include an order to pay to the other party or parties the amount of the reasonable expenses incurred because of the filing of the pleading, motion, or other filing, including a reasonable attorney's fee. A Hearing Officer, the Executive Director, or the Board, as appropriate, upon motion or its own initiative may also impose an appropriate sanction, which may include the sanctions specified in section 7.02, for any other violation of these rules that does not result from reasonable error.]

§[9.03] §9.01 Attorney's Fees and Costs.

(a) *Request.* No later than [20] 30 days after the entry of a final [Hearing Officer's] decision of the Office, [under section 7.16, or after service of a Board decision by the Office the complainant, if he or she is a] the prevailing party[,] may submit to the Hearing Officer or Arbitrator who [heard] decided the case initially a motion for the award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs, following the form specified in paragraph (b) below. [All motions for attorney's fees and costs shall be submitted to the Hearing Officer.] The Hearing Officer or Arbitrator, after giving the respondent an opportunity to reply, shall rule on the motion. Decisions regarding attorney's fees and costs are collateral and do not affect the finality or appealability of a final decision issued by the [Hearing Officer] Office. [A ruling on a motion for attorney's fees and costs may be appealed together with the final decision of the Hearing Officer. If the motion for attorney's fees is ruled on after the final decision has been issued by the Hearing Officer, the ruling may be appealed in the same manner as a final decision, pursuant to section 8.01 of these Rules.]

(b) *Form of Motion.* In addition to setting forth the legal and factual bases upon which the attorney's fees and/or costs are sought, a motion for an award of attorney's fees and/or costs shall be accompanied by:

(3) the attorney's customary billing rate for similar work with evidence that the rate is consistent with the prevailing community rate for similar services in the community in which the attorney ordinarily practices; [and]

(4) an itemization of costs related to the matter in question[.]; and

(5) evidence of an established attorney-client relationship.

§[9.04] §9.02 Ex parte Communications.

(a) *Definitions.*

(3) For purposes of section [9.04] 9.02, the term proceeding means the complaint and hearing proceeding under section 405 of the CAA, an appeal to the Board under section 406 of the CAA, a pre-election investigatory hearing under section 220 of the CAA, and any other proceeding of the Office established pursuant to regulations issued by the Board under the CAA

(c) *Prohibited Ex Parte Communications and Exceptions.*

(2) The Hearing Officer or the Office may initiate attempts to settle a matter at any time. The parties may agree to waive the prohibitions against ex parte communications during settlement discussions, and they may agree to any limits on the waiver.

—Renumber subsequent paragraphs—

§[9.05] §9.03 Informal Resolutions and Settlement Agreements.

(b) *Formal Settlement Agreement.* The parties may agree formally to settle all or part of a disputed matter in accordance with section 414 of the Act. In that event, the agreement shall be in writing and submitted to the Executive Director for review and approval. The settlement is not effective until it has been approved by the Executive Director. If the Executive Director does not approve the settlement, such disapproval shall be in writing, shall set forth the grounds therefor, and shall render the settlement ineffective.

(c) *Requirements for a Formal Settlement Agreement.* A formal settlement agreement requires the signature of all parties or their designated representatives on the agreement document before the agreement can be submitted to the Executive Director for signature. A formal settlement agreement should not be submitted to the Executive Director for signature until the appropriate revocation periods have expired. A formal settlement agreement cannot be rescinded after the signatures of all parties have been affixed to the agreement, unless by written revocation of the agreement voluntarily signed by all parties, or as otherwise permitted by law.

(d) *Violation of a Formal Settlement Agreement.* If a party should allege that a formal settlement agreement has been violated, the issue shall be determined by reference to the formal dispute resolution procedures of the agreement. Settlements should include specific dispute resolution procedures. If the [particular] formal settlement agreement does not have a stipulated method for dispute resolution of an alleged violation [of the agreement], the Office may provide assistance in resolving the dispute, including the services of a Mediator at the discretion of the Executive Director. [The following dispute resolution procedure shall be deemed to be a part of each formal settlement agreement approved by the Executive Director pursuant to section 414 of the Act:] Where the settlement agreement does not have a stipulated method for resolving violation allegations, [Any complaint] an allegation [regarding] of a violation [of a formal settlement agreement] may be filed with the Executive Director, but no later than 60 days after the party to the agreement becomes aware of the alleged violation. Such [complaints may

be referred by the Executive Director to a Hearing Officer for a final decision. The procedures for hearing and determining such complaints shall be governed by subparts F, G, and H of these Rule.] allegations will be reviewed, investigated or mediated by the Executive Director or designee, as appropriate.

§[9.06] §9.04 Payments required pursuant to Decisions, Awards, or Settlements under section 415(a) of the Act.

Whenever a final decision or award pursuant to sections 405(g), 406(e), 407, or 408 of the Act, or an approved settlement pursuant to section 414 of the Act, require the payment of funds pursuant to section 415(a) of the Act, the decision, award, or settlement shall be submitted to the Executive Director to be processed by the Office for requisition from the account of the Office of Compliance in the Department of the Treasury, and payment. No payment shall be made from such account until the time for appeal of a decision has expired, unless a settlement has been reached in the absence of a decision to be appealed.

§[9.07] §9.05 Revocation, Amendment or Waiver of Rules.

(a) The Executive Director, subject to the approval of the Board, may revoke or amend these rules by publishing proposed changes in the Congressional Record and providing for a comment period of not less than 30 days. Following the comment period, any changes to the rules are final once they are published in the Congressional Record.

(b) The Board or a Hearing Officer may waive a procedural rule contained in this Part in an individual case for good cause shown if application of the rule is not required by law.

**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 16; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2:30 P.M.
TOMORROW**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 16, 2016, at 2:30 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

RAINEY RANSOM BRANDT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR

COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE LEE F. SATTERFIELD, RETIRING.

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

DAVID CHARLES MILLER, OF WASHINGTON
SCOTT S. SINDELAR, OF MINNESOTA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

ALEXANDER DICKIE IV, OF TEXAS

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR APPOINTMENT AS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

MARVA MICHELLE BUTLER, OF TEXAS
ADONIS MARIANO MATOS DE MELLO, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

JEANNE F. BAILEY, OF ILLINOIS
CLAY M. HAMILTON, OF TEXAS
BOBBY GENE RICHEY, JR., OF TEXAS
ERIC A. WENBERG, OF WYOMING

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

ALI ABDI, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL LEO CONLON, OF VIRGINIA
PAUL ALLEN SPENCER-MACGREGOR, OF VIRGINIA
W. GARTH THORBURN II, OF FLORIDA
ROBERT HENRY HANSON, OF WISCONSIN

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

JIM NELSON BARNHART, JR., OF GEORGIA
ANDREW M. HERSCOWITZ, OF CALIFORNIA
TERESA L. MCGHIE, OF NEVADA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

HAVEN G. CRUZ-HUBBARD, OF MARYLAND
TIMOTHY J. DONNAY, OF VERMONT
JOSEPH L. DORSEY, OF VIRGINIA
PETER WILLIAM DUFFY, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JOHN L. DUNLOP, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL JAMES EDDY, OF MISSOURI
GABRIEL F. GRAU, OF FLORIDA
ALER GRUBBS, OF INDIANA
ANDREW DAVID HOLLAND, OF CALIFORNIA
KAREN R. HUNTER, OF FLORIDA
JENNIFER MARIE LINK, OF ILLINOIS
SANDRA K. MINKEL, OF NEVADA
DIANE B. MOORE, OF NEW YORK
THOMAS R. MORRIS, OF VIRGINIA
MARGARET ELIZABETH ENIS SPEARS, OF MARYLAND
TANYA S. URQUIETA, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
ANNE N. WILLIAMS, OF MARYLAND

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. JOEL E. DEGROOT
COL. CHRISTOPHER M. FAUX
COL. ROBERT J. GREGORY III
COL. HENRY U. HARDER, JR.
COL. ERIC W. LIND
COL. DAVID D. ZWART

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID P. BACZEWSKI
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. CATHART
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN T. DRAVIS
BRIG. GEN. JAMES O. EIFERT
BRIG. GEN. RICHARD W. KELLY
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. KNAPP
BRIG. GEN. JON K. MOTT
BRIG. GEN. CLAYTON W. MOUSHON
BRIG. GEN. KERRY L. MUEHLENBECK
BRIG. GEN. HOWARD P. PURCELL

BRIG. GEN. DAVID P. SAN CLEMENTE
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. TAHERI
BRIG. GEN. ROGER E. WILLIAMS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JESSE T. SIMMONS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. MCINN
BRIG. GEN. RONALD E. PAUL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM E. DICKENS, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. KATHLEEN M. FLARITY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRIAN K. BORGES
COL. JEFFREY S. HINRICHS
COL. JAY D. JENSEN
COL. BRIT C. LARSON
COL. TODD J. MCCUBBIN
COL. PATRICE A. MELANCON
COL. ELLEN M. MOORE
COL. BOYD C. L. PARKER IV
COL. STEVEN B. PARKER
COL. BRYAN P. RADLIFF
COL. SCOTT A. SAUTER
COL. CONSTANCE M. VON HOFFMAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. RANDOLPH J. STAUDENRAUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CRAIG L. LAFAVE
BRIG. GEN. PAMELA J. LINCOLN
BRIG. GEN. DONALD R. LINDBERG
BRIG. GEN. RANDALL A. OGDEN
BRIG. GEN. JAMES P. SCANLAN
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK M. WADE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. STEPHEN C. MELTON

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL E. FUNK II

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GARY J. VOLESKY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES H. DICKINSON

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PATRICK M. HAMILTON

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RE-

SERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. HILTY

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN F. ADAMS III
BRIG. GEN. WAYNE L. BLACK
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER M. BURNS
BRIG. GEN. KURT S. CRYTZER
BRIG. GEN. IVAN E. DENTON
BRIG. GEN. JAMES C. ERNST
BRIG. GEN. KEVIN R. GRIESE
BRIG. GEN. MARK G. MALANKA
BRIG. GEN. ROY V. MCCARTY
BRIG. GEN. BLAKE C. ORTNER
BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. PETTY
BRIG. GEN. JESSIE R. ROBINSON
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN T. SCOTT
BRIG. GEN. RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.
BRIG. GEN. BRYAN E. SUNTHEIMER
BRIG. GEN. KIRK E. VANPELT
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. WOJTECKI
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. ZERBONIA

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK A. PITERSKI

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. ELLIS F. HOPKINS III

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be brigadier general

COL. MICHAEL A. ABELL
COL. JOSEPH L. BIEHLER
COL. JANEEN L. BIRCKHEAD
COL. MARTI J. BISSELL
COL. SCOTT J. BOESPFLUG
COL. RAYMOND D. BOSSERT, JR.
COL. PATRICK R. BOSSETTA
COL. THOMAS R. BOUCHARD
COL. ROBERT A. BOYETTE
COL. KENNETH E. BRANDT
COL. STANLEY E. BUDRAITIS
COL. ANTHONY R. CAMACHO
COL. MIKE A. CANZONERI
COL. RITA B. CASEY
COL. GREGORY P. CHANEY
COL. PAUL B. CHAUNCEY III
COL. BOBBY L. CHRISTINE
COL. EDWARD J. CHRYSTAL, JR.
COL. WILLIAM E. CRANE
COL. DARRELL W. DANIELS
COL. GREGORY T. DAY
COL. HENRY S. DIXON
COL. SCOTT A. DOUST
COL. DWAIN E. DRUMMOND
COL. DIANE L. DUNN
COL. ROBERT A. DWAN
COL. LEONARD H. DYER, JR.
COL. STEVE D. ELLIOTT
COL. FRANCIS J. EVON, JR.
COL. KELLY A. FISHER
COL. ROBERT C. FRICK
COL. ROBERT B. GASTON
COL. ANDREW L. GIBSON
COL. KERRY W. GOODMAN
COL. WILLIAM D. GRISWOLD
COL. DENNIS J. HUMPHREY
COL. ROBERT W. INTRESS
COL. RICHARD F. JOHNSON
COL. JEFFREY A. JONES
COL. ERIC T. JUDKINS
COL. KIPPLING V. KAHLER
COL. MOSES KAOIWI, JR.
COL. ERIC K. LITTLE
COL. ZACHARY E. MANER
COL. JAMES R. MATHEWS
COL. MARK A. MERLINO
COL. DOUGLAS R. MESSNER
COL. DAVID J. MIKOLAITIS
COL. CHARLES W. MOORE
COL. LEAH M. MOORE
COL. MICHEL A. NATALI
COL. REGINALD G.A. NEAL
COL. JOHN M. OBERKIRSCH
COL. STEPHEN E. OSBORN
COL. RODNEY B. PAINTING
COL. CHAD J. PARKER
COL. ROGER A. PRESLEY, JR.
COL. JOSE J. REYES
COL. FRANK M. RICE
COL. TIMOTHY L. RIEGER

COL. JAMES W. RING
COL. JOHN W. RUEGER
COL. ADAM R. SILVERS
COL. JEFFREY D. SMILEY
COL. MICHAEL E. SPRAGGINS
COL. STEVEN E. STIVERS
COL. MECHELLE M. TUTTLE
COL. JEFFREY P. VAN
COL. THOMAS M. VICKERS, JR.
COL. LOUIS W. WILHAM

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MARY M. JACKSON

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E):

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MELVIN W. BOUBOULIS
CAPT. DONNA L. COTTRELL
CAPT. MICHAEL J. JOHNSTON
CAPT. ERIC C. JONES
CAPT. MICHAEL P. RYAN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

KIP T. AVERETT
MARTIN S. BARNES
SCOTT CHRISTOPHER BRILL
GARRELL D. CALTON
MICHAEL JAMES CAREY
ROMEO MARIO TOLENTINO CATUNGAL
JOHN CHARLES CHOI
JUSTIN P. COMBS
RACHEL E. DAVID
KELVIN W. FRANCIS
THOMAS E. FUSSELL, JR.
PIOTR J. GAJDA
MARK R. JUCHTER
AMBER L. KIESEL
PAUL P. LOSER
DEREK S. MARLEY
DAVID VINCENT MCGUIRE
CHAD S. MONTGOMERY
ZACHARY LANIER NASH
JAMES MICHAEL PITTS
MARIO SAVELLANO ROSARIO
JEFFERY ROBERT SCOTT
TIMOTHY T. SESSIONS
KRAIG ALAN SMITH
JON WARD SMITHLEY
KELLY D. STAHL
JOSHUA M. STOLEY
DANIEL S. WALKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be major

SHAWN M. GARCIA
MORGAN H. LAIRD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DANIEL C. ABELL
JONATHAN V. ABUEG
BRIAN S. ACERSON
MACMILLAN M. ACHU
DAVID G. ACKLAND
VINCENT P. ADAMO
CHRISTOPHER D. ADAMS
GARY W. ADAMS
JAMIE L. ADAMS
JOHN T. ADAMS
MATTHEW T. ADAMS
TIMOTHY R. ADAMS
JOHNPAUL P. ADRIAN
RUTH SONGO BELE AFIESIMAMA
BRETT AGATEP
HALEY E. AGETON
JOHN K. AHN
TRAVIS R. AHRENS
DAVID MATTHEW AKINS
ANDREW J. ALDERMAN
KYLE C. ALDERMAN
CHRISTOPHER S. ALEXANDER
DONALD W. ALEXANDER
JORDAN L. ALEXANDER
JEREMY T. ALLEN
KANDI S. ALLRED
EDDIE R. ALTIZER
MELANIE K. ALVAREZ
ANNE L. AMIGLEO
JUSTIN LEE AMUNDSON
BENJAMIN M. ANDERA

BRIAN R. ANDERSON
GRACE H. ANDERSON
RICKEY D. ANDERSON
TRAVIS A. ANDERSON
JACINTA F. ANDERSONLUJANO
DAVID N. ANDREWS
KATHERINE M. ANDREWS
SEAN M. ANDREWS
ERIC R. ANTONIETTI
KURT C. ANTONIO
GUENNADI SERGEI ANTONOV
WADE M. APPEL
STEVEN EDWARD APPLEBY
JON A. ARCETA
ROBERT JEROME ARDUINI
BRENDA R. ARINCORAYAN
KARI M. ARMSTRONG
DANIEL E. ARNAL
PAUL A. ARNER
DEREK P. ARNHOLTZ
SETH D. ARTHUR
ANDY TIMOTHY ASHBURN
CHRISTY M. ASHBY
JOHN E. AULD
JACOB W. AULTMAN
RONALD MAUNG YE AUNG
GRAHAM C. AUTEN
JOHN C. AVERY
RATKO AVRAMOV
BRIAN C. AYERS
ROBERT DOUGLAS AYERS
FREDERICK G. BACKHUS
CHRIS S. BAHRIJ
MEGHAN MARIE BAILEY
DANIEL H. BAKER
JAMES P. BAKER
NICHOLAS D. BAKER
DANIELLE JEANETTE BALES
MICHAEL ROY BALL
NEAL M. BALLAS
JOSEPH B. BALSISKUS
MATTHEW W. BAR
EDUARDO BARAJAS
CHRISTOPHER J. BARAN
DUSTIN ALAN BARBOUR
ABBY K. BARGER
TADZWEIL ALEXANDER BARGER
JOSHUA L. BARKER
MICHAEL JAMES BARLOW
MATTHEW P. BARNARD
TROY J. BARNES
RONALD J. BARNHART
ANDREW C. BARRIER
CARLOS N. BARRIOS
JOHN W. BARRON
BENJAMIN JOHN BARSNESS
GARRETT T. BARTEE
EARL A. BARTH
LUKE S. BASHAM
DANIEL JAMES BASHAW
ERIC A. BASSETT
JONATHAN K. BATEMAN
ALLEN J. BATISTE
BRIAN BAUER
HECTOR G. BAUZA
JARED PADEN BAXLEY
SHANA K. BEACH
MATTHEW L. BEAUBIEN
DANIEL J. BEAUDOIN
JASON P. BECK
ANDREW C. BECKER
DAVID J. BECKER
JACOB W. BECKER
PHILIP J. BECKER
MARC PETER BECKIUS
DAVID G. BECKMAN
DUSTIN BEITZ
CLARK M. BELFANTI
MEGAN F. BELGER
MITCHELL L. BELGER
DEREK P. BELL
DANIEL MICHAEL BELLISSIMO
LIONEL O. BELTRAN
JUSTIN L. BELTZ
BRIAN S. BENDELE
BRANDON C. BENDER
JOSEPH C. BENSCHOTER
DANIEL W. BENSON
WILLIAM E. BENTLEY
DANIEL EDWARD BERGEN
MICHAEL D. BERGERON
JONATHAN A. BERGKAMP
ANDREW B. BERGMAN
ROBIN J. BERGOO
CHARLES C. BERRY II
EDWIN K. BERRY
SAMUEL R. BERRYHILL
CRAIG JAY BERRYMAN
MATTHEW J. BERSZONER
SHAIN LANDON BESTICK
ROBERT A. BETTINGER
LUKE BEVER
TIMOTHY C. BEXTEN
DANIEL M. BIGLEY
THOMAS S. BIHANSKY
SEAN D. BILLINGS
JASON MICHAEL BINDEWALD
SEAN R. BIRNEY
TIMOTHY D. BIRT
MICHAEL L. BISHOP
JOHN P. BISZKO
CRAIG J. BITTNER

YVETTE CRUZ BIVINS
MICHAEL B. BLACKBURN
NATHAN JAMES BLAIR
TIMOTHY CHAPMAN BLAKE, JR.
JUSTIN BLANKS
DONALD THOMAS BLEEKER
JONATHAN EDWARD BLENKUSH
CRAIG L. BLESSING
JONATHAN DOUGLAS BLOUNT
RAYMOND CRAWFORD BLOUNT
BRYCE KELBY BLUNCK
ANTHONY J. BOCCICCHIA
JOHN R. BOCHERT
RYAN M. BODENHEIMER
STEVEN D. BOGERT
BERNIE BOGGS
CODY R. BOHN
DONALD J. BOLDA
ALBERT B. BOND
LANG MICHAEL BORN
GABRIEL ANGELO R. BORNILLA
JEFF P. BORRIELLO
AARON A. BORSZICH
MICHAEL M. BOSACK
JOHN B. BOSWELL
ANGELO ROCCO BOTTICELLI III
BRYAN L. BOUCHARD
JONATHAN BOURKE
ERIC A. BOW
ANTHONY LEE BOWE
ERIC M. BOWERS
JON D. BOWLING
MICAH J. BOWRON
MATTHEW J. BOYLE
PETER THOMAS BOZYNSKI
KIMBERLY M. BRACKEN
MATTHEW S. BRADY
KENNETH M. BRAKORA
KHARY A. BRANCHROMERO
CAMERON VIENOT BRANCUCCI
JUSTIN E. BRANDEL
JOHN S. BRANDES
DESHAUN BRANDY
BRADLEY A. BREAUX
DANIEL J. BREIDING
DAVID J. BRESSER
STEPHEN J. BRESSETT
PATRICK WADE BRETT
CATHERINE L. BREWER
LOGAN M. BREWER
MICHAEL D. BREWER
WILLIAM T. BREWER
JUSTIN A. BRICKEY
DESIREE N. BRICKS
CHAD MICHAEL BRIDGEFORD
CHRISTOPHER M. BRIDGES, JR.
RYAN W. BROCKMAN
LUCAS M. BROMMER
JOSHUA TYLER BROOKHISER
DAVID G. BROST
ADAM JARED BROWN
CASEY J. BROWN
JOEL E. BROWN
KATHLEEN F. BROWN
MARVIN M. BROWN
MEREDITH I. BROWN
PHILIP M. BROWN
RICHARD BROWN
BRIAN L. BROWNDYMKOSKI
ELIZABETH M. BRUBAKER
JESSICA LEA ANNE BRUDJAR
ADAM R. BRUEGGEN
CHANCE JACK BRUMLEY
JAMES W. BRYANT, JR.
JONATHAN C. BRYDIE
AUSTIN R. BUCK
JAMES BUCKHEIT
SETH BUCKLEY
CATHERINE ANN BUCKNER
JAMIE DONALD BUDD
JASON S. BUELL
PETER A. BULINSKI
ARTHUR J. BULL
LAWRENCE C. BULLOCK
DANIEL BUNDY
KEVIN C. BUNTEN
BRIAN M. BURGOON
LEO J. BURKARDT
NICHOLAS S. BURKE
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 JEFFREY P. WILSON
 JUSTIN C. WILSON
 ROBERT CHARLES WILSON
 RYAN E. WILSON
 SAMANTHA WILSON
 TIMOTHY S. WILSON
 KEVIN T. WINBLAD
 RICHARD S. WINFIELD
 BENJAMIN L. WINGLER
 BUD V. WINN
 DANIEL J. WINN
 KEVIN A. WINSLOW
 CHRISTINE N. WINTERMOTE
 MARK JONERIC WIREMAN
 BRITTANY L. WIRTH
 JOSHUA M. WOHLFORD
 LANIE S. WOLF
 MICHAEL WOLF
 LESLIE A. WOLL
 MATTHEW D. WOLSKI
 KELLY M. WOLTER
 DAMON R. WONG
 NEIL J. WOOD
 WILLIAM S. WOOD
 DAVID A. WOODDELL, JR.
 CANDIS A. WOODS
 KEITH R. WOODS
 MEGAN A. WORDEN
 BENJAMIN B. WORKER
 DEREK WOUDE
 KARRIE E. WRAY
 KYLE D. WRIGHT
 SCOTT M. WRIGHT
 PAUL ROBERT WRUK
 EDWARD H. WYANT
 JOHN M. WYANT
 JASON M. WYCHE
 NINA M. YACOVONE
 MATTHEW H. YAN
 CHRISTOPHER S. YEAGER
 FLORENCE KAKEI YEE
 KEITH W. YELK
 JOSHUA R. YERK
 RANDELL YI
 RYAN M. YINGLING
 LINDSAY L. YIP
 BRIAN K. YOAKAM
 ROBERT YOKOI
 ARTHUR B. YOUNG
 JONATHAN D. YOUNG
 MATTHEW J. YOUNG
 BROCK ARTHUR YOWELL
 JING YU
 MARK YURGIL
 MATTHEW S. ZACHARIAS
 COSTANTINOS ZAGARIS
 TAYLOR JOSEPH ZAHM
 MUNEL A. ZAIDI
 EVAN STOWELL ZANGERLE
 STEPHANY S. ZARIFA EWERS
 AXEL A. ZENGOTTITA
 MATTHEW D. ZENISHEK
 ANTHONY JAMES ZIEGLER
 JESSE M. ZIEGLER
 ERIC L. ZIESSLER
 CRAIG M. ZINCK
 ANDREW G. ZIOLKOWSKI
 LANE ZIVITSKI
 ZACHARY L. ZORN
 PETER ZWART

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

GARY A. FAIRCHILD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

MEGAN M. LUKA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

BRANDON D. CLINT
 EDMUND J. RUTHERFORD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

ISAMETTIN A. ARAL
 DANIEL J. BEGIN
 CYNTHIA VALDERREY BERNETT
 CARLOS J. BORGES

MYRTLE BOWEN
 BRIAN JAMES BUDDEN
 BRYAN C. CARLSON
 JOHN T. CARMACK
 JULIE ANNE CARPENTER
 GARY ROBERT CHARLTON II
 CARRIE A. COLAS
 JOHN MICHAEL COSGROVE
 MICHAEL HAGAN CROKER
 KONATA A. CRUMBLY
 ROBERT RICHARD DALTO
 MARY S. DECKER
 MICHAEL JON DIDIO
 MATTHEW E. EAKINS
 JOHN E. EHRHART, JR.
 DOUGLAS C. EOUTE, JR.
 QUENTEN MERRIT ESSER
 JACK R. EVANS
 EDWARD JOHN FINK, JR.
 MICHAEL SHAWN GARRETT
 TYLER M. GRIFFITH
 COREY MITCHELL HALVORSON
 SCOTT DAVID HARRON
 GREG J. HAWKESWORTH
 SHAWN EDWARD HOLTZ
 JEREMY FREDRICK HUFFAKER
 DONALD TODD HUSTON
 RAYMOND L. HYLAND, JR.
 JAY PHILLIP JACKSON
 CHRISTOPHER A. JARRATT
 DAWN L. JUNK
 DAVID M. KASHIWAMURA
 JARED PALMER KENNISH, JR.
 PATRICK W. KIRBY
 EDWARD B. LAMAR, JR.
 PATRICK LEO LANAGHAN
 WILLIAM MICHAEL LEAHY
 MICHAEL J. LENAHAAN
 GREGORY R. LEWIS
 FRANK JAMES LOBASH
 JARED SCOVILLE MAAG
 ALAN PATRICK MCCrackEN
 LISA M. MCLEOD
 MICHAEL J. METCALF
 FRANKLIN B. MEYERS
 EILEEN M. MUELLER-MILLER
 MICHELLE R. MULBERRY
 MICHAEL A. NELSON, JR.
 STEPHANIE JO NELSON
 GREGORY S. NOLTING
 LISA L. OBRIEN
 JOSEPH R. OLSZEWSKI
 JAMES A. POKORSKI II
 ROBERT MICHAEL PRATER
 JASON R. PRICE
 GUILLERMO QUETELL
 REID F. RASMUSSEN
 DIANE L. ROBERTS
 BRETT B. ROBINSON
 MICHAEL S. ROSE
 LAWRENCE HENRY SCHAEFER
 LEASHA R. SCHEMMEL
 CHRISTOPHER RAYMOND SCHMELZER
 BEVERLY GAY SCHNEIDER
 FRANCIS J. SCOLARO
 ROGER DAVID SHAPIRO
 GINA MARIA SIMONSON
 MICHAEL RAY SPAULDING
 JOSEPH S. STEWART
 DAVID E. STOCKDILL
 ANTHONY D. STRATTON
 STRIDER SULLEY
 RAFAEL TORRES
 KURT A. TUININGA
 DENNIS V. VARELA
 JUSTIN T. WAGNER
 ROBERT WILLIAM WAGNER
 JEFFREY BRIAN WARD
 BRITT A. WATSON
 JAMES LOUIS WEHRLI
 RANDOLPH R. WHITELY
 TIMOTHY P. WILLIAMS
 JIMMY CARROLL WORLEY
 JANICE MARIE ZAUTNER
 ADRIA PAGE ZUCCARO
 LESLIE ANN ZYZDA-MARTIN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

EILEEN K. JENKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JEFFREY M. FARRIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

MATTHEW T. BELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

MELISSA B. REISTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CHARLES M. CAUSEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STEPHEN A. LABATE
 RAYMOND J. ORR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

ROXANNE E. WALLACE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ERIC A. MITCHELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JONATHAN J. VANNATTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DENNIS D. CALLOWAY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

KENNETH L. ALFORD
 MICHAEL A. MILTON
 BRUCE T. SIDEBOTHAM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

HENRY SPRING, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

CRAIG A. YUNKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CORNELIUS J. POPE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANTHONY K. MCCONNELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JENNIFER L. CUMMINGS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DONALD J. ERPENBACH
 TIMOTHY A. FANTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

PRESTON H. LEONARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

CARL I. SHALA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY VETERINARY CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

LISA M. BARDEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ROGER D. LYLES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

CLARA A. BIEGANEK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be major

ISAIAH M. GARFIAS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LOUIS E. HERRERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

SCHNICKA L. SINGLETON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

To be colonel

JOHN R. BURCHFIELD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

ELIZABETH S. EATONFERENZI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RICHARD D. MINA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be lieutenant colonel

TEMIDAYO L. ANDERSON
 ALISON F. H. ATKINS
 ANDREW R. ATKINS
 MICHAEL E. BAHM
 AIMEE M. BATEMAN
 CATHERINE L. BRANTLEY
 PATRICK L. BRYAN
 NAGESH CHELLURI
 JASON A. COATS
 SCOTT A. DIROCCO
 REBECCA L. FARRELL
 MATTHEW S. FITZGERALD
 SEAN D. FOSTER
 JENNIFER B. GREEN
 SAMUEL E. GREGORY
 ROBERT A. GUILLEN, JR.
 MICHAEL P. HARRY
 JOE N. HILL
 JOSHUA L. KESSLER
 DANIEL R. KUECKER
 JONATHAN LAMBERT
 JAMES P. LEARY
 TODD L. LINDQUIST
 MICHAEL G. LIPKIN
 JOHN R. LONGLEY III
 MATTHEW H. LUND
 JUSTIN M. MARCHESI
 EDWARD B. MARTIN
 DANIEL J. MURPHY
 JENEVIEVE R. MURPHY
 THOMAS W. OAKLEY
 MARK J. OPPEL
 BRIAN B. OWENS
 ALEXANDER R. SCHNEIDER
 SHARI F. SHUGART
 PHYLLISHA A. SOUTH
 SHAY STANFORD
 TANASHA N. STINSON
 JOSEPH L. STRAWN
 ILDIKO E. SZENTKIRALYI
 LUCIUS E. TILLMAN
 JOHN T. M. TUTTEROW
 JASON C. WELLS

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THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

ANJELIQUA S. MCNAIR

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

RICHARD A. GAUTIER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

JOSEPH A. PAPPENFUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

STUART G. BAKER
KEVIN R. BARNES
GEORGE T. CARTER
JAMES P. HALL
LEONARD W. JONES
DAVID P. LARSON
JOHN J. MARCH
PAUL D. THOMPSON
WALTER D. VENNEMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID S. YUEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

DONTA A. WHITE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS A CHAPLAIN UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be major

TONY A. HAMPTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

CHARLES C. ANDERSON
JONATHAN P. BEDDALL
GEORGE H. BRAUCHLER
MICHAEL C. BURGHARDT
PERRY M. CARPER II
ANDREW C. DIFENTHANLER
RICHARD D. FERGUSON
MICHAEL R. GLYNN
RYAN M. KING
DONALD J. KOSIAK
ROBERT E. KUSTER
JOHN T. OAKLEY
MICHAEL S. PEYERL
PETER P. RILEY
PAUL W. RODGERS
ZARA A. WALTERS
ORSON M. WARD
JAMES D. WILLSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

DAVID A. YASENCHOCK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

AARON C. RAMIRO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICHARD M. STRONG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BRENDON S. BAKER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 3064:

To be colonel

LANNY J. ACOSTA, JR.
JAMES A. BAGWELL
LAURA J. CALESE
JOSE A. CORA
JERRETT W. DUNLAP, JR.
JACQUELINE L. EMANUEL
TERRI J. ERISMAN
JESSICA A. G. HALLING
CHRISTOPHER A. KENNEBECK
EUGENE Y. KIM
JAMES D. LEVINE II
JOHN M. MCCABE
PATRICK D. PFLAUM
CHARLES L. PRITCHARD, JR.
STEPHANIE D. SANDERSON
EMILY C. SCHIFFER
THOMAS E. SCHIFFER
JACKIE L. THOMPSON, JR.
LANCE B. TURLINGTON

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 5721:

To be lieutenant commander

JAFAR A. ALI
JONANDREW D. ANDERSON
JAMES E. BARFOOT
BRIAN C. BEARD
ANDREW M. BRETT
MATTHEW S. BROOKS
RYAN W. COLLINSMINKEL
AMBER L. COWAN
GREGORY L. CRUM
TREVOR B. ELISON
MARKUS G. FRANZ
DALLAS C. GATES
JERROD S. HALL
CATHERINE L. HAYNES
MICHAEL A. HOSELTON
ROBERT V. HUDDLESTON
CHRISTOPHER R. KAGEHIRO
BRITTANY B. KALUSCAK
THOMAS R. KINSEY
JAMES P. LEE
DAVID B. LITZ
PAUL T. LYNE
BRIAN F. MAHLER
MICHAEL J. MARKER
CHRISTOPHER M. MAROLT
TYLER V. MARSHBURN
ANDREW J. MARTIN
CRAIG T. MEEKINS
DANIEL T. MILLER
NICHOLAS J. MOTTOLA
MITCHELL S. NELSON
NEAL N. NELSON
KENT W. NYGREN
WILLIAM C. PARKS
JEREMY C. PHILLIPS
RYAN J. PIFER
WALTER G. POINT
FRED D. RAY
JOSE SANCHEZ, JR.
PAUL D. SCHREINER
LUCAS R. SCRUBY
ALBERT J. STORRS
ROBERT M. TANKSLEY
BENJAMIN G. TARTELL
JORGE G. TELLEZ
ANTHONY K. WOLVERTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

MERYL A. SEVERSON III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

ASHLEY R. BJORKLUND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

ADELEKE O. MOWOBI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

MARY K. ARBUTHNOT
JOHN K. WERNER, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHEN W. HEDRICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

VINCENT M. J. AMBROSINO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

NEAL P. RIDGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be commander

MICHAEL A. POLITO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

WILLIAM A. SCHULTZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

ABDESLAM BOUSALHAM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

SCOTT M. MOREY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

CHRISTIAN R. FOSCHI

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E):

To be lieutenant commander

STEPHEN J. ALBERT
ELROY S. ALLEN
KIRSTEN M. AMBORS-CASEY
JUAN C. AVILA
KENJI R. AWAMURA
CHARLES J. BARE
DUSTIN G. BARKER
TODD C. BATTEN
CAROLINE B. BELL
ZACHARY C. BENDER
JAMES C. BENNETT
JONATHAN P. BENVENUTO
JASON L. BERGER
NICOLE L. BLANCHARD
SIMON G. BLANCO
JORDAN T. BOGHOSIAN
CHRISTOPHER A. BONNER
CHAD M. BROOK
CHRISTINE S. BROWN
BRYAN P. BROWNLEE
MARK W. BURGNER
WILLIAM J. BURWELL
KRISTEN M. BYERS
NELSON W. CABLE
NOLAN V. CAIN
KRISTEN B. CALDWELL
GREGORY S. CARR
JASON R. CARRILLO
KYLE M. CARTER
KYRA M. CHIN-DYKEMAN
ERIN H. CHLUM
BRADLEY R. CLEMONS
MEGAN K. CLIFFORD
ROBERT D. COLE, JR.
ROBERTO C. CONCEPCION
JASON A. CONDON
KEVIN H. CONNELL
REBECCA M. CORSON
JAMES D. COUCH
BRIAN A. CRIMMEL
BRYAN S. CROOK
LANE P. CUTLER
KATHRYN R. CYR
STEVEN T. DAVIES
REBECCA W. DEAKIN
MICHAEL A. DEAL
DANIEL J. DEANGELO
ANDREW B. DENNELLY
AMANDA W. DENNING
AMANDA M. DIPIETRO
ANNA K. DIXON
TIMOTHY W. DOLAN
KELLI M. DOUGHERTY
LESLIE M. DOWNING
STEPHEN J. DRAUSZEWSKI
MICHAEL J. DUBINSKY
QUINTON L. DUBOSE
ANDREW S. DUNLEVY
ELISA F. DYKMAN
RONALD EASLEY
ERICA L. ELFGUINN
PATRICIA C. ELLISTON

DENNY A. ERNST
 BRYCE G. ETTSTAD
 JASON E. EVANS
 DANIEL J. EVERY
 AMANDA L. FAHRIG
 DIANA FERGUSON
 JAMISON R. FERRIELL
 TRACI-ANN FIAMMETTA
 MICHAEL L. FLINT
 JOHN M. FORSTER
 EDWARD K. FORYS
 REBECCA A. FOSHA
 MICHELLE M. FOSTER
 JAMES T. FREEMAN
 JEFFREY A. FRY
 NICHOLAS A. GALATI
 VICTOR J. GALGANO
 RVEN T. GARCIA
 MICAH N. GENTILE
 ZACHERY J. GEYER
 MARIO G. GIL
 DAVID M. GILBERT
 DAVID S. GONZALEZ
 ELIEZER GONZALEZ
 LEE R. GORLIN
 ROBERT D. GORMAN
 ANDREW M. GRANTHAM
 CHRISTOPHER F. GREENOUGH
 PATRICK J. GRIZZLE
 SEAN T. GROARK
 MICHAEL B. GRONCKI II
 IAN C. GROOM
 ANTHONY J. GUIDO
 MATTHEW C. HADDAD
 BRIAN M. HALL
 IAN HANNA
 ERIC C. HANSON
 KEVAN P. HANSON
 BRENT L. HARDGRAVE
 STEPHEN A. HART
 LISA G. HARTLEY
 JASON L. HATHAWAY
 KELLY L. HAUPT
 JOSEPH S. HEAL
 TERRANCE L. HERDLISKA
 MATTHEW R. HERRING
 JENNIFER L. HERTZLER
 JOHN D. HESS
 JEROD M. HITZEL
 STEFANIE J. HODGDON
 JAMES M. HODGES
 JONATHAN W. HOFIUS
 ZACHARY D. HUFF
 STEVEN W. HULSE
 MATTHEW C. HUNT
 BRYSON C. JACOBS
 RAYMOND M. JAMROS
 SARAH M. JANARO
 DAVID L. JANNEY
 ANDREW B. JANTZEN
 CHELSEA A. KALIL
 ABIGAIL H. KAWADA
 CAROLINE D. KEARNEY
 GARY G. KIM
 MIN H. KIM
 GRETAL G. KINNEY
 DAVID B. KOMAR
 BRITTANI J. KOROKNAY
 KEVIN K. KOSKI
 MATTHEW M. KROLL
 SARAH A. KROLMAN
 NICHOLAS R. KROSS
 BROWNIE J. KUK
 CELINA H. LADYGA
 JONATHAN W. LADYGA
 LEO C. LAKE
 JONATHAN M. LARAIA
 DUSTIN T. LEE
 KAREN M. LEE
 BLAKE K. LEEDY
 CLINTON D. LEMASTERS
 PAUL M. LEON
 BENJAMIN S. LEUTHOLD
 AARON B. LEYKO
 JAMES P. LITZINGER
 JOHN T. LIVINGSTON
 ROBERT J. LOKAR
 SEAN A. LOTT
 RACHAEL E. LOVE
 CHARLES A. LUMPKIN
 RYAN W. MACA
 STEVEN A. MACIAS
 ROBERT M. MACKENZIE
 ISSAC D. MAHAR
 SAWYER M. MANN
 MARC A. MARES
 CHRISTOPHER H. MARTIN
 SCOTT A. MCBRIDE
 KENNITH W. MCCAIN
 CHRISTOPHER J. MCCANN
 SCOTT J. MCCANN
 JAYNA G. MCCARRON
 ADAM J. MCCARTHY
 SCOTT H. MCGREW
 PATRICK M. MCMAHON
 ANNA C. MCNEIL
 STEVEN T. MELVIN
 HERMIE P. MENDOZA
 MEGAN K. MERVAR
 JULIAN M. MIDDLETON
 JEFFREY S. MILGATE
 MICHAEL S. MILLER

FRANK P. MINOPOLI
 CAITLIN H. MITCHELL-WURSTER
 NATHAN P. MORELLO
 KARL H. MUELLER
 IAN J. MULCAHY
 ADAM L. MULLINS
 JOHN E. MUNDALE
 ANDREW J. MURPHY
 JOSHUA C. MURPHY
 ELIZABETH G. NAKAGAWA
 NIKEA L. NATTEAL
 ANDREW J. NEBL
 JASON A. NEIMAN
 DAVID T. NEWCOMB
 HUY D. NGUYEN
 BRET D. NICHOLS
 CHRISTOPHER M. NICHOLS
 ERIC D. NIELSEN
 RICHARD D. NINES
 JEFFREY T. NOYES
 ROBERT P. O'DONNELL
 GRACE E. OH
 TERESA Z. OHLEY
 PHILLIP N. ORTEGA
 JACOB T. PAARLBERG
 JARRETT S. PARKER
 CHRISTOPHER J. PELAR
 NEIL R. PENSO
 KURT W. PFEFFER
 ANDREW D. PHIPPS
 JEYAR L. PIERCE
 DAVID A. PIPKORN
 JOSEPH P. PLUNKETT
 ROBERT S. POITINGER
 JOHN P. POLEY
 JOSEPH P. PRADO
 ANDREW D. PRITCHETT
 FREDRICK D. PUGH
 CHRISTOPHER S. PULLIAM
 ERIC A. QUIGLEY
 ALEJANDRO M. QUINTERO
 THOMAS J. RADER
 RYAN R. RAMOS
 PETER J. RANERI
 JONATHAN T. REBUCK
 FRANK M. REED III
 HOWARD B. REINEY, JR.
 SHERAL A. RICHARDSON
 BYRON RIOS
 CALLAN D. ROBBINS
 JASON W. ROBERTS
 MICHELLE I. ROSENBERG
 MICHAEL C. ROSS
 MALLORIE G. SCHELL
 JAMES J. SCHOCK
 DANIEL A. SCHRADER
 DEREK L. SCHRAMEL
 JOHN SGARLATA, JR.
 MATTHEW A. SHAFFER
 SALADIN SHELTON
 PAUL C. SIMPSON
 JAMES D. SLAPAK
 RANDALL J. SLUSHER
 NORMA L. SMIAL
 COLLEEN M. SMITH
 JOSEPH L. SMITH
 JOSH L. SMITH
 KATIE E. SMITH
 LAUREN E. SMOAK
 BRETT L. SPRENGER
 KEVIN L. ST.CIN
 PAUL W. STEPLER
 RACHEL P. STRUBEL
 GEORGE R. SUCHANEK
 JOHN P. SUCKOW
 KATHLEEN M. SULLIVAN
 AMY K. SUNG
 MATTHEW M. SWANNER
 DAVID C. THOMPSON
 DAMON THORNTON
 JESSICA S. THORNTON
 JOHN D. TOMLIN
 MELVIN A. TORRES
 CHRISTOPHER N. TOUSSAINT
 CYNTHIA S. TRAVERS
 MICHAEL R. TURANTZ
 EDUARDO M. VALDEZ
 MATTHEW J. VANGINKEL
 FAUSTO E. VERAS
 MICHAEL M. VICKERS
 MICHAEL A. VILES
 STEVEN M. VOLK
 JOHN M. WALSH
 TODD A. WEIMORTS
 STEVEN D. WELCH
 BRUCE D. WELLS
 MASON C.E. WILCOX
 DEREK D. WILSON
 PAUL A. WINDT
 NICHOLAS A. WOESSNER
 FRANCIS E.S. WOLFE
 JONATHAN M. WOLSTENHOLME
 ROBERT T. WRIGHT
 VICTOR M. YAGUCHI
 MILES K. YOUNG
 MATTHEW W. ZINN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE IN-
 DICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C. SECTION 271(E):

To be commander

JENNIFER L. ADAMS

MARC H. AKUS
 DAVID J. ALDOUS
 NATHAN W. ALLEN
 RYAN J. ALLEN
 SHAMEEN E. ANTHANIO-Williams
 MELLISSA J. ARLES
 CHRISTOPHER M. ARMSTRONG
 CHARLES L. BANKS, JR.
 ANN M. BASSOLINO
 KEVIN M. BECK
 ANDREW J. BEHNKE
 ROBERT J. BERRY II
 FRED S. BERTSCH IV
 VANESSA BLACKMORE
 WILLIAM K. BLAIR
 JOHN D. BLOCK
 PETER F. BOSMA
 RUBEN E. BOUDREAUX
 KEVIN C. BOYD, JR.
 VALERIE A. BOYD
 JASON P. BRAND
 WILLIAM C. BRENT, JR.
 CHAD R. BRICK
 SHANE D. BRIDGES
 KEVIN A. BROYLES
 BRYAN J. BURKHALTER
 ERIC A. CAIN
 JOSEPH G. CALLAGHAN
 IAN L. CALLANDER
 BRIAN R. CARROLL
 PAUL R. CASEY
 ERIC M. CASPER
 JACOB L. CASS
 MICHAEL P.C. CHIEN
 MICHAEL N. COST
 JUSTIN K. COVERT
 MELBA J. CRISP
 CHARLENE R.T. CRISS
 MARK W. CRYSLER
 CHRISTOPHER J. DAVIS
 KAREN DENNY
 MATTHEW C. DERRENBACHER
 MICHAEL S. DIPACE
 JASON D. DOLBECK
 MATTHEW D. DOORIS
 CHRISTOPHER DOUGLAS
 KEITH M. DOXEY
 KEVIN F. DUFFY
 JASON R. DUNN
 SAMUEL Z. EDWARDS
 JAMIE M. EMBRY
 TODD L. EMERSON
 DANIEL J. EVERETTE
 PETER M. EVONUK
 BRIAN M. FARMER
 JEFFREY P. FERLAUTO
 FRANK J. FLORIO III
 JAMES T. FOGLE
 GEORGE O. FULENWIDER III
 PATRICK J. GALLAGHER
 WILLIAM J. GEORGE
 ROBERT H. GOMEZ
 DENNIS D. GOOD
 EVANGELINE R. GORMLEY
 JOHN A. GOSHORN
 ANDREW P. GRANT
 BROOKE E. GRANT
 DERRICK S. GREER
 STEVEN M. GRIFFIN
 WILLIAM M. GROSSMAN
 JAY W. GUYER
 GREGORY M. HAAS
 JEREMY M. HALL
 BYRON H. HAYES
 DOROTHY J. HERNAEZ
 ROBERT P. HILL
 JENNIFER L. HNATOW
 JACOB A. HOBSON
 MORGAN T. HOLDEN
 DEAN E. HORTON
 DONALD K. ISOM
 MAX M. JENNY
 CHRISTOPHER D. JOHNS
 CHRISTOPHER L. JONES
 KAREN S. JONES
 MATTHEW N. JONES
 KEVIN A. KEENAN
 SCOTT R. KIRKLAND
 AJA L. KIRKSEY
 DAVID J. KOWALCZYK, JR.
 DONALD R. KUHLMAN
 SHAWN A. LANSING
 MARK L. LAY
 KRISTINA L. LEWIS
 PAUL J. MANGINI
 ELIZABETH L. MASSIMI
 RYAN P. MATSON
 ERIC J. MATTHIES
 HAROLD L. MCCARTER
 BLAKE A. MCKINNEY
 WILLIAM A. MCKINSTRY
 JAMES M. MCLAY
 JAMES D. MCMANUS
 BRAD M. MCNALLY
 JOSEPH W. MCPHERSON III
 JOHN M.P. MCTAMNEY IV
 RONALD R. MILLS-PAUGH
 MARC J. MONTEMERLO
 JASON W. MORGAN
 RYAN T. MURPHY
 MICHAEL A. NALLI
 MARK R. NEELAND

JUSTIN W. NOGGLE
 MARTIN L. NOSSETT IV
 ANNE E. OCONNELL
 JAMES M. OMARA IV
 ROGER E. OMENHISER, JR.
 BRENDAN P. OSHEA
 JOSEPH B. PARKER
 STACIA F. PARROTT
 CHRISTOPHER M. PASCIUTO
 CHESTER A. PASSIC
 ANDREW L. PATE
 MARK B. PATTON
 JEFFREY L. PAYNE
 JAMES H. PERSHING
 BARTON L. PHILPOTT
 JEFFREY J. PILE
 ELIZABETH T. PLATT
 KENNETH B. POOLE II
 JORGE PORTO
 MARK B. POTOTSCHNIK
 LEAH M. PRESTON
 AMANDA M. RAMASSINI
 LIBBY J. RASMUSSEN
 JEFFREY J. RASNAKE
 LISA M. RICE
 MATTHEW ROONEY
 MICHAEL B. RUSSELL
 JAN A. RYBKA
 PAUL SALERNO
 EVELYNN B. SAMMS
 RACHELLE N. SAMUEL
 KEVIN B. SAUNDERS
 BENJAMIN J. SCHLUCKEBIER
 TIMOTHY L. SCHMITZ
 DEON J. SCOTT
 KIRK C. SHADRICK
 BROOK W. SHERMAN
 JASON S. SMITH
 LAURA J. SMOLINSKI
 JOAN SNAITH
 GABRIEL J. SOMMA
 ROBERT E. STILES
 JESSICA R. STYRON
 ROBERT D. TAYLOR
 JAMES K. TERRELL
 EMILY L. THARP
 ALFRED J. THOMPSON
 LAWRENCE W. TINSTMAN
 DAVID A. TORRES
 DEVIN L. TOWNSEND
 CHRISTOPHER A. TREIB
 JARED S. TRUSZ
 MICHAEL A. VENTURELLA
 MATTHEW J. WALKER
 WILLIAM R. WALKER
 SARA A. WALLACE
 TAMARA S. WALLEN
 AMBER S. WARD
 RODNEY P. WERT
 STEPHEN E. WEST
 CHRISTOPHER A. WHITE
 BRIAN R. WILLSON
 WILLIAM B. WINBURN

TRACY L. WIRTH
 CHRISTOPHER L. WRIGHT
 BRENT C. YEZEFSKI
 PETER J. ZAUNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE
 GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DARYL P. SCHAFER
 LISA H. SCHULZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS OF THE COAST
 GUARD PERMANENT COMMISSIONED TEACHING STAFF
 FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST
 GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14,
 U.S.C., SECTIONS 189 AND 276:

To be captain

DAVID C. CLIPPINGER
 MICHAEL J. CORL
 GREGORY J. HALL
 RUSSELL E. BOWMAN

To be commander

JOSEPH T. BENIN

To be lieutenant commander

MATTHEW B. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE
 GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION
 12203(A):

To be captain

MARK E. AMES
 MICHAEL G. BARTON
 LEON D. DAME
 TIFFANY G. DANKO
 STACIE L. FAIN
 DANIEL J. FITZGERALD
 JOANNA K. HIIGEL
 JASON A. LEHTO
 RICHARD E. NEIMAN, JR.
 COLLEEN M. PAK
 GEORGE W. PETRAS
 MICHAEL A. SPOLIDORO
 MATTHEW D. WADLEIGH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
 IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE IN-
 DICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 271(E):

To be captain

JOHN F. BARRESI
 AMY M. BRACH
 BENJAMIN D. BERG
 JOHN M. BRANCH
 PAUL BROOKS
 BRUCE C. BROWN
 SUZANNE M. BROWN

MARIE BYRD
 FLIP P. CAPISTRANO
 JAY CAPUTO
 CLINTON S. CARLSON
 KEVIN M. CARROLL
 TRAVIS L. CARTER
 JOHN D. COLE
 TIMOTHY J. CONNORS
 ERIC M. COOPER
 JOHN P. DEBOK
 ERIC D. DENLEY
 ANGELIC D. DONOVAN
 MARYELLEN J. DURLEY
 WILLIAM G. DWYER
 MATTHEW EDWARDS
 MICHAEL J. ENNIS
 BRIAN D. FALK
 ROSEMARY P. FIRESTINE
 ARTHUR H. GOMEZ
 AMY B. GRABLE
 HOLLY R. HARRISON
 MARK E. HIIGEL
 PATRICK M. HILBERT
 TODD M. HOWARD
 RICHARD E. HOWES
 MICHAEL A. HUDSON
 MARK A. JACKSON
 SCOTT L. JOHNSON
 ERIC P. KING
 SHAWN S. KOCH
 SHERMAN M. LACEY
 WILLIAM A. LEWIN
 RALPH R. LITTLE
 VIVIANNE LOUIE
 MICHAEL C. MACMILLAN
 JAMES D. MARQUEZ
 CRAIG J. MASSELLO
 JOSEPH T. MCGILLEY
 ADAM B. MORRISON
 PRINCE A. NEAL
 TIMOTHY M. NEWTON
 JEFFREY W. NOVAK
 LOUIE C. PARKS, JR.
 JOSE A. PENA
 MICHAEL R. ROSCHEL
 GREGORY C. ROTHROCK
 JAMES B. RUSH
 JASON H. RYAN
 MICHAEL SCHOONOVER, JR.
 MARK J. SHEPARD
 JASON E. SMITH
 SAMPSON C. STEVENS
 SCOTT A. STOERMER
 JEFFREY S. SWANSON
 ROXANNE TAMEZ
 GREGORY L. THOMAS
 RICHTER L. TIPTON
 ROBERTO H. TORRES
 KARRIE C. TREBBE
 JACQUELINE M. TWOMEY
 MARK B. WALSH

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF MARIS GROVE

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maris Grove on celebrating its 10th anniversary this October.

Maris Grove retirement community opened in 2006 to provide an active senior living facility in southeastern Pennsylvania. It's been my privilege to visit the facility and get to know so many of its residents since then.

More than 1500 residents live at Maris Grove in independent apartments and enjoy more than 180 resident groups and clubs. This engaged resident community is supported by more than 650 employees who work tirelessly to provide exceptional customer service to all residents.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Maris Grove on its success these past ten years, and I look forward to seeing the community grow in the next decade.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify my position on roll call votes cast on September 20, 2016 and September 26, 2016.

On Roll Call Vote Number 521, on consideration of H.R. 670 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

On Roll Call Vote Number 522, on consideration of H.R. 5785 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

On Roll Call Vote Number 523, on consideration of H.R. 5690 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

On Roll Call Vote Number 557, on consideration of H.R. 3537 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

On Roll Call Vote Number 558, on consideration of H.R. 5392 I did not vote. It was my intention to vote "Yea."

IN TRIBUTE TO CHRIS AHMUTY

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chris Ahmuty who is retiring from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin on December 31, 2016. He has

served the organization since 1982 and for 24 of those 34 years of service has been the Executive Director of the ACLU of Wisconsin.

Mr. Ahmuty has spent much of his career making an extraordinary impact on civil liberties and civil rights in Wisconsin. Over the decades he has led the organization as a tireless advocate for issues such as LGBT rights, voting rights, reproductive freedom, transit equity, environmental justice, free speech, and public access to the state Capitol. Chris Ahmuty is especially proud of the organization's success in racial discrimination cases, marriage equality, and youth leadership development. He remains a man in a hurry, ready to push back against those who would deny fundamental liberties; he truly believes that whenever society and the laws that govern society become more inclusive, everyone gains.

Chris Ahmuty was born in New York City and grew up in Derby, New York. His mother, a schoolteacher, died of cancer when he was just 15. His father, a sales manager, died when Ahmuty was in graduate school. Chris Ahmuty's grandfather Frederic P. Lee, a lawyer involved in drafting New Deal-era policies, deeply influenced Ahmuty's political and social justice positions. Mr. Ahmuty came to Wisconsin to attend graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, earning a master's degree in history, and made Wisconsin his new home.

At the helm of the ACLU, Chris Ahmuty has worked on many initiatives. Some of the most notable activities include the numerous lawsuits challenging government abuse of power, special attention to the rights of society's most vulnerable, and expansion of the affiliate's programs, especially youth development. He works daily to uphold the ACLU mission to protect and defend civil liberties in a non-partisan manner. Mr. Ahmuty's ability to keep calm, whether in victory or defeat, has served him well through his long tenure with the ACLU.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with Chris Ahmuty for many years on issues such as voting rights, prison reform and incarceration issues, and rights of the poor. I will join with friends and his partner, Bob Schlack, to congratulate him at the ACLU Annual Bill of Rights Celebration where he will be honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award on November 19, 2016. During these decades of service to the ACLU, Chris has led the organization through troubling times for civil liberties in Wisconsin and our nation. I wish him much success as he transitions into a different phase of his life.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Chris Ahmuty and I am proud to call him friend. The citizens of the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin are privileged to have someone of his ability and dedicated service working on their behalf for so many years. Chris, I thank you for all that you have done. I am honored for these reasons to pay tribute to Chris Ahmuty.

HONORING MR. W. THOMAS
MUSSER

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. W. Thomas "Tom" Musser on receiving the Chester County Community Foundation's Jordan Award for philanthropic leadership.

Mr. Musser dedicated his life to community service. After serving his country in the Korean War, Tom and his brother founded Tri-M to address the need for industrial electrical contracting in southeastern Pennsylvania. As his company grew, Tom took on leadership positions in the industry including serving as National Chairman of the Associated Builders and Contractors and Chairman of the Board of the National Federation of Independent Businesses. He also made sure that his company gave back by encouraging employees to volunteer and sponsoring high school students at the Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week.

Tom also continued to serve his country as Vice Chair of the U.S. Naval Institute Foundation Board of Trustees and as a member of the Department of Defense Advisory Board for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

Serving the local community was also always a top priority for Tom. He was an active Rotarian and served on the board of the Southern Chester County Chamber of Commerce. Tom also chaired a number of capital fund drives for the Kennett-Unionville YMCA and the Chester County Hospital Capital Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, Tom passed away in July, but his legacy of philanthropic leadership will continue to live on through the lives he touched and the organizations he supported.

HONORING CALIFORNIA STATE
SENATOR LOIS WOLK

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, to recognize the Honorable Lois Wolk for her long and distinguished record of service as an elected official in the state of California.

In 1990, Lois Wolk won a seat on the Davis City Council where she served until 1998, including two terms as Mayor. She went on to become a Yolo County Supervisor for four years, chairing the Board in 2000. Wolk was then elected to the California State Assembly,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

where she was the first woman to serve as chair of the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Termed out of the Assembly in 2008, Wolk was subsequently elected to the California State Senate where she now serves as the Majority Whip, chairs the Select Committee on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and chairs a Senate Budget Subcommittee. In her combined twelve years in the state legislature, Senator Wolk has authored more than 100 new laws. During her impressive career in the legislature, Wolk has been honored with many awards and recognitions for her leadership in water policy and flood protection, parks and conservation, gun violence, end-of-life care, and transportation, including the safety of State Highway 12.

Senator Wolk has led an admirable career in public service, filled with policy accomplishments on behalf of her constituents and the state. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we honor and thank Lois Wolk for her long and distinguished career and wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors.

HONORING GRAND LAKE GARDENS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Grand Lake Gardens, a retirement community in the heart of Oakland, California, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Since 1966, Grand Lake Gardens has been providing seniors with a comfortable, safe, and convenient home near the beautiful Lake Merritt. Grand Lake Gardens' proximity to a thriving, vibrant commercial district with restaurants, parks, galleries, and more have allowed its residents to live fulfilling and active lives.

Residents at Grand Lake Gardens take an active role in shaping their own programs, activities, and clubs to fit their interests, and residents have created their own fitness classes, current news seminars, and an organic garden.

Grand Lake Gardens took shape as many Oakland-area Baptist churches searched for a way to address the need for housing and care of the elderly during the late 1950's and the early 1960's.

In 1963, the Northern California Baptist Convention appointed a Commission on Retirement Housing to come up with solutions to the need for housing for the elderly in the Bay Area. Their solution was to build Grand Lake Gardens. A location was chosen, the money was raised, and on July 2nd, 1965, construction began on a seven-story building with 103 apartments and parking.

Construction was completed by November 7th, 1966, and by Christmas of that year, there were 25 residents living at Grand Lake Gardens—enough for its first Christmas party.

When Mr. Mark Knudsen became the first full-time administrator, in 1981, Grand Lake Gardens began to truly flourish and blossom. Under Mr. Knudsen's leadership, the Grand Assembly and an activity room were added, a

third-floor garden was created, and more staff was hired to provide residents with more activities, turning Grand Lake Gardens into the thriving and stimulating place it is today.

Following a fire in 1994, the kitchen and dining room were remodeled, and an additional vegetable and flower garden for residents was added. Latex, Grand Lake Gardens added a wellness clinic and a van to provide transportation for residents, further improving the health and experience of seniors living there.

On a personal note, my late beloved mother, Ms. Mildred Massey, spent the last five of her golden years at Grand Lake Gardens. She always told me what a warm and welcoming home Grand Lake Gardens was, and how loved and accepted she felt there.

Today, on behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Grand Lake Gardens on 50 years of providing its residents with a comfortable, safe, and convenient home. I wish Grand Lake Gardens well as it continues to help seniors live thriving, vibrant, and active lives.

HONORING DANVILLE COUNCILMEMBER MIKE DOYLE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Mike Doyle for his lifelong commitment of public service to his hometown of Danville, California. Mr. Doyle was elected to the Danville Town Council on November 5, 1991, running as a "man of the people," advocating on behalf of youth, veterans, business, careful planning, and citizen engagement.

Mr. Doyle is known as "Mr. Danville," and his legacy will be his work to preserve Danville's genuine small-town feel. He always put the Town first and made sure it was on firm financial footing during the early days of incorporation. Known as a straight shooter and regularly expressing his feelings on the issues of the day, his passion and dedication for Danville and its residents are unrivaled.

Mr. Doyle is the first person to be elected to the Town Council six times and is the longest-serving member of the Danville Town Council since incorporation of the Town of Danville in 1982. Mr. Doyle has worked tirelessly to preserve the character of Danville while encouraging balanced economic growth.

Mr. Doyle has played an integral part in shaping the Town of Danville. During his service, the Town enjoyed the opening of a new Danville Library and Community Center complex, Oak Hill Park Community Center, and the Veterans Memorial Building and Senior Center.

Mr. Doyle served on the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities for 18 years, representing Danville and cities across California. Prior to his public service in Danville, Mr. Doyle served six years in the United States Air Force, during which time he was involved in the Berlin Airlift to carry food and other supplies into West Berlin.

Mr. Doyle and his wife JoAnne have raised five children—Michael, Mary Anne, Terrence,

Celeste and John, and are grandparents to nine grandchildren.

We wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON MCENHILL

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Don McEnhill, Sr., who passed away on September 29, 2016 after a lifetime of service to his community. Born February 21, 1930, in San Francisco, Mr. McEnhill attended the University of San Francisco prior to serving in the United States Air Force, and using GI Bill benefits, he graduated from University of the Pacific Dental School in 1960, going on to practice dentistry for 32 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. A 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force, Don met his future wife Mildred (Milly) Lewis, a Western Airlines stewardess, while stationed in Salt Lake City; they would go on to raise four loving children.

Mr. McEnhill's legacy of community service includes serving on the boards for the Dixie School District, Fitch Mountain Homeowners' Association, and League of Women Voters. Additionally, Don served on the Marin County Civil Grand Jury and was a staunch advocate for the Russian River. An active parishioner of St. Isabella Parish for 53 years, Don helped establish the high school faith formation Parish Youth Council (PYC) to serve the spiritual, social, and intellectual needs of high school students.

Mr. McEnhill is survived by his beloved children: John McEnhill IV, Marilyn McEnhill, Don McEnhill, Jr., and Ann Margaret McEnhill in addition to his sisters: Mary McInerney, Elizabeth Kozel and Judith Lee Jasko; his brother, Gerald; and his beloved grandchildren, Jack and Emma McEnhill, William and Joseph Simonds; and a large extended family.

Mr. Speaker, the depth of Mr. McEnhill's service to the military and his local community, as well as his commitment to his family and faith have left a positive legacy to many, and he will be dearly missed. It is therefore appropriate that we pay tribute to him today and honor his memory.

CONGRATULATING PENNY PULLEN ON HER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Miss Penny Pullen on being selected as the recipient of the Abstinence & Marriage Education Partnership's Lifetime Achievement Award. This award represents a much deserved honor for all of Penny's work fighting for the right to life and for traditional family values over the past several decades both in Illinois and across the nation.

Penny has long been considered one of the strongest champions of the pro-life movement in Illinois. She held the distinct position of emerging as the chief spokesman for the right to life during her time in Illinois House of Representatives where she served in the leadership. Upon her retirement from the General Assembly in 1993, she launched the Illinois Family Institute and was later appointed by Phyllis Schlafly to serve as President of Eagle Forum of Illinois. She also served in three national posts. She was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the National Council on Educational Research and Improvement and to the President's Commission on the HIV Epidemic. She was also appointed by President George Bush to the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation. Currently, Penny is the president of Life Advocacy Resource Project and editor of Life Advocacy Briefing.

Although, she has never sought recognition or accolades Penny deserves our deepest respect and admiration. Her contributions to the pro-life community are an inspiration to many across Illinois and the United States. It truly is an honor for me to be counted among her many friends and admirers. At a time when our nation is in need of role models in public life, we are truly blessed by Penny and the testimony of her whole life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Penny Pullen for her remarkable lifetime of service and her devotion to God and to the founding principles that have made our nation prosper.

IN HONOR OF RILETTA L. CREAM

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Riletta L. Cream, a woman of strength, character and commitment, on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Mrs. Cream has been a friend, mentor and educator to many individuals in southern New Jersey, including myself, and it only seems fitting that we honor someone who has dedicated herself to public service on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. Cream was born and raised in Camden City, and after graduating from Glassboro State College, now Rowan University, she was a teacher, supervisor and principal at an elementary school before the Mayor of Camden City recruited her to be the principal at Camden High School.

Mrs. Cream led Camden High through the tumultuous seventies all the way through 1987—serving proudly as a role model to students, teachers and administrators alike.

After retiring from Camden High School, she became an administrator for BPUM, Inc. Day Care Centers and later an Adjunct Professor and Supervisor of Student Teachers at both Rowan and Rutgers Universities.

In 1994, she was appointed to the Board of Chosen Freeholders in the County of Camden, New Jersey. She was reelected to that position four times, shepherding many projects like the Tech 2000 program, which put computers

in every classroom and supplied distance learning equipment for students and teachers and expanding the County's Library System. She retired in 2011.

Mrs. Cream created a scholarship program to ensure students in Camden were given the opportunity to continue their education. She is always focused on giving back to her community and her students, even now, long after she retired as an educator.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cream continues to encourage and inspire everyone who knows her and those she continues to meet. I hope that you will all join me in wishing this incredible woman, Mrs. Riletta L. Cream, a wonderful birthday

H.R. 3590

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3590, which repeals one of the funding mechanisms for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this bill would add \$33 billion to the nation's deficit.

House Republicans have once again created a double standard, asking Congress to add \$33 billion to the national deficit with unpaid tax cuts while insisting on offsets for public health emergencies like the Zika virus, opioid epidemic, and crisis in Flint, Michigan. H.R. 3590 has made House Republicans' priorities very clear—to dismantle the ACA. This is the latest effort to undermine the ACA, which provides affordable health care to millions of Americans.

I have put forward a proposal to provide tax relief to working Americans with a Paycheck Bonus Tax Credit and updates to the tax code to benefit those who earn their paychecks through hard work instead of those who make money off of money. If Republicans are serious about tax reform to help American workers they would support my proposal to limit tax breaks that encourage corporations to move American jobs overseas. Rather than work on behalf of our constituents who are counting on Congress to pass common sense laws on logical tax reform and to address public health emergencies, House Republicans have chosen to fight old battles by once again introducing legislation which would undermine the ACA.

I oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to vote no.

RECOGNIZING TRISHA PRABHU

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I honor sixteen year old Trisha Prabhu of Naperville, IL for her creative and enterprising efforts to combat teen cyberbullying. Having partnered with entrepreneurs Mark Cuban and Lori

Greiner through the hit TV show "Shark Tank", Trisha is expanding her efforts on a national level.

As a thirteen year old, Trisha decided to take a stand when she heard about students younger than herself who committed suicide after experiencing cyberbullying. Drawing on neuroscience research and her own research in school, Trisha created an app designed to warn students when they are about to send a text message that might be hurtful. The app, called ReThink, gives users an opportunity to edit, cancel, or send the message.

After piloting the app in a 1,500-person trial, Trisha found that ReThink resulted in teens changing their messages a stunning 93 percent of the time. Already, the app has been downloaded by thousands of users and has had a significant impact on the community.

With her initiative and clear vision, Trisha models the best in our youth by stepping out to prevent—not just remedy—a serious problem that her own communities face.

Trisha has been featured at the White House Science Fair and as a global finalist at the Google Science Fair and received numerous honors including the International Princess Diana Award and awards from MIT and the George H. W. Bush Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate the ingenuity and spirit of Trisha Prabhu.

HONORING JAMES K. FOY OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Chief Master Sergeant James K. Foy, upon his retirement from more than 40 years of military service to the United States Air Force and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Chief Master Sergeant Foy deployed multiple times in service of our Nation, including Operations Desert Shield, Desert Thunder, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He earned 30 federal awards, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four devices, the Air Force Commendation Medal with four devices, a Joint Service Achievement Medal, and both Air Force and Army Achievement Medals.

Chief Master Sergeant Foy's tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom he served to be the best. His legacy of service to our Nation truly is admirable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, with great pride I commend and congratulate Chief Master Sergeant James K. Foy upon his retirement after 40 years of selfless service to the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY OF HANFORD, CALIFORNIA

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the American Cancer Society of Hanford, California on its twentieth successful Relay For Life event and for raising over \$1,065,000 to date to fight cancer.

More than 5,000 Relay For Life events take place across the world every year. However, Relay For Life has been a staple in Hanford for the past two decades. The twenty-four hour event aims to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.

While events vary by community, Hanford's Relay For Life consists of food, games, and family-friendly activities as well as several meaningful celebrations. The event begins with the Survivors Lap, which honors cancer survivors and celebrates their victory over cancer. During the Luminaria Ceremony, participants remember those lost who lost their battle with cancer as well as those who are still fighting. The final ceremony is the Fight Back Ceremony, which inspires participants to take action in the fight against cancer.

Hanford Relay For Life is completely organized and executed by nearly two hundred volunteers from the local community who, on average, raise over \$120,000 each year. The dedication and compassion each volunteer exhibits is admirable and truly makes the Central Valley a remarkable community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending the American Cancer Society of Hanford and all the volunteers who work to make the Relay For Life event successful each and every year

HONORING DR. ROBERT ADAMS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and legacy of Dr. Robert "Bobby" Adams. A career counselor and administrator, Dr. Adams has made a lasting contribution to the education of generations of college students in Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Dr. Adams attended Los Angeles City College and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas before receiving his bachelor's Degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Education from the University of Southern California, and a Doctorate in Education Management from Pepperdine University.

After the completion of his education, Dr. Adams worked as a counselor and administrator at Santa Monica College (SMC) for 33 years. He began his professional career at

SMC in 1974, serving as a counselor in outreach and the Extended Opportunities Program and Service (EOPS). He also served as Counseling Department Chair from 1981 to 1986, was Dean of Student Life from 1986 to 1996, and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs from 1996 to 1998. Prior to his retirement from SMC in 2007, Dr. Adams served for several years as the Vice President of Student Affairs.

After he left Santa Monica College in 2007, Dr. Adams was hired as the President of Merritt College in Oakland where he served until his retirement in 2012.

While at Merritt College, Dr. Adams established the Maximum Achievement Project (MAP), which was visited and recognized by United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Through the MAP program, Merritt increased its retention and graduation rates for students, with a focus on African American males. MAP students raised their GPA from 1.5 to 3.1 in less than two years.

During his tenure at Merritt, Dr. Adams was also instrumental in building a new \$50 million dollar facility focused on STEM education that I was honored to have named the Barbara Lee Science and Allied Health Center.

On a personal note, Bobby is the epitome of a citizen of the world, who "thinks globally, and acts locally". I had the privilege to travel to Africa with him, and was impressed by his commitment to the education of all students when I saw that soon after we returned he established a partnership to bring African students to study at the Peralta colleges. For that I am truly grateful.

The Santa Monica College Foundation has now established the Dr. Bobby Adams Leadership Award to honor Bobby's lifetime of mentorship and leadership in the education field.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I join the family and friends of Dr. Adams as we celebrate his career and contributions to the education of countless young people.

HONORING THE LATE JOHN L. BEISSER OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor John L. Beisser, formerly of Lemoyne, a Pennsylvania Railroad Police Officer who died in the line of duty on October 20, 1916.

On that day, Officer Beisser and fellow Railroad Police Officer Harry Chubb spotted two vagrants attempting to hop a freight train along the Pennsylvania Railroad. As Officer Beisser walked towards the men to ask where they were headed, one of the men fatally shot Officer Beisser and wounded Officer Chubb. The assailant was captured and later convicted for his crime.

Prior to his service with the Pennsylvania Railroad Police, Officer Beisser was a veteran of the Spanish American War. His legacy of service to our community and Nation truly was admirable.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, we honor John L. Beisser for his selfless service on the 100th anniversary of his death in the line of duty.

HONORING MR. ED GILARDI

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ed Gilardi upon his retirement after 20 years of dedicated service as a Trustee on the Cotati-Rohnert Park School Board.

Mr. Gilardi's work to promote schools' accountability to the public, to recruit top notch educators and to help all students to reach their full potential has improved the quality of education for all students across our community. His leadership on the Cotati-Rohnert Park School Board includes serving four years as President and three as the Clerk.

In addition to his local service, Mr. Gilardi has contributed to education throughout our state by serving in leadership and advocacy positions on the California School Boards Association. Mr. Gilardi has also advocated and lobbied effectively in Sacramento and Washington D.C. on behalf of Sonoma County and California students for increased funding, standards and education reforms. Through his decades of work in education and public service, Mr. Gilardi has earned the respect of students, teachers, and trustees throughout the State of California.

Mr. Gilardi has also devoted his time to working with young people in our community by coaching youth sports teams and mentoring 4-H members. He also served as Chair of the Cotati Kid's Day Parade & Festival from 2010 to 2015, on the committee to recognize the 100-Year Anniversary of the first school in Cotati, as well as Chair and Vice President on the Education Foundation of Cotati-Rohnert Park Executive Board. In recognition of his service, Mr. Gilardi was named Cotati Citizen of the Year in 2000 and received the Education and Community Volunteer of the Year Awards from Sonoma County Youth and Adult Development in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ed Gilardi has tirelessly served our community and our state with honor and integrity, and he is an excellent role model of citizenship and dedicated public service. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today and extend our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

GWINNETT COUNTY'S RED, BLUE AND YOU CELEBRATION

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, November 18, 2016 marks the inaugural event of Gwinnett County's Red, Blue and You celebration. This event honors the brave men and women in

our community who have chosen to dedicate their lives to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of others around them.

I stand here today, Mr. Speaker, with the great honor of recognizing these heroic men and women who put their lives in harm's way to keep our communities, families, visitors, and businesses safe.

Each day, Gwinnett's finest put on their uniforms with pride, kiss their loved ones goodbye and head to work not knowing what the day has in store for them.

These dedicated public servants, Mr. Speaker, are the first on the scene when duty calls, and they must make quick decisions in difficult situations and oftentimes with limited information.

That, Mr. Speaker, requires true leadership and genuine zeal to serve others.

The history of our nation, and communities alike, reveals the importance of first responders and their ever-enduring role to serve and protect.

These courageous and selfless men and women work tirelessly and honorably to enforce and uphold the law to ensure that all of Gwinnett's citizens are protected.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that these fine men and women of Gwinnett who proudly wear red and blue are defined by more than their uniform and badge.

To many folks in Gwinnett, Mr. Speaker, these individuals are not nameless or another face in the crowd. They are moms and dads, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters.

Put simply, they are loved ones.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I send my sincere appreciation to all of the courageous first responders in Gwinnett County for enforcing our laws and keeping our families, friends, and neighbors out of harm's way.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. HENRY LEMAY

HON. JIM COSTA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the valued service of Mr. Henry Lemay. Mr. Henry Lemay is a distinguished military veteran and community member in Fresno, California.

Henry Lemay served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1954. Henry fought in the Korean War where he was wounded in Heartbreak Ridge on November 3, 1952 receiving shrapnel in both legs from the waist down. For his recovery, Henry spent six weeks in the hospital in Osaka, Japan before he was sent back to the United States. Henry was honorably discharged by the Army in 1954 and received many medals and awards for his valiant service in Korea, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. In July 2015, I had the honor to present the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal to Henry for his honored service in Korea and just recently he received the Citizen Soldier Award at the 2016 Fresno City College Veterans Day Ceremony. These are just a few of the many awards and honors Henry has received over the years.

For the past few decades, Henry has made an immeasurable impact in the City of Fresno and the veteran community. Henry has a beautiful voice and has been singing at numerous veteran and patriotic events. Not only does Henry sing at veterans' events but for the past fifteen years, he has volunteered his time by singing at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Naturalization Ceremonies in Fresno. In addition to his community service, Henry has been active in many veterans' organizations and activities. In 1994, he became active in the Honor Guard formed by the VFW. Henry is also engaged in the AMVETS, the DAV, and the American Legion.

In my Congressional District, if a veterans' event is planned, it is well known, Henry will be on the agenda, rocking the audience with the National Anthem or God Bless America.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Henry Lemay, an honorable man, a good friend, a man of great faith and a true American Hero. I wish him, his wife Carol and their family much continued success and happiness.

HONORING KATHRYN LEHMAN OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Kathryn Lehman, upon her retirement after more than 36 years of service with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue.

Kathryn began her career as a Clerk 1 in the Bureau of Central Files, Filing and Retrieval Division in 1980. Based on her performance, she received the first of several promotions that culminated in her last assignment with the Bureau of Enforcement Planning, Analysis and Discovery.

Kathryn's dedication and professionalism touched the lives of many people and exemplified the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue's mission to fairly, efficiently and accurately administer the tax laws and other revenue programs of the Commonwealth.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Kathryn Lehman upon tireless service to the citizens of, and well-earned retirement from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

COAL COMBUSTION RESIDUALS IN THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

HON. DAVID B. MCKINLEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to include language relating to coal combustion residuals regulation in a final agreement with the Senate on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016.

The House bill, H.R. 5303, took a positive step by providing funding for important projects and investments in our ports, channels, locks and dams that will continue to support our waterway system that is used by both commercial and recreational traffic.

Unfortunately unlike the Senate version, the House bill did not include this policy priority that is vital to communities living in coal country. The Senate language, section 8001 of S. 2848, empowers states to manage coal ash instead of having those regulations dictated to the states by unelected federal bureaucrats.

This failure to include the coal ash language is disappointing given the fact that similar legislation has passed the House six times since 2011, most recently through the passage of H.R. 1734 on July 22, 2015.

Importantly, this language makes clear that water infrastructure projects authorized under the Water Resources Development Act represent a beneficial reuse of coal combustion residuals. Coal ash is a key ingredient for improving the quality, durability, and sustainability of concrete used to build all water infrastructure projects.

We have the opportunity to address this issue once and for all as we finalize the Water Resources Development Act of 2016. It is imperative that we address this issue to ensure the proper management and disposal of coal ash. Congress has a responsibility to provide finality to the recyclers and producers of coal ash as well as the more than 300,000 individuals whose job is reliant upon the coal ash recycling.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this important language in any final WRDA agreement.

LONG BEACH REMEMBERS PEARL HARBOR

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, on December 7, 1941 Japanese military forces attacked, without warning, United States' military bases and personnel in Hawai'i. The culmination of a decade of tense relations between the Empire of Japan and the United States, the attack took place as Japanese diplomats conferred with their American counterparts in Washington D.C., allegedly to repair relations between the two countries. The results of the attack stunned Americans: eighteen naval vessels sunk or damaged, including all eight of the battleships stationed at Pearl Harbor, 347 military aircraft destroyed or damaged on their fields, 3,581 military personnel killed or wounded. Of this number, over 2,000 were naval personnel who died while defending their ships from the relentless assault of Japanese aircraft.

The events at Pearl Harbor compelled the U.S. Congress to declare war against Japan, and, several days later, its Axis partners Germany and Italy. America now entered the worldwide conflagration raging since 1939, joining with its allies, fighting a two-front war, and mobilizing the vast resources of the nation to ensure ultimate victory by 1945. This war

changed the world, and changed the United States. Every part of the nation contributed to the war effort, as millions fought at the fronts, millions of citizens on the home front powered the Arsenal of Democracy that produced the ships, the aircraft, and weapons that fueled victory in Europe and in the Pacific.

December 7, 2016 is the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. In commemoration, the Historical Society of Long Beach will open an exhibition, "Long Beach Remembers Pearl Harbor," both to summarize the consequences of the attack, and to detail the effects of major changes on the city of Long Beach and the surrounding areas created by World War II.

Long Beach has had a deep connection with the United States Navy dating to the years after World War I when ships of the Pacific fleet were first home ported in San Pedro bay, a few hundred yards from downtown Long Beach. By the 1930s, three dozen naval vessels rode at anchor in the bay, including the great warships of Battleship Division 1. The USS *Arizona*, the USS *West Virginia*, the USS *Pennsylvania*, and many other ships called Long Beach and the Long Beach Naval Station home. The city built a Navy Landing so sailors could easily transit from the ships to visit the amusement zone in downtown Long Beach.

Officers and enlisted military personnel also resided, with their families, in the city and became part of the social fabric, marching in parades during holiday celebrations, active in civic events, and helping out in perilous times. If one event solidified the Navy's presence, it was the earthquake of 1933. Minutes after a major quake rolled through southern California in the early evening of March 10—killing over one hundred, injuring thousands more, and collapsing buildings in a dozen communities, officers aboard Navy vessels ordered their men into the city. Several thousand Blue Jackets pulled survivors from damaged buildings, patrolled the streets, fought fires, and set up field hospitals. Naval personnel spent weeks in Long Beach and other cities providing medical care, hot meals, and security. As the city recovered, the City Council, the police department, and the school district offered proclamations thanking the sailors, Marines, and Coast Guard personnel who rallied to help during the crisis. By 1935, Long Beach proudly proclaimed itself the "Navy Capitol" of the United States.

Seventy-five years on, we are now losing the men and women of the Greatest Generation. Of the 16 million who served the country during the war, only about 500,000 are estimated to still be with us in 2016. We are losing them at the rate of 500 per day. The Historical Society's exhibit will spotlight some of the contributions of that generation.

Through the artifacts, the photographs, and the letters the Historical Society compiled for the exhibition the Long Beach military members who served aboard the ships come alive, as people we can see and say hello to on any street in Long Beach. Their voices may be stilled, but we have not forgotten them or their action at Pearl Harbor on that terrible day 75 years ago.

I congratulate The Historical Society of Long Beach on this wonderful exhibition and I encourage all those interested to participate in its

Opening Ceremony on Dec. 7th, 2016 at 6 pm to see the exhibit, which will run until April 18, 2017.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR JOHN REYNOLDS AND VOLUSIA COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Pastor John Reynolds for his extraordinary leadership of Volusia County Baptist Church. After more than 50 years of ministry, Dr. Reynolds will retire on October 16, 2016, the 20th anniversary of Volusia County Baptist Church.

Dr. Reynolds was born in Spencer, West Virginia and is a graduate of both Tennessee Temple College and Temple Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Reynolds has been married to Becky for over 50 years, and during that time they have served the Lord together in full time ministry. Throughout the last half-century, Dr. Reynolds has held many positions including pastor, associate pastor, youth minister and minister of music. He also served as the president of a Christian recording company and assistant editor of a Christian publication.

In 1996, Dr. Reynolds founded Volusia County Baptist Church and I would like to thank him for his 20 years of faithful ministry to our community and dedication to Christian leadership. Many lives have been impacted through his ministry and that of the church.

It is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate Dr. Reynolds and Volusia County Baptist Church on this momentous occasion and express my sincerest wishes and congratulations to Dr. Reynolds and his family on his retirement. May God continue to bless Pastor Reynolds and the ministry of Volusia County Baptist Church throughout future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RUTH KAHN STOVROFF

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ruth Kahn Stovroff, a beloved figure in WNY especially in the Jewish community, who passed away on October 20, 2016 at the age of 104. Mrs. Stovroff was a role model to three generations of men and women and stayed active on volunteer boards past her 100th Birthday.

Mrs. Stovroff's passion for social justice prompted her involvement on several boards of not-for-profit agencies that sought social justice, fought poverty, drug use and intolerance. Mrs. Stovroff was a leader in the Jewish community locally, nationally and internationally. She was a remarkable woman with great vision and knowledge about the world. Her three sons, Dr. Kenneth R. Kahn, Steven C.

Kahn and Richard Kahn viewed her as a role model because she had a great sense of what was right or wrong with the world.

Mrs. Stovroff was a prominent voice in the Western New York community. She served as the board president for the Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired, Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo, Child & Family Services, Community Action Organization, and Foundation for Jewish Philanthropies and Camp Lakeland.

Mrs. Stovroff's work in Western New York has not gone unrecognized. She has received dozens of awards dating from 1965 to 2006 from organizations as diverse as the United Way, the Center for Hospice & Palliative Care, the Urban League, the Jewish Federation, the Food Bank and the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Mrs. Stovroff was just recently honored by the Olmsted Center with its 2016 Visionary Award.

Mrs. Stovroff will be remembered fondly by members of the Western New York community and recalled for her passion and commitment to social justice and issues important to her community. Ruth Stovroff will be remembered for the great respect she showed young people as she listened to their ideas. Her warm smile, soft-spoken demeanor and impeccable style will long be remembered by all those close to her. Ruth is survived by three sons, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our deepest condolences to her family and friends. Her good work and selfless devotion to Western New York has inspired many to serve others and to be involved in their communities. We are a better community because of Mrs. Stovroff's service.

HONORING MANUEL CUNHA FOR BEING NAMED THE 2016 AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR BY THE FRESNO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Manuel Cunha of Fresno, California, the recipient of the 2016 Agriculturist of the Year award by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce.

Manuel and his family have been in the agricultural industry for two generations. He farms citrus on his ranch in Sanger, California. Manuel has served as the president of Nisei Farmers League since 1996. The Nisei Farmers League specializes in labor, immigration, housing, transportation and environmental issues and represents growers and related businesses of many agriculture commodities. Before his current role with the Nisei Farmers League, he was an educator for thirteen years. Manuel was a teacher at Reedley College and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly). He received his undergraduate degree from Cal Poly in Crop Science and Agronomy in 1973. He also holds his teaching credential in agriculture

education and a master's degree in Agricultural Education from Cal Poly.

As the president of the Nisei Farmers League, Manuel has been at the forefront of several important issues in the agriculture industry, including air quality, immigration reform and government regulation. As a member of various local, state and federal committees, Manuel has offered his knowledge to help guide policies and legislation.

Manuel serves in a number of civic capacities, as a way to give back to the community he loves. He serves on the Board of Directors for Community Medical Centers of Central California, the largest hospital in the Central Valley. Manuel has also served on the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and serves as a representative for U.S. Agriculture. These services are only a few of the generous contributions Manuel has made in our community throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Manuel Cunha for being named the 2016 Agriculturalist of the Year. His great work in the industry and in the community is commendable. I ask that you join me in wishing Mr. Manuel Cunha continued success.

HONORING MR. BOBBY SEALE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bobby Seale on the momentous occasion of his 80th birthday. Mr. Seale has had an incredible career in political activism and community service, dedicating his life to advocating for the rights and betterment of African-Americans across the nation.

Born in Texas in 1936, Mr. Seale grew up entrenched in poverty. After moving around in Texas, living in Dallas, San Antonio, and Port Arthur, Mr. Seale's family finally relocated to Oakland, California, when Mr. Seale was eight years old.

Mr. Seale attended Berkeley High School, where he started to become politically active. In 1955, Mr. Seale dropped out of high school and joined the United States Air Force. After his military service, Mr. Seale worked as a sheet metal mechanic while earning his high school diploma at night.

After earning his high school diploma, Mr. Seale went on to attend Merritt College, where he intended to study engineering. However, during his time at Merritt College, he began to take a deep interest in politics and black history, and joined the Afro-American Association (AAA), a campus group advocating for black separatism. It was through the AAA that Mr. Seale met Mr. Huey P. Newton, a kindred spirit. They quickly became friends and their political activism deepened as they were inspired by the teachings of Malcolm X.

During this time, Mr. Seale was also inspired to give back to his community, spending time teaching youths about black history and personal responsibility at the North Oakland Neighborhood Anti-Poverty Center.

By October 1966, Mr. Seale and Mr. Newton were ready to organize their beliefs and

put them into practice, and they formed the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Originally formed to protect the African-American community in Oakland from police brutality, the Black Panthers rejected the nonviolent approach of the mainstream Civil Rights Movement. The Black Panthers also focused on serving the community, cooking free breakfast for children before school, distributing clothing, and teaching classes on politics and economics.

A few years later, in 1970, Mr. Seale was arrested in Chicago during a protest at the Democratic National Convention, and he was ultimately sentenced to four years in prison for contempt of court. After his release from prison in 1973, Mr. Seale renounced violence as a means to an end and decided to run for Mayor of Oakland. He finished second out of nine candidates.

In 1974, Mr. Seale resigned as Chairman of the Black Panther Party, having grown tired of politics. He has remained active in the community, writing books and working to improve social services and educational opportunities in black neighborhoods.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for "the Chairman's" brilliance and leadership. He was a mentor, a colleague, but most importantly, a true friend. My late beloved mother, Ms. Mildred Massey, was one of Bobby's strongest supporters and believed in him and the Black Panther Party as the "vanguard of the movement." He taught us the importance of grassroots organizing by knocking on doors, walking precincts, and phone banking to communicate our position on issues and most importantly, how to be a true public servant.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District celebrates the extraordinary life and service of Mr. Bobby Seale and wishes him a very happy birthday and a life that continues to be filled with peace and happiness and fulfilled by the great work and leadership he continues to provide.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILLIAM "BILL" KENNETH LAZZERINI, JR.

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. William "Bill" Kenneth Lazzzerini, Jr. for receiving the 2016 Kern County Person of the Year award.

This year, Mr. Lazzzerini was honored as the 2016 Kern County Person of the Year at the Kern County Fair in Bakersfield, California. This award is given to members of the community who have done outstanding community work. As a husband, father, grandfather, and successful business owner, Mr. Lazzzerini exemplifies the values, beliefs, and kindness Kern County stands for by consistently giving back to the community. Throughout his life, he has supported local charities and causes such as the Ronald McDonald House, California State University Bakersfield Foundation, and the Bakersfield College Helmet Club.

Mr. Lazzzerini was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley where he attended Notre

Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, California. Mr. Lazzzerini later attended the University of Southern California where he excelled as a collegiate athlete, winning multiple College World Series while playing baseball.

After graduating college, Mr. Lazzzerini became a jewelry runner in the jewelry district in downtown Los Angeles. In 1971 his father purchased a beer distributor in Bakersfield, and a year later he was asked to help run Advance Beverage Company, which is continuously recognized as one of the premier Anheuser-Busch distributors in the Nation. Since Advance Beverage Company was created in 1971, it has gone from thirteen employees to over one-hundred-fifty and sales have increased from 450,000 cases per year to over five million cases per year. After forty-five years of successful ownership of the largest beer wholesaler in Kern County, Mr. Lazzzerini and his company have become staples in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Mr. William "Bill" Kenneth Lazzzerini, Jr. on being named the 2016 Kern County Person of the Year.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIAGARA ORGANIZING ALLIANCE FOR HOPE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NOAH, Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope, on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary and to extend deepest appreciation for this grassroots organization's tireless efforts on behalf of those in need in Niagara County.

In 2005, a group of faith and neighborhood leaders came together to make their community a better place focusing particular attention to the economic struggles of the inner city of Niagara Falls. Today, NOAH is a faith-based, urban, suburban and racially diverse community organizing coalition of over 22 congregations, labor unions and community organizations that collaboratively work for positive social change in the city of Niagara Falls and Niagara County.

NOAH is also an affiliate of Gamaliel, a national network of faith based organizations whose mission is to empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental social and economic decisions affecting their lives.

With its core values rooted in the principles of democracy and social justice for all, NOAH has worked on job creation, education, economic development, parks and public transportation, winning significant victories in all.

NOAH's work to bring attention to workforce racial disparities across the region culminated at a standing room only public meeting this year with sister organization VOICE-Buffalo that featured U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez. A Buffalo native who remains deeply connected to our community, Secretary Perez brought a very unique perspective on techniques for greater collaboration on critical

issues of workforce opportunity and development.

Greater collaboration was clearly evidenced when in August we joined with NOAH, Laborers' Local 91, Iron Workers' Local 9, Catholic Charities of Buffalo and the City of Niagara Falls to announce a federal grant to support the implementation of an innovative Pre-Apprenticeship Program to address the barriers too many people of color face in pursuing a career in the building trades.

This grant fuels the momentum started during the community discussions on workforce development with U.S. Labor Secretary Perez. Through this unique collaborative effort, faith-based, labor, government and social service agencies are working together to provide new opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to begin a stable and rewarding career path.

And while the work will and must continue, those whose efforts have contributed to NOAH's accomplishments and achievements gather on October 6th under the leadership of NOAH Board President, Rev. JoAnne Scott, to celebrate ten years of service and solidarity.

Throughout this evening of praise and commendation to continue the work, there will also be a presentation of awards to those individuals whose contributions have advanced the mission of NOAH including Sister Beth Brosmer, Deputy Carl Cain, Rev. Lora Allen, Richard Palladino and Rev. Harvey L. Kelley.

Since January 2010, Sr. Beth Brosmer, OSF, has served as the executive director of Heart, Love & Soul Food Pantry & Dining Room in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Working almost seven years at Heart, Love & Soul she continues in a servant-leadership role as a Sister of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity where she continues to work harder, inspire more and expand needed services to those who need so much.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Carlton Cain has served with distinction for more than 25 years as a member of the Niagara Falls Police Department. His assignments have included patrol, street crimes, housing, internal affairs, community relations and co-director of the Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy. He brought the Game Changers program to the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club which received federal recognition by President Barack Obama.

Rev. Lora Allen is known and respected as an accomplished speaker, motivational leader, teacher and preacher. She is the wife of the Rev. Raymond Allen, Pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church in Niagara Falls where she serves as Associate Pastor. Rev. Allen is also the Niagara County Democratic Elections Commissioner, the first African American woman to hold that position in New York State.

Richard Palladino served his country in the United States Navy and continues to serve his community as the business manager of Local 91. A laborer in the construction field for decades, his passionate commitment for all those he represents is indisputable as he strengthened the relationship with the Laborers International Union of North America, as well as local, state and federal officials to ensure Local 91 realizes its full potential. His determination to help others reach their full poten-

tial is exemplified by his implementation of training classes and initiation of the Apprentice Program.

Since 1982, Pastor Harvey Kelley has served the members and the ministry of the New Hope Baptist Church of Niagara Falls and will lead the celebration of his Church's 80 years of service in March of 2017. Adding to a distinguished list of accomplishments, Rev. Kelley is a member of the Niagara Ministerial Council and a member of the Board of Directors of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center and served in the Urban Ministry Program at Niagara University. He is a former board member of Niagara Community Center, Niagara Falls Chapter of the Red Cross, Niagara Habitat for Humanity, and the Center for the Study and Stabilization of the Black Family, formerly located at Niagara University.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to acknowledge NOAH's leadership, membership and those they will recognize on October, 6, 2016 on its first decade of remarkable achievements and to wish them success and support as their mission of action, empowerment and inclusiveness moves our community forward making our community a better place for all.

HONORING ASSEMBLYWOMAN
JANET DUPREY ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Assemblywoman Janet Duprey who represents New York's 115th Assembly district who will retire at the end of this year following a distinguished 40 year career in public service.

In 1976, she was the first woman elected to the Clinton County legislature, where she served for 10 years, including 2 years as chairperson. She was elected Clinton County Treasurer in 1986 and held that position until her election to the New York State Assembly in 2006, where she serves today. Throughout her career, she has been a strong advocate for the North Country with a sincere dedication to improving her community and the lives of her constituents.

In addition to her duties as Assemblywoman, Ms. Duprey holds positions on several boards of directors, including the Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital Medical Center, Hospice, the North Country Chapter of the Red Cross, Pine Harbour Assisted Living and Memory Care Center, and both the State University of New York at Plattsburgh and Clinton Community College. She is also a member of the League of Women Voters, Business & Professional Women, and an Honorary Member of Delta Kappa Gamma, Psi Chapter.

Ms. Duprey is also a strong advocate for children and adults with autism in her community. Each year on her grandson's birthday, she sponsors a resolution honoring Asperger's Syndrome Day in the State Assembly.

In the State Assembly, Ms. Duprey is Conference Secretary of the minority leadership,

and serves on both the Rules and Ways and Means Committees. The Assemblywoman also serves on the Correction, Ethics and Guidance, and Higher Education Committees, all of which are important to her district.

Ms. Duprey has earned numerous awards and distinctions for her service and accomplishments, such as the Advocacy and Resource Center Wall of Fame, the Behavioral Health Services North Community Service Award, the Girl Scout Woman of Distinction, the New York State County Finance Official of the Year, and the Clinton County Business and Professional Woman of the Year award.

On this day, I want to take a moment to thank Assemblywoman Janet Duprey for her many years of public service to our district. Janet, congratulations on your retirement, you are a true leader and the North Country thanks you for your commitment to improving our community. Your humility and tireless service will be missed by many.

HONORING ST. DANIEL THE
PROPHET SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE 2016 NATIONAL BLUE
RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Daniel the Prophet School, an exemplary Catholic elementary school in Chicago, Illinois, which is receiving the prestigious U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School Award.

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize public and private schools whose students display high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify aspects of thriving American schools in order to replicate their success. This year there are 21 Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon Schools in the state of Illinois, only 5 of which are private, and I am proud that one of these exceptional schools is located in my district.

The mission of St. Daniel the Prophet School is "to create a faith community, develop moral values and integrity, provide excellent education opportunities, and respect unique educational differences." Founded in 1949, the school offers a rigorous and engaging curriculum. St. Dan's works to help develop students' moral and spiritual values, and encourages students to improve on their standards of conduct and integrity. I am delighted that the exceptional work of everyone at St. Dan's School has been acknowledged on the national stage. I know that when I have visited the school I have always been greatly impressed by the students, teachers, and administrators. I wish to congratulate Principal Ms. Holly Gross, former Principal Mary Frances Porod, Fr. John Noga, and all the faculty, staff, family members, and parishioners who work together to make St. Dan's a highly successful institution that continues to achieve academic success and enrich the faith of those who are a part of it.

Please join me in celebrating the accomplishments of St. Daniel the Prophet School in Chicago's Garfield Ridge neighborhood. Their pursuit of academic excellence is inspiring, and I hope that their success can be replicated across the nation.

CONGRATULATING BRIANNA HALLER OF THE FATIMA COMETS FOR HER FIRST PLACE FINISH IN THE 2016 CLASS 2 GIRLS INDIVIDUAL CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brianna Haller of the Fatima High School Comets for her first place win in the 2016 Missouri Class 2 Girls Individual Cross Country State Championship.

Brianna and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to her school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Brianna Haller of the Fatima Comets for a job well done.

RECOGNIZING GENTEX CORPORATION AS THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL COLLEGE'S 2016 SCHOLARSHIP GAME INNOVATION HONOREE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my privilege to recognize Gentex Corporation as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Innovation Honoree. Each year The Commonwealth Medical College honors an outstanding individual or group for outstanding innovations in their field. Gentex Corporation's work to provide defense forces, first responders, and industrial personnel with cutting edge solutions exemplifies the pioneering spirit that this award represents.

In the late 19th century, Gentex began operations under the name "Klots Throwing Company," and on the advice of their bookkeeper, Marcus Frieder, chose Carbondale, Pennsylvania as their headquarters to employ the wives and daughters of the region's coal miners. In 1932, Marcus and his son, Leonard Frieder, bought and renamed the company General Textile Mills. As a producer of silk cartridge bags during World War I and parachutes during World War II, General Textile Mills was awarded the Army-Navy 'E' Award for excellence in wartime production as the nation's largest manufacturer of parachutes at the time. The company's name was then shortened to Gentex in 1958. With rapid advancements in aircraft technology following World War II, the government approached

Gentex to utilize the same composite-structure technology used in their parachute boxes for the production of pilot helmets. These hard shell helmets were revolutionary, and, to this day, Gentex continues to design the most technologically advanced personal protection and situational awareness solutions for defense forces, first responders, and industrial personnel.

The Frieder family was instrumental in guiding the company from its inception at the turn of the century to the global leader it is today. Staying true to their family roots, this fourth-generation company is run by Chairman L. Peter Frieder, Jr. and President L.P. Frieder III. This sense of family does not stop with the company's leadership. Gentex continues to take pride in being an active member in their community and empowering the economic stability of all that make the company so special. Many of my constituents work at Gentex, and when a company can survive both industrial and digital revolutions, it speaks to both the leadership of the employer and quality of employees. L.P. and Peter say the Carbondale facility reminds them every day of where they came from, and this spirit is the inspiration that keeps them committed to the communities they work in. Their work with area charities such as The American Red Cross, Pennsylvania Special Olympics, Ronald McDonald House of Scranton, and Pennsylvania's Adopt-A-Highway Program speaks to their outstanding work, and we are all grateful that a company so committed to its community continues to stay and excel in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Innovation Honoree, Gentex Corporation has continually defined what it means to be a leader in their industry. On behalf of my constituents, I thank them for their support of our armed forces and first responders, and look forward to their continued innovation and involvement in our region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN KNIGHT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 14th, I missed two votes due to a delayed flight. Had I been present for the day's vote series, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 575, the passage of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015, as amended; and yea on Roll Call No. 576, the passage of H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016.

CONGRATULATING THE FATIMA COMETS FOR THEIR FIRST PLACE FINISH IN THE 2016 CLASS 2 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Fatima High School Comets Cross Country team for their first place win in the 2016 Missouri Class 2 Girls Cross Country State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Fatima Comets Cross Country team for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF RON DICARLO

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Veteran Ron DiCarlo for his achievements, contributions, and service in the United States Army whilst overseas in Korea.

Ron DiCarlo was drafted into the United States Army on August 4, 1967 and volunteered for Vietnam, but since he was highly skilled with generators he was transferred to Korea. After serving overseas for eighteen months Ron was honorably discharged as an SPA 4 from the Signal Battalion in Seoul, Korea, in February of 1969.

After his service, Ron worked for 30 years as a machinist in Westmont, New Jersey. Ron served as Senior Vice-Commander of Barrington VFW Post 7247 for several years. Along with this, he is also a steady contributor to the Wounded Warrior program.

Ron has been married for the past forty-seven years to his wife Nancy and together they have 2 daughters, 4 granddaughters, and a great grandson.

Mr. Speaker, Ron DiCarlo is a great American and family man whose service to our country in the United States Army is invaluable, and serves as an inspiration to his community. I join with his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this extraordinary man.

**CONGRATULATING THE FESTUS
TIGERS FOR THEIR FIRST PLACE
FINISH IN THE 2016 CLASS 3
BOYS CROSS COUNTRY STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Festus High School Tigers Cross Country team for their first place win in the 2016 Missouri Class 3 Boys Cross Country State Championship.

This team and their coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing the Festus Tigers for a job well done.

**IN RECOGNITION OF APRIL MARIE
KEMP, FOUNDER AND PROGRAM
DIRECTOR OF MARLEY'S MIS-
SION**

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor April Marie Kemp, who will receive WVIA's first ever Youth & Family Award. Ms. Kemp is the founder and program director of Marley's Mission. Marley's Mission is a non-profit organization that provides equine-based therapy free of charge to children, and their families, who have experienced trauma.

Ms. Kemp was born in San Leandro, California and is a 1996 graduate of Ridgeview High School in Paradise, California. In 2003, she moved to Pennsylvania. She has pursued a degree in Criminal Justice at Colorado Technical University.

On July 5, 2009, Ms. Kemp's five-year-old daughter was attacked in their home in Taylor, Pennsylvania. After limited success with traditional therapy, Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy was added to her daughter's regimen. Research has shown Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy yields a variety of benefits such as confidence, self-efficacy, self-concept, communication, anxiety reduction, and trust.

Inspired by her daughter's progress with Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, Ms. Kemp established Marley's Mission. Marley's Mission is housed on a 32-acre campus in Newton Township, Pennsylvania and utilizes twelve therapy horses in its program. Marley's Mission employs a team approach to healing children who have experienced trauma. The treatment team includes a specially trained Trauma Therapist and an Equine Specialist. The treatment team has been educated in the internationally recognized Equine-Assisted Therapy Model developed by the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.

It is an honor to recognize April Marie Kemp for her work helping children who have experienced trauma. I congratulate her for being the

inaugural recipient of WVIA's Youth & Family Award. I wish her all the best as she continues the work of Marley's Mission.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 14, 2016, I was unable to vote on Roll Call vote No. 575: Passage of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

**CONGRATULATING PETER LUCIDO
OF THE FRANCIS HOWELL
NORTH KNIGHTS FOR HIS FIRST
PLACE FINISH IN THE 2016 MIS-
SOURI BOYS SWIMMING AND
DIVING COUNTRY STATE CHAM-
PIONSHIP**

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Peter Lucido of the Francis Howell North High School Knights for his first place win in the 2016 Missouri Boys Swimming and Diving State Championship.

Peter and his coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Peter Lucido of the Francis Howell North Knights for a job well done.

**HONORING REV. DR. CHARLEY
HAMES, JR.**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and the service of Rev. Dr. Charley Hames, Jr., as he celebrates with friends, family, and his congregation 25 dedicated years of faithful service and ministry.

Dr. Hames was born to Charley Hames, Sr. and Leona Elizabeth Steadman-Hames on January 10, 1974, on the South side of Chicago, Illinois.

After completing high school, Dr. Hames went on to graduate from Chicago State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in African-American studies. He would then go on to study at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois and in 2000 he earned his Masters of Divinity. In 2004, Rev. Hames earned and received his Doctor of Ministry degree in Evangelism from

the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, Texas.

In 2003, Dr. Hames had obediently fulfilled his calling to serve as Senior Pastor of Beebe Memorial Cathedral (BMC) in Oakland. Dr. Hames has received many accolades including being named "Pastor of the Year" by the CME 9th Episcopal District.

A passionate fighter for the men of color in our communities, Dr. Hames was amongst a group of pastors and community leaders selected to meet at the White House in 2012 to discuss the killing of Trayvon Martin with President Barack Obama. He has also been a commentator on CNN to speak about the relationships between police and communities of color. He volunteers as chaplain of 100 Black Men of the Bay Area, Inc., president of the National Action Network's Oakland chapter, Chairman of the board of the Oakland African-American Chamber of Commerce and is a proud Life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, making him a true champion of our community.

Dr. Hames is married to Lady Michelle J. Gaskill-Hames who serves as a Senior Vice President with Kaiser Permanente. He is also the proud father of two sons, Charles Jonathon Hames, Elijah Immanuel Hames and daughter, Jael Deon Hames.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors the outstanding Rev. Dr. Charley Hames, Jr. His dedication and commitment to our local faith community has impacted many lives throughout the district and the nation. I wish Dr. Hames many more years of faithful and compassionate service.

**HONORING LOUIE KEE MARKET OF
FRESNO COUNTY**

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louie Kee Market in west Fresno, CA. After 93 years of serving the community, Louie Kee Market is closing its doors. For many people, Louie Kee Market is not solely a market, but a friendly place that felt like home for its loyal patrons. The commitment, service, and friendliness that this market has given to people of the Central Valley will be missed.

Louie Kee Market, located on 1041 Tulare Street, was founded by Kee and Effie Louie in April of 1923. The market has been operated by four generations of the Louie family. In 1967, Kee and Effie's son, Sherman Louie, took over day to day operations. With the help of three of his children, the Louie family has been able to keep the store running strong. Because of passionate family members and enthusiastic customers, Louie Kee Market has become one of the longest-running family-operated grocery stores in the city of Fresno. Although the store was small, with only five aisles and a long meat counter, it has a big place in the hearts of Fresno residents. The market and its staff have always been friendly, welcoming and helpful in an effort to foster a personal relationship with the community.

The market is a staple in the lives of many local residents. The Louie Kee Market was known for giving students in the neighboring high school their first job. This opportunity allowed them to get a strong sense of work ethic and fostered their future as it gave them quality experience at a young age. The Louie Kee Market also had an incredible impact on their employees as they strove to make them feel like family. The Louie's made it a habit to invite their employees for family dinners. In 1982, the Louie's took all of the employees on a trip to Disneyland. This was more than just a small business; Louie Kee Market truly fostered community development and knew how to treat its employees.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Louie Kee Market for 93 years of business. This Fresno landmark will be missed by many in the community. Louie Kee Market has made phenomenal strides to contribute to Fresno County. They have had a positive influence on our community and deserve to be commended for their efforts.

CONGRATULATING MIKAYLA REED
OF THE WASHINGTON BLUE
JAYS FOR HER FIRST PLACE
FINISH IN THE 2016 CLASS 4
GIRLS INDIVIDUAL CROSS COUNTRY
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mikayla Reed of the Washington High School Blue Jays for her first place win in the 2016 Missouri Class 4 Girls Individual Cross Country State Championship.

Mikayla and her coach should be commended for all of their hard work throughout this past year and for bringing home the state championship to their school and community.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mikayla Reed of the Washington Blue Jays for a job well done.

HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN
JANICE HAHN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after four productive years in Congress, my good friend and colleague, Representative JANICE HAHN (CA), will retire from the United States Congress. She will continue her passion for public service, pursuing her lifelong dream of serving on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, just like her father did before her.

JANICE was born to work in public service, and it seems that public service is in her blood. Her father was one of Los Angeles County's Supervisors for 40 years, and her

brother was the Mayor of Los Angeles from 2001–2005. It was no surprise that she ran for—and won—a seat onto the Los Angeles City Council in 2001, where she would sit for the next 10 years.

Then, in July of 2011, JANICE won a special election to serve in the House of Representatives. As the only two alumni of Abilene Christian University to ever serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, JANICE and I became quick friends. Our friendship brought us back to our alma mater to talk about bipartisanship and the importance of working across the aisle to find workable solutions to many of the problems that our communities face. JANICE has become a positive role model for young women who want to succeed in public service.

Our ACU connection also led us to talk about the importance of ports to each of our respective congressional districts and to found the Congressional PORTS Caucus to advocate on behalf of our nation's ports. Our work through the PORTS Caucus brought JANICE to the Port of Houston to learn more about one of our nation's busiest export ports and brought me to the Port of Long Beach, one of our nation's busiest import ports. We stood together to introduce legislation and amendments to ensure that our ports had more resources to help their critical missions.

During her tenure, she has been an outspoken advocate and champion for her district and for the many different issues she holds close to her heart. Though we don't always agree on every policy matter, I have the utmost respect for the work my good friend has done for our nation. Though I will miss serving alongside another ACU Wildcat, I have no doubt she will continue her excellent work back home in Los Angeles taking care of people. Because taking care of people is what JANICE HAHN does.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CAYLA RIVAS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the success of Ms. Cayla Rivas. Cayla broke a world record at the American Motorcyclists Association (AMA) Land Speed Grand Championship, which took place from August 27 through September 1, in Wendover, Utah. Cayla broke the 500 modified partial streamlined-pushrod blown gas (MPS–PBG) class with a speed of 134.722 miles per hour (mph) on a Buell Blast 500 cubic centimeter (cc). She is to be commended for this impressive accomplishment and for representing the Valley.

Cayla's interest in motorcycle racing began at an early age when her father, Chris Rivas, a National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) runner-up and four time winner on the national circuit switched from motorcycle drag-racing to land speed-racing. Continuing the family legacy, her motorcycle career began at the age of twelve years old. Cayla's father and mother

taught her the importance of hard work and commitment as she set her first world record in 2001 going 62.9 mph for the MPS–PF class.

Not only is Cayla a world-record holder, but she is also an active member in the Fresno community. As a junior at Fresno Christian High School, Cayla is involved in multiple school and local activities. She is a three-sport varsity athlete as a cheerleader, soccer player, and a sprinter on the track team. In addition, Cayla is a successful artist as she has won grants and awards at local art festivals for her acrylic painting and colored pencil drawings.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Cayla Rivas for her exceptional accomplishments. Cayla's passion for racing and team activities make her a well-rounded individual and source of inspiration and pride for the San Joaquin Valley.

IN RECOGNITION OF OFFICER
KEITH MELVIN GILES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the late Officer Keith Melvin Giles for his dedicated service to his community as a California Highway Patrol Officer.

Officer Giles was born on July 21, 1940 in Tulare, California and later moved with his family to Corcoran where he graduated from Corcoran High School in 1957, and later College of the Sequoias. He attended Fresno State University and served in the United States Army from 1963 to 1965. Officer Giles married his wife Wilma, with whom he had three children.

In recognition of his dedication to enforcing our laws, preventing crimes, and keeping his community safe, the Assembly of California State Legislature passed a resolution designating the interchange at State Routes 43 and 198 in Kings County as the CHP Officer Keith M. Giles Memorial Interchange.

Prior to becoming a California Highway Patrol Officer, Officer Giles was an active member of his community and a farmer. Officer Giles graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy and served the Santa Fe Springs Area for four years before he was tragically killed in the line of duty on August 25, 1974 during a routine traffic stop.

Officer Giles was an exemplary and dedicated officer who was known for his love of law enforcement and his job, as well as his devotion to his loving family. His sacrifice in serving the California Highway Patrol and the citizens of California left a lasting impact on his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending the late Officer Keith Melvin Giles on his dedicated service as a California Highway Patrol Officer.

HONORING WILLIAM BYRON
RUMFORD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of an outstanding member of the East Bay community the Honorable William Byron Rumford.

He was born in Courtland, Arizona in 1915. As a child, he shined shoes, sold newspapers, and graduated from George Washington Carver High School in Phoenix in 1926. After finishing his studies at Sacramento Junior College in 1931, he earned his pharmacy degree at the University of California, San Francisco. After he graduated, he took a number of exams for employment and was discriminated against at every turn. He fought his way through by appealing his oral examination, ultimately becoming a member of the California Board of Pharmacy.

Mr. Rumford worked in the Bay Area as an assistant pharmacist and as a venereal disease investigator for the state. In 1942, he co-invested in a pharmacy on Sacramento Street in Berkeley, which he later purchased and renamed Rumford's Pharmacy (now known as the Rumford Clinic). Later, he served as the director of the Oakland chapter of the Red Cross, president of the East Bay Health Association, and was on the region's Democratic Central Committee.

Mr. Rumford went on to lead an impactful and significant political career, and ultimately became the first African American legislator from Northern California. Inspired by the disparities he witnessed in his pharmaceutical career, he joined the Berkeley Emergency Housing Committee in 1942 and the Berkeley Rent Board in 1944. In addition, he worked with the unofficial Berkeley Interracial Committee which was intended to ease tensions between the Black community of Berkeley and White Southerners who were moving in. He was also a member of the Appomattox Club, which was one of the first African American political organizations in the country; there was little hope for an African American candidate at that time, so the organization supported White candidates who they believed were right on political issues affecting the African American community.

Mr. Rumford did not seek to become a professional politician; instead, he was a neighborhood pharmacist who was passionate about addressing the biggest issues impacting his community. Eventually, Mr. Rumford ran for election in the California Assembly and won in 1949. At first he represented mostly African American areas of Oakland and a portion of South Berkeley. In 1960, however, the district was enlarged to include more of Berkeley and Albany. As an Assemblymember, Mr. Rumford produced several effective pieces of legislation. In 1949, he worked tirelessly to pass The Bill to End Discrimination in the National Guard, which lessened racial discrimination in the National Guard. He also introduced legislation early in his Assembly tenure pertaining to fair trade, small businesses, child polio immunizations, atomic energy conversion, and environmental pollution.

Today, Mr. Rumford is best remembered for three pieces of legislation: the California Fair Employment Practices Act of 1959, which lessened the impact of race on hiring decisions; the Good Samaritan Act of 1959, which garnered national attention as the first law in the country to protect professionals in emergency situations; and the law that bore his name: the Rumford Fair Housing Act of 1963, which failed to survive a referendum challenge, but was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States. This act served as California's main enforcement authority against race-based housing discrimination, by way of housing covenants, until the passage of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1968.

His tremendous legacy paved the way for civil rights legislation nationally, and has been beautifully honored by the William Byron Rumford Memorial Project. This project is led by a diverse group of community members who see the rapid changing of South Berkeley's demographics as a ripe time to honor his leadership, activism, and community, while preserving the neighborhood's history.

On a personal note, William was a trail-blazer. Had it not been for him, I never would have been elected to the CA legislature. I owe him a debt of gratitude and I will be forever grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the legacy of the Honorable William Byron Rumford. His contributions have truly impacted countless lives through the East Bay area and the country. I join all of Mr. Rumford's loved ones and the community members involved in the William Byron Rumford Memorial Project in celebrating his incredible life and legacy.

DALLAS SToudenMIRE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texas Ranger Dallas Stoudenmire stepped out of the stage coach and stood in the street of the rough, remote, boomtown of El Paso, Texas in 1881. This wasn't the first lawless town the 6'4" tall Ranger had seen. El Paso was looking for a town marshal, an outsider with a "rough reputation." Stoudenmire was the man for the job. He would be the town's sixth marshal in eight months. El Paso—called "Hell Paso" by some—had a reputation as a wild and violent town was about to end.

As a former Judge, I was known for handing out unique public punishments, and it seems that Stoudenmire employed a few shame tactics of his own. As he began his tenure as Marshal, he was asked to relieve the deputy marshal and town drunkard, Bill Johnson, of the city jail keys. It is said that Stoudenmire approached a rather intoxicated Johnson and requested the jail keys. Johnson mumbled under his breath and attempted to give him the runaround. Stoudenmire became impatient and demanded Johnson hand over the keys immediately. Johnson still demurred, and the marshal took matters into his own hands. He picked Johnson up, flipped him upside down,

grabbed the keys, threw him to the ground and walked away. Public humiliation goes a long way, Mr. Speaker.

Stoudenmire was revered as a strong shot, deadly and fast. His service began as a young boy in the Confederate Army. At 15 years of age, he volunteered in the 45th Alabama Infantry Division and left the war with two bullets embedded in his body that he carried inside him for the rest of his life. When the war ended, he moved to the Great State of Texas and originally settled in Columbus, where he was said to have killed a number of men.

On April 14, 1881, three days into the job in El Paso, Stoudenmire became party to one of the most legendary gunfights in the history of the old Wild West, famously called "Four Dead in Five Seconds Gunfight." A group of heavily armed Mexican cowboys rode into town in search of 30 head of rustled cattle and two Mexican vaqueros that had gone looking for them in Texas. But the vaqueros had been murdered.

The bodies of the two men were found out near Johnny Hale's ranch about 13 miles northwest of El Paso. Two outlaw cattle rustlers, Peveler and Stevenson, who stole the Mexican cattle and took them to Hale's ranch, were foolishly overheard bragging about murdering vaqueros. They were charged with the homicides. Chaos broke out in the streets of El Paso after the Mexicans showed up for the trial.

Animosity and worries from the Americans about the heavily armed and enraged Mexicans spread a heavy tension over El Paso. Constable Krempkau was fluent in Spanish and was required to interpret for the town judge. Peveler and Stevenson were officially charged with murder but found not guilty. After the trial, Constable Krempkau made his way from the courthouse to the saloon to retrieve his rifle and pistol.

Marshal Stoudenmire was enjoying his dinner at the restaurant across the street. He was known in Texas as a handsome man, a sharp dresser and a gentleman around the ladies. Despite his outward appearances, he had a deadly reputation and was involved in more gunfights than most of his better-known contemporaries, including Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson or John Selman. He was known for his habit of wearing two guns and being equally accurate with either hand.

That evening an argument erupted with George Campbell over comments he allegedly made about Krempkau. Crooked as the Brazos, and heavily intoxicated John Hale snatched one of Campbell's two pistols and shot Krempkau who fell to the floor, wounded. Hale scurried to a post in front of the saloon as Stoudenmire seemingly flew to the scene, pistols raised.

The marshal's first shot went wild, accidentally hitting an innocent Mexican bystander. His second shot hit Hale dead center. When Campbell saw Hale fall, he ran from the saloon waving his gun and shouting "Gentlemen, this is not my fight!" However, wounded Krempkau was out for vengeance and fired at Campbell, striking him. Marshal Stoudenmire spun around, firing three bullets straight into Campbell's stomach. As the dusty street of El Paso cleared, four men lay dead. The Hollywood style series of events took place in less

than five seconds. The gunfight was so well publicized that newspapers in cities as far away as San Francisco and New York, making Stoudenmire a living legend.

Despite Stoudenmire's success in drastically dropping the crime rate in El Paso, he had an extremely bad temper, especially when intoxicated, which ultimately led to his downfall. After a series of events that led to Stoudenmire drinking heavily, he was asked to step down as town marshal. He infamously confronted the town council while inebriated, and dared them to take his guns or his job. The fearful council quickly backed down. However, two days later a sober Stoudenmire offered his resignation and began running the Globe Restaurant. Later that July, he accepted an appointment as a U.S. Deputy Marshal. He continued to use his remarkable marksman-ship skills to settle arguments.

Stoudenmire was killed during his ongoing feud with the Manning Brothers when he was shot during an argument. Even during his final moments, he continued fighting for his life. Doc Manning pulled his gun and fired first, hitting Stoudenmire in the left arm, causing the gun to fall out of his hand. Doc's second shot hit the marshal's pocket filled with papers. The wild shot didn't break through the skin, but forced him backward through the saloon doors, into the street. Stoudenmire pulled his second gun and shot with his other hand, hitting Doc in the arm. Doc's brother Jim followed and fired, hitting Stoudenmire behind the ear, instantly killing him. The brothers had ended the feud, killing one of the most impressive gunslingers of the day.

Stoudenmire was honored with a funeral at El Paso's Masonic Lodge before his wife had his body shipped to Columbus, Texas for the burial. Marshal Stoudenmire was a member of the thin blue line, the line that keeps us safe from evil doers and outlaws. His success in taming the wild and violent town of El Paso was truly a credit to his outstanding marksmanship. 6'4" Dallas Stoudenmire was a larger than life Texan who kept other Texans safe from harm.

And that's just the way it is.

RESTORATION TUESDAY: A DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today on this Restoration Tuesday I rise to acknowledge the persistent need for new voting rights legislation, even after the 2016 general election.

Last week's presidential election was the first in over fifty years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act of 1965—and it must be the last. The time to restore the fundamental civil right to vote for millions of Americans is always right now. This is not a request for reconciliation, this a deliberate demand for democracy.

Just one week ago today, American citizens faced voting restrictions in the forms of new photo ID requirements, DMV and voting poll

closures, and significant reductions or elimination of early voting and weekend voting. Voting restrictions have been put in place in 22 states—14 of which had new restrictions for the first time in 2016, making it harder for millions of Americans to exercise their right to vote. This was unacceptable at the inception of the Constitution. This was unacceptable during the marches of 1965. How can we, as representatives of the American people, accept this blatant disregard to our democracy today? We need to make voting easier, not harder for the citizens of this country. We cannot and must not accept suppression of the vote.

According to a federal court, the State of Wisconsin had over 300,000 registered voters who lacked the ID required by new photo ID laws. In my home state of Alabama, new photo IDs were required and then over 30 DMVs were systematically closed down following the announcement of the new laws. On this past Election Day one week ago, there were 868 fewer polling places in states with a history of voter discrimination like Arizona, North Carolina and Texas.

The 2016 election may be over, but the fight for voting rights is far from finished. It is time to stop restricting access to the ballot box. It is time to show our country that we, as representatives of the American people, are using every tool at our disposal to prevent discriminatory voting practices. There is nothing more important in a democracy than ensuring that every citizen has an equal opportunity to let their voice be heard through their right to vote.

I urge my fellow Members of Congress to support a bipartisan effort to Restore the Vote. The Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015 that I introduced reaffirms our commitment to voter equality and creating protected pathways to voter access. This legislation takes an expansive view of the need to protect access to the voting booth, and will offer more voter protection to more people in states including Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas. I urge all of my colleagues seated here today to pass legislation that will not just protect the votes of minorities, but also those of students, the disabled, the poor, and those in the military and overseas.

We cannot forget the courage and dedication of those who marched and fought for voting rights in 1965. Let's not forget the lessons learned in 1965 and in the fifty years since as we have watched countless attempts to undermine our progress. As Civil Rights icon, Congressman, and my friend JOHN LEWIS will tell you, "There is still work to be done." Let's recommit ourselves to restoring the promise of voter equality. Partisanship cannot be prioritized over the people of America. Voter suppression has to stop now.

OUR GOD IN WHOM WE HAVE PLACED OUR TRUST

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD the following on behalf of

my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is a commissioner on the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission and a past national Interfaith Chair for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). Rabbi Zoberman asked me to include the following in the RECORD:

We have gratefully gathered on the auspicious occasion of our 7th annual Veterans Day service, at our uplifting communal home of the Reba and Sam Sandler Campus and the Simon Family JCC of our beloved Hampton Roads community. Let us proudly recall our heroes—past, present, and future—and their singular selfless and sacrificial devotion to our great American nation, as well as its undying legacy of democratic values and ideals, which remain a shining beacon of light to the entire free world for those in particular still living in the darkness of oppression.

We underwent a bruising vitriolic presidential election uncovering deep wounds and conflicting divisions within the American people on critical core issues. In the American way, we look forward to another peaceful, orderly, and gracious transition of power through ballots, not bullets, unlike some other countries. We will continue to abide by the high principles that have guided and preserved us as the world's leading democracy. Even as we pray for togetherness through the essential gift of unity, we are mindful that unity does not imply unanimity. We understand that our amazing diversity of people and ideas is the empowering source of our enviable strength as a superpower, and ultimately democracy depends on a vigorous debate, though with civility, of differing and even opposing views, including noxious ones, by all sides.

After all, the dynamics of periodic change are inherent in the governmental system we have called democracy, one that our founders wisely chose and devised for us to follow and participate in at the birth of the audacious experiment we call America. Humbling is the democratic proposition that constitutional power may change hands without abandoning the underlying tenets that have lit our path, allowing us to live in freedom and flourish like no other nation. The British system insightfully speaks of the "loyal opposition." The recent contentious election points at "two Americas," or even more, and our goal is to build connecting bridges toward "a more perfect union." Both winners and losers (alternating in a democracy) belong to the one big tent of our American family. There is plenty of space for everyone in the inviting spirit of dialogue. All are needed in order to fully fulfill America's promise and mandate.

Our military heroes, including our Jewish American ones, are the essential and appreciated shared golden treasure, gloriously gluing together the disparate parts of our politic tapestry while protecting its very existence. Only yesterday we observed the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht (the Night of the Broken Glass throughout Germany on November 9–10, 1938), the beginning of the end of European Jewry, orchestrated in the heart of so-called civilized Europe with disastrous consequences for humanity. The presence of the

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in our nation's capital is a poignant statement that democracies are vulnerable. Democracies require eternal vigilance and engagement of the caring, concerned, courageous, and compassionate citizenry, lest it becomes perverted from within due to extreme conditions and corrosive demagoguery with evil intent. The Jewish people can sadly attest that words do matter and bear fateful consequence. Human dignity and God's divinity go hand in hand.

These are unsettling and dangerous times. Children and adults are being bombed and starved with impunity in Aleppo, Syria. Millions of homeless refugees are again on the run. The Islamic State assaults civilization in Iraq and elsewhere. The Iranian government has acted belligerently, and Russia has emboldened aggression. I am painfully reminded of belonging to the surviving remnant (Sherit Ha'Pleta) of European Jewry, a time in which early childhood was spent in the Displaced Persons Camps of Austria and Germany, surrounded by barbed wire for protection, and whose father fought in the 118th Red Army infantry division outside Leningrad and Moscow. Having been privileged to live in our unique Hampton Roads for over 30 years, the most powerful hub of military in the world, whose mission is defending freedom's sacred cause, I am sharply cognizant of how powerless European Jews were during World War II and the Holocaust, and the difference the United States and the State of Israel make.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, the American holiday par excellence, which is rooted in the Pilgrims' attachment to the Hebrew Scriptures and the Israelites' journey from bondage to freedom, we reflect on our nation's humble beginnings of fleeing refugees. We are duty-bound to give thanks for our measureless blessings, pledging to share them with the less fortunate in hopes that America will continue to be blessed. May we ever turn pain into promise, hatred into love, violence into vision, adversity into advantage, and trial into triumph with Shalom's holy peace of healing, hope, and harmony for all of God's children. Amen.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 4665, THE OUTDOOR RECREATION'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS ACT

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, as the Natural State, Arkansas's outdoor recreation and natural beauty draws millions of visitors each year, contributing to our state's economy and supporting thousands of jobs.

Yesterday, the House passed the Outdoor Recreation's Economic Contributions Act, which would result in our Nation measuring the economic impact of our outdoor recreation industry, providing Americans with important information on this vital part of the U.S. economy.

This bill would give our federal, state, and local governments the ability to more fully analyze the benefits that outdoor recreation pro-

vides so that we may better support our parks and outdoor areas for the enjoyment of all Americans.

In Arkansas, the Department of Parks and Tourism also provides important funding to improve the management and quality of our state's outdoor recreation areas through the Outdoor Recreation Grants Program.

Through important policies and programs on our federal, state, and local levels, we can continue to support the great outdoors and encourage more Americans to visit and access our country's vast network of parks, forests, and trails.

IN HONOR OF 1ST LIEUTENANT
SALVATORE "SAL" CORMA II

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of 1st Lieutenant Salvatore "Sal" Corma II of Deptford, New Jersey, who gave his life saving his fellow service members during his time protecting the United States of America.

Sal was a committed believer in helping his country and his community; he joined the U.S. Army after graduating the West Point Military Academy.

In 2010 while serving in Zabul Province in Afghanistan, Sal was killed in action as he attempted to safely mark the location of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Sal knew the risks inherent in marking the IED and bravely ordered the other members of his platoon to keep a safe distance and let him take the risk alone. This decision unquestionably saved the lives of numerous of his fellow service members but cost him his. He was 24.

Sal is remembered by the Gloucester County community as a helpful, generous young man. After his passing, his mother Gertrude Corma and his father Salvatore S. Corma, who passed in 2011, found out truly how much their son meant to so many others.

For his acts of valor Sal was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, is featured on the Gloucester County Wall of Heroes, and is buried in the West Point Cemetery. In this year, following the accent of Congress and the signature of President Obama, Sal's hometown U.S. Post Office in Deptford was renamed the "First Lieutenant Salvatore S. Corma II Post Office Building." I believe that this is a fitting memorial for such a courageous and beloved young man.

Mr. Speaker, Sal Corma gave his life putting others before himself: he served his country with honor and encourages pride in a grateful nation. I join with his mother, his family, friends, and all of South Jersey in honoring the life of this truly selfless and exceptional man.

A MINNESOTA SONGWRITER

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Jake Berglove, an Elk River resident and Perpich Arts High School senior, for his recent win in the Twin Cities Songwriting Challenge put on by the National Endowment for the Arts.

As the Twin Cities Songwriting Challenge winner, Jake, and the other winners from around the nation will go on to compete in New York City. There, Jake will have the chance to earn five thousand dollars and have his song published by Sony. This is an amazing accomplishment as only four contests were held across the nation.

Jake's hard work and love for music has gotten him to this point and will help him this fall as he joins the Carlson School of Management class of 2020 at the University of Minnesota. He hopes to go into music and talent management in the future—and I'm sure we will see him continue to achieve great things. Congratulations Jake and good luck.

IN RECOGNITION OF SONDR
MYERS, DIRECTOR OF THE
SCHEMEL FORUM AT THE UN
IVERSITY OF SCRANTON AND
SENIOR FELLOW FOR INTER
NATIONAL, CIVIC AND CUL
TURAL PROJECTS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sondra Myers, Director of the Schemel Forum at the University of Scranton and Senior Fellow for International, Civic and Cultural Projects. On November 13, Ms. Myers was the first recipient of WVIA's Arts & Culture Award. As an international advocate for the arts, humanities and civil rights, Mrs. Myers has had an incredible career working for presidents, governors, and institutions.

Ms. Myers served on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 1980 to 1985. From 1987 to 1993, she served as Cultural Advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey. In 1993, Ms. Myers worked for the Chairman at the National Endowment for the Humanities for partnerships and collaboration. From 1996 to 2000, Myers served as senior advisor to the president of Connecticut College. She directed the President's Millennium Seminars: The University for a New Democratic Era, a project of The George Washington University. She was the Rapoport Democracy Fellow at the Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy at Rutgers University. She previously held the position of senior associate for the Democracy Collaborative at the University of Maryland.

Since 1996, Ms. Myers has presented programs on democracy in Prague, Cracow, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Johannesburg, Kigali,

and Nairobi and in cities throughout the U.S. In addition she has organized and moderated symposia on culture and public policy for academic institutions and cultural organizations including Lehigh University, the Anderson Ranch Arts Center, the New School for Social Research, and the Education Department of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She is a co-executive producer of *The Courage to Care*, a documentary film about rescuers of Jews during the Holocaust, nominated for an Academy Award in 1986.

Ms. Myers has consulted with Radio Free Europe; Connecticut College; the municipality of Scottsdale, AZ; the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities; the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History; Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Aspen, CO; and the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL.

Ms. Myers has a stellar record of community involvement. Myers is past chair of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, past President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, and founding President of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania and the State Arts Advocacy League of America. She is former chair of ArtTable, Inc., Washington Chapter, a former member of the Public Education Committee of the American Bar Association, and served on the Board of Directors of the Centre for Creative Communities in the United Kingdom. She has been a member and vice chair of the Board of Trustees at the University of Scranton and a trustee of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

It is an honor to recognize Sondra Myers for her lifetime of service. I am grateful for all she has done to enrich our culture, advance education, and promote civil rights. I extend my sincerest congratulations to her for receiving WVIA's Arts and Culture Award

HONORING ZION FIRST CHURCH OF
GOD IN CHRIST

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Zion First Church of God in Christ located in Oakland, California upon its 100th anniversary as a strong religious pillar in the East Bay Community.

After moving to California from Louisiana, Zion First Church of God in Christ was founded in 1916 by Samuel Harrison and was the first Church of God in Christ in Northern California. It was created with the vision to expand the ministry and establish a legacy of spirituality through faith.

Under the leadership of Pastor Harrison, the church thrived and soon needed a building to accommodate its growing membership. In 1921, the church purchased its first building in West Oakland and became a strong faith center for the West Oakland community. During the 1940's, as African Americans migrated to the West for industrial jobs, many families settled in West Oakland. Worship services immediately grew and were so inspirational it was said that people would hang out of their win-

dows to see what was going on in the services.

On January 25, 1977 Pastor Willie E. Pearls was ushered in as the second leader of Zion First Church of God in Christ. Pastor Pearls had moved to California.

In 1978, Zion First upgraded its building to make room for its growing membership. Pastor Pearls moved to California in 1952 and joined Zion First, serving for many years as a youth leader, Deacon, and a special helper to Overseer Harrison before accepting the role as senior pastor.

Pastor Pearls carried on the original vision of the church, helping the community, by giving away food, clothing the homeless, and serving hot breakfast every Sunday to the community.

In 2003, after 33 years of service, Pastor Pearls stepped down and the church elected Pastor Rickie L. Williams. Under his leadership, the church has continued to faithfully serve the West Oakland community through various outreach programs. Although the church was ravaged by fire in September 2013, the congregation banded together and rebuilt the church on the same property to continue its ministry in the West Oakland community.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to Zion First Church of God in Christ on the celebration of its 100th year of worship. I wish Zion First Church of God in Christ many more years of authentic and compassionate service

HONORING THE WORK OF HARRY
ARMSTRONG ON THE CLOVIS
CITY COUNCIL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harry Armstrong for his 46 years of service as a member on the Clovis City Council. Mr. Armstrong's tireless work on behalf of the city of Clovis has left a lasting mark on the community.

Mr. Armstrong was born and raised in Merced, California. After graduating from Merced Union High School, he joined the United States Military and served in the Korean War. He is the proud father of three children, Tom, Jim, and Megan.

Upon completing his military service, Mr. Armstrong worked as the Transportation Manager for Foster Farms Dairy until he was appointed to the Clovis Planning Commission in 1966. After serving on the Commission, he decided to run for the Clovis City Council in 1970 and went on to win that election, along with the next 12 City Council elections. This makes him the longest tenured elected official in California state history. During his time on City Council, Mr. Armstrong served as the Mayor of Clovis five times.

Mr. Armstrong has been credited with many projects that have taken place in the City of Clovis. He was involved with the city's Research and Technology Park, Clovis Commu-

nity Medical Center, Old Town Clovis, Clovis Police and Fire Department's headquarters, the city's civic center, and Highway 168. Mr. Armstrong has devoted his life to ensure the improvement and success of the city in a way that the city could never repay him.

In addition to his service on the City Council, Mr. Armstrong sat on numerous boards and commissions in the Valley and state. These include the Fresno County Water Advisory Board, the Fresno County Transportation Authority, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the League of California Cities as the South San Joaquin Valley Division Director, the City Undergrounding Committee, the Fresno Visitors and Convention Bureau representative, and the president of the League of California Cities from 1982-1983. Mr. Armstrong has also been a member of the Clovis Rodeo Association, the D.A.R.E. Board, United Way, and a former Boy Scouts and Explorer Post leader.

Mr. Armstrong has been recognized for his many contributions to the cities of Fresno and Clovis. Some of these awards were the League of California Cities' Award for Service and Contributions to the Board of Directors, the 2015 Fresno Council of Governments Regional Forum: Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence, Leadership & Commitment, and the Rose Ann Vuich Ethical Leadership Award; as well as being inducted into the Clovis Hall of Fame in 2010, and being named the Grand Marshal of the Clovis Rodeo Association in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Harry Armstrong's service as a Clovis City Council Member. His lifelong devotion to the community is evident in his work as a public servant

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 575, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea. On Roll Call 576, I would like to be recorded as voting Yea.

RECOGNIZING SANOFI PASTEUR
AS THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL
COLLEGE'S 2016 SCHOLARSHIP
GALA WELLBEING HONOREE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Sanofi Pasteur as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Wellbeing Honoree. Each year The Commonwealth Medical College honors an outstanding individual or group for advancing the wellbeing of citizens within their community, across the state of Pennsylvania, and

around the globe. Sanofi Pasteur's work to create vaccines that protect lives against preventable diseases embodies the true spirit of this award, and I commend their continued efforts to be a worldwide leader in human health.

Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccine division of Sanofi, a global healthcare leader focused on patients' needs, is the largest company in the world that is entirely dedicated to the production and distribution of vaccines. Providing more than 1 billion doses of vaccines each year, Sanofi Pasteur is able to help protect against 21 infectious diseases and immunize more than 500 million people around the globe.

Many of my constituents work at Sanofi Pasteur's U.S. headquarters in Swiftwater, PA, and each and every day they are the ones that strive to create a world where no one suffers or dies from vaccine-preventable diseases. Sanofi Pasteur's impact in Northeastern Pennsylvania goes beyond simply employing 2,500 of the region's most dedicated workers; they also have a strong focus on community engagement. Whether investing more than \$1 billion in the region or partnering with VaxServe in the greater Scranton area to donate more than \$870,000 to local nonprofits, the company has consistently exemplified the positive impact that a private entity can have on a region's economy and citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Wellbeing Honoree, Sanofi Pasteur continues to promote the welfare of individuals in my district, across our state, and around the globe. I commend Sanofi Pasteur for their efforts to combat preventable diseases through accessible vaccinations, and am grateful that a company exists in Northeastern Pennsylvania that is truly committed to its employees and community.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PACIFIC SCHOOL OF RELIGION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the Pacific School of Religion. Founded in 1866, the Pacific School of Religion, formerly known as the Pacific Theological Seminary, was established to serve as "an institution of the people" and "a child of the churches" by preparing spiritually rooted leaders for faith-based through rigorous scholarship, practical training, and immersive footwork. Firmly cemented in the history of social justice in the United States, the school served as a building block for ongoing service including pastoral ministry, non-profit and civic leadership, and public policy.

In 1901, the school moved to its first Berkeley location near the University of California, Berkeley campus. By 1916, because of the school's new nondenominational status and the faculty's growing interest in the importance of the world's religions to the Christian faith, the name was changed to its current name: Pacific School of Religion.

During World War II, former President Arthur C. McGiffert and his colleague John C. Bennett voiced concerns of community members against Japanese internment camps, including the imprisonment of several seminarians. After the war, President McGiffert went on to remedy war-torn communities in both Europe and Asia through the establishment of the Post-War Rehabilitation School at PSR which trained students to minister these communities.

Similarly, the school provided necessary leadership for other intuitions with similar goals to promote education and dialog in underrepresented communities. The school later formed the Graduate Theological Union, a daring experiment in ecumenical cooperation between Protestant and Catholic institutions. This development aimed to bridge Protestant and Catholic Studies and bring forth new fields of study in religion, such as LGBTQ and Gender Studies.

Over the years, the Pacific School of Religion has gathered some of our nation's leading voices of social change and theological writers, including Georgia Harkness who later became the first tenured woman professor at the school in the 1950's. Today, graduates are well recognized in their respective fields and are a leading force in promoting social justice and compassion based-practices around the world. Their leadership and commitment to theology and religious studies have been critical starting points to cultivating positive change throughout our nation.

On behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Pacific School of Religion on this important milestone. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to its success over the years. I wish the faculty, students, and administration continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JUSTIN SCHROEPFER, RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Justin Schroepfer of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. His life was tragically cut short, but he will always be remembered as a courageous, Good Samaritan who put the well-being of two people he did not know ahead of himself.

On June 11, 2016, Justin spotted two women struggling against Lake Superior's strong current. He swam through the frigid water in an attempt to save their lives. One woman made it back to shore, but tragically, both Justin and the other woman succumbed to the unpredictable waters.

A graduate of Antigo High School, Mr. Schroepfer was recruited to play baseball at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. He transferred to Northern Michigan University in Marquette after two years and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. With his degree, Mr. Schroepfer pursued a career at Wipfli CPAs and Consultants in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

Along with his talents on the baseball field, Mr. Schroepfer was also an avid outdoorsman. He enjoyed fly-fishing, downhill skiing, and hunting. Mr. Schroepfer was dedicated to his Christian faith and family, and was planning his wedding with the love of his life, Suzy Solin, at his untimely passing.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today to recognize Mr. Schroepfer for his courageous action and ultimate sacrifice; we pray that in knowing of his heroic effort, his family may find comfort and peace

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on its 125th Anniversary. I appreciate the IBEW for the career they gave me and for their work supporting working men and women all across our nation.

The IBEW is as old as the commercial use of electricity itself. It is the oldest, as well as the largest, electrical union in the world and its history dates back to the 1890s.

With Edison's invention of the first commercially successful incandescent lamp in 1879 there was a great need for linemen to establish and maintain the cables that would soon crisscross and power the nation.

At first only a few intrepid electricians handled electricity, but soon many came forward, seeking a life's work. The men and women of IBEW have been working on electrical and telecommunication wires ever since.

While the IBEW grew alongside other unions protecting the rights of workers seeking a living wage, the IBEW also needed to protect workers from the dangers of the job.

Today, under the leadership of President Lonnie Stephenson, the IBEW represents hundreds of thousands of workers in a variety of areas of expertise all over the world.

I am eternally grateful to the IBEW for giving me a career that has supported me and my family for decades. I became an apprentice with the IBEW as a young man and have worked for the men and women of the IBEW all my life, before coming to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, for me the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents the greatest aspirations of labor unions and I am proud as the only member of their organization to serve in Congress, to join with the IBEW in celebrating their 125th Anniversary

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AT FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fresno City College on the occasion of the 100th year celebration ceremony for the restored Old Administration Building. The Old Administration Building is an icon in the landscape of Fresno, made even more special by the fact that it was once on the verge of demolition and saved by a strong effort of the local community.

The Old Administration Building was originally built in 1916 as the first permanent structure of the Fresno State Normal School Campus. The building is known for its rich brick surface and open air courtyards. Its beautiful decorative features include handmade hard-burned bricks, classic ornamentation at the entrances and geometric details in the brick on the east and west walls of the auditorium. In 1921, the school developed into Fresno State Teacher's College and eventually Fresno City College in 1956 when Fresno State moved to a new campus several miles north.

In 1974, the Old Administration Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately, the beautiful building stood vacant for more than 30 years due to safety concerns and was boarded up and fenced off. After questions were raised on the possible future of the building, the local community and former students appealed for an effort to restore the prior prestige of the building. Today we are proud to say that we succeeded in our mission and are gathered to celebrate its 100th year.

Because of our community's strong desire in the restoration of the Old Administration Building, the project was very close to my heart. During my years in the California State Legislature I worked to raise awareness about this historic building and helped raise funds to restore its beauty. Fortunately, the funding for the restoration was made possible with the passage of Measure E in 2002. In 2007, the first phase of the reconstruction began, and the building underwent structural, mechanical and electrical improvements.

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the administration, staff, former and current students on the anniversary of the 100th year of this historic building. I am pleased to see the community come together to save the Old Administration Building from demolition and bringing it back to fully functional use at Fresno City College. On this day, I also want to commemorate the service of all the staff and faculty members who work hard to bring change in the society through education. I send my best wishes for many more years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF H.W. "SKIP" WIEDER, PAST WVIA BOARD CHAIRMAN, FORMER WVIA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor H.W. "Skip" Wieder, who will receive the Founder's Award from WVIA as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Public Service Media. Mr. Wieder has served WVIA as Chairman of the Board and Capital Campaign Co-Chair.

Mr. Wieder is a former resident of Plainfield, New Jersey. In 1958, Mr. Wieder received an undergraduate degree and Master of Business Administration from Bucknell University. After college, he served as a Captain in the Army Reserve at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Mr. Wieder retired formally from the Geisinger Health System after serving as Senior Vice President and later as Senior Vice President Emeritus and Senior Consultant. During that time, he also served in a variety of additional positions such as Vice President for Development and Vice President for Development and Government Relations. Prior to joining Geisinger in 1985, he served as Vice President for Development and Finance at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove and held positions in finance, fundraising, and public relations at Washington & Jefferson College and Bucknell University.

Currently, Mr. Wieder serves as Founder and Chair of the Susquehanna River Heartland Coalition for Environmental Studies, a group of six regional colleges and universities and environmental groups engaged in the Susquehanna River Watershed. He also serves on the board of the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and The 1994 Charles B. Degenstein Foundation.

It is an honor to recognize Mr. Wieder for all of his accomplishments as he receives the Founder's Award. I appreciate all he has done in service to public broadcasting

HONORING MICHELE CRAIG OF HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michele Prestera Craig and her 30 years of service to West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky as the executive director of the KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission and Region 2 Planning and Development Council.

In 1986, Michele became the first woman to assume the command of KYOVA and Region 2 and has since built lasting relationships with local governments to promote the needs of rural and urban communities alike. Under her leadership, the West Virginia-Ohio-Kentucky region has been recognized as a transportation management area, allowing it to serve

as an economic development district through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration.

A staunch supporter and advocate for her home of Huntington, her vision and experience have paved the way for a plethora of successful transportation and development projects for the tristate area.

I wish her well in the coming years as she is able to spend more time with her husband, Tom, and their children, Tommy, Taylor, Ellie and Michael, and their beloved granddaughters, Ramsey and Charlotte. I offer her my appreciation and gratitude for her commitment to her neighbors and our state

MINNESOTA: A STATE OF INNOVATORS

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the more than 40 Minnesota Tech firms that made the 2016 Inc. 5,000 list.

The Inc. 5,000 list ranks the top 5,000 fastest-growing American private companies each year. This year, an impressive total of 93 Minnesota headquartered companies earned places on this list. Within those 93 companies, a total of 41 Minnesota tech specific companies were recognized.

Leadpages, the highest ranking Minnesota tech company, ranks Number 148 with \$16.2 million in revenue in 2015. Next, Fitness On Demand is ranked at 559, and Tamarack Consulting at 600. The technology industry is constantly developing and improving—and if our state hopes to remain competitive—we must continue to make technology a priority.

With these rising tech companies, we have shown that as a state, Minnesota can not only compete in the tech industry—but that we can excel. Thank you to all the technology companies that have worked hard to get on the 2016 Inc. 5,000 list and congratulations.

HONORING OFFICER GRACIELA SANTILLAN JAMES AS HEROINE OF THE MONTH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Graciela Santillan James as California 16th District's Heroine of the Month, in appreciation of her dedication to making our community a safer place for all.

Each month, I recognize a Hero or Heroine of the Month from my district. The deserving individual is someone in the community who goes the extra mile to make a positive difference in the San Joaquin Valley. I believe it is fitting to recognize Officer Graciela Santillan James as October's Heroine of the Month because of her efforts to build important relationships between law enforcement and the Latino

community. Community policing is essential for public safety, and Officer Santillan James has been instrumental in communicating with our Latino community.

Officer Santillan James graduated from Dos Palos High School in 1992 and acquired her Bachelors of Arts Degree from Saint Mary's College of California in 1996. After college, Officer James attended the California Highway Patrol Academy and graduated in September 2003. She was originally assigned to the San Jose CHP Area Office and was later transferred to the Fresno CHP Area Office. In April of 2009, Officer James was selected for the Central Division Traffic Management Center.

She began her service in community policing after being selected for the Central Division El Protector Community Outreach Program in May of 2012. El Protector is a traffic safety outreach program that is directed toward the Hispanic community, focusing on education through open discourse with the community. CHP officers with Hispanic ancestry deliver traffic safety education presentations, organize community events and serve as role models. Officer James is the Spanish speaking spokesperson for the El Protector Program and during her time there she has participated in numerous interviews with both television and radio outlets, including Telemundo and Univision.

Along with serving in the El Protector Program, Officer James takes part in many other community organizations as well. She serves as the Vice-Chair for Centro La Familia Advocacy Services and is a member of the Fresno Chapter of the Latino Peace Officers Association, Cesar Chavez Concilio, and El Concilio de Fresno Inc. She has devoted her career to enhancing the relationship between the Hispanic community and the police force, as well as encouraging positive traffic safety behavior.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Officer Graciela Santillan James for receiving the Heroine of the Month award. Officer James's role in community policing through the Central Division El Protector Community Outreach Program demonstrates her devotion to the valley, and is the embodiment of what this award stands for.

HONORING MR. STANLEY K.
SHEINBAUM

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mr. Stanley K. Sheinbaum. With his passing on September 12, 2016, I look to recognize his extraordinary life and the invaluable influence it has had on our nation.

Stanley was born in the Bronx on June 12, 1920, to Herman Sheinbaum, an immigrant from Lithuania, and Selma Klimberg. His father was a manufacturer of women's belts and shoes, and the young Stanley initially struggled with his education.

He served as a map-maker in the Army during World War II, and later attended Oklahoma

A&M, now known as Oklahoma State University. Stanley ultimately transferred to Stanford University, where he studied economics and graduated summa cum laude.

During the late 1950s Mr. Sheinbaum taught economics at Michigan State University and became involved in providing technical support for South Vietnam through the Michigan State University Group (MSUG). Stanley would later learn that the MSUG was a front for covert CIA operations in Vietnam, and left the program before later working with journalist Robert Scheer on an expose about it that was published in 1966. This experience led to Stanley becoming outspoken in his criticism of the Vietnam War, and government corruption here at home.

Stanley later worked for the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, California and ran for Congress twice as a peace candidate. Although both runs were unsuccessful he continued to work for the end of the war, and stepped in to raise money for Daniel Ellsberg's legal defense after the exposure of the Pentagon Papers.

One of his most famous political missions was leading a delegation of American Jewish leaders in 1988 to persuade Yasser Arafat to renounce terrorism and recognize Israel. Some vilified him for his contact with the Palestinian Liberation Organization and its President. Others believe it may have paved the way for the Oslo Accords and Arafat's handshake with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the White House in 1993.

Here at home he thrust himself into every political storm he could find as an avid supporter of progressive change. As President of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners after the beating of Rodney King, Mr. Sheinbaum was instrumental in the ousting of Chief Daryl Gates and promoted reforms of the LA Police Department.

On a personal note Stanley was larger than life. His clarity of purpose, his vision, his work for a peaceful world, his brilliance and boldness provided many of us the encouragement to continue to fight the good fight, to never give up and to "keep hope alive".

I and my colleagues benefitted from his selfless support and faith in us that we would be true to our principals and fight for a progressive agenda. Most importantly, Stanley was a friend and a mentor who loved and embraced us as kindred spirits. For this we are deeply grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District is accompanied by California's 37th and California's 47th in saluting the invaluable service of Stanley Sheinbaum. We honor his memory with a continued dedication to the progressive agenda. We join our nation and his loved ones in celebrating his incredible life with a promise to honor his legacy.

IN HONOR OF MARTIN ELLIS

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Navy Veteran Martin

Ellis for his achievements, contributions, and service in the United States Navy onboard the USS *Green*.

Martin Ellis resides in Cherry Hill, New Jersey where he remains committed to his community. His selfless and brave actions in World War II are reason enough to honor him, yet Mr. Ellis has demonstrated a lifetime of love for his nation. He is very passionate about The United States and his patriotic duty to this country. He takes his past service in the Navy very seriously, along with being a serious Phillies fan.

Those who decide to serve in our nation's Armed Forces are amongst the most heroic in our nation and serve as an example as leaders, in not only securing our safety but putting their life on the line for our freedom.

Mister Speaker, Martin Ellis, is a great American whose dedication to serving our country in the United States Navy is an inspiration to his community. I join with his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this extraordinary man.

CONGRATULATIONS ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois on their 20th Anniversary.

In 1995, Tracy Baim of Lambda Publications and Kevin Boyer of Communications Management, Inc. saw a need for a local chamber of commerce dedicated to gay and lesbian owned businesses. Joined by three other business owners, they launched the Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. Their goal was to have 30 Members by the first organizational meeting in March 1996.

By the time that meeting was called to order, the Chamber had grown to include more than 80 businesses.

Today the Chamber serves a roster of over 300 Members, a number that increases almost daily. These members are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) business owners, as well as gay-supportive businesses. Together they employ over 2,000 people in the Chicago area, with gross revenues that exceed \$200 million. Its mission is to promote economic opportunities for the LGBT community in the state of Illinois by being an advocate and resource for all member businesses that encourage equality.

The LGBT Chamber is very proud of the progress it has made as an organization over the past 20 years, and this past year in particular. Its partnership with SCORE, launched in February 2016, is the first of its kind in the nation, which gives their members access to the collective wisdom and guidance of many business leaders. SCORE is the premier source of free, confidential business education and mentoring. Its ongoing collaboration with the Small Business Administration helps bring the resources of the SBA to the Chambers members. These partnerships, along with their

vital and popular networking opportunities, LGBT Business Enterprise Certification, and other educational programs, serve to strengthen its member businesses.

Along with the 20th Anniversary Gala, the LGBT Chamber has major initiatives in progress that are designed to help LGBT businesses flourish. In this anniversary year, the biggest initiative is to create the LGBT Business Foundation of Illinois, a foundation that focuses on advocacy, promotion and education for small business owners and their employees to grow and prosper.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. I am honored to have such an exceptional organization in my district.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND
IN RECOGNITION OF LATIN JAZZ
MUSICIAN AND COMPOSER EDDIE
PALMIERI

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month to join the community of El Barrio, The Village of Harlem, the City and State of New York, and the Nation in commemorating an outstanding Latin Jazz musician and composer, Mr. Eddie Palmieri. Eddie has spent his entire life arranging exquisite salsa and Latin jazz music while preserving the historic Afro-Caribbean contributions to the music world.

Eddie was born December 15, 1936 in New York, NY to Puerto Rican immigrants. It was in his childhood home where he was first exposed to Latin music. His grandmother was a singer, his uncles were guitarists and his brother, Charlie Palmieri, attended the Julliard School for Music. When Eddie was only five years old, he started entering and winning talent competitions with Charlie. At an early age, he began to play the piano and at 13, he joined his uncle's orchestra, playing timbales. Eddie felt inspired to practice and perform publicly when he began watching his brother, Charlie, who was nine years older, play with talented musicians. He also started hearing the music Charlie played at home, where he was exposed to and influenced by the music of jazz greats such as Thelonius Monk, Bud Powell, Bill Evans and McCoy Tyner.

Eddie's professional career as a pianist began when he joined various bands in the early 1950s including Eddie Forrester, Johnny Segui's, and the popular Tito Rodriguez Orchestra. In 1961, Eddie formed his own band, La Perfecta, which featured an unconventional front line of trombones rather than the trumpets, customary in Latin orchestras. This innovative sound that mixed American jazz into Afro-Caribbean rhythms, surprised critics and fans alike. Even though Eddie disbanded La Perfecta in 1968 to pursue different musical endeavors, he would return to the band's music in the 2000s.

In the 1970s, Eddie perfected his arranging skills and released several impressive record-

ings that reflected his inventive musical technique. His unconventional style would once again surprise critics and fans with the 1970 release entitled "Harlem River Drive." This recording was the first to merge what was categorized as "Black" and "Latin" music into a free-form sound that encompassed elements of salsa, funk, soul and jazz. In 1975, Eddie won the first-ever Grammy for Best Latin Recording for "The Sun of Latin Music."

As a result of Eddie's penchant for producing music in the funk Latin style, Little Louie Vega invited him to record on Nuyorican Soul (1997), a release that became very popular in the house and underground music scenes. In 2000, the successful musician announced that he was leaving the world of music. But before his retirement, he released "Masterpiece" (2000) with Tito Puente. The album won two Grammys and Palmieri earned the "Outstanding Producer of the Year" award from the National Foundation of Popular Culture. Eddie was awarded the Chubb Fellowship by Yale University in 2002 for developing communities through music. That award is usually reserved for international heads of state.

In 2005, Eddie also reached another landmark achievement when he became the first Latino host of a radio show on National Public Radio. The radio show "Caliente" which explores the intimate connections between American and Latin jazz was broadcasted by more than 160 radio stations nation-wide. Throughout Eddie's outstanding musical career, he has been lauded with many accolades including numerous Grammy Awards, a Eubie Blake Award in 1991, and a Harlem Renaissance Award in 2005. He has also been inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame, the Chicago Walk of Fame and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. Eddie has been recognized as an American icon by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., where two recordings of his performances are archived.

Eddie Palmieri won yet another Grammy in 2006 for his album "Listen Here!" and in 2007, he received his most recent Grammy award for his collaborative effort with trumpeter Brian Lynch on the album "Simpatico". Eddie Palmieri's innovative musical fusion of salsa, funk, soul and jazz has captivated audiences for nearly half a century. He has remarkably used his Puerto-Rican heritage, Afro-Caribbean roots and American identification to help diversify the rhythms of Latin jazz. For his noble creativity to help introduce Latin and salsa music to American audiences everywhere, I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Mr. Eddie Palmieri. A musical genius who paved the way to make Latin music an American hallmark while sustaining this genre's ties to its Caribbean legacy. An American Hero, Eddie Palmieri has devoted his life's work to improving the quality of life for the people of our beloved El Barrio and the Bronx, New York State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and

South America. During this year's Hispanic Heritage Month, in addition to paying tribute to my beloved friend Eddie Palmieri, and as a Korean War Veteran, as I conclude my 50 years of Public Service, including 46 years in the United States Congress, I also want to pay a very special salute to the Puerto Rican men and women who answered the call to serve during WWII, our beloved The 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers".

CONGRATULATING DAVID NORMAN
ON HIS OUTSTANDING TEACHING
OF TEXAS HISTORY AWARD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Norman of Coppell Middle School West, in Coppell, Texas, on receiving the 2016 Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award.

Mr. Norman has been a strong member of the community for the past ten years, serving the entirety of his teaching career at Coppell West. His admiration for the school system and all those involved is uncanny, especially as his daughter and son both graduated from Coppell. Mr. Norman spends time volunteering at the Coppell YMCA, which earned him the Rookie Volunteer of the Year Award in 2015. He was also nominated for the Coppell YMCA Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

Mr. Norman has said of his own accomplishments as an educator:

"When learners are able to see their value and influence in this world, for good or bad, I have succeeded academically. But there is an accomplishment that is nearer to my heart. I think one of the things missing in our society, and in our classrooms, is kindness."

Mr. Norman is an outstanding figure in an already impressive group of students, faculty, and school community. I hope his enthusiasm and exceptional teaching methods carry him for the rest of his tenure. The entire community is influenced by his genuine demeanor and I cannot thank David enough for his positive impact and hope he continues for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the hard work and support David contributes, as well as his being awarded the Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award. I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing David Norman of Coppell Middle School West.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,852,972,577,729.55. We've added \$9,226,095,528,816.47 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LEO
GALLEGOS JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Leo Gallegos Jr., who passed away on October 30, 2016 at age 75. Leo was a loving husband, father, grandparent, and friend, who dedicated his life to serving others. He was an American patriot and a humble man who was an inspiration to many. He was a leader in our minority communities, and was a political activist who made an instrumental impact on California's Democratic Party, especially in the Central Valley.

Born on August 5, 1941, in Caldwell, Idaho, Leo was the oldest of 10 children. He was the son of immigrant farmworkers who followed agricultural opportunities to Hanford, California. After graduating high school, Leo enlisted in the United States Army, serving in the 101st Airborne Division until the 1960's. After serving in Korea and retiring from the Armed Forces, he attended Fresno State, receiving a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Social Work.

His passion for politics and drive to help bring change for minority communities first emerged while he was at Fresno State. Through the late 1960's, he helped start Latino and American-Indian student organizations on campus. In 1975, Leo became Governor Jerry Brown's right hand man in the San Joaquin Valley during Brown's first eight years serving in Sacramento. While working in the governor's office, Leo worked tirelessly behind the scenes, advocating for minorities during a time when they were commonly overlooked for public office positions. Leo was interconnected with almost every ethnic group, pushing for a shift in politics that would embrace minorities. He never considered running for an office himself. Instead Leo preferred to work behind the scenes, not wanting to be in the spotlight. He wanted to do his job to empower others, the best he could.

In the late 1970's, Leo became very politically active in Central California's Democratic circles. He worked diligently to broaden the traditional selection process for judges, state and national positions. He became a political consultant and influential fundraiser who helped minority appointees for judgeships and office positions. In 1983, Leo was appointed by former Congressman Tony Coelho as the national Hispanic coordinator for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Leo is survived by his mother, Esther Gallegos, and his wife Olivia, along with their daughter and son, Stephanie and Sean. He also leaves behind six brothers, two sisters, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Leo

Gallegos Jr., whose passion, dedication, and selflessness behind the scenes made an instrumental impact on reshaping local politics. His life is a testament to the success minorities and immigrants can achieve, and his humbleness and great character is something to be remembered. I join Leo's family in honoring his life, his love for his community, tenacity, passion for making a difference, and service to his country. He will be greatly missed.

HONORING MRS. ETHEL MAE MOLO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Mrs. Ethel Mae Molo, who was affectionately known by family and friends as GG.

Mrs. Molo was born on October 27, 1914 in Homer, Louisiana. After graduating from McDonogh Thirty-Five High School she attended and graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work.

After moving to California Ethel married Mr. Raymond Molo, she also had three beautiful children. Once in California she was given the opportunity to hold a position on the Kaiser shipyard as a Rosie the Riveter, helping to support the war efforts for World War II. She later continued her service at the Naval Air station working on aircrafts. After many years as a dispatcher, she retired from the Air Station.

Following her retirement Ethel was very active throughout her community. She worked with political leaders Ronald Dellums, Willie Brown, and Don Peralta on projects in the Bay Area. On a national level she was an active member of the NAACP, for fifteen years she helped fundraise money for Fannie Lou Hamer and the voting rights act in Mississippi.

As a strong woman of faith Mrs. Molo worshiped at the Presbyterian Women of Faith East Oakland Fellowship Circle and was the secretary of her church.

All in all, Ethel was a woman of many colors. Her interests were diverse as were the many people she touched with her hard work and dedication to her community and those that were less fortunate than her.

Traveling, sewing, reading and cooking big meals for her friends and family were among her many hobbies. She spent her golden years reading comfortably eating her favorite cookies, spending time with her family and watching her game shows.

She leaves to celebrate her life, her three loving children, Dovelyn Burbridge-Winbush, Gene Hennen, and Alfreda Gibson-Hampton. She also leaves six generations of grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren along with her nieces and nephews.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the legacy of Mrs. Ethel Mae Molo. Her contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area. I join her loved ones in celebrating her incredible life and offer my most sincere condolences.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH P.
MILES SR.

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph P. Miles Sr. for his achievements, contributions, and service in the U.S. Navy and as a community leader.

In 1944, Joseph was hired by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), a crucial employer in South Jersey at the time. Mr. Miles continued his employment with RCA until 1988.

However in 1945, heeding the call to service Joseph joined the U.S. Navy, serving aboard the heavy cruiser USS *Helena*. He was honorably discharged in 1946. He joined the U.S. Naval Seabees' organized reserves in 1951 and served until 1955.

Joseph has been an important leader in the community throughout his life. He served on the Borough Council of Magnolia for six years, including as its president. He was elected the mayor of Magnolia from 1978 to 1984. He joined the Magnolia Fire Company in 1989 and is a past president of the Camden County Fire Police.

Throughout his life, Joseph has remained committed to community service. In 1974, he and volunteers helped to erect concrete forms for walkways and areas for benches and lighting for Albertson Park. He helped construct a replica of the Magnolia train station. When it was docked at the shipyard, he worked on the Battleship *New Jersey* for eight months.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph P. Miles Sr., is a great American whose dedication to serving our country and our community is an inspiration to us all. I join with his family, friends, and all of New Jersey in honoring the selfless service of this extraordinary man.

HONORING JUDGE GORDON
BARANCO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Judge Gordon Baranco. I would like to congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his invaluable service to our community.

Born and raised in Oakland, California, Gordon graduated from Oakland High School in 1965. Gordon would become a star basketball player at the University of California, Davis, where he led the Aggies to win three league championships.

Gordon's time spent at UC Davis would coincide with the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement. This time in Gordon's life was critical to his academic and civic development, opening his eyes to injustices here in the United States and abroad.

In 1969, Gordon graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor's degree in political science. Inspired by the idea that the law could be a

vehicle to change society, he went on to enroll in law school. He graduated from the King School of Law at UC Davis in 1972.

As an attorney, Gordon practiced as a Graduate Legal Assistant in the office of the California State Attorney General; a Deputy District Attorney in the office of the San Francisco District Attorney; as managing Attorney for the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, and Assistant to the City Attorney in Oakland.

At the young age of 32 he was made the Honorable Gordon Baranco, appointed to the Oakland Piedmont Emeryville Municipal Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. After serving as presiding judge of the court, he was appointed by Governor George Deukmejian as a judge of the Alameda County Superior Court.

In 2004, Judge Baranco was instrumental in establishing the Alameda County Homeless and Caring Court, which provides a much needed alternative to the traditional criminal justice court system for the homeless.

On a personal note, Judge Baranco worked with me and helped lead our record remedy and expungement conferences for several years. Because of his boldness and commitment, many returning citizens have been able to move forward with their lives without the troubles of their past once their parole is completed. For this, I, along with so many others, am deeply grateful.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Judge Gordon Baranco, I salute you. I thank you for a lifetime of service and congratulate you on your achievements. I wish you and your loved ones the very best as you enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOSEPH J. ROY, SUPERINTENDENT OF BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Joseph J. Roy, who will receive the 2017 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. Dr. Roy will be recognized for his outstanding performance on November 17, 2016 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Roy is a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He received his Master's degree in educational administration from Bucknell University and his Doctoral degree from Lehigh University. In 1986, Dr. Roy began his career working for East Penn School District where he taught social studies at Emaus High School. After receiving his Master's, he was hired as an Assistant Principal at Liberty High School in 1992. Dr. Roy served as Principal of Palisades High School in Bucks County, Springfield Township High School in Montgomery County, and Upper Moreland High School in Willow Grove. He also served as Assistant Superintendent of the School District of Springfield

Township. In August 2010, Dr. Roy was appointed as Superintendent for Bethlehem Area School District, where he currently serves.

Dr. Roy has earned nationwide acclaim for his work as an educator. The National School Public Relations Association and the National School Library Journal recognized him for addressing diversity issues while at Springfield Township High School. He was named Multicultural Educator of the Year in 2004 by the Montgomery County Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Joseph Roy as he receives the Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year Award. He deserves praise for the excellent work he has done on behalf of Pennsylvania educators and students.

RECOGNIZING MR. PATRICK J. SOLANO AS THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL COLLEGE'S 2016 SCHOLARSHIP GALA SERVICE TO COMMUNITY HONOREE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Mr. Patrick J. Solano as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Service to Community Honoree. Each year the Commonwealth Medical College honors an outstanding individual or group for contributions to their community, and Mr. Solano's extensive record of public service exemplifies the meaning of this award.

After graduating from Pittston Township High School, Mr. Solano joined the Army Air Corps and took part in 23 combat missions. Stationed with the 8th U.S. Air Force Heavy Bombardment Group in England, his missions spanned several European nations and included action during the bombing of Berlin in 1944. His exceptional service earned him the Group Presidential Citation, the Air Force Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Combat Theatre Medal with two Bronze Stars.

Being honored for service to his community reflects Mr. Solano's commitment to the advancement of Pennsylvania's people and resources, and his lifelong public service sets an example for future generations of selfless Pennsylvanians. After serving as a Pittston Township school director, he went on to later advise State Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi, as well as two governors, Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker. His most important contributions came during his role as deputy secretary for Parks and Forests with the former Department of Environmental Resources and as the acting secretary when the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources was created in 1995. Mr. Solano's lifelong dedication to Pennsylvania's state parks and forests will forever be remembered, and in 2013, my district was proud to have Governor Tom Corbett recognize his service by naming the environmental education facility at Frances Slocum State Park, located in Luzerne County, as "The Patrick J. Solano Environmental Education Center."

Mr. Speaker, as The Commonwealth Medical College's 2016 Scholarship Gala Service to Community Honoree, Mr. Patrick J. Solano has consistently set an example of excellence that will inspire our state's leaders for generations to come. I wish Mr. Solano, his wife of 62 years, Marie Nocito, their six daughters, eleven grandchildren, and one great grandchild, all the best in their future endeavors, and thank him for the innumerable contributions he has made to the state of Pennsylvania.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT "BOB" SANCHO

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month to join the community of El Barrio, The Village of Harlem, the City and State of New York, and the Nation in commemorating an outstanding public servant and community leader, Mr. Robert "Bob" Sancho. Through his many years of service, Robert has spent nearly half a century tirelessly advocating for his community and uplifting many citizens.

Over the course of his career, Bob Sancho has held many positions of great importance in the City of New York. As Deputy Superintendent of Schools in Community School District No. 4, he took the district from last place (32nd) in reading and math, to 13th among New York City School districts. This feat was achieved over a seven year period and was considered one of the most successful educational accomplishments in America.

Bob was born and raised in the South Bronx. He is a product of the New York City Public School system and went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts Degree at the Inter-American University in San German, Puerto Rico, specializing in Education and Political Science. As an undergraduate, Bob was awarded a Minority Urban Education Scholarship and completed a Teaching Fellowship in both Urban and Rural School Districts on the Island of Puerto Rico. He received a scholarship to the prestigious Graduate School of Urban Affairs at Hunter College where he completed his Masters of Science Degree.

During the 1960s, Bob assembled East Harlem residents to fight against Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr.'s attempts to shut down Metropolitan Hospital Center which was an essential medical institution in the community. Under Mr. Sancho's successful leadership, the hospital remained open and gained enough federal funding to sustain the medical center.

These bonds helped construct three new buildings and renovate the existing hospital buildings. In addition, his department has raised approximately \$15 million during the last several years for various hospital programs.

Even though Bob Sancho has had an extensive professional career, he also has a robust list of civic and cultural involvements outside of his occupation. He was Assistant to Bronx

Borough President Robert Adams, and has served on the Board of Trustees for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and the Community Service Society of New York, as an Advisor for the National Jazz Museum of Harlem, and as a Voting Member of the Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Currently, Robert serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Center of Educational Innovation/Public Education Association, the Icahn Charter Schools, and the Multicultural Committee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Bob Sancho's dedication and commitment to the many facets of community development makes him an incredible human being. The altruistic quality that Bob embraces is very hard to find in the world today. For his noble duty to empower the citizens of New York, I ask that my colleagues to join me as we celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, from September 15th through October 15th, 2016 in paying tribute to Mr. Robert "Bob" Sancho, an extraordinary man from humble beginnings. An American hero, Bob has devoted his life's work to improving the quality of life for the people of our beloved El Barrio and the Bronx, New York State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. During this year's Hispanic Heritage Month, in addition to paying tribute to my friend Robert "Bob" Sancho, and as a Korean War Veteran, as I conclude my 50 years of Public Service, including 46 years in the United States Congress, I also want to pay a very special salute to the Puerto Rican men and women men who answered the call to serve during WWII, our beloved the 65th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "The Borinqueneers".

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ALAN PERRY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mr. Alan "Al" Perry for his dedication and commitment to the veterans of California's Central Valley. Since 2013, Mr. Perry has proudly served as the President of the Central Valley Honor Flight. As he embarks on his last trip to Washington, D.C., it is important that we recognize him for all his benevolent work and for ensuring that our Valley World War II and Korean War veterans are given the opportunity to take a final tour with honor.

Mr. Perry's dedication to working with veterans stems from his own background as a Vietnam Era veteran. He served as an officer in the Army Medical Service Corps from 1971 through 1973. Mr. Perry has also worked for numerous Veterans Affairs (VA) medical cen-

ters and has held different leadership positions within the VA. In 1998, Mr. Perry was appointed director of the Central California VA where he served for 13 years, retiring in 2012. Mr. Perry has been recognized for transforming the Fresno VA Hospital to the modern hospital it is now, thus giving more Valley veterans the access and resources they need.

Over the years, we have had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Perry as he continuously champions for veterans of the Central Valley. As President of Central Valley Honor Flight and leader of the trip, Mr. Perry has led the trips for all 11 flights since 2013. Under Mr. Perry's watch, the veterans are always safe and on schedule. Time after time they have memorable experiences as they visit the Smithsonian-National Air and Space Museum and the World War II and Korean War Memorials. To date, a total of 803 WWII and Korean War Veterans have visited D.C. and returned with a 100 percent safety record. For this success, Mr. Perry was recognized as a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow in 2015. There is no doubt that Mr. Perry will be missed as he has been an integral part of Honor Flight.

We commend Mr. Perry for his selfless dedication and work on behalf of our veterans. Mr. Perry, along with Honor Flight volunteers and staff are able to continue this program with the support of local sponsors and our community. It is always a highlight for our offices to help prepare for the arrival of our veterans, and because of Mr. Perry every Honor Flight has been unforgettable.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. DENHAM, Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join us in recognizing Mr. Alan Perry for serving as President and trip leader of Central Valley Honor Flight. Mr. Perry's genuine devotion to our nation's veterans makes him a remarkable individual. We wish him the best of luck as he moves on to his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I cast a No vote on Roll Call Number 570 (Kildee of Michigan Amendment No. 19 to H.R. 5303: Water Resources Development Act). This was an unintended error, and I wish to reflect that my intention was to support passage of Roll Call Number 570.

Additionally, I was recorded as Not Voting on Roll Call Number 574 (H.R. 6094: Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools, and Nonprofits Act—On Passage). I wish to reflect that my intention was to support passage of Roll Call Number 574.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY WAYNE WAMPLER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor a man whose service to his Country and contributions to his community were remembered by family and friends at the First Baptist Church in Lenoir City, Tennessee on October 22, 2016.

Mr. Harry Wayne Wampler was born in Lenoir City to what would become a very large family. Mr. Wampler was the oldest of his parents' seven children, setting a tone for his leadership skills to flourish in years to come. He took on the heavy responsibility of contributing to his family's business, Wampler's Farm Sausage, by working at the young age of 14.

Later, Mr. Wampler was a Military Chef while serving in the Army Reserves, allowing him to share his love of food with his fellow military personnel.

He went on to become the CEO of Family Brands International, which continues to provide many jobs to the Lenoir City community while boosting the local economy.

While leading his business, Harry Wampler devoted 26 years of his incredible life as a Lenoir City Councilman, 16 years as Vice Mayor of Lenoir City, and served on many boards.

He contributed to the success of community organizations by serving as a board member for Lenoir City Utilities, Baptist Hospital, Roane State Community College, Harrison Chilhowie School, Small Business Bureau, United Way, SunTrust Bank, Third National Bank, and the Bank of Loudon County.

Harry was one of the strongest leaders the Great State of Tennessee has ever seen. He is one of the best friends both my father and I have ever had.

While I am saddened by his absence, I know this Nation is better because of the life he led. Not only will he be missed by his wife Jennifer, five sons, and ten grandchildren but also by hundreds of friends, colleagues, and neighbors.

Harry Wampler was a patriotic American who loved his country, and one of the finest men I have ever known.

HONORING THE CITY OF MOORHEAD FOR ITS INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, the City of Moorhead in Minnesota is leading the way in developing innovative community energy programs that provide local investment opportunities, diversifies Minnesota's energy portfolio, and improves our nation's energy independence. Moorhead Public Service is the tip of the spear in those efforts.

I congratulate the administrators at Moorhead Public Service for envisioning and building renewable energy projects like Capture the Sun which have brought national recognition to the people of Moorhead. Today, I would like to expand this recognition to the United States Congress.

Capture the Sun is a community solar garden located in north Moorhead and administered by Moorhead Public Service. The project provides local energy customers the opportunity to invest in renewable energy by purchasing one or more solar panels. The renewable energy is then delivered to the home or business of the investor, offsetting costlier sources of energy. The \$480 per panel investment is paid back through 20 years of more affordable electricity bills. With the Capture the Sun model, customers who may not have been able to afford infrastructure costs associated with building solar panels on their roofs are now able to invest in renewable solar energy.

Moorhead Public Service began its first phase of community solar in 2015, and the initial local reaction to community solar was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, the customer demand for solar panels was so strong that Moorhead Public Service decided to expand Capture the Sun to a second phase in 2016. I had the chance to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the second Capture the Sun community solar garden on October 4, 2016. It was impressive to learn that every panel for the second project has already been purchased by local investors.

Each .310 kilowatt panel produces an estimated 35 kilowatt hours per month which is enough to power five 60-watt light bulbs for four hours per day for a month. Between the two solar garden projects, 216 panels have been purchased by 160 customers. This means an estimated 7,560 renewable kilowatt hours are produced by the sun to local investors every month. These kilowatt hours save customers money over time and diversify the City of Moorhead's energy portfolio.

The model has worked so well that the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) awarded Moorhead Public Service with its prestigious Administrator's Award in recognition of its dedication to service and best business practices. In the award announcement, WAPA stated that Moorhead Public Service proves that a "utility of any size can forge a powerful partnership with the community by being responsive to its customers' needs."

As our nation's economy continues to grow, the demand for electricity will grow with it. We depend on innovators like those at Moorhead Public Service who remain proactive in keeping their community's electricity rates affordable, especially in rural America. The energy investment opportunities provided to Moorhead residents will remain a leading example of what can be accomplished for other municipal governments across Minnesota.

I am proud to represent the City of Moorhead and the 7th District of Minnesota. I remain inspired by the technological and economical advancements made by leaders in my district. Today, I urge lawmakers to join me in commending Moorhead Public Service's Capture the Sun project.

HONORING DR. KEITH WIEBE

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Keith Wiebe, who is retiring after thirteen years as president of the American Association of Christian Schools.

Dr. Wiebe is much admired and greatly appreciated for all of his great work as senior pastor at Grace Gospel Church in my hometown of Huntington, West Virginia. I have no doubt that he has left that same great impression on everyone he has worked with during his tenure as president of the American Association of Christian Schools. His steadfast faith and commitment to helping our children grow in their Christian faith is truly admirable and serves as an inspiration for all he has had the opportunity to minister God's many blessings. Dr. Wiebe followed his call to serve, an action that all of us can learn from as we continue to grow in our own faith.

Once again, congratulations Dr. Wiebe on your 13 years as president of the American Association of Christian Schools.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE—LISA PINTO

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate 20 years of distinguished service by Lisa Pinto—public servant, fierce Veteran advocate, and mother.

Lisa began her career with Congressman Henry Waxman on October 1, 1996 as his District Director, a position she held until his retirement in 2014. She has devoted her career to championing important issues for the residents of the Greater Los Angeles community. Lisa is the true embodiment of a public servant.

During her impressive career, she has worked on many important issues affecting constituents, including managing the district's casework, the Santa Monica Airport, and Veterans issues. Lisa's leadership on Veterans issues has been instrumental in the signing into law of H.R. 5936, the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2016.

Prior to her service with Congressman Waxman, Lisa practiced law for eight years, last working in Dependency Court, representing children who had been abused and neglected. She attended UCLA, earning a B.A. in History with a concentration in Business and UC Davis School of Law, where she earned a J.D. Lisa utilized her stellar instincts, passion, and exemplary management skills to make Congressman Waxman's District Office one of the best district offices in the country, a tradition of excellence she continues as my District Director.

Lisa is truly a champion for our constituents. Lisa has devoted her life to helping others and

the greater Los Angeles community. And in her most important role, Lisa is the mother to her wonderful daughter, Stella.

I am extremely fortunate to benefit from her experience, leadership and kindness. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Lisa's twenty years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives, the constituents of the Greater Los Angeles area, and her country.

MOURNING THE DEATH OF RUSK COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DEPUTY DAN GLAZE

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness and regret that I rise to inform my colleagues of the death of Rusk County Sheriff's Department Deputy Dan Glaze, who was tragically killed in the line of duty Saturday, October 29th, 2016, while responding to a call in my district.

Dan, a seven year Veteran in Law Enforcement, served on the Fall Creek Police Department, Sawyer County Sheriff's Department and Hayward Police Department before serving his last watch with the Rusk County Sheriff's Department. He had recently achieved a career goal of becoming a member of the Rusk County Swat Team.

His family remembers him for his: "strength, dedication to family, sense of humor, and enthusiasm. He was a husband, father, son, brother, mentor, and friend to all of those he met. Those who knew him or met him were all impacted by his passion and willingness to sacrifice for others in order to benefit the greater good of all. Dan's courage will forever be our protection."

Dan is survived by his loving wife and high-school sweetheart, Sarah and three children, Kendall (18), Levi (5) and Elianna (5 months); his parents, Dan and Jan Glaze; and brothers, John and Allen Glaze.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies are extended to Deputy Glaze's wife and children, family, friends, and colleagues in law enforcement. On behalf of this body, and a very grateful nation, I thank those men and women who risk their lives to give us order, safety, and protect our freedom; we keep them and their families in our thoughts today and always.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. HENRY HUONG LE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and untimely passing of Mr. Henry Huong Le. Mr. Le passed away on October 6, 2016, leaving behind a wife, three children, a large extended family and a community mourning the loss of a generous soul.

Mr. Le arrived in the City of San Jose in the late 70s, seeking refuge from the Communists in Vietnam. Though he and his family had little upon arrival, their business flourished into the largest industrial catering company in Northern California and the world's largest chain of banh mi sandwich shops.

Mr. Le shared his success with the community in San Jose. He was a community leader, human rights advocate, and philanthropist. Mr. Le served as president of the Vietnamese Heritage Society to preserve, promote, and celebrate the history and heritage of Vietnamese Americans. He was also a founding member of the Vietnamese American National Gala, an annual event to celebrate Vietnamese heritage and which honors the achievements and contributions of Asian Pacific Americans.

Mr. Le put the needs of others before his own when Hurricane Katrina displaced people who had nowhere to go. They were welcomed into his office in Mississippi for shelter. Mr. Le inspired me personally and I was able to see his kindness when meeting with him. He expressed his deep commitment to advance the cause of religious freedom in Vietnam as well as advocating for Hoa Hao Buddhism.

Mr. Le's life serves as inspiration on how to live life generously and with kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Henry Huong Le for a life of extraordinary leadership and advocacy in the community of San Jose and for Vietnamese people globally.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMINIC KEATING, COLUMBUS DAY ASSOCIATION OF LACKAWANNA COUNTY MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dominic Keating, who received the 2016 Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County Man of the Year Award.

Born to Robert and Flora Keating, Dominic is a lifelong resident of Dunmore, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of Scranton Preparatory School and the College of the Holy Cross. He was admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania after attending Dickinson School of Law.

In 1963, Dominic began working for his family's business, the Parodi Cigar Company. During his career, Dominic served the company in many capacities, from sales to production to administration. In 1998, he became president of Parodi and kept the position until his retirement in 2014.

Dominic remains active in the community and serves his neighbors in a variety of capacities. He serves as the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Rail Authority. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and is a member of the Project 505 Trolley Restoration Committee. For his distinguished community service, Dominic was the recipient of the 2014 Governor Robert P. Casey Medal and the

2009 Alan Sweeney Award from the Lackawanna Historical Society.

It is an honor to recognize Dominic Keating for his lifetime of accomplishments. I extend my warmest congratulations to him for receiving the 2016 Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County Man of the Year Award

ANOKA COUNTY'S OUTSTANDING SENIOR

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of John Leggate, a Coon Rapids, Minnesota resident who was recently awarded the Anoka County Outstanding Senior Award at the Anoka County Fair. Despite major setbacks, John has been heavily involved in his community.

Thirteen years ago, John was given the devastating news that he only had six weeks to live. Instead of giving up, he kept fighting, bravely enduring eleven surgeries and eight years of chemotherapy, all while continuing his service to his community.

Today, John helps out with numerous organizations in the community including: Coon Rapids Royalty and Pageant Committees, Coon Rapids Snowflake Days, Community Strength Foundation, Coon Rapids Northstar Lions Club, Coon Rapids Fireworks Festival, Epiphany Church, and Movies in the Park.

John Leggate has shown great passion for bettering the community and has helped thousands of people in the process. For all his contributions to our community, we thank John Leggate and congratulate him on his award.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DANYELLE LUCKEY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Seaman Danyelle Luckey, a longtime resident of the Bay Area community and enlisted sailor in the U.S. Navy.

During her brief 23 years, Danyelle Luckey touched the lives of those she met. After graduating from Pittsburg High School in 2011, Danyelle enjoyed spending time with friends and family, and worked as a beautician. According to her friends, she always took pleasure in helping others improve their lives. In that spirit of public service, Danyelle enlisted in the Navy, joining the crew of the USS *Ronald Reagan* during its recent trip to Guam.

According to the Navy, Seaman Luckey's positive attitude and infectious spirit were apparent during her service—within her first month aboard the supercarrier, she had gained a reputation as a good shipmate and made an immediate impression on everyone on board. Her superiors noted her intention to "become part of something big and something significant."

Sadly, Seaman Luckey's life ended on October 10, 2016, when she passed away unexpectedly while aboard the USS *Ronald Reagan* as it traveled the Philippine Sea. She is survived by her parents Derrick and Annette Luckey, many family members, and friends. I join our community in mourning her loss, her spirit, and her work to improve the lives of others. Fortunately, Seaman Luckey will live on in the memories of her family and friends.

HONORING MAGGIE JONES, THE 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE WILLIAM CRAWFORD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Maggie Jones for her selection as this year's recipient of the William Crawford Distinguished Service Award. Maggie is a committed public servant in eastern Connecticut, where she serves as the Executive Director of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DNPC). She has overseen tremendous growth for her organization, and has dedicated her efforts to the preservation of wildlife and our region's natural beauty. The DNPC offers a variety of programs to bring the residents of eastern Connecticut closer to nature, from gardening clinics to group hikes and restoration projects. The Center also contributes to the social and economic well-being of the region with its Community Garden that every year produces a huge array of fresh, nutritious produce that finds its way to low income residents in New London County free of charge. I have personally witnessed the impact this healthy, tasty offering has on its recipients at mobile food banks. The excitement and gratitude for Coogan Farm's effort is moving and inspirational.

Maggie has been a shrewd, successful manager, growing the DNPC from three employees to thirty-five. She and her organization recently celebrated a momentous achievement, the completion of a two year project to restore the Coogan Farm Nature & Heritage Center in Mystic. The restoration required the work of 60 volunteers and 760 donors, all facilitated by Maggie's exceptional leadership. It also required her successful pursuit of state and federal funds which were intensely competitive from groups all over the country.

Maggie's dedication to her community and her spirit of volunteerism and engagement are values well worth honoring. She leads by example, and more importantly, puts in the groundwork to make her visions a reality. Our region is a better place because of Maggie's dedication. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for being a model citizen.

IN SUPPORT OF STAN LEE'S
RESPECT INITIATIVE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, Marvel Comics legend, Stan Lee, co-creator of such iconic characters as Spider-Man, the Avengers, and X-Men, with the contribution of his daughter, J.C., seeing the challenges faced in the country launched the RESPECT Initiative symbolized by the "Hands of Respect" pin to build bridges in communications, encourage dialogue, and bring together and inspire all community members to respect one another. With the goal to get "Hands of Respect" pins throughout the country, community members of all ages will get involved in this important movement.

Through the efforts of Concord, California, resident and RESPECT Initiative Executive Director, Jerry Olivarez, it is acknowledged that the City of Concord, led by Mayor Laura Hoffmeister and Chief Guy Swanger, is the first city in the country where the Mayor and Chief of Police officially support the concept of the RESPECT campaign.

I encourage all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to wear the "Hands of Respect" pin to show support for this initiative and encourage their constituents to join the conversation and participate in the campaign by visiting www.handsofrespect.com.

Initiatives like "Hands of Respect" are important to bringing communities together and I commend the efforts of all who are involved in my Congressional District, the State of California, and the nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, during the roll call votes on Monday, November 14, 2016, I was absent due to the flight from my district of El Paso, Texas to Washington, DC being delayed.

Had I been present, on roll call number 575, I would have voted Yea.

On roll call number 576, I would have voted Yea.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
STUDY AND REGULATION OF
MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGIES

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following:

Whereas, a sustainable agricultural system is crucial to the continued production of food,

feed, and fiber to meet both domestic and global demand; and

Whereas, in the United States, the agriculture and food production industries employ precision farming equipment, crop protection chemistries, genetic engineering or enhancement, agricultural nutrients, and other modern technologies; such advanced practices protect the safety of the public and reduce environmental impact while expanding yields, improving profitability, and ensuring an abundant and affordable food supply; and

Whereas, agricultural pests present significant dangers to the industry and to global supplies of the products they attack; accordingly, the environmental risks of forgoing advances in agricultural technologies that protect crops are severe; excessive regulation may scuttle or discourage the use of agricultural chemicals that could improve human welfare; and

Whereas, crop protection is among the most studied and highly regulated of all industries, at both the state and federal levels; the use of sound science should be the bedrock of our nation's regulatory scheme for the agriculture and food production industries, as these industries are critical to the economic vitality of Texas and the United States; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby express support for the use of sound science to study and regulate such modern agricultural technologies as crop protection chemistries, genetically engineered or enhanced traits, and nutrients; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Senate express opposition to legislative or regulatory action at any level that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the use of modern agricultural technologies; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN BANNON AS CHIEF STRATEGIST

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on November 13, President-elect Donald Trump announced his intention to appoint Stephen Bannon, a Breitbart News executive, as chief strategist and senior counselor to the President.

In response to this announcement, Richard Cohen—the president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups in the United States—issued the following statement about Mr. Bannon and his past work:

"Stephen Bannon, a man who led a media empire into becoming what a former Breitbart

editor called 'a cesspool for white supremacist mememakers,' simply has no business in the White House.

"In July, Bannon boasted that Breitbart News was 'the platform for the alt-right.' The alt-right, as we know, is simply a rebranding of white nationalism and is the energy behind the avalanche of racist and anti-Semitic harassment that plagued social media platforms for the entire presidential campaign. Once the news of Bannon's appointment hit white supremacist websites last night, forums like Stormfront erupted in celebration.

"In his victory speech, Trump pledged to be the president for 'all Americans' and to 'bind the wounds of division' in our country. Appointing someone like Bannon, who will have the president-elect's ear every single day, makes a mockery of that pledge."

IN TRIBUTE TO LEONOR ROSAS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Leonor Rosas who retired in September, 2016 from UMOS, Inc. Leonor is a public servant, nonprofit executive, mother, grandmother, friend and leader.

Leonor Rosas has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and has Graduate Certificates in both Nonprofit Management and Public Administration. Ms. Rosas has over 36 years of work experience in the both the private and public sectors and retired from UMOS after serving 15 years in various management positions there. She has served as a high level manager in State, City and County governments and has worked with nonprofits and in the private sector, as well. While working for Wisconsin State Government, Leonor held many positions including Job Service Bureau Director where she was responsible for the oversight of 72 Job Service locations throughout the state including managing staff and services and assisting the unemployed and underemployed in job searches and offering employment related workshops.

I have had the great privilege of working with Leonor for over two decades, beginning while I served in the Wisconsin State Assembly and extending to my years in Congress. In fact, I worked with her most recently in helping to establish the Milwaukee Brides Walk with the Latina Resource Center and on workforce readiness programs. Leonor has the unique ability to develop and lead personnel with extensive experience in employment and training and resource development and strategic planning. Leonor is a passionate critical thinker with a heart of gold and enjoys working with people from various ethnic and educational backgrounds.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Ms. Leonor Rosas and proud to call her friend. She is a true trailblazer for women and Hispanics. In fact, Ms. Rosas gains great satisfaction in mentoring young Hispanic professionals insuring that all voices are heard in an equitable manner. I honor Leonor's many accomplishments and life time commitment to the entire Milwaukee Community, the 4th Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, November 16, 2016

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 16, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 32 years since we have experienced a single month with a temperature below the 20th century average. We are now all but certain that 2016 will be the single hottest year on record, replacing 2015 and 2014, which both held that title before it.

As we stand here today, representatives from 195 nations, including our own, are meeting in Morocco to discuss how the world will move forward to implement the historic Paris Agreement forged last December.

Yet, in that same 1-year span, the President-elect used his campaign for our country's highest office to promote policy ideas that would not only pollute the planet, but expose millions of Americans and billions worldwide to loss of life, livelihood, and property.

If these dangerous ideas are put into action, they will imperil the unique and fragile ecosystems that make the United States a wonder of the world, and saddle our economy with potentially trillions of dollars in increased

health care, disaster recovery, and adaptation costs, all while preventing American businesses and consumers from realizing the economic opportunities of a low-carbon economy.

We have heard from the next Commander in Chief that climate change is a hoax concocted by the Chinese, which is beyond absurdity. Climate change is real, it is happening, and it is man-made. The science is settled with 97 percent of climate scientists in strong, steadfast agreement.

Just take a look at the last month here in the United States. In October, more than 5,600 all-time high temperature records were set. Only 350 all-time cold records happened in the same time span. In a stable climate, these numbers would be about even. We do not have a stable climate.

Our next President has also claimed that climate change action is costing our country money when, in fact, the opposite is true. Independent analysis has demonstrated that President Obama's Clean Power Plan could save the United States more than \$20 billion a year in decreased costs related to climate impacts, and will put more than \$80 a year back into the pockets of everyday Americans in decreased energy costs by 2030; not to mention the economic activity that would be spurred by the creation of thousands of new clean energy jobs.

The Federal Government has also found that damage to human health, agricultural losses, decreased biodiversity, and the physical impacts of sea level rise, drought, wildfires, and other climate impacts will cost more than \$150 billion a year in the United States alone.

We have heard talk about bringing back coal and creating new coal jobs, like it is flipping a switch. The fact is, though, that the economic decline in the coal industry and in the coal communities is driven by market forces, not government policy.

While coal is still our dirtiest form of fuel, it is no longer our cheapest. Natural gas has now overtaken coal and, in some cases, even renewables like wind and solar have become cost-competitive. Coal is in decline because, increasingly, consumers no longer want it.

And thanks to technological advances in the industry, it takes fewer people to mine more coal. Coal jobs in West Virginia have been declining since the fifties, long before any existing climate policy.

At the same time, as extractive industries continue to slash jobs and

profits, the solar industry alone has more than doubled its domestic workforce in the last 5 years and now employs more people than coal. Jobs in renewable energy exist. They are increasingly available, they pay well, and they cannot be outsourced.

Finally, there has been talk about canceling the historic Paris Agreement and reneging on our international pledges to join the world in acting on climate change. Doing so would abdicate our position as a global leader, and it would allow our international rivals like China to set the terms of the new global economy to benefit them, at the expense of our people and our businesses.

The fact is, our climate is changing and will only continue to do so. We cannot afford inaction. We cannot afford to undo the progress we have already made.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up for coastal communities, farmers, vulnerable people all over the world, and future generations to not fall victim to the self-serving propaganda from those who seek to profit by polluting the world.

To defend the work we have done, we must meet the challenge of the global call to act on climate. Regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, we must continue to fight for commonsense action in Congress that will address the pressing environmental threats of today in order to create a more sustainable future for tomorrow.

No partisan rhetoric or repudiations of fact can stand in the way of our important work to fight and win this battle.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, time is running out to do right by our retired coal miners and their widows. When they went down into the mines, they were made a promise: When you retire, you will have good pensions and healthcare benefits.

They literally put their lives on the line to put food on their table and power our nation, but now that promise is in jeopardy.

At the end of the year, the healthcare benefits for many miners and their widows will dry up, and their pensions could end soon as well. These

families are worried about making ends meet, and they are going into the holidays with great uncertainty about what the new year will bring.

We have a solution. It is called the Coal Healthcare and Pension Miners Protection Act, legislation which I am proud to cosponsor. It is a bipartisan bill, and a similar bill is actually pending in the Senate.

Congress needs to act to fulfill this promise. Our miners have done so much for our country. They mined the coal that made the steel that built the skyscrapers and won world wars. These miners and their families deserve no less than what they worked their entire lives to earn: the peace of mind that comes with a pension.

I urge my colleagues to keep the promise and support this important legislation. Time is running out to stand up for our miners and their families.

RELIEF FROM PRESIDENTIAL MIDNIGHT RULES

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, in just 64 days, a new President will be sworn in. That is 64 days for the current President, President Obama, to jam through new regulations; new regulations that will hurt our families, kill our jobs, and continue damaging our economies.

We saw that just this morning when his administration released the final environmental study for the stream buffer zone rule. This rule continues the administration's war on coal and will take it even further down the road of killing jobs in West Virginia.

Congress and the States have all issued opposition to this rule, but this administration didn't listen. It is full steam ahead for this radical agenda and overregulation from the Obama administration.

That is why I am proud to support what is known as the Midnight Rules Relief Act. We are voting on it this week.

This bill is simple. It gives Congress the authority to review and reject rules that this President, President Obama, or any President issues during the final months of their term.

American families and businesses have suffered long enough under this administration's, this President's regulatory onslaught, and they have spoken loud and clear at the polls that they do not want more business as usual from Washington.

This administration cannot be allowed to force its job-killing regulations on the American people after their policies have been so soundly rejected.

I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up against midnight rules and bringing transparency and accountability back to our Federal agencies.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAMON "CHUNKY" SANCHEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez, an exceptional musician and activist for the community of San Diego. Chunky Sanchez passed away on Friday, October 28, 2016, a few days before his 65th birthday.

Chunky Sanchez was born in 1951, in Blythe, California, to Mexican immigrant parents. He was a talented musician who was taught traditional Mexican music by his mother and his uncles. Chunky Sanchez quickly learned how to sing, play 10 different instruments, and compose his own music.

In 1969, he attended San Diego State University on a scholarship and began performing with La Rondalla Amerindia de Aztlan, a noted musical group composed of students and professors. Later, Chunky Sanchez became a vocalist for the folklore group Los Alacranes, the Scorpions, which he co-founded along with his brother, Ricardo. They recorded their first album in 1977.

Through his music, he would tell the story of the Chicano movement and of the Mexican American bicultural experience. Chunky Sanchez was so well received that labor leader Cesar Chavez would often invite him to play at his union rallies.

Chunky Sanchez was also an incredibly active member of the San Diego community. In his song "Rising Souls," he sang that he needed and we needed "to educate, not incarcerate, so that humanity will shine."

During his lifetime, he embodied these lyrics as he worked with local youth as a coach, an educator, a youth center director, and a gang intervention counselor. His passion and care for the community garnered numerous awards and honors from organizations across California and throughout the city of San Diego.

Chunky Sanchez is best known for his song "Chicano Park Samba," which narrated the struggle for and the successful creation of Chicano Park in San Diego. A city historic landmark, Chicano Park honors the history of the Chicano Mexican people throughout their monumental works and murals and sculptures and earthworks, and an architectural piece.

Ramon "Chunky" Sanchez will be missed by his family, his wife, his five children, many grandchildren, and the San Diego community.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the lyrics of the "Chicano Park Samba."

CHICANO PARK SAMBA

(By: Los Alacranes Mojados: Chunky Sanchez, Ricardo Sanchez, Mario Aguilar, Marco Antonio Rodriguez)

In the year the year 1970, in the city of San Diego, under the Coronado Bridge, lied

a little piece of land, a piece of land that the community of Logan Heights wanted to make into a park . . .

A park where all the chavalitos could play in so they wouldn't have to play in the street and get run over by a car . . .

a park where all the viejitos could come and just sit down and watch the sun go down in the tarde . . .

a park where all the familias could come and just get together on a Sunday afternoon and celebrate the spirit of life itself.

But the city of San Diego said, "Chale. We're going to make a highway patrol substation here, man."

So on April 22nd, 1970, la raza of Logan Heights and other Chicano communities of San Diego got together, and they organized . . .

and they walked on the land, and they took it over with their picks and their shovels and they began to build their park.

And today, that little piece of land under the Coronado Bridge is known to everybody . . . as Chicano Park . . . ¡Orale!

It began in 1970, under the Coronado Bridge En mi barrio, in San Diego

Where my people began to fight

For Chicano Park, for Chicano Park

Under the bridge, under the bridge, under the bridge . . .

We shall continue to live my brother,

We shall continue to fight my friend

For Chicano Park, under the bridge . . .

¡Raza!, ¡Que vivan, que vivan, Los barrios unidos!

Por Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez.

THE SENATE MUST REFORM CLOTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the American people have given our 45th President and the 115th Congress a clear mandate to revive our economy, secure our borders, restore our Nation's sovereignty, reinstate our Bill of Rights, and uphold the rule of law. Moreover, they have given us majorities in both Houses of Congress to do so. There is no excuse for failure.

President Obama and Secretary Clinton set a positive tone for this peaceful transition of power, a tone no doubt shared by many Members of Congress and many Americans of good will who did not vote on the prevailing side. This represents the best of American statesmanship.

Yet, we have also heard reactionary elements of the Democratic Party make a vicious pledge to thwart this mandate and destroy this President. One need look no further than Senator REID's disgraceful diatribe on Friday to realize that these threats far exceed the lunatic fringe now violently rioting in our streets.

□ 1015

They reach directly into the Halls of Congress.

To fulfill the mandate of the American people, we will need to deliberate

wisely and in good faith, with all sides participating in the discussion and all voices heard. But, ultimately, those deliberations must result in laws to fulfill that mandate. The agenda is daunting, and time is fleeting.

The greatest single obstacle to this era of reform is the 60-vote threshold to invoke cloture in the Senate, and I rise today to urge the Senate to finally reform it. Given the record of abuse of this rule and avowed intentions of many in that body, nothing will change legislatively unless the Senate Republican majority takes action when they organize in January. All the reforms that the American people called for, that the President will request, and that the House will pass will be stopped dead in the Senate.

Now, I don't argue to abandon this rule, but rather to restore it to its original purpose. Cloture is rooted in a sound and ancient parliamentary principle that, as long as one-third of a deliberative body wants to debate an issue, that debate should continue. After all, a minority exists to convince the majority of its way of thinking. This is the essence of deliberation.

But this principle assumes it is an actual debate where Members are talking to one another, and it requires that the debate be germane to the question at hand and that it is not dilatory. That is how cloture started. But over the 20th century, it degenerated into a 60-vote administrative threshold just to consider legislation. Ironically, a procedure designed to protect debate has now morphed into a procedure that very effectively prevents debate.

The two Houses of Congress are designed to disagree with each other, but once the House and the Senate independently exercise their best judgment on a particular matter, there is a conference process developed over centuries to resolve their differences. This process cannot function if one House simply refuses to consider the other House's work.

The modern notion of cloture prevents that process and the system breaks down. During the last several Congresses, the House has sent hundreds of bills—including the appropriations bills that fund this government—to the Senate; but instead of amending their ideas into those bills or sending us bills of their own, they have simply refused to consider them by a minority denying cloture.

Now, some Senators have said that this mechanism is necessary to preserve collegiality and encourage compromise, but how can you have collegiality when one side simply refuses to talk to the other? How can you have compromise when the matter to be compromised cannot be taken up and discussed?

Others have said that since most legislation grows the powers of government, it is an effective brake on that

tendency. It is true this rule effectively blocks bad legislation. It also very effectively blocks good legislation that is necessary to reverse this trend. The current cloture rule provides a ratcheting effect that locks in every expansion of government over the past century.

Now, some Republicans have said that it has been most useful when they have been in the minority. I have to ask them, do you want to be a successful majority or a successful minority? You cannot be both as long as cloture exists in its current form.

Voters elected Republican majorities in both Houses of Congress, and they expect action. They will get it from the President and from the House. But in order for the Senate to rise to this occasion, it must reform its cloture rule when it organizes in January.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALM SPRINGS POLICE OFFICERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the lives of Palm Springs Officers Jose "Gil" Vega and Lesley Zerebny and to support the incredible law enforcement officers in my district. It is important to tell their story and forever record their heroism in our national RECORD.

Officers Vega and Zerebny were, tragically, shot and killed in the line of duty last month while responding to what seemed like a routine domestic disturbance in Palm Springs, California.

Officer Vega lived by the mantra of "To Serve and Protect." He graduated from Indio High School and joined the force in Palm Springs in 1982. He was always witty, quick to tell a joke and to offer guidance to new officers. He was an inspiration to friends, family, and countless people who knew him. The day he died, he was only 2 months away from retiring after 35 years of service.

He volunteered to pick up a shift on that day—on his day off. He is survived by his wife, Susana, nine children, and many grandchildren.

Officer Lesley Zerebny was new to the force, with a lifetime of service. She showed a passion for law enforcement and service her entire life, no doubt inherited from her father, a California Highway Patrol officer. She was raised in Hemet, California, and attended West Valley High School. As a young girl, she always stood up to bullies to protect others and for justice. She was also known for her pranks and her fun-loving spirit.

Officer Zerebny was a mother of a 4-month-old daughter, Cora. She had just returned from maternity leave when she was killed. She is survived by her husband Zack, a Riverside County

Sheriff's Department officer, and by baby Cora.

Officer Vega and Officer Zerebny were two of California's finest. Their lives of service and spirit of community embody the values of law enforcement officers across our great Nation. Each day, men and women like Lesley and Gil wake up, kiss their families good-bye, and go to work knowing full well the risks they take to keep us safe. Spouses, children, and parents wonder if they will ever return that day.

Law enforcement officers see danger and they don't run from it; they run toward it to protect others. We are safer because of them. They and their families deserve our utmost gratitude for their service.

So on behalf of the people of California's 36th Congressional District, my wife, Monica, and my family, I want to thank Officer Vega and Officer Zerebny and their families for their ultimate sacrifice. Our hearts are with you, and our hearts are with all law enforcement brothers and sisters during their time of mourning. We mourn with you, and we continue to offer our deepest gratitude for your service. Your dedication and the risks you take each and every day will never be forgotten.

Officer Vega and Officer Zerebny, end of watch, October 8, 2016.

WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I have been on the floor so many times over the last year or so talking about the 16 years of war in Afghanistan and the waste of money, but, more importantly, the waste of life.

The titles that I am going to share with the House today have appeared in October and November in articles, national articles, about the failed policy in Afghanistan. I would like to share those very quickly.

"U.S. Pledges Another \$800 Million to Afghanistan Despite Rampant Corruption."

"Four Americans Die in Suicide Blast At U.S. Base in Afghanistan; 17 Others Wounded."

These are headlines, Mr. Speaker.

"Latest Afghan Attack Raises Perplexing Questions on Security."

Another title: "The U.S. Spent Billions Building Roads in Afghanistan. Now Many of Them Are Beyond Repair."

Another title: "Inspector General: Pentagon Must Explain Afghan 'Ghost Soldier' Problems. Funding for Afghan Military Wasted on Non-Existent Soldiers."

Mr. Speaker, 200,000 Afghanistan ghosts that the taxpayers of America

have been paying for their services, and they don't even exist.

When I read that, I wrote a letter to the Defense Secretary, Ash Carter, and I said to Secretary Carter: Please explain how much money did we pay to the ghosts that don't even exist? How long have we been paying the ghosts that don't exist? We are talking about 200,000 Afghan soldiers that don't even exist.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand why the House of Representatives does not have a debate on our policy regarding Afghanistan. How much longer can a nation that is \$19.8 trillion in debt—that is America, \$19.8 trillion in debt—and how many more billions of dollars can we keep putting into the black hole of Afghanistan and keep losing our young men and women in a country that is never going to change?

It goes back to Alexander the Great. It goes back to the British. It goes back to the Russians. Anyone who has ever gone into that country known as Afghanistan has eventually left, and they knew there was nothing they could change.

Not America, though. We have been there 16 years. We don't even debate it on the floor of the House. We will be passing a DOD funding bill pretty soon, and there will be billions of dollars going to Afghanistan and there will be very little debate on it. There are those on the Democratic side and the Republican side, Mr. Speaker, who do care about our troops, who do care about the wasted money, and who do care about a policy that has no end to it.

It is not fair to our men and women in uniform. They deserve better from this Congress. It is our constitutional duty that we debate policy that sends our young men and women to die. Yet we do not debate it. It just goes on and on.

This poster that I brought with me today, Mr. Speaker, before I close, I have signed over 11,000 letters to families and extended families who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq. Recently, we have had seven Americans killed in Afghanistan. I do not understand why we are so void of a debate. James Madison would have been very disappointed, Mr. Speaker. It was Madison who said that it is the legislative branch that will debate and vote on war, not the executive branch.

But we have abdicated our responsibility to the President and let the President decide what the foreign policy should be and how we should use our men and women in uniform. That is a sad day for America.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House for this time. I close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform and hold in His loving arms those young Americans who have given their life for this country. God bless America.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JAMES BARLOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dedicated teacher, mentor, and public servant, Mr. James Barlow.

Many of us in public service can name a person who inspired us or clearly remember an experience that ignited our interest in the important issues that are shaped through politics and government. For thousands of Oregonians, that spark was Mr. Barlow.

Born in Portland, Oregon, in 1929, Mr. Barlow earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Oregon State University. He taught social studies in the Beaverton School District in Oregon's First Congressional District from 1962 until 2005. He always made his classrooms laboratories of curiosity.

Some of his best lessons didn't take place in a classroom at all. They took place on the floor of the Model Presidential Nominating Conventions started by Mr. Barlow in the mid-1960s. Every 4 years for four decades, thousands of high school students from all over the State would gather, usually in Portland, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. They would step into the role of State delegations, vote on platform issues, cast ballots for the nomination, and broker and negotiate with other delegations.

They got ready for this by studying their assigned State's demography, history, politics, and economy. Mr. Barlow and his colleagues prepared the students for months, leading class discussions on candidates in the primaries, the American political landscape, and the intricacies of delegate math. Student participants had to be sharp and organized. I know this firsthand because my son participated in the 2004 Model Convention and took preparatory evening classes with Mr. Barlow at Portland State University.

These Model Conventions were no simple class simulations. Major Presidential candidates came by and spoke to the crowd of student delegates. Robert Kennedy, Nelson Rockefeller, George McGovern, Hubert Humphrey, Jesse Jackson, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Michael Dukakis, and Bill Clinton all stopped by at a Model Convention as they campaigned ahead of Oregon's Presidential primaries.

□ 1030

The model conventions exemplified Mr. Barlow's leadership, enthusiasm, and imagination, but former students know that he also connected with and motivated his students in smaller, quieter ways as well. His psychology, philosophy, and current affairs courses were legendary at Aloha High School, where he spent most of his career. He inspired students to think beyond tests

and essays, he challenged them to think critically, and he encouraged them to consider new perspectives on information they consumed.

As a teacher, he saw the potential in every student. With his dry wit, his deep knowledge, and genuine enthusiasm for his subject matter, Mr. Barlow created a learning atmosphere where everyone felt, and everyone was, welcome and valuable.

There was something that helped with the welcoming—doughnuts. Long before doughnuts became a craze in Portland, Mr. Barlow was bringing them to his classes and to his colleagues in the social studies office. He would announce: Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the starlight room. Now, there was no starlight room, but the phrase evoked a gracious and relaxed lounge space. The school year in the Portland metro area is typically rainy, and fall and winter school days often start before dawn, but his words and his treats were always a welcome pick-me-up.

The day after Mr. Barlow's death, scores of his former students and colleagues observed "coffee and doughnut day," going out for a sugary bite and a cup of coffee and posting pictures on social media. It was touching to all who knew him.

The life and work of Mr. James Barlow matter also to those who never knew him. That is because he taught thousands of Oregonians to be active, engaged, and sharp-thinking participants in our democracy. Whether they went on to work in public service or not, and no matter what their party affiliation, the students of Mr. Barlow became better citizens because of his contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I hope we can all be inspired by Jim Barlow's example as we serve in this remarkable House of Representatives. I offer my sincere condolences to his family, especially to his wife of 47 years, Susan, his former colleagues, and to the generations of students who mourn his loss.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES JOE PITTS AND MIKE FITZPATRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two friends, two Members of the Pennsylvania delegation, here in the House, Representative JOE PITTS and Representative MIKE FITZPATRICK, on their upcoming retirements and for their service to this Nation and to their constituents. It has been an honor to serve with both of these gentlemen over the past 8 years.

Representative PITTS' retirement caps a long career of service to his Nation. His career started as an educator,

teaching math, science, English, physical education, along with coaching basketball.

He also served 5½ years in the United States Air Force with three tours in Vietnam. After being commissioned as a second lieutenant, he was promoted to the rank of captain by the time he left the service.

After settling in Pennsylvania, Representative PITTS continued to teach until he felt the call of public service, launching a 24-year career as a Pennsylvania State representative, and serving as chairman of the Committee on Labor Relations and later of the Appropriations Committee.

JOE was sworn in as a United States Representative in January of 1997, the beginning of a 20-year career here in Washington, D.C., and in serving the residents of Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District. His ten terms here in the House of Representatives have included time spent chairing multiple subcommittees, including the Health Subcommittee for his last two terms here in Congress.

I have greatly enjoyed time spent with JOE during our weekly Bible studies, and I wish him and his wife, Ginny, the best of luck in retirement.

I also want to recognize the retirement of my friend and colleague, Representative MIKE FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District.

Like Representative PITTS, MIKE has dedicated much of his life to public service and was first elected in 1995 as a Bucks County commissioner, a position he served in for 10 years. During that time, he showed a commitment to bringing jobs to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, creating the county's first enterprise zone, which eventually created thousands of local jobs.

MIKE arrived in Washington, D.C., as the representative of the Commonwealth's Eighth Congressional District in January of 2005 and later worked to bring the national veterans' cemetery to Bucks County. More recently, he has served as the chairman of the Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing.

Personally, I have bonded with MIKE over our shared ties to the Boy Scouts of America. We are both longtime Boy Scouts and fellow Eagle Scouts. MIKE's service to scouting includes time spent as president of the Bucks County Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

I wish Representative MIKE FITZPATRICK a great retirement, along with his wife, Kathy, and their children.

Congratulations, JOE and MIKE. It has been an honor serving with you.

MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Midnight Rules Relief Act, which would halt President Obama's ability to rush through politically motivated regulations during the remainder of his term.

It is clear that this administration will do everything possible to stop President-elect Donald Trump by jamming through as many backdoor regulations as possible before the clock runs out.

Last week, the American people spoke. They made it clear that they want to get our economy moving again. President-elect Trump must have the opportunity to enact policies without regulatory hindrance from the previous administration.

Mr. Speaker, since taking office, the President has ignored Article I of the Constitution and the will of the American people. For the past 8 years, the President has used his pen and phone to create a fourth branch of government, imposing executive orders and Federal rules and regulations to benefit his own radical political agenda.

In 2015 alone, the Federal Government implemented 3,400 regulations on Americans that cost us \$1.89 trillion in lost productivity and growth—a cost that averages nearly \$15,000 per American household. These regulations from unelected, unaccountable government bureaucrats are unfair and unjust.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Missouri are desperate for greater security and economic opportunity. This comes with elevating, not undermining, the spirit of self-governance for which our Nation was founded.

As a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives—the people's House—we must pass the Midnight Rules Relief Act to ensure that we are protecting the American people from reckless regulations that will continue to cripple our economy and target the pocketbooks of all Americans.

Transparency is critical when we pass important legislation that will directly affect our constituents. If the President has the ability to impose major regulations without the necessary time for congressional scrutiny and oversight, we are not doing our jobs to represent and protect our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent my time in Congress fighting for our families, fighting to repeal regulations that are hindering business growth, and fighting to provide a voice for the voiceless. It is our duty to pass this legislation and continue to fight against the President's irresponsible agenda and give our new President, Donald Trump, the support that he has earned.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Thank You, O God, for giving us another day. Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

In our world there are many places where peace is lacking and cause for thanksgiving rare. Send Your spirit of peace upon our world. Help us all see in those we view as enemies our brothers and sisters.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PASS MENTAL HEALTH REFORM BEFORE THIS SESSION ENDS

(Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, at noon today, back in my district in Pennsylvania, there is a funeral service for Scott Bashiousm, a brave policeman who died last week. His partner, James Saieva, was critically injured. Ultimately, the shooter died of suicide.

Had we had a functional mental health system, lives could have been saved. Families could have been spared the mourning.

The shooter's background is all too familiar: prior criminal convictions,

mental health issues, and not taking medications.

How many more lives will be lost before we act?

This broken Federal and State approach to treating mental illness will not fix itself. It must be overhauled with the leadership of a new office of Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use; changes to HIPAA laws that currently block families from helping, and fixing the crisis shortage of providers and hospitals.

Waiting will not work. Token or superficial changes won't work. Continuing to fund the current mess won't work. If anyone thinks it does, then I suggest you get on the phone and explain this to the officer's widow and children that everything is just fine.

Or the Senate can act and pass the changes we passed in H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, which the House passed with near unanimous vote in July. Lives are at stake. Time is running short; and for Officer Bashioum's family, time has run out.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF STANFORD LIPSEY, BUFFALO NEWS PUBLISHER

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of longtime Buffalo News publisher, Stanford Lipsey. Mr. Lipsey, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, will be most remembered for his significant contributions to the field of journalism. As the Buffalo News publisher, he saved it from closure, revamped its content and quality, and appointed the first woman editor in Buffalo News history.

Mr. Lipsey has also been a tireless advocate for projects that have contributed to Buffalo's revitalization—from leading efforts to preserve our architectural treasures to securing funding for our prestigious cancer center. He donated over 2 million books to low-income children and invested in projects like Re-Tree Western New York that helped to reforest our neighborhood parks after a surprise October snowstorm.

Mr. Lipsey's vision for Buffalo was one of hope. He recognized the city's potential, and he helped people of the city to realize their own potential. Although he was a native of Omaha, Nebraska, he loved his adopted city of Buffalo, New York. As we continue to work towards a better Buffalo, I hope to honor his dedication to our city.

MINNESOTA'S LENDERS HELPING TOMORROW'S BIG BUSINESS

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and thank the many banks and credit unions in Minnesota's Sixth District who were named a top Minnesota Lender by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

These lenders include BankVista, Woodlands National Bank, Minnesota Business Finance Corporation, KleinBank, and the Central Minnesota Credit Union.

Promoting small business is vastly important to our State's success. Our great State of Minnesota would not be where it is today without the contributions of these banks and credit unions. Today's small business is tomorrow's big business. Great Minnesota companies like Medtronic and Best Buy exist and have become the powerhouse companies they are today because of the vital support of local lenders.

Our community banks and credit unions ensure that business owners and entrepreneurs have the funds necessary to build a business from an idea, creating new jobs and opportunities for Minnesotans from all walks of life. We must never underestimate the importance of our community banks and credit unions, and I am proud to stand here today to recognize their work.

Again, congratulations, and thank you for being an important part of our community and our State.

REJECT STEVE BANNON'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I led 168 of my colleagues in sending a letter to President-elect Donald Trump, asking that he rescind his decision to appoint alt-right leader Steve Bannon to serve as White House Chief Strategist. This appointment undermines the President-elect's pledge to bring our country together.

As executive chairman of Breitbart News, Mr. Bannon repeatedly and aggressively pushed stories that promote anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and racism. During an interview last summer, Mr. Bannon bragged that Breitbart was "the platform for the alt-right," a movement that upholds White nationalism while strongly rejecting diversity in any form.

Under his leadership, Breitbart has referred to a leading Republican columnist as a renegade Jew. He suggested that young Muslims in the West are a ticking time bomb. He declared that the Confederate flag proclaims a glorious heritage, and he praised the alt-right as a smarter version of old-school racist skinheads.

I hope that the President-elect and Republican Members of Congress will join us in good faith in rejecting Mr. Bannon's appointment and the ugly, di-

visive message it sends to so many across our country.

THE LATEST COLOMBIA FARC AGREEMENT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, despite some modest revisions in Colombia's new deal with the FARC, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization, this is still a sweetheart deal for these narcoguerrillas.

Under this deal, FARC members will still be allowed to run for public office; and I worry that while in office, FARC officials will undermine the progress made in Colombia.

We have already seen a significant increase in drug trafficking from Colombia since negotiations with the FARC began, and there should be no doubt that the FARC, one of the largest narcoterrorist groups in the world, is responsible for this increase.

What kind of increase in drug trafficking should we expect if these narcoterrorists are given even more power and more influence in Colombia's government?

Mr. Speaker, the Colombian people rejected the prior FARC agreement, and I believe that their concerns must be addressed before any revised agreement is finalized.

President Santos will be here in Washington to meet with Members of Congress tomorrow, and I hope he addresses our concerns.

REJECT STEVE BANNON'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleague, Congressman CICILLINE, and 158 others in urging President-elect Trump to dismiss the notion of Steve Bannon as being stationed outside the Oval Office.

I have been deeply disturbed by the increase in hate speech and intimidation directed at people based on color, religion, gender, and sexual orientation, as well as outbreaks of violence.

Oregon's largest school district just sent a message home with the children dealing with families because of the problems there and the need to unite to prevent further activity.

One thing we can all agree on is that the protection of all our citizens, especially our children, is not a partisan issue. Violence and destruction of public property accomplishes nothing. I hope we can agree to send a loud, direct, forceful, and clear message rejecting intimidation, harassment, and hate speech; and we can start by rejecting Steve Bannon.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR BILL RICKETTS OF THE PRINCE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Pastor Bill Ricketts, who has faithfully served the Lord for 43 years at Prince Avenue Baptist Church, a treasure in the 10th District of Georgia. He has been in ministry since 19 years of age and has lived in accordance with the Word of God and in the service of others.

Under his leadership, the church has literally flourished and become a cornerstone of the Christian faith in the Athens, Georgia, community and far beyond just Athens. Today, literally hundreds of pastors and missionaries have emerged from his 43 years as pastor at Prince Avenue. It truly is an inspiring story, and he is leaving a legacy that deserves the highest recognition.

Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate Pastor Bill Ricketts on his retirement as senior pastor at Prince Avenue Baptist Church. I am extremely grateful to have such a devoted man of God in our community and I am sincerely grateful for his friendship and his service.

I give my best to Pastor Bill; his wife, Darla; and his family as they begin this new chapter. May the spirit of God continue to bless the Ricketts family and the congregation at Prince Avenue Baptist Church.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of National Apprenticeship Week.

In conversations with employers in my district at companies like Ward Leonard in Thomaston and Forum Plastics in Waterbury, I hear about how our businesses struggle to find employees with the right skills.

Apprenticeship programs give workers the hands-on training they need to close that skills gap. In Connecticut, our community colleges are helping workers get the skills they need to land high-paying, in-demand jobs. But there is more we must do to help both workers and small-business owners.

That is why I introduced the TECH Careers Act. This bill will open the door for more Americans to have successful careers in 21st-century fields and help small businesses access a qualified pool of talented and skilled workers. If we close the skills gap and raise folks up into the middle class, everyone benefits.

CONGRATULATING JOHN NIELSEN OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mayor John Nielsen for his service as the chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors.

Under John's leadership, the county expanded its groundwater replenishment system, and OCSD made structural changes that allow it to focus on regional wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.

John was also instrumental in advocating for legislation at the State level to allow water agencies to bottle their potable reused water. California's 5-year drought has highlighted our need to diversify our water portfolio to ensure water security, and John's attention to this issue demonstrates his commitment to the residents of Orange County.

I thank John for his hard work and leadership, and I congratulate him on his success. I wish him all the best as he continues to serve our community.

REJECT STEVE BANNON'S WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I hold this dear little book with affection and great respect. I am so proud to be an American who has a country that is based upon this Constitution and, of course, the Bill of Rights.

That is why I rise today to raise the question of the ugliness of racism in the aftermath of the Presidential elections as offered by the individuals who prevail. It is true that we now have in the White House an individual that is not befitting of the diversity of this Nation or my city of Houston where there are 98-plus counsel general officers and 98 languages spoken in our schools.

Just 2 days after Donald Trump's election, reports are coming in from across the Nation suggesting a sharp rise in anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant attacks. Remember, we are a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants.

We know that in the Breitbart world that Mr. Bannon has had headlines: Birth control makes women unattractive; hoist it high and proud, the Confederate flag proclaims a glorious heritage; after Pulse Club massacre, it is time for gays to come home to the Republican Party; birth control makes people crazy.

Let me simply say it is time for Mr. Trump to do a major speech to reject this kind of hatred and this kind of rejection of the American people.

Why is there such silence? And why is Mr. Bannon still in the White House?

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING TRAVIS WOOD OF THE WORLD CHAMPION CHICAGO CUBS

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, who says pitchers can't hit? I rise today to recognize Travis Wood of the World Champion Chicago Cubs, who became the first relief pitcher since 1924 to hit a home run.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Travis attended Bryant High School, where he starred in baseball and football. He led Bryant to a State championship during his junior season and was Arkansas Gatorade Player of the Year in 2004 and 2005.

Choosing to go straight to professional baseball out of high school, Travis was drafted 60th overall in the 2005 MLB draft by the Cincinnati Reds.

Beginning his career with the Cubs in 2012, Travis soon became a key part of their bullpen and was named to his first All-Star selection in 2013. During the Cubs' championship 2016 season, Travis posted a 4-0 record with a 2.95 ERA in 77 appearances.

Congratulations on a great season, and I look forward to following your continued success. Let's not wait another 100 years.

ARKANSAS CENTURY FARMING FAMILIES

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 2012, the Arkansas Department of Agriculture began the Arkansas Century Farm Program. This program honors those Arkansas farm families who have owned and farmed the same land for at least 100 years. Since 2012, 297 Arkansas farms and families have been inducted in the Arkansas Century Farm Program, and on Tuesday, November 1, 2016, an additional 44 families were recognized by the program, including 14 families representing 10 counties in Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, there is something special to be said for those families that continue to dedicate their time and treasure to the land that has provided for their families over many generations. They wisely manage our natural resources, tend to livestock entrusted to their care, drive our economy forward, and pass down a special way of life to future generations. Our farm families know and understand that, if they take care of the land, it will, in turn, take care of them.

I know that the families that have been recognized by the Arkansas Century Farm Program understand this concept the best. I congratulate these families on their induction into this prestigious program and wish them another productive century.

RECOGNIZING SKILLS OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AS PAPRS PROGRAM OF THE YEAR

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the staff from Skills of Central Pennsylvania following the recognition of their psychiatric rehabilitation program being named Program of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services.

The program at Skills of Central Pennsylvania, which is located in Centre County, provides recovery-oriented treatment through psychological education, skills teaching, and other methods. Those who are eligible for the program either suffer from serious mental illness or moderate-to-severe functional impairment as a result of an illness.

The program was nominated and eventually won this recognition from the Pennsylvania Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services following the efforts of their registered nurses and staff in their integrated care program to handle a physical health crisis that could have resulted in the death of a participant if not for their swift intervention.

Mr. Speaker, as a former healthcare professional, I commend the staff of Skills of Central Pennsylvania for their important work for their community and the surrounding region, helping people emerge from what is often the darkest time of their lives.

HONORING DEPUTY DENNIS RANDALL WALLACE

(Mr. DENHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and memory of Deputy Dennis Randall Wallace, who was shot and killed in the line of duty on November 13, 2016, in Hughson, California. On behalf of our community and this Congress, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Deputy Wallace's family, friends, and fellow law enforcement officers.

Deputy Wallace's end of watch came when he was fatally wounded this past Sunday while investigating a suspicious vehicle.

As a D.A.R.E. officer, he took great pride in his work with our commu-

nity's youth, helping them stay away from drugs and gangs. Dennis was not only a law enforcement officer, but also a coach and a mentor and a friend to many of these young individuals.

Dennis has received countless awards and commendations for his outstanding service to our community. The outpouring of support from Stanislaus County and our State reflects the love for our fallen hero.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Deputy Dennis Wallace, who defended and protected our community until his last breath. He made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

My deepest sympathy goes out to the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, the Wallace family, and his many loved ones. God bless him always. He will be dearly missed.

HONORING OFFICER BLAKE SNYDER

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Blake Snyder, a 33-year-old police officer who was tragically killed in the line of duty in St. Louis County, Missouri, on October 6 of this year.

Officer Snyder, a longtime resident of Madison County, Illinois, had served as a member of the St. Louis County Police Department for 4 years. His career in law enforcement was inspired by his brother-in-law and late father-in-law, who both served as police officers.

Law enforcement leaders from across the region remember Officer Snyder as a dedicated public servant. St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said he was a "tremendous police officer," and former St. Louis County Police Chief Ron Battelle said he was highly regarded by his fellow officers and command staff.

Before joining the police force, Officer Snyder served on the board of directors for Riverbend Family Ministries, where he worked to provide a safe environment for children of families in crisis.

Officer Snyder was the 97th law enforcement officer killed this year. He is survived by his wife and 2-year-old son.

May God bless Officer Snyder, his family, and all the first responders who put their lives on the line to keep us safe. Please join me in keeping the Snyder family—and all the families of our first responders—in your thoughts and prayers.

RECOGNIZING DAVIS LOVE III

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Davis Love III for his induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Mr. Love's impressive golf career spans over four different decades. He has won 21 times on the PGA Tour, including one major championship at the PGA Championship in 1997, two victories at the Players Championship in 1992 and 2003, and five victories at the Heritage in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Further, his outstanding performances gained him a selection to six U.S. Ryder Cup teams—twice as captain.

Although Mr. Love is known nationally for his professional wins, he is also known in the First Congressional District of Georgia for his strong sense of community. Referred to as "Uncle Davis" by locals, Mr. Love stays active in the St. Simons community. When Hurricane Matthew hit, he spent time clearing away tree limbs and providing food to emergency workers.

Certainly, he is respected both nationally and locally. I am proud to rise today to recognize his great achievements and Mr. Love's induction into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 16, 2016 at 9:46 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4511.

Appointment:

State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board.

Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board.

John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission.

World War I Centennial Commission.

United States Semiquincentennial Commission.

United States Commission on Civil Rights.

United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.

Creating Options for Veterans' Expedited Recovery (COVER Commission).

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5711, PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO IRAN; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5982, MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT OF 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 921 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 921

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5711) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-66 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; (2) the further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Com-

mittee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. On any legislative day during the period from November 18, 2016, through November 28, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 4. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 3 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

□ 1230

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on House Resolution 921, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee.

The rule provides for the consideration of H.R. 5711, to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The rule also provides for the consideration of H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by

the chair and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. It also provides a motion to recommit. Additionally, the bill provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, with a motion to recommit.

On Monday, the Rules Committee heard testimony from the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, BOB GOODLATTE; from Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee Ranking Member HANK JOHNSON; and from the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, JEB HENSARLING, and Congressman DENNY HECK.

H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act, was marked up and reported by the Judiciary Committee, and it enjoyed discussion at the committee level. The rule also combines H.R. 5715, the No Ex-Im Assistance for Terrorism Act, with H.R. 5711. Both of these bills were approved by the House Financial Services Committee in July. The rule makes in order five amendments to H.R. 5982 from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and it makes in order the only amendment submitted on H.R. 5711.

I am a cosponsor of the Midnight Rules Relief Act, which was authored by my friend DARRELL ISSA of California. This bill addresses a problem that we have seen far too often in the administrations of both parties.

As the President's term draws to a close, we have come to expect a raft of new regulations to be forced upon the American people. We usually see an even greater jump in the number of regulations during the lameduck period, which is between election day and Inauguration Day. These hurried rules—midnight rules—are too often used to force the political agenda of an outgoing administration on hard-working Americans as a last-ditch attempt to implement partisan priorities. As we enter a lameduck period after last week's election, this is a particularly meaningful time to consider this legislation. I think we can agree, regardless of party, the outgoing administrations should not be rushing to impose burdensome regulations on the American people.

Already, we have seen the Obama administration issue numerous midnight rules, including multiple billion-dollar rules. In fact, this administration has issued or plans to issue at least 180 such rules. Just yesterday, we were presented with a clear example of this problem when the Department of the Interior announced the finalization of a new rule on methane venting and flaring. This rule was announced by the Bureau of Land Management in an attempt to lower output despite the costs it will impose on energy production and on numerous State regulations already in place. This is just one example

of an administration's rushing to finalize rules to cement a partisan policy agenda.

We have seen this administration increase the regulatory burden on families and businesses by more than \$100 billion. The last thing we should do is let them further that burden in the waning days of a lameduck Presidency. However, despite the clear evidence that the current administration is taking advantage of the ability to implement midnight rules, this is not a problem that is unique to only one political party. Lameduck regulations have been abused by both parties, but addressing this issue will help rein in that practice and ensure that Congress can exercise proper oversight authority.

The Midnight Rules Relief Act would take steps to solve the problem by amending the Congressional Review Act to provide congressional authority to allow CRA resolutions that disapprove multiple midnight resolutions en bloc. Currently, the CRA can only be used for individual regulations. The amended Congressional Review Act would maintain flexibility while incentivizing outgoing administrations to avoid issuing broad and controversial midnight regulations.

The rule before us today also provides for the consideration of a different but equally important bill. H.R. 5711 takes critical steps to protect taxpayers and national security. Under the Iran nuclear deal, which I vocally opposed, President Obama agreed to license the exports of commercial planes. Recently, the Treasury Department authorized the sale of almost 100 planes for Iran. I can't believe this is even something we have to talk about here today, but it is a deeply serious issue. The administration has allowed the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism to receive U.S. financing and planes.

H.R. 5711 takes the commonsense step of prohibiting the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing U.S. financing in connection with the export of commercial passenger aircraft to Iran. It also makes permanent the financing prohibition for the Export-Import Bank assistance to the Government of Iran.

I will say it again: this is just simply common sense. We should not and cannot be in the business of licensing the financing and sale of aircraft to a country that wishes to do us harm. The underlying bills that this rule provides consideration for are necessary to protect the American people and to restore smart policies that will protect us both here and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague from Georgia for yielding the customary time.

The legislation before us today continues the majority's attempts to undermine the actions taken by President Obama. H.R. 5711 would force us to violate our international obligations under the Iran nuclear agreement, which was painstakingly negotiated by Secretary of State John Kerry, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz with the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, plus Germany.

I think this is a great mistake by the United States to think that we will undermine it and that we have the ability to do that. It is very unlikely, in any event, that should this be undermined and this treaty be overturned that we could put that back together with the same group of people who negotiated it in the first place. In the process, it would put aircraft manufacturers here at home at a competitive disadvantage with their foreign competitors—something I am very much surprised that the majority would even contemplate.

This legislation would also continue their attacks on the Export-Import Bank, an economic driver that has helped to create jobs and to grow our economy by expanding American businesses' access to foreign markets. These attacks stand in stark contrast to the Export-Import Bank's long history of bipartisan support, including from Presidents all the way back to John Kennedy and Bill Clinton and to Republican Presidents like Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush.

Mr. Speaker, instead of advancing this misguided legislation, this Chamber should be supporting our local businesses and the good-paying jobs that they create.

The majority should also give the Iran nuclear agreement the time to succeed instead of rushing forward with this bill that would already put the U.S. in direct violation of it. As I said earlier, if this agreement fails, we would not likely be able to reapply the sanctions or get the support of the Security Council. If we want to achieve our goal of ensuring that Iran is unable to build a nuclear weapon, this agreement remains the best available option for peacefully and verifiably cutting off its pathways.

The second bill we are considering today, H.R. 5982, is a sad continuation of the majority's attempts to delegitimize any actions taken by President Obama. This time, the majority is trying to amend the Congressional Review Act and allow Congress to invalidate regulations en bloc that are proposed in the final 60 legislative days of the President's term. That means that potentially lifesaving measures could be repealed in the blink of an eye without there being any proper evaluation or examination of their impacts.

Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers expect reasonable and thoughtful governance.

They also expect us to uphold the Constitution, which clearly states that Presidents have 4-year terms. That means that President Obama is President of the United States for a full 4-year term, not a 3¾-year term. It is a disgrace that President Obama couldn't even get a hearing on his Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland. This unprecedented dereliction of the majority's responsibilities is symbolic of its failure to respect this President.

So many issues deserve our attention in the closing days of Congress, and it is disappointing to me and to so many others that the majority has chosen to prioritize measures—that won't even be considered in the Senate—just to take parting political shots at President Obama. We were elected to get things done, Mr. Speaker, and these bills are really just solutions in search of problems that don't exist.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I do understand that, yes, our Presidents are elected for a full 4 years. I have no problem with that. What I do have a problem with, though, is trying to push bills that cannot make it through these bodies in the proper way and with the proper oversight that Congress is supposed to have. We are set up in Article I of the Constitution as the body that makes the laws and sets the policy, along with Executive who carries out that policy. What we are simply saying is: don't go around what you can't get done in Congress and try to do it before you walk out the door. I understand that this is both sides, Mr. Speaker. This is not just this administration; it has been used by both. It just needs to stop. Congress has a role; the Executive has a role; the judiciary has a role. That is why the Founders put it together. This is simply saying: let's do it the right way.

Also, just as a quick note on this issue of the planes to Iran, as a member of the military currently and also as one who served in Iraq, this is very concerning to me on many levels. Also, the problem that we see with Iran is not about not doing business—it is about the protection of American interests and American assets. In fact, this is a bipartisan issue. One of the Financial Services Committee members from across the aisle, Mr. SHERMAN, actually opposed this, but he actually said this—and it really makes a lot of sense. He said:

Until Iran Air gets out of the business of supporting terrorism and supporting Assad's regime in Syria, the United States should not license the sale of aircraft to Iran Air. It is virtually certain that Iran Air will use these aircraft for nefarious purposes.

We are just saying: put our country in a safe position. We are not talking about denying business, but we are

talking about what many of us feel was a very bad decision with the Iran nuclear deal and about, simply here, just putting us back in an Article I position.

I appreciate the gentlewoman from New York. I think we just need to do our business and just put our interests first, not only here, but also abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this, and I appreciate the statement that she just made a moment ago in opposing the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I want to focus on just one area, which is H.R. 5711, designed to prohibit the transaction with Iran.

I couldn't agree more with my friend on the other side of the aisle, who is managing this issue for the Republicans, in that we ought to put America's interests first. That is why the overwhelming majority of independent experts agreed with the Comprehensive Joint Plan of Action, which was designed to make it harder and less likely that Iran would develop nuclear weapons.

Now, who is going to forget Benjamin Netanyahu before us and others who were hysterical that Iran was just months away from a nuclear breakout and the threat that that posed? I, for one, agree that I don't want Iran to have nuclear weapons. I think that would be horrific. It is wrong to put nuclear weapons in their hands with the other cascading effects that could occur if they were to obtain nuclear weapons. That is why the United States—Secretary Kerry—and five other countries worked with us to use the power of our sanctions and international cooperation to make that nuclear breakout less likely.

And what has happened since that agreement was signed and entered into?

As a practical matter, Iran has complied with what it said it would do, and that nuclear threshold for Iran's having the potential of generating nuclear weapons has grown longer. They have reduced the number of centrifuges—less nuclear fissile material. This is what we wanted, and they have done it.

□ 1245

To this point, they have complied. We have complied, for example, by giving them back their own money that was frozen as a result of the events of the Iranian Revolution.

This avenue of trying to undermine the agreement—and make no mistake, Republican leadership and a Trump administration is likely to try to overturn it altogether—will continue a pattern of mismanagement by the United States of our relationship with one of

the oldest civilizations in the Middle East. This goes back over 3,000 years.

Iranians are not Arabs. They are Persians. They have their own interests, their own identity. It is twice as large as Iraq and Afghanistan, more populous, more sophisticated. Pretending that we are going to attack them, as some of the people that Mr. Trump is considering for key positions have favored, would be a nightmare.

Remember, the United States overthrew the popularly elected leader of Iran, working with the British in 1953, and installed the Shah on the throne.

The United States sided with Saddam Hussein, who we thought was so evil that we upset the order in the Middle East and undertook that disastrous war. We sided with him as he used weapons of mass destruction against the Iranians.

Now, who would blame the Iranians, given our history, for not being friendly toward the United States? The fact is—and it can be verified by friends of yours who may have visited Iran—that it is actually the country whose people have the most positive feelings toward the United States. After 9-11, there were candlelight vigils in Tehran in sympathy with Americans who were attacked.

Now, many people have a cartoon image of the Iranian situation. It is complex. There are some very bad people in power in Iran, and we need to stand up to them. Many of those people want this deal to fail, just like some hardliners in the United States want it to fail. I don't think we should serve their interests.

Preventing the United States to follow through on this agreement, for example, with enabling them to purchase Boeing planes, not giving us over \$17 billion in business, not putting over 100,000 Americans to work and building relationships, I think, is foolish.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, in fact, if the agreement falls apart and the sanctions collapse, they will get their planes. They will just buy Airbus planes, not Boeing. Most importantly, we will be undermining an opportunity to use diplomacy to make the world safer.

I have been appalled how difficult it is for us to focus on the big picture. Absolutely push back at some of the bad guys. Stand up to problems that they create. We just reinstituted the sanctions against misbehavior by Iran, and I voted for that yesterday. But don't undermine an agreement that is working—Iran has already got much of what they wanted out of this deal. If we undermine it, they can walk away. They have got some money, and they can have world opinion on their side

and go ahead and develop nuclear weapons. That is crazy.

We ought to abide by our agreements. We ought to stand up to them where they are wrong. We ought to promote interaction where we can. We ought to work with the very vibrant Iranian American community, which I hope Donald Trump doesn't deport. They are law-abiding, very effective citizens in the United States. We ought to be working with them to work for the cause of international peace, strengthening the American economy while we make all of us make nuclear weapons less likely and strengthen international cooperation.

It was a signal achievement to have China, Russia, Germany, Great Britain, and France work with us on this agreement. We should not undercut it. We should honor it.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up a bill that would prohibit lobbyists from serving on President-elect Trump's transition team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, these bills will be going nowhere in the Senate, and we should be happy about that. We shouldn't be frittering away the closing days of this session of Congress with legislation designed to delegitimize the work of our President.

There are major issues that face our country that the American people are crying out for us to address, from our crumbling infrastructure to the skyrocketing cost of education. We were elected to solve these problems, Mr. Speaker. These bills, again, utterly fail to do anything about any of that. Our constituents deserve more; the taxpayers deserve more.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I appreciate a good debate. This rule actually deals with two. One is the midnight rule, which again has been abused by both sides.

Also, as it was just spoken of on the floor, there is this issue of the funds for the planes for Iran. Let me just say, I would love to go back and discuss the Iran deal that was put into place. I have been on this floor many times opposing that deal. We can talk about it. I don't think it was ever put into place to stop.

Actually, there is this issue that they have complied. I just find it laughable

that they have complied. They have tested rockets. They have sent people overseas. They have not complied with this.

There is one thing that I agree with that the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) said just a moment ago. I agree with him when he said: Yes, Iran has got everything they want. They have got the money. They keep going. Their centrifuges are spinning.

I will just say this about this issue right here: If we could actually look at this, I will support Iran when Iran is willing to be a part of the world culture and starts recognizing Israel's right to exist. I will support Iran when they are signing their agreement and not shouting "death to America."

Let's play on a level playing field. I have got no problem with that. We are not debating that. Unfortunately, that is the deal the next administration can deal with. At least, I will have some sympathy for them when they quit breaking the very agreement we are saying that they are honoring. I just can't see that.

So these funds, I don't want them used. There are assets that we have. They are military assets. They are my brothers and sisters in arms right now who are all over the world that could be impacted by this.

So as we go forward, this is a commonsense rule for two reasons. We are not going to use the bank accounts of Americans to buy planes for Iran that can be used against us in a war.

We are not going to have midnight rules by both parties. It doesn't matter which party here. This is Article I, this is basic Constitution. Let the Congress do its work, not a President carrying out an agenda.

These are important bills that make smart, commonsense policy changes to protect Americans. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation provided for by the rule and the rule itself.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Rule for H.R. 5711, the "Block U.S. Financing for Iranian Aircraft Purchases," and H.R. 5982, the "Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2016."

I thank Chairman SESSIONS and Chairwoman SLAUGHTER for their work in bringing this Rule before the House for consideration.

I would like to thank the Rules Committee for making my amendment in order for H.R. 5982, the "Midnight Rule Relief Act," which exempts any rule promulgated to prevent, respond to, or mitigate matters of critical national security.

H.R. 5711, is in direct violation of a provision of the Iran Nuclear Agreement known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA would be undermined by passage of this bill.

The Administration has issued a veto threat on the bill, stating in part, "This bill, if enacted, would contravene U.S. commitments in the JCPOA and interfere with its successful implementation.

H.R. 5711 would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing transactions by the U.S. financial institutions in connection with the export and re-export of passenger aircraft made prior to enactment of the bill.

The United States has a long tradition of remaining faithful to our commitments and our international partners, and a reversal of this principle undercuts our credibility, diminishes our ability to lead globally, and threatens the very alliances we rely upon in implementing the JCPOA.

We can anticipate that should this bill become law our closest allies would view this bill as a violation of our JCPOA commitments and Iran would take the issue to the Joint Commission."

In June, it was disclosed that Boeing had a Memorandum of Agreement with Iran Air for the sale of 80 commercial passenger planes. In September, the Treasury Department then issued a license for the sale of all 80 of these Boeing planes to Iran Air.

The license also authorized U.S. financial institutions to engage in all transactions necessary to provide financing or other financial services to effectuate the sale of the Boeing planes.

This bill prohibits the involvement of U.S. financial institutions in the sale of commercial passenger aircraft to Iran Air, and would put U.S. aircraft manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage with their foreign competitors, whose access to financing would not be subject to the same constraints.

This will translate into jobs lost in the United States.

Promises to bring jobs in October, but working to put people out of work in November is not what the public wants or expects of Congress.

Complaints about Iran have access to \$50 billion of unfrozen oil escrow funds as a result of the JCPOA and charging that this \$50 billion could be redirected to Iran's destabilizing activities in the region is now preventing some of those funds from coming to a U.S. company that would create jobs here at home.

This GOP bill would PREVENT Iran from spending well over \$50 billion on commercial passenger aircraft from Boeing and other manufacturers as well as on air infrastructure improvements.

This Congress has much to do with in the 13 days of official business remaining.

The 114th Congress has to complete work on:

- 11 of the 12 House Appropriations bills;
- Criminal Justice Reform;
- Funding for the Flint Water Crisis;
- Restoring the Voting Rights Act;
- Protecting children with disabilities access to public education;
- Immigration Reform;
- Funding for the Louisiana Flooding;
- Funding for the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew; and
- Cybersecurity of the Nation's Critical Infrastructure.

It is beyond shocking and unacceptable that tens of thousands of citizens living in Flint Michigan have been exposed to toxic levels of lead in their drinking water.

Not only will the dangers and hazards of this disaster be felt by the residents of Flint

Michigan for years to come, but the American public remains at risk to national security vulnerabilities exposed through our most basic infrastructure that supports the delivery of clean water to homes and businesses nationwide.

The trust and ability to protect our citizens' basic right to clean water has been shaken, while the leadership of this Congress does nothing.

We all have a duty to ensure justice and protection of our citizens.

Criminal Justice Reform is a pressing issue that Congress must address.

As Judge Learned Hand observed, "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: thou shalt not ration justice."

Reforming the criminal justice system so that it is fairer and delivers equal justice to all persons is one of the great moral imperatives of our time.

For reform to be truly meaningful, we must look at every stage at which our citizens interact with the system—from policing in our communities and the first encounter with law enforcement, to the charging and manner of attaining a conviction, from the sentence imposed to reentry and collateral consequences.

House Democrats, led by House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS of Michigan and me, as Ranking Member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, have accepted and embraced the challenge of reforming the criminal justice system and developed many innovative legislative remedies to correct many of the most glaring inequities and racial disparities in the most critical areas of the system.

This is an important topic and one that Congress must turn its attention to with urgency and unity of effort to:

- address the harms caused;
- get an accounting of what happened;
- understand how the water was poisoned;
- make the lives of people damaged by this tragedy whole;
- find justice for those lives that may have been lost; and
- determine and provide for the long-term health needs of those impacted.

Today, the water in Flint, Michigan is not safe to drink and we have no concrete answer on when it may be safe to drink in the future.

Flint, Michigan like so many communities across the nation really felt the brunt of the financial crisis created by the abuse of new home lending practices and deceptive investment schemes that hid the weaknesses in the economy until the great recession spread across the nation beginning in late 2008.

The financial damage done to communities like Flint in the form of steep declines in property values, which caused significant declines in property tax income.

This was not just Flint's problem, but a national reality—for financially strapped cities, towns, school boards, and municipal governments who rely on Congress to fund all 12 Congressional appropriations bills to provide them with much needed revenue to meet the needs of their citizens.

In the 51 years since its passage on August 6, 1965, the Voting Rights Act has safeguarded the right of Americans to vote and

stood as an obstacle to many of the more egregious attempts by certain states and local jurisdictions to game the system by passing discriminatory changes to their election laws or administrative policies.

In signing the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson said:

'The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.'

But on June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court decided *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 193 (2013), which invalidated Section 4(b) of the VRA, and paralyzed the application of the VRA's Section 5 preclearance requirements, which protect minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst. Since 1982, Section 5 has stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes in Texas.

Although much progress has been made with regard to Civil Rights there is still much work to be done in order to prevent systemic voter suppression and discrimination within our communities and we must remain ever vigilant and oppose schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote.

H.R. 885, 'Voting Rights Amendments Act of 2015,' of which I am an original co-sponsor, repairs the damage done to the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court decision and is capable of winning majorities in the House and Senate and the signature of the President.

For millions of Americans, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is sacred treasure, earned by the sweat and toil and tears and blood of ordinary Americans who showed the world it was possible to accomplish extraordinary things.

The Voting Rights Act is needed as much today to prevent another epidemic of voting disenfranchisement as Dr. Salk's vaccine is still needed to prevent another polio epidemic and I am calling again for Speaker Boehner to bring H.R. 885, 'Voting Rights Amendments Act of 2015' to the floor for a vote this year.

As of October 3, 2016 the Texas Education Agency has 30 days to respond to an order by the U.S. Department of Education to fix its terribly broken system that serves special needs children.

Because the arbitrary cap limiting the number of special needs students enrolled in a school district set and enforced by TEA clearly violated both the letter and spirit of the IDEA Act, on September 12, 2016, I wrote Education Secretary John King to demand that the U.S. Department of Education "review, investigate, and take immediate and appropriate action to remedy the injury currently being suffered at least 250,000 special needs school children resulting from the systematic and intentional actions of the Texas state government to deprive these students of the rights guaranteed them by the 1990 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA Act)."

Hubert Humphrey once said that the "moral test of government is how it treats:

those who are in the dawn of life, the children;

those who are in the twilight of life, the aged;

and those in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped."

By this measure, the Texas state government has been failing the moral test for more than a decade when it comes to fair treatment of special needs students.

This should not have happened in Texas and we must act to be sure that it is not happening in other states.

Across the nation, approximately 13% of school children receive the special education benefits guaranteed by the IDEA Act.

In Texas, however, the comparable figure is 8.5%, by far the lowest of any state in the nation.

If the level of service provided by the State of Texas even barely met the national average, an additional 250,000 special need students would be receiving the educational opportunity they desperately need and deserve.

As I document in my letter to Education Secretary King, "the real-world consequence of this deplorable decision is that vital supports to children with autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia, epilepsy, mental illnesses, speech impediments, traumatic brain injuries, even blindness and deafness, are being denied to approximately 250,000 Texas children."

When a school district, for example, ignores a mother's request for a special education evaluation, the emotional and psychological damage inflicted on her child who may be forced to repeat the second and third grade is incalculable and may be irreparable.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the people of Louisiana who were adversely affected by the historic 1,000 year flooding event that has devastated the Baton Rouge area of Louisiana.

This disaster is the latest reminder of the vulnerabilities posed by extreme weather events faced by people living along the Gulf Coast.

The National Weather Service reported 21.86 inches of rain falling within 48 hours caused levees to overtop and rivers to breach their banks.

Global climate change cares not if you believe in it; the force of nature will do its will at the expense, pain and suffering of our nation's citizens.

This Congress is about to end its business without taking care of the people of Louisiana devastated by the floods earlier this year.

On Oct. 7 in Florida, a peak surge of 9.88 feet above normal was measured at a tide gauge at Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Storm surge flooding affected the St. Augustine area, including major flooding on Anastasia Island where water was reported to be 2.5 feet above ground level.

To the south in nearby Flagler Beach, Florida, parts of A1A were washed out by the storm surge.

The Northwestern-Jacksonville conducted a storm survey and found a new inlet was carved between Marineland and Matanzas Inlet, between Palm Coast and St. Augustine Beach, Florida.

The St. Johns River in northeast Florida reached its highest level on record at Shands Bridge, along with 3 to 4.3 feet of storm surge inundation reported at the Racy Point, Red Bay Point and 1–295 bridge tide gauges.

Early in the morning on Oct. 8, the St. Johns River was flowing backwards.

Matthew's storm surge coupled with high tide lead to a record tide level at Ft. Pulaski, Georgia, early Oct. 8, and storm surge inundation roughly waist-deep was reported in parts of Charleston, South Carolina.

We also should not forget Hurricane Matthew—what it did to Haiti and parts of the Southern United States requires Congressional attention to relieve people who are suffering.

Even before Hurricane Matthew struck, more than a quarter of Haiti's 11 million people lived in extreme poverty, surviving on less than \$1.25 a day.

Haiti's people once again, in their great sorrow, need our prayers, our generosity, and our compassion.

Much of what the people of Haiti have worked and fought tirelessly for over the last few years has been wiped out in this the third major natural disaster since 2010's ruthless earthquake.

Because of Hurricane Matthew hundreds of thousands of Haitians have little or no access to potable water or basic health services, and Haiti is facing an impending food crisis according to local and international organizations, and the government of Haiti.

This Congress should replace the funding used by the Centers for Disease Control to address the Zika Virus threat, which depleted funds that were for Ebola response.

We have not seen the full impact of Zika Virus, nor will we for several months as women give birth to children who may be impacted by the disease.

I urge my colleagues to spend the last few legislative days available to us to make the American people our first priority.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SLAUGHTER is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 921 OFFERED BY
MS. SLAUGHTER

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC 5. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6324) to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to prohibit the use of funds provided to the President-elect and the Vice President-elect under such Act for any services or facilities provided by registered lobbyists. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after

the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 6. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 6324.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

The Republican majority may say "the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever." But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: "Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment."

In Deschler's *Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives*, the subchapter titled "Amending Special Rules" states: "a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate." (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: "Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon."

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools

for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1710

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARDY) at 5 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 921;

Adopting House Resolution 921, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5711, PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO IRAN; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5982, MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT OF 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM NOVEMBER 18, 2016, THROUGH NOVEMBER 28, 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on order-

ing the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 921) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5711) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes; and providing for proceedings during the period from November 18, 2016, through November 28, 2016, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 181, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 579]

YEAS—231

Abraham	Emmer (MN)	LaHood
Allen	Farenthold	Lamborn
Amash	Fincher	Lance
Amodel	Fleischmann	Latta
Babin	Flores	LoBiondo
Barletta	Fortenberry	Long
Barr	Fox	Loudermilk
Barton	Franks (AZ)	Love
Benishek	Frelinghuysen	Lucas
Bilirakis	Garrett	Luetkemeyer
Bishop (MI)	Gibbs	Lummis
Bishop (UT)	Gibson	MacArthur
Black	Gohmert	Marchant
Blackburn	Goodlatte	Marino
Blum	Gosar	Massie
Bost	Gowdy	McCarthy
Boustany	Granger	McCaul
Brady (TX)	Graves (GA)	McClintock
Brat	Graves (LA)	McHenry
Bridenstine	Graves (MO)	McKinley
Brooks (AL)	Griffith	McMorris
Brooks (IN)	Grothman	Rodgers
Buchanan	Guinta	McSally
Buck	Guthrie	Meadows
Bucshon	Hanna	Meehan
Burgess	Hardy	Messer
Byrne	Harper	Mica
Calvert	Harris	Miller (MI)
Carter (GA)	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Carter (TX)	Heck (NV)	Mooney (WV)
Chabot	Hensarling	Mullin
Chaffetz	Herrera Beutler	Mulvaney
Clawson (FL)	Hice, Jody B.	Murphy (PA)
Coffman	Hill	Neugebauer
Cole	Holding	Newhouse
Collins (GA)	Hudson	Noem
Collins (NY)	Huelskamp	Nunes
Comer	Huizenga (MI)	Olson
Comstock	Hultgren	Palazzo
Conaway	Hunter	Palmer
Cook	Hurd (TX)	Paulsen
Costello (PA)	Hurt (VA)	Pearce
Cramer	Issa	Perry
Crawford	Jenkins (KS)	Pittenger
Crenshaw	Jenkins (WV)	Pitts
Culberson	Johnson (OH)	Poliquin
Curbelo (FL)	Johnson, Sam	Posey
Davidson	Jolly	Ratcliffe
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Reed
Denham	Jordan	Reichert
Dent	Joyce	Renacci
DesJarlais	Katko	Ribble
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Rice (SC)
Dold	Kelly (PA)	Rigell
Donovan	King (IA)	Roby
Duffy	King (NY)	Roe (TN)
Duncan (SC)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rogers (AL)
Duncan (TN)	Knight	Rogers (KY)
Ellmers (NC)	Labrador	Rohrabacher

Rokita
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski

Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—181

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano

Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Aderholt
Blumenauer
Brown (FL)
Costa
DeSantis
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Forbes

Hinojosa
Kirkpatrick
Kline
LaMalfa
Lewis
Miller (FL)
Nugent
Poe (TX)

Pompeo
Price, Tom
Rooney (FL)
Sanchez, Loretta
Wagner
Westmoreland

□ 1735

Mr. LEVIN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Messrs. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, NOLAN, and Ms. MOORE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 231, nays 181, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 580]

YEAS—231

Abraham
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishak
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher

Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzer
Heck (NV)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo

Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)

NAYS—181

Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larsen (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano

Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Rourke
Pallone
Pascarella
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schradler
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—22

Hinojosa
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Lewis
Miller (FL)
Nugent
Poe (TX)
Pompeo

□ 1742

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO POSTPONE PROCEEDINGS ON MOTION TO RECOMMIT ON H.R. 5711, PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO IRAN

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the question of adopting a motion to recommit on H.R. 5711 be subject to postponement as though under clause 8 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO IRAN

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 921, I call up the bill (H.R. 5711) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, in lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114-66 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5711

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—IRAN FINANCING PROHIBITION

SECTION 101. PROHIBITION.

The Secretary of the Treasury may not authorize a transaction by a U.S. financial institu-

tion (as defined under section 561.309 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) that is ordinarily incident to the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

SEC. 102. REVOCATION OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS.

If the Secretary of the Treasury authorized any transaction described under section 101 before the date of the enactment of this title, such authorization is hereby revoked.

TITLE II—NO EX-IM ASSISTANCE FOR TERRORISM

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “No Ex-Im Assistance for Terrorism Act”.

SEC. 202. PROHIBITION ON EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING THAT WOULD BENEFIT IRAN.

Section 2(b) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(14) PROHIBITION ON FINANCING THAT WOULD BENEFIT IRAN.—

“(A) DIRECT FINANCING.—The Bank shall not guarantee, insure, or extend (or participate in an extension of) credit in connection with any transaction with respect to which credit assistance from the Bank is first sought after the effective date of this paragraph by—

“(i) the Government of Iran or an entity owned or controlled by the Government of Iran; or

“(ii) an entity created under Iranian law, or a foreign subsidiary of such an entity.

“(B) INDIRECT FINANCING.—The Bank shall not guarantee, insure, or extend (or participate in an extension of) credit in connection with any transaction with respect to which credit assistance from the Bank is first sought after the effective date of this paragraph involving—

“(i) an entity for the purpose of a transaction involving the Government of Iran or an entity referred to in subparagraph (A); or

“(ii) a non-United States entity that, in the 5-year period ending with the date of the enactment of this paragraph, has leased or sold aircraft to the Government of Iran or an entity referred to in subparagraph (A) in contravention of United States law, or a subsidiary or controlling parent of such a non-United States entity.

“(C) CANCELLATION OF APPROVED FINANCING.—The Bank shall cease the provision of financial assistance approved by the Bank in connection with a transaction with respect to which credit assistance from the Bank is approved after the effective date of this paragraph, on finding that the assistance has facilitated the export, sale, or lease of an aircraft to an entity referred to in subparagraph (A), and shall seek immediate recovery of any amount provided by the Bank in connection with the transaction.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part A of House Report 114-818, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read and shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MAXINE WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

When our fellow Americans deposit their earnings in a U.S. bank or entrust the government with their tax dollars, they do so assuming that their money will not be used in ways which undermine the security of our very Nation and, frankly, of the world. The legislation we are debating tonight is a package of bills that is designed to prevent the Obama administration from further undermining the trust of the American people and the security of our Nation, as well as the security of our allies.

Under President Obama's nuclear deal with Iran, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the JCPOA, the administration agreed to authorize the export of civilian aircraft to Iran. What the JCPOA did not include was authorization for the U.S. financing of those sales. As Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said in April in a Council on Foreign Relations speech: “Iran, complied with the nuclear agreement. Therefore, the nuclear sanctions are lifted. I think that that is a process that is becoming more and more clear. And we'll keep our part of the bargain there. But the U.S. financial system is not open to Iran and that is not something that is going to change.”

Again, that was Secretary Jack Lew in April of this past year.

Mr. Speaker, something changed. In September, the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control issued licenses to Airbus and to Boeing that permitted the sale of up to 97 airplanes to Iran Air, the country's flagship, state-owned carrier. These licenses didn't stop there, however. By going beyond the scope of the JCPOA, they also authorized U.S. financial institutions to “engage in all transactions necessary to provide financing or other financial services” related to the Iran Air orders.

My bill, H.R. 5711, would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing U.S. financing through American banks in connection with the export of commercial aircraft to Iran just as the administration claimed was U.S. policy to begin with.

This bill would keep Americans' deposits away from a country that the President's own State Department

calls “the world’s foremost state sponsor of terrorism” and which the Treasury has designated as “a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern.” Let me repeat that. The State Department, itself, says this is the world’s foremost state sponsor of terrorism, and the Treasury Department has designated a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern.

How many more red flags need to go up?

Under this bill, Americans would not have to fear that their savings are being channeled to Iran Air, which was sanctioned by the Treasury in 2011 for ferrying soldiers and weapons of war to Syria—the site of a 5-year conflict that has claimed a half a million lives and has displaced millions more.

This is the same Iran Air that a U.N. report concluded had shared ballistic military technology with North Korea and is the same Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps whose deputy commander called for an end to Israel, making note of more than 100,000 missiles that were ready “for the annihilation—the wiping out—and the collapse of the Zionist regime.” Additionally, research by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies shows that Iran Air’s support of the Assad regime continues to this very day.

Why should U.S. banks and their customers be implicated in Iranian atrocities?

I would submit that there is no reasonable answer to this, which is why this commonsense prohibition, when offered as an amendment to this year’s Financial Services appropriations bill, was passed by this very body—the House of Representatives—by a voice vote.

However, this bill goes even further, Mr. Speaker. Not only will H.R. 5711 protect Americans’ bank accounts, it will prevent their tax dollars from being used through the Export-Import Bank to subsidize aircraft sales to Iran. It would be through direct transactions or third-party leasing, which is becoming more and more common.

This codifies and strengthens an existing Ex-Im prohibition that is renewed in annual appropriations bills. For that reason, this measure enjoyed the support of Ex-Im supporters and critics alike when it came before the Financial Services Committee.

H.R. 5711 combines the text of two bills that were reported by the Committee on Financial Services; one of them sponsored by me and the other by Congressman ROSKAM of Illinois. Both pieces of legislation were cosponsored by our Democrat colleague, Congressman SHERMAN of California, who has devoted years to Iran policy, both as a member of the Financial Services Committee and of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

I thank Representative SHERMAN and Representative ROSKAM for working

with me on this very important legislation package; and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am disappointed that we are here, yet again, debating another Republican bill to undermine the Iran nuclear deal—a deal that, so far, has delivered on its principal goal of blocking Iran’s path to nuclear weapons for the foreseeable future. This is a dangerous move that, if enacted, would put U.S. and global security at risk.

Specifically, H.R. 5711 would prohibit the Treasury Secretary from authorizing any transaction by a U.S. financial institution to support the export of commercial planes to Iran. Doing so would violate a key component of the agreement in which the U.S. has committed to allowing the sales of these planes and the associated financial services that are necessary to support the sales.

Earlier this year, the Treasury Department issued a license to Boeing for the sale of 80 passenger planes to Iran—valued at \$17.6 billion—and authorized U.S. financial institutions to engage in all transactions necessary to allow Boeing to receive payment for the sale. This legislation not only puts the Boeing deal in the crosshairs by prohibiting it from conducting a lawful sale under the agreement, but it also places the viability of the nuclear deal itself in question. Moreover, this legislation would breach the good faith provision in the agreement by which all parties agreed not to undermine its successful implementation.

H.R. 5711 also includes language that prevents the Export-Import Bank from financing exports to Iran, which is a red herring because the Ex-Im Bank has not supported exports to Iran since the 1970s, and it is legally prohibited from doing so as long as Iran is a state sponsor of terror.

Notably, the bill removes the President’s national security waiver with regard to these restrictions—a move that denies the President the flexibility that is necessary to work with our allies to find the most effective ways of changing Iran’s behavior. The fact is that all previous Iran sanctions bills that have passed the House and that have become law have included a Presidential waiver that gives the President the flexibility to act quickly and maneuver when doing so serves the U.S. national security interest.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly concerned that this bill comes at a time of deep global uncertainty about U.S. foreign policy. We have a President-elect whose talk on foreign policy has ranged from vague and contradictory in some areas to utterly incoherent elsewhere. He has inserted unpredict-

ability into the international arena, has questioned the value of U.S. alliances, and has threatened the cornerstones of decades of American foreign policy leadership.

Yet, instead of reassuring the world that the United States is committed to working with our global allies to promote our collective security, House Republicans have decided to push yet another piece of legislation through the House to destabilize the agreement that is central to preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

□ 1800

I do wonder why their leadership decided to bring this bill to the floor now in the lameduck session when they know the President will veto it. Perhaps my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know that in two short months, they will no longer have the luxury of legislating without consequences.

Come January, we will have a President who has called the Iran nuclear agreement the worst deal ever negotiated. Like most of his other nonsense policies, Mr. Trump has claimed he will either more strictly enforce the agreement or negotiate “a much better deal” or dismantle it altogether. We don’t know, and he doesn’t know.

So I am going to bet that, under the Trump administration, Republicans will not be so eager to move legislation to unravel this agreement because, like the rest of us, they do not know how Mr. Trump will govern and because they know there is no other reasonable approach to curbing Iran’s nuclear ambition, short of military intervention.

I, therefore, urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill and sending a strong message to the President-elect and our allies around the world that Democrats remain committed to a strong U.S. engagement in the world and will not tolerate any attempt to undermine the Iran nuclear deal or any other international arrangements that keep us safe.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a leader on this issue who is the author of H.R. 5715.

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and also Chairman HENSARLING for their consistent and persistent work on this issue.

My friend from California mentioned a minute ago her disappointment. Well, if you want to talk about disappointment and destabilizing of the deal, just look at what the Iranians have done since the JCPOA passed. By the way, a majority of the House of Representatives and a majority of the United States Senate, not on a partisan basis either, Mr. Speaker, voted against the JCPOA. So let’s put that in context.

But the President insisted, he moved along, and here we are. So let's see what we can do about it.

Before we fix it, let's look at what the Iranians have done. They are the destabilizers. There have been Iranian-supplied rockets launched at a U.S. Naval ship. Iran has fired rockets within 1,500 feet in December of last year on U.S. ships numerous times. The IRGC patrol boats have aggressively harassed U.S. ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Iran has launched numerous ballistic missile tests in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions. They violated the JCPOA by producing excess heavy water. They continue to kidnap Americans and hold them for ransom.

So let's put it where it lies. The destabilizing impact doesn't belong with the United States. It doesn't belong with any statement by an American policyholder. The destabilizing nature belongs, Mr. Speaker, to the Iranian regime, the mullahs themselves.

So the gentlewoman from California said she is disappointed. Well, look, I mean, disappointment, get used to it. It is the nature of things. The nature of the disappointment is that we now have American companies that are saying: You know what? Let's go in and let's do business with a terrorist regime.

How is that?

Let's just go make a buck. That is the scandal of this. The scandal is that there are American companies, there are international companies—Boeing, Airbus—that are now making their own names inextricably linked with terror forever more. That is the scandal.

So what are we trying to do?

The gentlewoman said that the Ex-Im elements of this—I think she said—was a red herring. If not, it was words to that effect.

No, it is not so. Because if you look carefully at what the Ex-Im prohibition actually prohibits, Mr. Speaker, it prohibits the direct financing to the Iranian regime. Fine, if that is all this did, well and good. There is no reason to oppose it, then.

Of course, that is not where the Ex-Im is actually limited. Because here is what can happen: under current law, the Ex-Im Bank can do a deal with the Europeans, for example.

What can happen, then?

That can be leased under current law to the Iranians. This amendment, Mr. HUIZENGA's language, would prohibit that. That is what we are trying to do.

Look, think about the irony of this. You have got an administration that currently is telling Americans it is a dangerous thing to go to Iran; that you are at risk of being kidnapped if you go to Iran. At the same time—picture this, Mr. Speaker—that that is being articulated, they are also saying: We are going to help you do some business over there.

That is ridiculous. It is absurd, it is contradictory, and it is indefensible.

So here is the good news: The good news is we can do something about it. The other good news is this Iran deal has a very short shelf life because the President-elect has said he doesn't like it.

President Obama didn't do the hard work of developing a national consensus on it. If he had, it would have been a treaty and a treaty that would have bound the United States in permanency; but he didn't do that. Why? Because it was a bad idea and he couldn't sell it to Congress. So he went the easy way, did it basically by executive order. And what goes around comes around.

So we can do some good work here today. We can move this out. Is President Obama going to sign it?

Obviously not, but that is not to say that it is not what we should do. We know what we need to do. We need to make sure that the American financial system is not complicit in this deal. We need to make sure that American taxpayers are not subsidizing this deal.

I urge the bill's passage.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES), a member of the Financial Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the gentleman from Michigan, once again, we find ourselves in this dreary and dangerous ritual of considering a bill which, without question, would cause us to violate our agreement under the JCPOA. We get the same arguments about how bad the Iranian regime is, and we get the same misstatements like: This is President Obama's deal.

It is not President Obama's deal. It is a deal of the United Nations Security Council, of China, of Russia, of Great Britain, of France, of Germany, the U.K., and the rest of the world who combined working for a period of almost 15 years hammered out a deal—and I say this as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—which today has removed Iran as a nuclear threat.

Yet, here again, we are offered a bill that would compromise our obligations and almost certainly result in centrifuges spinning once again in Tehran and then leading on to the very likely prospect of yet another Middle Eastern war.

Yes, Iran is a sponsor of terrorism. Yes, it is a bad place. You will get no argument from this side of the aisle that this is a bad regime.

Once again, I remind my Republican friends that their patron saint, Ronald Reagan, made a nuclear deal with the Soviet Union, also a sponsor of terrorism, an appalling regime; but Ron-

ald Reagan was smart enough to know that you can make a deal that makes everybody safer even with some very bad people. Ronald Reagan.

One thing I know as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence is that what used to be a mortal national security threat to the United States—2 to 3 months from breakout time, 2 to 3 months over which would almost certainly be involved in yet another war in the Middle East—has been taken off the table.

Now, the Republicans not only seek to scuttle that deal with all of the implications, but they do it by stopping an American company from selling a flagship American product around the world. If you use the Department of Commerce's multiplier, the bill they are pushing today would result in 100,000 American jobs not created so that they can continue with this fetish of eliminating a deal, which has made us safer.

If there is any question about whether this has made us safer, let me again quote General Gadi Eizenkot, who is the chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Forces. He said the deal has actually removed the most serious danger to Israel's existence for the foreseeable future and greatly reduced the threat over the longer term. That is the chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, but my friends in the Republican Party know better about what is good for Israel.

These sad charades end pretty soon because the bluff has been called. President Trump has said he will tear up the Iran deal. When he does that—because this, of course, is not becoming law—the centrifuges will spin again. To my friends on the other side of the aisle, when the centrifuges are spinning, we and I will stand here and we will tell the American people why centrifuges are spinning again. And where we were 2 years ago when we thought we were going to war with Iran, if we go to Iran, when Israeli planes are bombing Iran, we will stand here and explain why we are now in another Middle Eastern war. We can avoid that by ending these charades and finally accepting this deal.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), who is the chairman of the Small Business Committee, but also a previous chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5711. I want to commend my colleagues, Congressmen HUIZENGA and SHERMAN, for authoring this bipartisan piece of legislation.

It was once said that the West would sell its enemies the rope that would be used to hang itself with. Well, because of the disastrously flawed Iran deal,

that is exactly what we are currently doing. That is why this legislation is so important.

H.R. 5711 essentially prevents the export or reexport of commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran. This bill would cut off Iran's means of delivering weapons to terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah, and to Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, a war criminal who is responsible for the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War.

The truth is we wouldn't even need to be here today if the Obama administration had just paid attention to the facts on the ground in the Middle East. When negotiating the disastrous Iran nuclear deal, despite knowing Iran was the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, President Obama and Secretary Kerry permitted the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran anyway.

Incredibly, under current U.S. law, if we issued a license for Iran Air to purchase aircraft from an American manufacturer and then Iran walked away from its commitment, U.S. taxpayers would have to foot the bill for Iran. In this case, that could be up to \$70 billion on the U.S. taxpayer. Given Iran Air's multiple unpaid commitments over the years, that outrageous outcome is entirely possible.

So for all of the reasons that I have mentioned and for reasons that have been stated already by my colleagues, I would urge clear-minded people on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5711.

This legislation is only the latest misguided and politicized effort by the majority to undermine the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a historic agreement negotiated by the world's major powers in order to keep Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

Simply put, enactment of H.R. 5711 would violate the United States Government's obligations under the JCPOA, opening the door for Iran to walk away from this agreement. It also threatens to undermine our credibility with our allies and negotiating partners.

Now, we must be vigilant. No one disagrees that we must be vigilant in ensuring Iranian compliance with the terms of the JCPOA. We also should continue to hold Iran to account for its violations of human rights, for its sponsorship of terrorism, and for its nonnuclear weapons development.

Last night, I supported, as did almost every Member of this body, a clean reauthorization of the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, which guarantees Con-

gress' ability to snap back sanctions should Iran violate the JCPOA. The reauthorization also allows Congress to take positive action on transition day should it be verified that Iran has used its nuclear capacity only for peaceful purposes.

So the continued authorization of sanctions will allow the United States to continue to exert pressure on the Iranian regime. The dangerous bill before us today will do just exactly the opposite. By directly blocking a specific provision of the JCPOA—namely, the permissible sale of commercial passenger aircraft—this legislation would send a clear message to the Iranian people that the United States does not negotiate in good faith; that we expect to have it both ways, with Iran dismantling its nuclear facilities and getting nothing in return.

□ 1815

We must also remember, my colleagues, that the Iran nuclear agreement is not just a bilateral agreement between Iran and the United States. It is the product of years and years of negotiations between Iran and the P5+1, which is the United Kingdom, China, France, Russia, Germany, and the United States. The bill before us today would break faith with those negotiating partners in a reckless and dangerous way.

Because of this agreement, the breakout time for Iran to develop enough weapons-grade material for a nuclear weapon went from 2 to 3 months to a year or more. Because of this agreement, the international community has 24/7 access to Iran's nuclear sites. Because of this agreement, we possess the enforcement mechanisms necessary to verify Iran's compliance.

By all objective accounts, Iran has upheld its end of the bargain. Why would we give up these capabilities by failing to uphold ours? In light of the political transitions taking place in our country, now is especially the time when the United States must keep its word, its word to our allies and to the international community.

Now, regardless of all this, it appears that our Republican colleagues are willing to jeopardize a major international agreement for political advantage. They are willing to undermine the credibility of the United States and our allies on the international stage.

My colleagues, instead of scoring political points or seeking to undo the foreign policy legacy of the outgoing President, we should be working together in a bipartisan manner to ensure this agreement's success. For that reason, I urge colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ROTHFUS), a member of the House Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5711.

Despite the President's assurances, Iran remains a menace to the stability of the Middle East and a threat to America and its allies. All of us, both Republicans and Democrats, need to take action to reduce the harm that this rogue state and its accomplices can do.

H.R. 5711 takes some very important steps in that effort. By prohibiting the Secretary of the Treasury from greenlighting U.S. financing for the export of commercial aircraft to Iran, we are making it more difficult for Iranian airlines to acquire planes that we know are used to ferry soldiers and weapons.

I need to ask my colleagues across the aisle: Is that such a bad idea?

By blocking Ex-Im assistance to the Government of Iran, we are preventing the U.S. taxpayer from subsidizing efforts by the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism to acquire aircraft to support its deadly activities around the world. We can all agree that Ex-Im should never be used for this purpose.

The Government of Iran continues to fund terrorist activities, and it is intimately involved in Syria's violent civil war. Let us not forget the recent hostile actions taken by Houthi rebels in Yemen. These rebels receive funds from Iran, and they fired missiles at U.S. Navy warships on patrol in the Red Sea.

The American people cannot be complicit in these hostilities. We owe it to our constituents and our allies around the world to pass this common-sense legislation.

I thank my colleagues from Michigan, Illinois, and California for introducing this bill. I urge its support.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, will this Congress ground Boeing or support this key manufacturer and the jobs that it creates, that have already helped make America great? Will we march to the tune of the pied pipers against peace who see war with Iran as the only way to restrain it from developing nuclear weapons? Part of what makes trade so important to us is that countries that trade together are less likely to go to war with one another.

The House today is being asked to vote to block the sale of about 80 Boeing aircraft to update an aging and unsafe commercial airline in Iran. If this bill passes, that is bad news for a major American business, and it is also bad news to thousands of skilled workers across this country who won't see any part of what could be a \$25 billion deal. It is great news for Boeing's major European competitor to get the work that these supporters would deny to Boeing.

This is, of course, just the latest of one effort after another to undermine

the only way forward, short of war, to limit Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons. This realization is why this very week so many national security experts have urged Mr. Trump to reconsider, to reverse his threat to break the promises that our country made in an international agreement. This week also, the European Union affirmed its support for that international agreement. The six other countries that joined us in that international agreement are honoring their promises, and we should do the same thing.

What will keep Boeing from flying high? It is the war hawks that fly high, so insistent on undermining this important pact that has made our family safer. If the hawks win, it is about more than losing a multibillion-dollar deal to one American manufacturer. It really means that nothing—nothing—but the threat of another American war, an American attack, will hold Iran back from developing nuclear weapons.

This is about more than destabilizing the American workforce. Undermining this agreement will destabilize the Middle East. It will jeopardize our families and the families of our allies. Once again, this measure should be rejected.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PITTENGER), a member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my support for H.R. 5711 and to thank Congressman HUIZENGA for his leadership on this very important issue.

This bill prohibits the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by U.S. financial institutions in connection with the export or reexport of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As the primary sponsor of terrorism throughout the world, it is imperative that we hold Iran accountable and do all we can to limit their abilities to promote this type of action and behavior. This bill confronts the same airline that has been sanctioned by the Treasury Department for transporting fighters and weapons on behalf of Iran's Revolutionary Guard.

It is beyond me how the administration can be okay with allowing Iran access to airplanes which would only further their support of terrorism. I supported this commonsense legislation when it was marked up in the Committee on Financial Services, and I am proud to support it today.

Thank you to my good friend, Congressman HUIZENGA, for sponsoring this legislation.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), the ranking member of the Sub-

committee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations on the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California, Ranking Member WATERS, for the leadership that she gave this issue in the Committee on Financial Services, and I rise today to offer my opposition to this bill for a number of reasons.

I will say that it is interesting—I heard my colleague from North Carolina mention the Soviet Union and the interests and the efforts that President Reagan made to, in fact, make America safer in his time and in his context. Interestingly, in the backdrop of today, one could now argue that Russia has, in its portfolio, advocacy for terrorists as well as a large profile of cyberterrorism and hacking into the United States as well as a blatant interference in the most recent Presidential election. As I look to my colleagues speaking about what the President-elect will do, I would hope that he would not undermine the national security of this Nation.

First of all, we know that this bill will be vetoed if it gets to the desk of President Obama. This bill would damage a hard-fought diplomatic solution that makes the world safer from nuclear war. The sanctions are working, including extensive monitoring of the nuclear capability of Iran.

We also, in a bipartisan manner, supported the potential extinction of Iran sanctions yesterday, and that was the right thing to do, the opportunity or the possibility of doing that. But this bill, in particular, flies in the face of a realistic approach to how we do international engagement.

The JCPOA has significantly constrained Iran's nuclear program. Key aspects of the program are dismantled under the JCPOA, and it subjects Iran's nuclear program to unprecedented verification and monitoring requirements. It is working.

It is profoundly in the national security interests of the United States to continue to meet our commitments under the JCPOA as long as Iran continues to meet its commitments. Our allies are depending on us. The word of the United States should mean something. We even know that Israel has seen a positive impact, some of its military persons have indicated, by way of the JCPOA.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. This bill prohibits the involvement of U.S. financial institutions in the sale of commercial passenger aircraft to Iran Air, civil end use that would put U.S. aircraft manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage with their foreign competi-

tors whose access to financing would not be subject to the same constraints. This is not putting commercialism or jobs above national security. It is, in fact, allowing civil end use to continue as we are standing for our national security.

The sweeping and vague nature of this provision would have a chilling effect on U.S. and non-U.S. entities seeking to engage in permissible business with Iran. The United States has a long tradition of remaining faithful to our commitments with our international partners, and a reversal of this principle undercuts our credibility, diminishes our ability to lead globally, and threatens the very alliances we rely upon in implementing the JCPOA. We can anticipate that should this bill become law, our closest allies would view this bill as a violation of the JCPOA commitments, and Iran would take the issue to the Joint Commission.

The main thing of this bill is that it will douse the friendship and alliance that we are making with allies who want a peaceful nonproliferation of nuclear activity. This is a "no" vote in order to provide for the national security of this Nation.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), a member of the House Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HUIZENGA for the couple minutes. This is one of those moments, has anyone actually read the four pages on the bill? Great. In that case, we should all know this isn't about selling jets. It is about using the American financial system to finance them. That is what the language of the bill is.

Think about this. We have now spent the last 6 years around this body talking over and over and over how we are going to keep the American financial system safe, how we are going to not do things that concentrate debt within our capital markets.

If Iran wants to buy jets, let them go find bilateral agreements in other countries. Let them show up with the cash. Let them go find someone else to put up the surety bonds. Let someone else go put up the coverage on the lost pieces on the ladder of the financing.

This piece of legislation coming through the Committee on Financial Services is about protecting our financial system, first, from what many of us on the committee believe is going to turn into bad debt and functionally become toxic within our financial markets; but then, secondly, do you really want the United States financial system providing liquidity and financing for the leading state sponsor of terrorism in the world? That is a pretty powerful ethical question when you consider what we have been through in cleaning up our own financial system over the last few years.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am sorry that Mr. PITTINGER left because I really did want to share this point with him.

It is important to note that nothing in this legislation will keep new passenger aircraft out of the hands of Iran. The bill only prevents Boeing from selling civilian passenger aircraft to Iran, while foreign aircraft manufacturers, such as Airbus, will still be able to sell their passenger planes to Iran since they won't need U.S. financial institutions to help finance their deals.

□ 1830

What is this? Is this some kind of payback to Boeing? Is this some kind of—

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. That is actually not true. Airbus is subject to this as well because of the significant number of parts and material in the jets that they produce. So they would be subject to this as well as Boeing.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Reclaiming my time, there is nothing in this legislation that will keep new passenger aircraft out of the hands of Iran.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), who is also a member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman HUIZENGA for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration's State Department recognizes the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of three state sponsors of terrorism. But, ironically, the President calls his deal with Iran a foreign policy achievement. Our Commander in Chief is proud of his plan that puts Iran on the path to getting a nuclear weapon. He is proud of his plan that condones and facilitates U.S. business with Iran.

In September, the Treasury Department authorized the sale of up to 97 Airbus and Boeing planes to Iran. Iran is more than just a labeled state sponsor of terrorism. Iran uses its financial sector for international money laundering.

Iran has been a long-time supporter of the brutal Assad regime in Syria. It has supported a government that has killed hundreds of thousands of its own people. Iran's leader has pledged to wipe America and Israel off the map, but none of these facts matter to the Obama administration. They will do whatever they can just to make a deal and ensure a legacy.

Mr. Speaker, why are we rewarding and aiding a nation that has contrib-

uted to so much disorder and destruction in the Middle East?

To me, it is simply a no-brainer. We must not authorize U.S. aircraft sales to Iran.

I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 5711, which would prohibit the Treasury Secretary from authorizing U.S. financing in connection with commercial passenger aircraft to Iran.

In God we trust.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a portion of a letter from J Street: J Street Calls on Members of Congress to Oppose Anti-JCPOA Bill Restricting Commercial Aircraft Sales.

The last paragraph says:

"Additionally, the bill would not even achieve its intended objective of preventing Iran from acquiring commercial aircraft—it would merely ensure that Iran purchases them from a foreign producer, pointlessly denying jobs and income to working Americans and communities across the country. Like so many of the legislative attempts by JCPOA opponents to undermine or kill the agreement, this bill is just another cynical messaging exercise that hurts rather than helps America's essential interests, security, and standing in the world.

"J Street therefore urges Members of Congress to oppose H.R. 5711 and reaffirm the United States' commitment to uphold its international obligations."

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN), a distinguished member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HUIZENGA and also Chairman HENSARLING for bringing this very important issue before the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is a horrible idea to allow the United States Government to help the Iranian Government support terrorism. This bill helps make sure that does not happen.

Now, the world knows that the Iranian Government has a very long history of using their state-owned Iran Air to transport weapons and military personnel for the Revolutionary Guard, which, in turn, trains, arms, and funds terrorist organizations around the world. The Revolutionary Guard and the Government of Iran has American blood on its hands.

It should be very concerning to everybody in this Chamber, Republicans and Democrat, that the Iranian leaders for years have chanted, Death to America, and have vowed to wipe the State of Israel off the map. The Iranian Government cannot be trusted.

Now, the United States financial institutions should not be allowed to

help the Iranian Government purchase aircraft and other equipment proven to be used for military purposes.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, H.R. 5711, is a good, commonsense bill. I implore everybody in this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, to do what is right and to stand up and vote "yes" for H.R. 5711 to make sure we do not assist the chief sponsor of terrorism in this world to conduct its activities.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I like Mr. POLIQUIN. He is a nice man. He always has a nice smile. But I don't trust him more than I trust J Street.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire as to the balance of the time remaining on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KNIGHT). The gentleman from Michigan has 10½ minutes remaining. The gentlewoman from California has 10¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who is a member of the Financial Services Committee and a former Treasury official.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 5711. And I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who serves on our committee, for his leadership on this measure and consistently works on matters concerning Iran, as well as Mr. ROSKAM of Illinois.

I was proud to be a member this past Congress on the Financial Services Committee Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing. During our hearings, Mr. Speaker, we heard numerous witnesses describe Iran's support for terrorism and other evil activities.

It is really staggering, Mr. Speaker, that we sit here tonight and we have a Member of the other party suggest that Iran is a friend to the United States. There is no friendship between Iran and the United States or our allies. I think that is a stunning thing to say on the House floor.

You have heard tonight about Iran's direct involvement in conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Yemen; their support of Hamas, Hezbollah. And one of the main methods they use to support their terrorist activities around the world is they are flying commercial aircraft by the Quds Force around this world supporting terrorism, supplying Assad in Syria, who is responsible for the deaths of hundreds.

This deal is not about blocking airplane sales, Mr. Speaker. This deal is about protecting taxpayers on financing airplane sales, protecting our banks in the financing of airplane sales. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration has already provided

the Government of Iran, the mullahs in Iran over \$100 billion in freed-up cash and has given them \$1.7 billion in Euros in cash on pallets. Let them use that to buy an aircraft. Let's assume they cost \$100 million, \$150 million. They can buy several aircraft and pay cash, thanks to the failed diplomacy of the Obama administration.

So, again, this legislation is about the belief that the United States should not directly support terrorism and the killing of innocent civilians.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. It is the mission of Iran to use these aircraft for nefarious purposes. We already have that guilt on our hands by the release of \$100 billion and \$1.7 billion in cash. Let's not compound the errors of the past by opposing this bill, which will limit taxpayer risk and our financial sector risk at financing aircraft to Iran.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the balance of my time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 8 minutes remaining.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD), a distinguished Member, friend, and former member of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend from Michigan for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I just find it fascinating that here we are again. Listen, we can talk about the JCPOA, this Iran nuclear deal, which I think is a historic mistake, which will haunt us for generations. There is no question about that. If anybody was unclear about where I stand or where I think many in this body stand, let me just simply say that I think this will be a historic mistake that will haunt us.

Ultimately, when we are talking about the world's greatest state sponsor of terrorism, what is amazing to me is the fact that this is not even up for debate in the administration. The administration will tell you: Yes, Iran is the world's greatest state sponsor of terror.

And you know what? With this agreement, if our destination was to say, You know what, we want to ensure that Iran is never able to get a nuclear weapon, this deal all but ensures it. BOB MENENDEZ, a Democrat over in the Senate, said those very words. Prime Minister Netanyahu says this is a historic mistake.

So, yes, we can talk about some of the others over there who believe this

is a good thing, but ultimately we realize this is a bad thing. This is a bad thing because, frankly, as we talk about quoting J Street on the floor, I personally want to say that I will trust BRUCE POLIQUIN from Maine, my colleague on the Financial Services Committee. When it comes to a financing bill, yes, I trust BRUCE POLIQUIN a heck of a lot more than I trust J Street. J Street, frankly, is in the tank for the other side. They are not an objective body, I believe.

Ultimately, as we look at this bill, Mr. Speaker, this bill doesn't prevent the sale of aircraft. As much as I would like to prevent the sale of aircraft to the world's greatest state sponsor of terror, which could use the aircraft to send supplies and soldiers—because we know that Iran is sending money and supplies to Hezbollah, Hamas, to Assad in Syria. Frankly, this administration will tell you the same thing.

This is a bill that prevents the financing. Ultimately, as we look at, how do we protect taxpayer dollars, how do we protect the deposits of millions of Americans that go to Main Street and deposit in their local banks?

We are just saying, you can't use financing to go finance the planes that are going over into Iran, the world's greatest state sponsor of terror.

If they want to pay cash, it would be one thing to say, You know what? I don't think you have got any cash.

Wait, we know they have got cash. Why? Because we just sent an unmarked plane with unmarked bills full of cash, ultimately, we know, for the release of hostages. We have got \$1.7 billion that we know is there. We have got \$100 billion worth of sanctions relief. You know what, I am counting on the fact that they have got the resources to spend.

So what this is doing is this is trying to protect the American taxpayer. Ultimately, what we do know, the administration agrees to authorize the export of civilian aircraft to Iran. That still can happen. This bill does not change that one iota.

What it does do is it says that you cannot use U.S. financing for those sales. Ultimately, I think that is a good thing because when we look and we want to go back and they want to talk about it, this is something about the JCPOA, the Iran deal.

What is interesting to me, Mr. Speaker, is that the only thing that was bipartisan in the Iran deal was its opposition in this body to that deal. Frankly, I think we ought to be doing everything in our power to make sure that we keep and hold Iran accountable, and we should not be financing planes that go in there because, ultimately, we know they have already fired missiles. Right? They have already broken their agreements. They have fired missiles. They have fired weapons over at U.S. ships. They have

captured U.S. sailors. They are taking hostages.

This is not a good actor. Frankly, we should be doing everything in our power to make sure that we are holding them accountable and ratcheting up sanctions. We should not make it easier for them to be able to purchase planes.

Frankly, we have got all manufacturers that are out there that have parts in the United States that would be implicated with this. So this is not singling out a single U.S. carrier.

We want to talk about pro-growth, but what we don't want to do is talk about pro-growth opportunities that are going to help the world's greatest state sponsor of terror. This is a mistake if we do not pass this piece of legislation.

I am confident that this bipartisan piece of legislation is going to be able to pass this House. My hope is that the Senate will take it up. I don't believe that the President will sign it—and I think that will be a mistake—but that should not prevent this body from doing the right thing.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am going to go right back to where we started at the beginning. The world's greatest state sponsor of terror should not be aided by the U.S. taxpayer, by our banking system, in order to finance planes that we really don't know what they are going to do with them. But what we do know is that Iran is a bad actor and they are going to continue to be the world's greatest state sponsor of terror.

So I am going to urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is a common-sense piece of bipartisan legislation. I want to thank the chairman for his work on it, and I want to thank Chairman HENSARLING as well. I want to thank Mr. ROSKAM, and I want to thank everybody here who is going to stand up united to say, this is going to something that we need to hold Iran accountable to.

□ 1845

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised to hear the gentleman from Illinois just repeating some of the outrageous statements that Mr. Trump made during the campaign where he talked about the airplane carrying billions of dollars to Iran. I guess we are going to be hearing a lot of that around here.

Mr. Speaker, next year, President-elect Trump will face a daunting array of international challenges. The most pressing of these will be curbing Islamic terrorism, reining in Russian corruption and hegemony, and dealing with the civil wars in Iraq and Syria.

The self-proclaimed Islamic State, though it is in retreat in Iraq and

Syria, has demonstrated its ability to operate beyond the confines of the Middle East and sponsor attacks in Asia, Europe, and the United States. Moreover, the nuclear threat posed by North Korea will require an immediate and coherent policy response from the Trump administration.

So if ever there was a time when the U.S. should be affirming our commitment to the international agreements that promote our stability and security in such a volatile global environment, the time is now. We should be working to reassure our allies and the rest of the world that the U.S. is committed to internationalism and to shaping and preserving the world economic and political order. Yet, Republicans are intent on playing politics and continuing their futile attempts to undermine the Iran nuclear agreement and put the global community at risk of a nuclear Iran.

Over the past few months, this House passed Republican bills to reinstate a program denying Iranian financial institutions access to U.S. dollars; to prohibit the U.S. from buying heavy water from Iran, a key component for some nuclear reactors; and most recently, to prohibit so-called ransom payments to Iran, which would, in fact, put the U.S. in violation of its international obligations under the Algiers Accords, which have been in effect since 1981, under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

The White House has issued a statement of policy making it clear that the President would veto the bill before us today, stating: "The United States has a long tradition of remaining faithful to our commitments and our international partners, and a reversal of this principle undercuts our credibility, diminishes our ability to lead globally, and threatens the very alliances we rely upon in implementing the JCPOA."

We know that this bill would violate a key provision of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action that specifically committed to the sale of commercial planes to Iran by prohibiting our financial institutions from facilitating those sales. It also would put U.S. aircraft manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage with their foreign competitors, whose access to financing would not be subject to the same constraints.

The legislation is also concerning because it would remove the President's national security waiver with regard to restrictions on the Export-Import Bank's ability to finance exports to Iran. While the administration has never exercised this authority, I believe removing the President's discretion and leverage on critical national security matters would be a serious mistake.

So I strongly oppose this bill that aims to undo the hard-fought progress

to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions and undercuts our ability to exercise global leadership, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to quote the great American President, Ronald Reagan: "There you go again." Attack the President-elect, and try to throw out red herrings.

The bill that we have before us has two simple titles, the Iran Financing Prohibition—and I will read section 101: "The Secretary of the Treasury may not authorize a transaction by a U.S. financial institution."

Section 102, Revocation of Prior Authorizations: "If the Secretary of the Treasury authorized any transaction described under section 101 before the date of the enactment of this title, such authorization is hereby revoked."

We are halfway through. Section 2, Title II, No Ex-Im Assistance for Terrorism. It simply says that there is a prohibition—on section 202: "Prohibition on Export-Import Bank Financing that would Benefit Iran." That means direct financing. That would be subhead A.

Indirect Financing, meaning you can't have a third party get that lending from the Export-Import Bank, by the way, a U.S. taxpayer-funded bank. So that is subhead B.

And C is Cancellation of Approved Financing, if they have done that already.

This bill is not that complicated, and this bill does not cite any particular company. It does not limit any company from selling aircraft to Iran, no matter how big of a mistake that might be.

It simply says—as I might add, Secretary Jack Lew, Secretary of the Treasury, said in April of this year: There will be no U.S. financial institution financing this deal. And we have added that second section, that second title that says: There will be no use of the U.S. taxpayer-financed Export-Import Bank. That is all this bill says.

So you have heard attacks on the President-elect. You have heard attacks on the Export-Import Bank and whether this is going to be good or bad for U.S. employers and employees.

The simple fact is, Mr. Speaker, that this bill, H.R. 5711, says: We are not going to allow U.S. financial institutions, and U.S. financial institutions only, to be used to finance these deals; and we are not going to allow the Export-Import Bank of the United States to be used, either directly or indirectly, to finance that deal.

Iran can go put this deal together with other banks in Asia, Europe, anywhere else in the world that they can find it, but not here in the United States and not using taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5711, the No U.S. Financing for Iran Act, introduced by my good friend BILL HUIZENGA. This bill also includes the outstanding work of my good friend PETER ROSKAM, who introduced H.R. 5715, the No Ex-Im Assistance for Terrorism Act.

Mr. Speaker, President Obama has made an endless stream of concessions to the Iranian government. Most recently, in September, the administration announced that it would issue special export licenses for Boeing and Airbus to sell dozens of commercial aircraft to Iran—a deal that together is valued at upwards of \$50 billion. Yet the deal is not finalized because Iran is having difficulty financing it.

The No U.S. Financing for Iran Act will guarantee that the U.S. plays no part in facilitating this financing: it blocks the Treasury Department from authorizing U.S. financial institutions from supporting such transactions and prevents the U.S. Export-Import Bank from extending direct or indirect credit to the Government of Iran.

Although the Ex-Im Bank is prohibited from providing direct financing to Iran, it could do so through a third-party. For instance, Reuters last week reported that after months of negotiations, Iran secured financing possibly through an Emirati leasing company for the first 17 planes it plans to buy from Airbus. If the U.S. Ex-Im Bank were to provide financing to such a third-party company, it would in effect be facilitating Iran's purchase of the aircraft.

It is important to recall why Iran should not be receiving these planes in the first place: until President Obama implemented his nuclear deal, Iran Air had for over four years been subject to U.S. sanctions due to the company's notorious working relationship with Iran's military and Revolutionary Guards Corps. For years, Iran Air has smuggled rockets, missiles, and other sensitive materiel aboard its passenger and cargo planes bound for regional hotspots, such as Syria, home to Iranian terrorist proxies and murderous regimes.

The Obama Administration was absolutely wrong to drop these sanctions in connection with the nuclear deal because this support has little or nothing to do with Iran's nuclear program. On the contrary, much of this activity is related to Iran's sponsorship of terrorism—for which the United States still imposes sanctions on Iran.

It is long past time for the Administration to stop accommodating this genocidal regime and rather hold it to account. Just last week the IAEA reported that Iran had for the second time this year exceeded its quota for heavy water as stipulated in the nuclear deal. But instead of calling this violation what it is, the Obama Administration chose to sweep it under the rug. Such passivity in the face of Iranian violations only emboldens the regime to see what more it can get away with. This is a dangerous game to play when the consequences are so grave for our national security and that of our close ally Israel.

The Administration's nuclear deal with Iran itself contained far too many major concessions: it recognized Iran's right to enrichment, despite longstanding United States policy against such recognition, and settled for a weak inspections regime that is anything but "anytime, anywhere."

We must act again today to put a stop to the concessions. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to pass this urgent measure.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5711, which would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing the U.S. financing of commercial aircraft exports to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It would be unacceptable to export U.S. planes to Iran Air, a state-owned carrier, which faced sanctions by the Treasury in 2011 for transporting fighters and weapons for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps. By authorizing the sales of U.S. planes to the Iranian regime, the Obama Administration would be providing material support to the world's foremost state sponsor of terrorism. The United States should not allow the sale of aircraft to Iran, when it is known they will eventually be used for illicit purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 PRINTED IN PART A OF HOUSE REPORT 114-818 OFFERED BY MR. HUIZENGA OF MICHIGAN

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, before line 1, insert the following:
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "No U.S. Financing for Iran Act".

Page 1, line 7, strike "that is ordinarily incident to" and insert "in connection with".

Page 4, after line 3, insert the following:

TITLE III—SUNSET

SEC. 301. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendment made by this Act shall cease to be effective on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Iran has ceased providing support for acts of international terrorism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, at this point my amendment adds a short title and clarifies the nature of prohibited Iranian transactions. The amendment also provides for a sunset of the bill's provision upon presidential certification that Iran has ceased support of international terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment and the underlying bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK of Washington. The key change made by this amendment is to strike the phrase "ordinarily incident to" and insert "in connection with." One is a term of art commonly used by the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC. Companies doing business with an OFAC license know what that means.

In connection with is a much broader term, not clearly defined, Mr. Speaker, and if this amendment were to pass, exactly how attenuated of a connection would be impermissible?

Crickets, because we don't know.

I believe the chilling effect of this language would go far beyond the purported intent of this legislation. And let there be no confusion what the intent is, which is to block a single legal, fully compliant, and scandal-free business transaction that supports both our national security and American manufacturing.

If this bill became law, we would be less safe. The U.S. specifically committed in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the Iran Deal, as we refer to it, to allow the sale of commercial aircraft to Iran, as well as the provision of associated services. Associated services is specifically defined in the relevant section of the agreement to include financial services of the kind U.S. banks would be specifically blocked from providing under this bill.

Well, it is hard to think of anything that would be a clearer violation of our own commitments under the JCPOA, an action that would give Iran a meaningful reason to walk away from the whole thing, making us less safe. It is a clear, black-and-white violation of the JCPOA.

And what is our plan B if Congress provokes the collapse of this agreement? Crickets. We don't have one.

Think of how much went into the successful negotiation of the agreement. We had to convince a lot of countries, with whom we don't often always agree, to maintain a united front for U.N. sanctions to be effective.

If we choose to burn down the JCPOA, which this will do, entirely of our own volition, are my colleagues under any illusion that we could simply go back to our partners, not to mention Iran, and say with a straight face: Well, let's start over.

And why wouldn't Iran just happily revel in the unraveling of the mighty international coalition which brought them to the table and go back to building up its nuclear program again?

Again, crickets, because they would be likely to.

So let's be clear. Yes, we continue to have numerous and serious differences with Iran. But as we counter their destabilizing behavior in other parts of the Middle East, I know I sleep better at night knowing that the Iran deal prevents them from obtaining a nuclear bomb with which to set off either

a regional arms race or threaten our allies with nuclear blackmail.

And frankly, if Iran is going to get new planes—and nothing in this bill will stop them, the choice is really not whether it is going to be Boeing or Airbus—I sleep better at night knowing that you have got American eyes on that plane in the form of the after-sale services for parts repair and American hands doing the maintenance to guard against the diversion from legitimate civil aviation use. It keeps us more safe if these are American-made planes.

But even if we ignore all the compelling evidence that this bill will make us less safe, this bill fails spectacularly at preventing Iran from buying airplanes. In fact, I am certain it would hurt our own aerospace industry way more than it would hurt Iran.

It is easy for foreign companies to get around this bill. They easily go to non-U.S. banks for financing. But American companies don't have that option to cut out U.S. banks entirely, unless you prefer that the proceeds from a sale be kept offshore, that American workers and communities never see a dime of reinvestment, and the more than 100,000 jobs this transaction could support go to other countries.

This bill is also an attack on a key pillar of support for our exporters, including the aerospace exporters, namely, the Ex-Im Bank. Despite the fact that the Ex-Im Bank already has a policy against this, despite the fact that there is law against this, despite the fact that the Ex-Im has said they won't do this, and despite the fact that the seller, Boeing, has said in writing they won't do this.

This isn't belts and suspenders. This is stapling your pants to your flesh.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill that undermines foundational elements of our national and economic security, and, in so doing, I too am reminded of what President Reagan once said: "It's not what you don't know that bothers me, it's what you think you know that ain't so."

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Washington, who has been a big proponent of the Export-Import Bank and a particular company that he was alluding to and talking about, knows, though, that this bill would apply to any aircraft that the Treasury authorizes for Iran. That includes the 17 Airbus planes for Iran Air. And he brought up, actually, offshore profits.

Well, according to Bloomberg, Boeing has \$800 million—\$800 million in profits stashed offshore; and the reports are that Boeing is pursuing these deals with the Japanese bank already, not a U.S. bank. And apparently the company is less worried about this bill and

that financing than my friend from Washington is.

□ 1900

So this is simply about saying that Iran does not have direct access to the U.S. financial system. I don't understand why my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle are so freaked out by that. This is simply about making sure that our banking system is not going to finance this deal indirectly or directly and that the use of the Export-Import Bank would be prohibited.

This amendment says it is a sunset to this bill upon Presidential certification that Iran has ceased support of international terrorism—a goal we all have. So if the President can support that and certify that, then this falls away. So we do not say that this deal is not allowed. We simply say that U.S. financial institutions cannot be used for this and that we cannot and will not use the Export-Import Bank—a U.S. taxpayer-funded entity—to do this.

At the end of the day, in April of this past year, Secretary Jack Lew told us that there will be no access; and either he misled the United States citizens and this body at that time or they changed their mind. They haven't told us which, but neither one is acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended, and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SWALWELL of California. I am opposed in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Swalwell of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5711 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 2, after line 2, insert the following new section:

SEC. 103. PROTECTING U.S. ELECTIONS.

The Secretary of the Treasury may not authorize a transaction described under section 101 by a U.S. financial institution if such institution is engaged in business with a for-

eign entity that has been found by the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to have engaged in or authorized cyber attacks targeting any election held in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, this final amendment says plainly that no U.S. business may do business with a country that has used cyber attacks to undermine a U.S. election.

So if my colleagues are genuine in believing that Iran is a hopeless adversary, then surely they will join me in believing that Russia, in its efforts to undermine our recent November election, should also be treated as such.

This motion is really about the future of two U.S. adversaries: Iran and Russia. Iran, surely a bad actor over the last few decades, has finally in the last couple of years come to the international table and struck an agreement with the United States and many of our allies to make sure that we take it from being a country that is 3 months away from having a nuclear weapon to 1 year away. They continue to sponsor terrorism across the world. But today, better than ever before, we have eyes, ears, and checks and balances on them that we have never had. By the way, we can address all of their bad behavior with them being much farther away from having a nuclear weapon than they were before the Iran nuclear agreement.

Russia, however, continues to wreak chaos in the Middle East supporting Syria and its brutal dictator Assad. Russia brought down a commercial airliner over Ukraine and has further incurred into Ukraine taking over Crimea. Russia continues to attack and escalate hostilities with U.S. personnel at our embassy in Moscow.

Now the standard bearer for the Republican Party, President-elect Trump, has chosen to embrace Russia and take the United States on a new tack.

So the question today is: If you believe Iran is hopeless, then do you believe that we should also make sure no U.S. business does business with a country that is trying to undermine our elections?

I want to go through some of that evidence. On October 7 of this year, Director of National Intelligence Clapper said that the intelligence community is confident that the Russian Government directed cyber attacks aimed at disrupting our November elections.

Why would Russia do this?

Russia clearly had a favored candidate in this race in President-elect Trump. Russia has been successful.

This amendment says that you cannot do business with any country that is trying to influence our elections. This amendment says that if you think Iran is a bad actor, then you have to treat Iran the same way you treat Russia. This amendment says that if you think the U.S. should allow businesses to do business with a country trying to undermine our elections, to undermine the will of our constituents, then you should vote against this amendment.

If you are with Russia, then you should be against this motion. However, if you believe that we are closer to preventing Iran from having a nuclear weapon than we were a year ago, and if you believe that it is better for a U.S. manufacturer to provide commercial airliners to Iran and create U.S. jobs and have eyes and ears on what is going on over there, then you should be for this motion. But if you want our elections to be free and fair from outside influence, then vote for this motion. If you want to stand with Russia, then you should vote against this motion.

So I ask my colleagues on the other side: Are you going to embrace the new U.S. foreign policy that your standard bearer has proposed, that we are going to undermine and unravel the agreement that we have struck with Iran and march millions of young men and women back into the Middle East, an area where we have not had major combat operations finally for the first time in 15 years? Or do you think that we should treat Iran the same way that we are treating Russia?

So I submit that to my colleagues, and I invite them to maybe engage on that question because that is what this motion is about: Do you stand with Russia? Or do you stand with preventing U.S. businesses from doing business with a country that our intelligence community has said has tried to undermine our elections?

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Well, America, you just heard a ridiculous straw-man choice laid out in front of you.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about anything other than selling and financing aircraft sales to Iran. That is what this bill is about. This is what this bill should be about.

I will point out to my colleague that there are some pretty major kinetic activities—I believe they are called at this point, which means shooting war—happening in Mosul and other places where our troops are involved.

But at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage my colleagues to vote “no” on this motion to recommit. I look forward to working with

colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address concerns that we may have with other foreign governments in the future, and I would request that they vote for the underlying bill, H.R. 5711.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2016.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, this letter is to inform you that I have sent a letter to California Governor Jerry Brown informing him that I am resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 44th Congressional District of California effective Sunday, December 4, 2016.

In November, I was elected by the people of Los Angeles County to serve as County Supervisor for District 4. It has been a privilege to serve the residents of California in the House of Representatives for the last five and a half years. I have worked to build a better future for our state and country.

I also want to thank you Mr. Speaker and my colleagues in the House. I have enjoyed working with you and my colleagues during my time in Congress. I look forward to continuing our work together in order to build a better country.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2016.

Hon. EDMUND G. BROWN,
Governor of California,
Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR BROWN, in November, I was elected by the residents of Los Angeles County to serve as Supervisor for District 4. I am hereby resigning my position as the United States Representative for the 44th District of California effective Sunday, December 4, 2016.

It has been a privilege to serve the residents of California in the House of Representatives for the last five and a half years. I have worked to build a better future for our state and country.

I also want to thank you and your administration as well as my colleagues in California's Congressional delegation. I have enjoyed working with you and them during my time in Congress. I look forward to continuing this important work for the residents of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN,
Member of Congress.

TRADE'S IMPACT ON AMERICAN WORKERS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we in the industrial Midwest and Great Lakes heartland know firsthand why the Presidential election was so hard fought and close in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

Our reasoning has endured a grim reality with a decades-long economic struggle to produce good jobs with good wages and benefits, but what we have experienced is a continuous outsourcing of millions of jobs to penny-wage sweatshops in Mexico, China, Bangladesh, and beyond. To the people of America's heartland, it feels like jobs are being moved just about everywhere but into the Midwest and Great Lakes.

Daily we witness trainloads of imports flooding into our Nation, as closed and protected markets abroad block mutual exchange of exports. America hasn't had balanced trade accounts for three decades, and workers in those nations struggle to survive on measly wages and without spare cash cannot buy much of what they produce anyway.

Meanwhile, pink-slipped U.S. workers have endured a painful toll—annual wages now \$7,000 less per year on average in northern Ohio—while the cost of education expenses, health care, and everyday life rise and further squeeze pocketbooks.

Please don't tell us robots took the jobs.

This daily reality was the major backdrop to this recent election and deserves closer attention in the coming days. America's trade policy must result in trade balances, new jobs here, and preferably trade surpluses for our country, not job loss. That policy must be fashioned on the fundamental value of free and fair trade among free people.

"NONE OF THE ABOVE"—THE CURE FOR WHAT AILS US

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, we have gone through a terrible and traumatic

experience in the last year called a U.S. Presidential election. I don't know how many countless people were utterly mortified by this whether or not their chosen candidate won. As it happened, the candidate whom I voted for lost last Tuesday, but I would be foolish if I ignored the fact that people all across America had a miserable, terrible experience with this Presidential election whether or not their candidate won or lost.

You ask yourself: How could that be? Why don't we cherish the opportunity to choose our national leader? How is it that we have been sucked into this negative vortex of hatred and vilification called choosing a President of the United States?

It seems utterly imponderable.

I was watching Saturday Night Live just a couple days before the election, and the not-Hillary actor and the not-Donald actor could agree on only one thing. This is what they said: "This whole election has been mean. Don't you guys feel gross all the time about this?"

They were speaking to us, not to each other. They were speaking to us, the American people. They are right. It is gross. But the question for us is very simple: Does it really have to be that way? Or could we somehow transform this into what it is supposed to be, an exhilarating jubilee revolving around choosing a leader who will make America a better place?

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But you have to understand that we are in a deep, deep hole here. Both major Presidential candidates entered this campaign with deeply negative favorability ratings, so negative they were in double digits. For the past 6 months, it has been a commonplace observation that both candidates were the most unpopular candidates in the history of Presidential polling—about as popular as getting a root canal on your birthday.

It has been 13 long years since the Gallup Poll indicated that most people in this country thought that the country was heading in the right direction, 13 years; some Republican leadership, some Democratic leadership, and it all ends up the same way. Most people think the country is heading in the wrong direction.

And it has been 13 years, not coincidentally, since the majority of Americans thought that Congress was doing a good job and approved of it. In fact, we reached a nadir during the government shutdown: only 16 percent of the country thought we were heading in the right direction, and only 9 percent of the country thought that Congress was doing a good job. I pointed out at the time, standing exactly where I am standing right now, that, according to recent polling, Congress was literally less popular than dog poop.

In one election after another, the voters feel completely ignored. Little or no effort is made to explain to them how their lives might be improved by any candidates running for office. It is all just an ad hominem personality-driven crap-storm. People feel that they are left to choose between the lesser of two evils. Well, take it from me, the choice between two evils is evil.

One sort of commonsense observation when you are left with two major candidates, both of whom are overwhelmingly unpopular, is that part of the problem we face is that almost 80 percent of the people who are in America and eligible to vote had no part in choosing the candidates. So maybe it should come as no surprise that we end up in a situation like this.

I did an interesting poll just 3 days before the election, a national poll, and let me show you what I found regarding how these candidates, the nominees of their parties, stacked up against other alternative opponents. Let me show you. Let's play fantasy politics for a few minutes.

If the matchup had been President Obama versus Donald Trump, President Obama would have won by 2 percent of the vote. If the matchup had been Bill Clinton versus Donald Trump, Bill Clinton would have won with 4 percent of the vote. If the matchup had been JOE BIDEN, the Vice President, versus Donald Trump, Biden would have won by 8 percent of the vote. And if the matchup had been BERNIE SANDERS versus Donald Trump, as reported in the Huffington Post recently, BERNIE SANDERS would have won by 12 percent of the vote.

Note one thing: every single alternative candidate performed better than the actual candidate who was the nominee of my party in these matchups. Also note that you can't possibly attribute that only to the negativity of the campaign because, frankly, there have been a few hard knocks over the years against Barack Obama and against Bill Clinton and against JOE BIDEN and against BERNIE SANDERS.

Let's play some more fantasy politics. Let's look at alternative opponents against Hillary Clinton. Now, bear in mind that, according to the current results, although Hillary Clinton lost the Presidential election, she nevertheless won the popular vote by around 1 percent of the vote, as I speak to you tonight.

Let's take a look at what would have happened if she had been pitted against alternative Republican candidates. Hillary Clinton would have lost to TED CRUZ in the popular vote by 4 percent. Hillary Clinton would have lost to George W. Bush by 8 percent. She would have lost to MARCO RUBIO by 10 percent, Mitt Romney by 12 percent, and she would have lost to the Speaker

of this House, PAUL RYAN, by 14 percent.

Again, note one thing that draws all of these matchups together: the fact that the candidate who actually was the nominee of his party would have done worse against any alternative opponent, and the candidate who would have been the nominee of her party would have done worse against any alternative opponent that was tested here.

Let's continue, just for those who are curious. If neither of the candidates had been nominated by their parties, we would have had some interesting matchups. I will just give you three examples here.

I told you already that Senator SANDERS would have defeated Donald Trump by 12 points. He would have defeated TED CRUZ by 10 points, and he would have defeated MARCO RUBIO by 4 points. Interesting matchups all.

But here is the thing. The fact is that the great majority of Americans had no choice at all in selecting the candidates who we ended up voting for. We might consider it somehow a good thing that 58 million Americans actually voted in the Presidential primaries, until we consider that 191 million Americans did not.

Our grievances as a country and our divisions are massive, deep, intractable, and widely shared. That makes me wonder whether we can declare our independence from a system that constantly and perpetually generates unappealing and, frankly, sometimes appalling alternatives. We can't go on like this. You know what I am talking about. As Leonard Cohen said, we all feel like our dog just died.

We have to change the way that we do politics in America. Now, I am not suggesting that we choose our leaders like the Athenians did. They chose their leaders by lottery. I am not suggesting that we adopt Jonathan Swift's suggestions, but I agree with him that people are the riches of a nation. And I am not going to suggest sitting it out. I realize the temptation. I have heard so many people say over the years, "Don't vote; it only encourages them," but I think that is wrong.

What we need is a better political system that actually manifests itself in a positive way and leads to a choice between candidates whom—imagine—we respect, we admire, we look up to as they engage in a battle of ideas and principles, not a battle of personalities and personal attacks.

I am also not going to suggest that the answer would be a third party. If there is one thing that is clear, the two parties we have aren't functioning that well. I am not sure that a third party is likely to make much of a difference.

And I don't think that we are likely to see a messiah running for the third party as a Presidential candidate when one we had this year couldn't even tell

us what "a leppo" was. It is a good thing nobody asked him, "What's a henway?" The answer is 4 to 6 pounds.

I think what is missing, after giving this a great deal of thought for the past week, is something very simple. We Americans desperately need and deserve the right to reject all of the candidates on the ballot.

Now, I realize that that is an unusual notion, but I want you to think about it because I am introducing a bill called the None of the Above Act, whereby, if the last line on the ballot, "none of the above," gets more votes than any candidate does, then "none of the above" actually wins. I am not talking about the Nevada version that we already have where the "none of the above" vote gets ignored. I am talking about "none of the above" winning and forcing a mulligan, a do-over. We make them do it over until they get it right and give us candidates whom we want to vote for, someone who we feel will actually do a good job in leadership and make the country a better place.

Now, I want you to know that this is not unprecedented. I want you to know that in Communist Poland, "none of the above," actually crossing the candidate's name off the ballot, which is a version of "none of the above," defeated the Prime Minister in 1989. In 1991, 200 candidates for the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies were defeated the same way.

If the end of communism isn't enough to motivate you for favoring this reform, here are some more benefits:

First and most importantly, we eliminate the need, the terrible need, to try to choose between the lesser of two evils. Remember the Louisiana Governor's race 25 years ago when we were forced to choose in Louisiana between corrupt Edwin Edwards and racist David Duke? Do you remember the bumper stickers that said, "Vote for the crook. It's important"?

According to a poll at that time, two-thirds of Louisiana voters wished they could have voted for neither, for "none of the above." And they were right. They were right. If primary voters haven't identified the best candidates for the job—not just decent candidates, but actually the best candidates for the job—the general election voters should be able to wave their fingers and say: Uh-uh, no way. I am not going for that until you convince me, the people, that you are the best candidate for the job, and we are going to insist on other choices until we find somebody who is.

Now, this will have a wonderful effect, a very important effect, on what we saw drenching us, the tsunami of negative advertising and negative campaigning that we saw on our TV screens and now on our computer screens and even our phones, this incessant drumbeat of negative campaigning. Why? Because both sides will

understand that, if you indulge yourself that way, all you are doing is driving down votes below “none of the above” and elevating “none of the above” above your candidate.

Let’s replace this terrible malignant notion of vote against him/vote against her with something called vote for me—and here is why. Here is what I will do to improve your life. What am I going to do for you, not what am I going to do to you.

Now, in addition to that, I see a big boost in turnout. Last time I checked, which was a few days ago, the total number of votes in the 2016 Presidential election was lower than the total number of votes in the 2012 Presidential election and the 2008 Presidential election and the 2004 Presidential election. As of a few days ago, you had to go all the way back to 2000 to find any national Presidential election where fewer people voted. And here is the really strange thing: back in 2000, we had 40 million fewer Americans.

I think there are a lot of people who will show up for the specific purpose of voting for “none of the above.” I think we will see a massive increase in turnout if we simply convey to people the right to reject all the candidates, which is exactly how they feel.

In addition to that, we will be keeping elected officials on their toes. Ninety percent of the elected officials in this body, the House of Representatives, face uncompetitive races time after time after time. Two-thirds of all the races down the hall in the Senate are uncompetitive. When Members of Congress represent deep red or deep blue districts, they often run unopposed and they win with 100 percent of the so-called vote, which isn’t really a vote at all.

So knowing that, no matter what kind of district they are—red, blue, purple—no matter whom they represent, they will be facing “none of the above” on that ballot will put the fear of God in them. We need to do that. We need to make sure that the comfortable here in this room and down the hall aren’t too comfortable, and that even pampered incumbents in gerrymandered districts would have to work diligently to defeat the specter of “none of the above.”

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Also, we clearly need to defeat the dictatorship of the primary voters. As I indicated before, 58 million American adults voted in the primary elections, and 191 million did not. What was the result of that? People who were deeply dissatisfied with the choices that they had. Let me show you what I mean.

Two days before the Presidential election, I asked in a national poll: How do you feel about those Presidential primary elections? How do you feel about them?

Almost 52 percent said they were disappointed. Only 48 percent said that they were pleased. Interestingly enough, that sentiment of disappointment was widely shared. Among Democrats, 38 percent said that they were disappointed. Among Republicans, 53 percent said that they were disappointed. Among Independents, who, in many States, didn’t even have the legal right to vote to choose a Presidential candidate in either party, 69 percent said that they were disappointed. That explains, in part, why we end up with a terrible Hobson’s choice on the ballot.

Above all, though, to be able to choose “none of the above” on each Federal ballot would show respect for the voters. In my State—the State of Florida—the Constitution of the State begins with these words: “All political power is inherent with the people.” If you really believe that in your heart—if you believe that the sovereign in this country, the royalty in this country are the people of the United States, the voters—then how can you possibly explain to them why we wouldn’t allow them to reject all of the candidates?

This is a practical proposal. I don’t know how many people have noticed this, but we have more than 2 months between the election and when the President is sworn in under the 20th Amendment. We have almost 2 months between the election and when the House of Representatives and the Senate are sworn in here in this building. It is not that difficult to put on a new election within 2 months. I know a lot of people who would favor having elections that take place in less than 2 months instead of approaching 2 years. In fact, it would be a blessed relief.

Now, I understand that most people who are elected officials would want to fight against this for their own selfish purposes. In fact, one of the liberating elements is the fact that I will be leaving this body in a couple of months. I will be leaving because I was defeated. I will be leaving this body, and that gives me the freedom to be able to do and say what is right and not what is for my own personal benefit.

I will point out that many, many, many people across the country believe that term limits are a good thing and that, somehow or another, term limits have been maneuvered through the Florida legislature and the legislatures of many other States. And, of course, term limits limit the terms of elected officials. In the same sense, if term limits can ever be enacted anywhere, that shows that it is possible to actually put a choice on the ballot like “none of the above” that doesn’t favor any elected official anywhere—ever—but favors, instead, the voters and gives them a right that they should have but that they don’t have.

In case you are curious, you may wonder what would have happened a

week ago last Tuesday if we had had that choice on the ballot. I know, and I would like to show you.

According to my poll, 40 percent of the American people would have voted a week ago last Tuesday for “none of the above.” If you were to delve further into it, you would see, of those 60 percent, 28 percent would have voted for Hillary Clinton; 27 percent would have voted for Donald Trump; 4 percent would have voted for the third-party candidate put up by the Libertarians; and 1 percent would have voted for the third-party candidate put up by the Green Party.

In short, think about what this really means. “None of the above” would have won, and we would have had the choice that human dignity suggests we should have—a choice involving new candidates to decide who rules over this Nation of 300 million-plus people and becomes the leader of the free world—a new set of choices, a better set of candidates, and a brighter future.

If we simply can’t stand the candidates we have got, we need new ones. Isn’t that obvious? Think of it as voting with your middle finger. We deserve this choice. As human beings, as Americans—as people who deserve to have full control over our own sovereign fate—we deserve the choice of “none of the above.”

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

A PERILOUS MOMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, our country is facing a perilous moment. In my district, parents are reassuring frightened children that everything will be all right. That is what parents do. Our job as Members of Congress is to do the best we can to make sure that those reassurances come true.

Madam Speaker, I was born and raised in Chicago. In 2000, I voted for the first time in my life. I voted for Barack Obama to serve in this Chamber. While he did not win that election, I was inspired by his message of reform, change, and hope. Throughout his life and career, Barack Obama has always tried to bring people together. Even in a highly polarized and tumultuous time, he has always tried to rise above and bridge those divisions and to be a unifying force for good.

This is who Barack Obama is. This is who he was at Harvard Law School. This is who he was as a community organizer in Chicago. This is who he was as a State senator, and as our President.

Right now, President Obama is discharging his constitutional obligation

to orchestrate an orderly transition of power to a new President. I understand and I respect why, under those circumstances, he has chosen to emphasize a message of national unity. I understand and respect why Hillary Clinton, who, despite the painful knowledge that she received more votes than her opponent, is doing the same.

But I feel that I have an obligation at this moment, as do many of my colleagues in this House—I have a duty—to tell the truth about Donald Trump. We cannot treat him like any other politician or like any other Republican because he is not. Trump represents something much more dangerous; and while none of us want this to be the case, we have a duty to treat him like the threat that he is—a threat to our values, a threat to our people, and a threat to our national identity.

Donald Trump is 70 years old, and it is unrealistic to expect him to change at this moment in time. Donald Trump is a sexual predator who brags about grabbing women without their consent. To date, he has been accused of sexual assault by nearly a dozen women. Donald Trump is a demagogue. His political mentor was Roy Cohn, Senator Joseph McCarthy's right-hand man. No surprise that Donald Trump burst onto the national conservative scene by peddling a racist birther conspiracy, questioning whether President Obama was even an American.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

Mr. GALLEGO. Duly noted.

Donald Trump is a bigot. Even PAUL RYAN called Donald Trump's words, when attacking a Federal judge of Mexican descent, the "textbook definition of racism." Donald Trump is a liar. Senator TED CRUZ called him a pathological liar who is completely amoral to boot. Most of all, Donald Trump is a con artist.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is again reminded to observe the decorum of the House and reminds Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

Mr. GALLEGO. Duly noted.

Next month, Donald Trump is going on trial for fraud related to the fake university that bore his name. A series of exposes in The Washington Post have revealed the systematic misuse of funds at the fake charity he established. In Atlantic City, he enriched himself at the expense of creditors, investors, workers, and suppliers while running multiple casinos into bankruptcy.

Every one of us in Congress—every single one of us in Congress—knows who Donald Trump is. It does not matter what he says today or what he does tomorrow. His whole life and his whole campaign speak to who he is and to

what kind of President he will be for our country.

We should be horrified because it is horrifying. The man who boasted, I alone will fix this, will fix nothing. He has broken us apart. Millions of Americans are living in fear because he has threatened them—Muslims, Latinos, African Americans, women, the disabled, the LGBT community, and more.

Donald Trump will be our next President. We here in Congress must oppose his agenda. We must oppose his efforts to increase his power. Anything that makes Donald Trump more powerful makes him more dangerous.

Look at who Donald Trump is. Look at the life he has led. Look at the campaign he ran. No one should be under any illusions. Never more in my lifetime have we needed strong, aggressive, innovative, strategic leadership from the Democratic Party and the progressive movement that fuels it. Donald Trump will not be an ordinary President. Rather than helping him protect the country, we must protect the country from the new President.

Madam Speaker, this is uncharted territory.

In the days since his election, Trump has attacked the right to protest. He has attacked The New York Times for its critical coverage. He announced that Steve Bannon, a White nationalist racist, will serve as his senior adviser in his White House. He has committed to deporting 2 to 3 million immigrants immediately. His team has threatened legal action against a Senator who criticized him; and on the campaign trail, he threatened to use the regulatory powers of the Federal Government to retaliate against his critics.

Despite his promise to drain the swamp of corruption in Washington, he is stacking his transition team with corporate lobbyists. Trump is preparing to install foxes to watch the people's henhouse.

Last but by no means least, he has refused to engage in any meaningful financial disclosures or to take any steps to effectively mitigate the conflicts of interest inherent in the President of the United States and also being the head of an opaque network of privately held companies. We don't know who he owes money to, and we don't know who is paying him. He has installed his children and heirs to manage his company even while they serve as top advisers to his transition.

Given everything we know about Donald Trump and everything we don't know, I was alarmed by the words of senior leaders from both the progressive and centrist wings of the Democratic Party regarding their openness to working with Donald Trump on infrastructure. Under ordinary circumstances, we would welcome a plan to invest in America's infrastructure even if that plan came from the other

side of the aisle—especially if it came from the other side of the aisle. But Donald Trump is not an ordinary politician. He is a con artist. He has refused to give the American people reason to believe that he is not in this to enrich himself.

In fact, he has bucked tradition by maintaining his family's interest in a private corporation. Unfortunately, his infrastructure plan is really a privatization scheme.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair again reminds the gentleman to observe the decorum of the House. Members are to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President-elect.

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, duly noted.

He is not reaching out. He is reaching his hand into America's pockets, and we must not let him do it.

When President Obama took office, even Americans who didn't support him celebrated his election and what he said about our country, and we united in wishing him well. Here in Congress, however, Republicans announced that they would not lift a finger to help him lead our country.

As Donald Trump takes office, even Americans who did reluctantly cast their votes for him worry about what his election says about our country. And if we are united, it is our fervent hope that he does not govern the way he has campaigned. Here in Congress, however, we cannot afford to give him the benefit of the doubt. We must not lift a finger to help him scam our country. We must, instead, put every effort into stopping him.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GALLEGO. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 17, 2016, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7467. A letter from the Acting Director, PDRA, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — New Equipment Contract, RUS Contract Form 395 for Telecommunications and Broadband Borrowers (RIN: 0572-AC29) received November 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7468. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualified Financial Contracts Recordkeeping Related to

Orderly Liquidation Authority (RIN: 1505-AC46) received November 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

7469. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report titled "Evaluation Findings — Performance Improvement Report FY 2014-2015", pursuant to Sec. 238j(b) of the Public Health Service Act, as amended by the Preventive Health Amendments of 1993; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7470. A letter from the Deputy Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Titanium Dioxide and Listing of Color Additives Subject to Certification; [Phthalocyaninato (2-)] Copper [Docket No.: FDA-2016-P-0821] received November 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7471. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting The President's Bi-Monthly Report on Cyprus covering the period June 1, 2016, through July 31, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 620(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with Sec. 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7472. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report prepared by the Inspector General of the Federal Reserve System for the six-month period ending September 30, 2016, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7473. A letter from the Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, transmitting the Agency's fiscal years 2014 and 2015 Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act (FAIR Act) employee inventory report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); ; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7474. A letter from the General Manager, Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, transmitting notification that the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board's FY 2014 and FY 2015 inventories have been posted to the Board's Internet site, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7475. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting notification that the Federal Trade Commission will restate its Fiscal Year 2015 Balance Sheet on the FY 2016 Agency Financial Report, as required by Sec. II.4.5.4 of the Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-136; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7476. A letter from the Chairman and General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2016, through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7477. A letter from the Director, Office of Financial Management, United States Capitol Police, transmitting Statement Of Disbursements of the U.S. Capitol Police for the period April 1, 2016, through September 30,

2016, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1910(a); Public Law 109-55, Sec. 1005; (119 Stat. 575) (H. Doc. No. 114—184); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

7478. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Designating the Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River Stock of Beluga Whales as a Depleted Stock Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) [Docket No.: 151113999-6950-02] (RIN: 0648-BF55) received November 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7479. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Appalachian High Country Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2016-0003; T.D. TTB-144; Ref. Notice No.: 158] (RIN: 1513-AC25) received November 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7480. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; CY 2017 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts [CMS-8062-N] (RIN: 0938-AS70) received November 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7481. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicability of Section 411(b)(5)(B)(i) to Implicit Interest Pension Equity Plans (Notice 2016-67) received November 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7482. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Adjusted Applicable Dollar Amount for Fee Imposed by Sections 4375 and 4376 (Notice 2016-64) received November 9, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7483. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulation — Removal of the 36-month Non-payment Testing Period Rule [TD 9793] (RIN: 1545-BM01) received November 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7484. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major notice — Medicare Program; Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2017 [CMS-8064-N] (RIN: 0938-AS72) received November 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5032. A bill to allow certain property in the town of Louisa, Virginia, to be used for purposes related to compliance with water quality standards, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-829). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

REPORTED BILL SEQUENTIALLY REFERRED

Under clause 2 of rule XII, bills and reports were delivered to the Clerk for printing, and bills referred as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 329. A bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes, with an amendment; Rept. 114-828, Pt. 1; referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and Ways and Means for a period ending not later than December 8, 2016, for consideration of such provisions of the bill and amendment as fall within the jurisdiction of those committees pursuant to clauses 1(e) and 1(t) of rule X.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 6324. A bill to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to prohibit the use of funds provided to the President-elect and the Vice President-elect under such Act for any services or facilities provided by registered lobbyists; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6325. A bill to establish an independent advisory committee to review certain regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6326. A bill to prohibit any new major rule from taking effect until the Secretary of Labor conducts a study to determine the impact of such rule on wages and employment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6327. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Department of Labor be a covered agency for purposes of regulatory flexibility analyses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6328. A bill to establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to

provide assistance to victims of hate crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6329. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a refundable credit against tax for costs associated with naturalization; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 6330. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study regarding the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Naugatuck River Valley National Heritage Area in Connecticut, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6331. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 6332. A bill to establish grant programs to provide for the establishment of a national hate crime hotline and a hate crime information and assistance website, to provide training and education to local law enforcement to prevent hate crimes, and to provide assistance to victims of hate crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 6333. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to the accreditation of osteopathic residency training programs for purposes of graduate medical education payments under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mrs. BUSTOS):

H.R. 6334. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grant program to assist eligible entities in carrying out programs to replace lead service lines for schools and solder that is not lead free used in the plumbing for schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 6335. A bill to amend the non-discrimination provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect older, longer service participants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HANNA (for himself, Mr. DENT, Mr. KIND, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LANCE, Mr. JONES, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KILMER, Mr. WALZ, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr.

BRIDENSTINE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MICA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HECK of Nevada, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SIRES, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. ROKITA, and Mr. HUDSON):

H. Res. 925. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the vital role the Civil Air Patrol has played, and continues to play, in supporting the homeland security and national defense of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H. Res. 926. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom, posthumously, to Mrs. Henrietta Lacks, in recognition of her invaluable contribution to modern science in the form of her own immortal cells—HeLa cells—without which life-saving medicines and procedures would not have been developed at critical moments in our Nation's history; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H. Res. 927. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the third Wednesday of November as "Utility Scam Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

304. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to Senate Resolution No. 421, urging the President and the Congress of the United States to review the changes to the Federal floodplain management regulations to assess whether exceptions should be made for potential building projects so that applications can be submitted to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for review and consideration under the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and so that the applications are not at an economic disadvantage; to the Committee on Financial Services.

305. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, relative to Assembly Resolution No. 183, urging Congress and the President of the United States to enact legislation to ensure that students from the State of New Jersey and throughout the United States have access to debt-free higher education at public colleges and universities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 6324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States; the power to regulate commerce among the several states and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 6327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution of the United States; the power to regulate commerce among the several states and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power *** To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 6330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power *** To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. GABBARD:

H.R. 6331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution including Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution (General Welfare Clause), Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce), and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. ISRAEL:

H.R. 6332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 6334.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIBERI:

H.R. 6335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 213: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 221: Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 563: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 592: Mr. MARINO.
 H.R. 775: Mr. TROTT.
 H.R. 793: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 814: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia.
 H.R. 862: Mr. MACARTHUR.
 H.R. 1095: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 1151: Mr. GRIFFITH.
 H.R. 1218: Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 1763: Mr. LEVIN and Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 1855: Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 2001: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 2076: Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. COURTNEY.
 H.R. 2103: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
 H.R. 2293: Mr. PERRY, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
 H.R. 2759: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 2894: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
 H.R. 2962: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
 H.R. 3084: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TED

LIEU of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. HECK of Washington.

H.R. 3397: Mr. HARPER.
 H.R. 3516: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 3522: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 3648: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 3652: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 3785: Ms. GRAHAM.
 H.R. 3991: Mr. ZELDIN.
 H.R. 4151: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, Mr. DOLD, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H.R. 4247: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
 H.R. 4456: Mrs. BLACK and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 4514: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 4585: Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H.R. 4640: Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. CICILLINE.
 H.R. 4646: Ms. LEE and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 4682: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 4693: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HONDA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4718: Ms. MENG.
 H.R. 4770: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
 H.R. 4813: Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 4832: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 4896: Ms. KUSTER.
 H.R. 4919: Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.
 H.R. 5009: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 5073: Ms. HAHN.
 H.R. 5090: Mr. KIND, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. RENACCI.
 H.R. 5172: Mr. DENT and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 5205: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 5207: Ms. ESTY.
 H.R. 5219: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 5235: Ms. BASS, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. AGUILAR and Mrs. CAPPS.
 H.R. 5369: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 5418: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 5454: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 5501: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 5560: Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. CAPPS and Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 5621: Mr. SWALWELL of California.
 H.R. 5635: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5682: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 5689: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 5764: Mr. SERRANO and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 5851: Ms. LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 5951: Mr. HARPER, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mrs. ROBY.
 H.R. 5980: Mr. KILMER,
 H.R. 5999: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. HECK of Washington, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BOST, Mr. JONES, and Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 6020: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 6025: Mr. MARCHANT and Mr. KING of New York.
 H.R. 6037: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HIMES, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 6049: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 6067: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
 H.R. 6108: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H.R. 6117: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 6175: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
 H.R. 6211: Mr. KILMER, Mr. NOLAN, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 6213: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
 H.R. 6226: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. RATCLIFFE.
 H.R. 6234: Mr. GIBSON, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 6273: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
 H.R. 6277: Mr. LAMBORN.
 H. Con. Res. 159: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MEADOWS.
 H. Con. Res. 165: Mr. CHAFFETZ, Ms. MENG, and Mr. HUDSON.
 H. Res. 268: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H. Res. 831: Mr. HOLDING.
 H. Res. 861: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. POE of Texas.
 H. Res. 918: Ms. NORTON and Mr. POCAN.
 H. Res. 922: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

SENATE—Wednesday, November 16, 2016

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who alone spreads out the heavens and rules the raging of the seas, make haste and touch our Nation with Your healing hands. Use our lawmakers to provide the checks and balances that will unite this land.

Lord, give them the wisdom to inquire of You, seeking to be Your instruments in the unfolding of Your loving providence. Confound the enemies of freedom until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Lord, do for this land we love immeasurably, abundantly, above all that we can ask or imagine, as Your will is done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

O God, You are our helper and deliverer. Continue to be our shelter in the time of storm.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT). The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE LEADERSHIP FOR THE 115TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning our conference came together to select a Republican leadership team for the 115th Congress. It is an honor to be chosen once again by my colleagues to continue serving as leader. I know I speak for every Republican Senator in expressing gratitude to the American people for entrusting us with this new majority. It is a great responsibility and one that we do not take lightly.

I want to recognize Senator SCHUMER and the new Members of his team as well. Leading a party—any party—in the Senate is no easy task. Our colleague from New York has a tough job ahead of him, but he is pretty tough as

well, and I send him my congratulations. Regardless of party, though, one thing is clear. We have work to do. I know each of us is eager to get started.

That includes Senator-Elect TODD YOUNG from Indiana. I have had the opportunity to spend time with him this week and to congratulate him on his truly impressive victory. It was a hard-fought race, and he should be proud of the outstanding campaign he ran. Of course, our friend Senator DAN COATS leaves behind some pretty big shoes to fill. I will have more to say about that later, but I am confident that Senator-Elect YOUNG is up to the task. So we are all looking forward to his joining us on this side of the Capitol come next January.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, election day was tough for a lot of Americans. To say things didn't go the way we wanted on this side of the aisle would be a gross understatement. America is still reeling from this, and there will be even more concern in a few days when the final vote tally comes because Hillary Clinton will have gotten more than 2 million votes more than Donald Trump.

So I think it speaks volumes that a Democratic Senator entered legislation yesterday that will take a look at the electoral college system. This should not be a partisan issue. It should be an issue that committees of jurisdiction in this body take a look at. Let's listen to some experts talk about it and find out if the system is working very well. It was set up a long time ago, and maybe it should be changed. So, I think it is something we need to take a look at.

It is interesting that just in the last few years—in this century—we have had two winners of elections that got less votes than the losers. I am sorry. We have two elections this century where the losers got more votes than the winners. So we need to take a look at that, and so I hope something is done on a bipartisan basis because no one knows what is going to happen 4 years from now, 8 years from now, 12 years from now. It is something that should be looked at. It is very important for us as a country to take another look at the electoral college system.

NEVADA ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there were a number of bright spots on election day, but I have to say, without any question, that the one for us was in Nevada. We scored victories everywhere.

The Koch brothers came to the State and publicly said: REID has been hard on us, and we are going to teach him a lesson. I wasn't born yesterday. I knew. They really didn't frighten me.

In spite of all their untold wealth, they could not affect what we had built up over the years in Nevada. We carried the State by about 30,000 votes for Hillary Clinton, which maybe in California it doesn't sound like a lot, but in South Carolina and Nevada it is a lot of votes—30,000 votes.

In the Senate seat to replace me, we won by a large margin. We picked up two Democratic House seats. Out of the six Democratic House seats that were picked up in this past election, a third of them came from Nevada. We turned the assembly to a big, big majority. The State senate now has 21 members. It was 11-to-10 Republican. It is now 11-10 Democratic. To make it even better, the day after the election a Republican State senator switched to become an Independent, like BERNIE SANDERS and ANGUS KING. So there is a two-vote majority there. It was really a good day for Nevada.

We rejected the divisive vision of America that some had, but we also enacted some important reforms. In Nevada—the Wild West, NRA members galore—we voted to have background checks. When I went to the State legislature a long time ago, in 1969, as a young assemblyman, I introduced legislation to have a 3-day waiting period before you can buy a gun. That has been longstanding in most of rural Nevada. They eliminated that. But I started being concerned about this a long time ago, and now in Nevada we are going to have background checks for people purchasing guns. That is good. The National Rifle Association spent millions of dollars trying to stop that, but we cared more about keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people than catering to people with special interests.

I mention the NRA. Listen, the National Rifle Association used to be a different organization. After the Columbine horror in Colorado, they came out saying that we should do something for background checks. They have changed. Members of the NRA in Nevada understand that. They are like NRA members all over the country. The majority of NRA members believe there should be background checks and

you shouldn't as a criminal be able to buy a gun or you shouldn't be able to buy a gun if you are unstable mentally.

We elected the first Latina Senator in the history of the country, CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO. We are a diverse State. I am happy that our elected leaders that we brought back here certainly represent that.

I have talked about CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO. She is going to be a wonderful Senator. I am so proud of her. I have known her family for years. I have admiration for her accomplishments as a prosecutor and attorney general for the State. The Nevada seat was a Koch brothers prize, but they came in second.

We also elected RUBEN KIHUEN. He is a fine man. He is a Mexican immigrant elected to the House of Representatives. He will do a good job, this young man. I have so much admiration for him. The picture on the front page of our papers in Las Vegas was really wonderful. His mom and dad, immigrants themselves, with their boy who is now going to be a Member of Congress. That is pretty dramatic. They came to the United States wanting to live the American dream, and that is what they have done.

Serving with RUBEN and serving with CATHERINE in the Congress is a woman by the name of JACKY ROSEN. JACKY has been an inspiring community leader for years, working as president of her synagogue. JACKY has no experience in politics—zero. She ran for a seat that is just a tiny bit Democratic, but a very competitive seat. It is a seat that Congressman HECK lost for the Senate and held for three terms. She didn't have a really long resume, other than being a wonderful person who had a great family and was involved in community activities. She was president of her synagogue. She proved to be a tremendously talented candidate, and she will be good here in Washington as a Member of Congress.

DINA TITUS, a longtime Member of Congress, is returning to the House for a fourth term. She knows Nevada inside and out. She is a longtime member of the State legislature and a professor at UNLV.

So I am grateful for these good people who are now going to be Members of the Congress of the United States. CATHERINE, RUBEN, JACKY, and DINA will be great for Nevada and the country.

Our Democratic legislature in Nevada will be led by an African American, Aaron Ford. We have an African American leading the State senate. He is the majority leader. He is a wonderful young man who is so talented, well educated. He has a Ph.D. and a law degree. He has it all.

Jason Frierson is going to be leading the assembly as speaker. He is just a good person, a good guy with an accomplished record in the State assembly.

There has been some talk about "the Reid machine," but, of course, the machine is leaving Washington in a few weeks. But it is not about me. It is about our State and about the progress we have made over the years. The victories we saw last week speak volumes about the talent of the candidates and the people working to make sure these victories happen. Most of the work done in the State was by volunteers. There were thousands of people—thousands of people—out in the streets 2 weeks before the election.

On one Saturday, 70,000 doors were knocked on in the small State of Nevada—70,000. Having done door-to-door stuff ourselves, we all know that there were not 70,000 people home, but thousands and thousands of people were reached through that process.

As I have mentioned, our State has a crop of incredibly talented leaders to stand up to the Trump administration and hold Republicans accountable. Our new leaders are going to fight for the issues that are important to the people of the State of Nevada, all issues dealing with immigrants. My father-in-law was an immigrant to the United States from Russia. My grandfather was from England. We are going to do everything we can to make sure that people understand the importance of immigration.

On Yucca Mountain, they asked me a couple of days ago about the Republicans wanting to revive Yucca Mountain. Well, I know the Presiding Officer and the Republicans are concerned about money. So if the Republicans want to revive Yucca Mountain, bring a great big checkbook because what it is going to cost to revive that is not millions of dollars but billions of dollars—billions. There is nothing there. All the equipment has been junked, ground up. It is where they sell junk and metal. It is gone.

What I say is, if the Republicans want to waste money on that, let them do it. Let them do it because it doesn't meet the environmental standards of anyplace, let alone our country. So let them try to revive it. But I say to my Republican friends, make sure you have a lot of money.

We are going to do everything together in the next few weeks, and certainly when I am gone, the new Congressional delegation will do everything they can to protect clean energy. We have really done a lot with wind, solar, and geothermal. We need to continue that.

In Nevada, 87 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government. I know that is hard to comprehend. The Presiding Officer is from South Carolina. If you come to one of the beautiful wilderness areas, that land is not mine. That land is not Nevada land. It is your land. It is public land. You have as much right as anyone to enjoy those beautiful mountains that we have. We have 314 mountain ranges. We have a

mountain that is 14,000 feet high. We have 32 mountains over 11,000 feet high. These are your mountains, just as they are mine.

I say to the Presiding Officer, don't be part of a deal to sell those public lands to the private sector. The States and local governments—they cannot protect those lands. So for our children and our grandchildren, don't let them mess with public lands.

I appreciate the Presiding Officer listening to me. I will close by saying that I am very proud of what happened in the State of Nevada a week ago yesterday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, what is the business before the Senate?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AMERICAN ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3110, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I want to speak on the bill. We are going to have a vote somewhere around midday tomorrow on this bill. This Senator comes to this issue with a long history of drilling for oil off our coast. Ever since I was a young Congressman, I have been fighting to keep oil rigs off Florida's coast. It is especially important at this time, as we have a new administration coming in that took a public position in the election declaring the intent of the President-elect to open up additional areas off the coast to oil drilling. The package that we are going to consider tomorrow is an enhancement of exactly that goal.

I want to point out to the Senate why this is not in the interest of our country now. First of all, we are dealing with a law that we passed about 5 or 6 years ago with an acronym of GOMESA, which opened up for the first time oil revenues that came from Federal waters to be shared with the Gulf States.

We were doing this primarily in the interests of Louisiana because Louisiana had been hit so hard by Hurricane Katrina, and there was a need to

restore a lot of those marshes. This was another way of getting revenue to the State of Louisiana. At the same time that bill was passed, it enhanced a law that we had passed with my former colleague Senator Mel Martinez back in the 2006 timeframe that kept the oil drilling off Florida in the gulf—and kept it off, and it is in law. It is the only place of the Outer Continental Shelf where it is in law that you cannot drill up through the year 2022.

I want to point out for the historical record why that is so and why this bill we are considering tomorrow is not in the interest of the country. This area in yellow is the Gulf of Mexico off of Florida. This is Florida, the peninsula, the Keys. This is the gulf coast of Florida. Over here is Pensacola. All of that area in yellow is off limits to drilling until the year 2022.

Why? Well, it does not take a rocket scientist to realize what happened to Florida's economy after the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. The oil got as far as Pensacola. The spill was over here off of Louisiana. It got to the beaches of Pensacola, some to Destin, some tar balls to Panama City, until the wind started sending it back the other way.

But what happened to Florida's tourism industry on its gulf coast for an entire season? The tourists thought there was oil on our beaches, and tourists did not come for an entire season all the way down to Marco Island, Naples—all of those beautiful sugary white sand beaches, including the beaches of Northwest Florida.

They did not come because they thought there was oil there. That did not just affect the airlines and the hotels. It affected the dry cleaners and the restaurants and all of the largest industry in Florida, which is the tourism industry. That is one reason.

Another reason is that there are so many of the bays and estuaries along this gulf coast where the critters are hatched that supply the fish stocks for the entire gulf. Of course, there are stocks that are hatched here that migrate out into the other oceans.

But there is a third reason. That reason is that all of this area to the east of this line—in other words, 125 miles off Panama City, 235 miles off Tampa Bay, even further off Naples—all of that is the largest testing and training area in the world for the U.S. military. The Department of Defense has issued two letters under the signatures of two Republican Secretaries of Defense saying that any oil-related activities here would be incompatible with our testing and training mission, this being the largest one in the United States.

That is why we do not have drilling there. You will hear the proponents of the bill say: Well, we have exempted this part. We have exempted it not only because it is off limits in law, but what they are doing to the rest of the

gulf coast is almost doubling the revenue sharing that would go to the States, the Gulf States, thereby giving even more incentive for the State governments to want to have drilling off of their coasts regardless of the U.S. military, regardless of the economic engine of Florida, regardless of the very delicate environment.

But there is more. As a matter of fact, the bill before us would offer revenue sharing to States. Mind you, this is drilling in Federal waters. Any revenue would typically go to the Federal Government. As a matter of fact, it is estimated by CBO that it would be a loss of \$7 billion to the U.S. Treasury.

That would also be available for the States on the Atlantic. Here is Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and on up on the Atlantic coast. I brought this chart to show not only the gulf area off of Florida and the military testing and training ranges, but to look at the military testing and training ranges off the Atlantic coast. If it is incompatible here, are we not going to hear, as we have heard from some in the Department of Defense, that it is going to be incompatible in the Atlantic region?

I want to urge that not only have we been battling to keep our coastal environments and beaches clean and unpolluted—that is not the only argument. The argument is also one of keeping our national security tested and trained in the most sophisticated weapons and training for the best military in the world.

This Senator is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. There is a reason that we do not have oil rigs out here. First of all, in the State of Florida, we have Tyndall Air Force Base at Panama City. That is where they are training our pilots on F-22s. At Eglin Air Force Base near Fort Walton Beach, that is where about half of the U.S. Air Force training and the other services—the Navy as well as the Air Force—are training their pilots for the F-35 that is now being cycled in to be the workhorse of our fighters.

The U.S. Navy, which will have F-35s but presently has F-18s, will fly a squadron to Key West Naval Air Station. They will be there for a week or two. When they lift off from the runway at Boca Chica Key, in 2 minutes they could be over restricted airspace, not having spent a lot of time and fuel to get to the area of restriction for their testing and training. So the Department of Defense has said: You simply cannot have oil rigs operating in an area where we are testing these very sophisticated weapons systems—and they need a lot of space; from this location down here, this is some 300 miles—as well as the training that goes on.

It is not just for the benefit of our military, it is key to our national defense.

We have watched the tar balls wash up on the beaches. We have seen the sugary white sands of Pensacola Beach completely black, covered in oil. We saw the harm that was done to not only the local businesses that cater to tourists, such as the hotels, restaurants, and attractions, but to all the ancillary businesses, such as the drycleaners and the real estate firms.

To put it into perspective, for our State of Florida, this is a \$50 billion industry that oils the engine of our economy. We are talking about generating some \$700 million in sales tax revenue for the State, and it helps support more than 450,000 jobs throughout the State. Why would you risk destroying a State's economy as well as our military preparation? It is not as if we don't have other places that we want to produce oil. Think of the oil shale that has been tapped in the Dakotas, in Oklahoma, and in Texas that is not producing at maximum capacity.

As Floridians, the images of the hazmat crews in those hazmat suits and the Coast Guard vessels skimming off the water just 6 years ago are emblazoned on our memories. Our fishermen and our businesses certainly haven't forgotten their own losses that amounted to hundreds of millions of dollars. So if the new administration and the oil industry want to have a fight on in issue, well, they certainly have one. This Senator is going to continue to try to keep the oil rigs off the State of Florida with everything I have, for all of the reasons I have stated.

When we vote tomorrow, I would commend to our colleagues to beware of all of the effects of almost doubling the revenue for the Gulf Coast States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, which is at the heart of what is behind this particular bill we are going to vote on, but also beware there are hidden messages in this revenue sharing, and it strikes at the heart of what we have been trying to protect here—the environment, our economy, and our U.S. military preparedness.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, as long as no other Senator is asking to be recognized, let me just say that from the perspective of the senior Senator from Florida, I think it is the obligation of those of us who were backing the candidate who did not win the Presidency—as President Obama has said,

the President-elect will be the President. It is incumbent upon the rest of us, regardless of party, to reach out and to try to help the new President on behalf of and for the sake of our country.

This Senator, who in four decades of public service has always tried to reach out in a bipartisan way and bring people together, to build consensus in order to govern, will continue to do so, and this Senator greets the new administration with that statement. It is important that a statement like that be made, especially in this time where we are so rent asunder, where we are so divided, and where we have come through an election that has been—the only word I can think of is “ugly.” Things were said in the ordinary course of conversation in this election that should not have been said. Particularly as we try to heal the wounds of both sides and take back the awful things that were said and create an atmosphere where we can come together for the sake of our country, that is especially important, and this Senator is going to contribute to that.

It is my hope that it will be received on all sides and that we will reach out and try to bring people together. I think it is important to say that, particularly at a time where feelings have been hurt and feelings have been so high and so tense.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we are living in historic times. The 115th Congress will be the first time in a decade that Republicans have held both Chambers of Congress and the White House. Before the George W. Bush administration in the early part of this century, you would have to go back to the Eisenhower administration—I believe it was 1953—to find a comparable time of Republican control.

Interestingly, for the history buffs who may be listening, there have actually been 14 times since 1945 when we have had single-party majorities in both Houses and the White House. Eleven of those times have been our Democratic colleagues and three times have been Republicans. So I come back to where I started in saying these are truly historic times.

This morning, our Republican conference met to elect our leadership team to serve in the next Congress during this extraordinary time.

After gaining the majority 2 years ago, it has been a pleasure to look back

and see what we have been able to accomplish even with the President from the opposing party in the White House.

Yesterday I mentioned the rewrite of No Child Left Behind, which sent more authority back to the States, parents, and teachers to make education decisions for children in kindergarten through 12th grade. I also mentioned passing a long-term highway bill for 5 years—something we hadn't been able to do for a long time. Those are just two concrete examples of how, working together, we can tackle big, intractable problems. Frankly, nothing happens in the Senate unless it is bipartisan.

We also passed some other important legislation, something negotiated by the majority leader in the House at the time, NANCY PELOSI, or Leader PELOSI, and Speaker John Boehner, which was the reform of our Social Security laws in terms of how doctors under Medicare are paid. It is an important item because if doctors are not paid a prevailing fee or competitive fee for their services, they are simply not going to see Medicare patients and seniors are not going to have access to the care they deserve. We passed a bill sanctioning North Korea for its nuclear program and its human rights abuses. We also passed legislation to better support our troops, who fight and put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe every day.

I am grateful to our Republican colleagues for voting to continue the direction of progress for the American people by reelecting their current leadership, including the senior Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL. As all of us have, I have had the honor to serve alongside Senator MCCONNELL for several years now, although I have served for the last 4 years as the whip or the right hand of the majority leader when it comes to trying to corral votes and trying to promote our legislative agenda. I found the majority leader to be a wise and steady hand in a town marked by the absence of those virtues, among many. So I am proud to serve with him in the next Congress, as I am with all of our colleagues, and in his case as the majority leader, as his assistant.

We also had a chance, having come back together after the election, to talk about the future and to talk about our agenda going forward. Yesterday I pointed out several legislative priorities at the top of the list—policy items we have to get right on behalf of the American people—such as confirming a Supreme Court Justice who will interpret the laws as we write them and as the Constitution is written, rather than as another policymaking branch of government.

We have also promised we would repeal and replace ObamaCare, which was a failed experiment—failed because the President, when he promoted it, said: If you like what you have, you can keep

it. He said: If you like your doctor, you can keep your doctor. And he said: An average family of four will see their premiums go down \$2,500. None of that has been proven to be true. So it is very important we keep that promise of repealing ObamaCare and then replace it on a step-by-step basis over a transition period with more affordable health care that will preserve the choices in health care through Americans and their families and not Washington, DC.

And then there is the matter of legislation. After our Democratic friends lost their 60-vote majority in the Senate and the Republicans flipped the House, providing for a divided government, the one thing that has characterized the Obama administration has been its Executive actions and overregulation. In August, it was reported the President and his administration had issued 600 major regulations with a pricetag of more than \$740 billion.

If there is one thing I hear from my constituents back in Texas—small business owners and the like—it is that they are feeling the strangling effect of overregulation, along with the cost of compliance and the uncertainty that goes along with it. So it is no surprise to see that our economy has essentially flatlined and not been growing because none of this is good for the small business owners we are relying upon to create jobs and opportunities, and it is not good for American families looking for those jobs in order to provide for their families and simply put food on the table. So we are eager to roll back those expensive, and in many instances unnecessary, certainly in every instance burdensome regulations so the economy can have some breathing room and begin to grow again.

Many of us are interested in addressing tax reform as well. There is bipartisan consensus that our Tax Code is simply too complex and counterproductive. In fact, it is literally a self-inflicted wound when it comes to forcing \$2 trillion-plus overseas that American-based companies would like to bring back, but the reason they do not is they would be subject to double taxation, first, in the country where the money has been earned and, secondly, when they bring it back to the United States. Rather than do that, many of them will leave that money overseas. That means that rather than investing in American jobs and American infrastructure, they are literally investing in jobs overseas and in building infrastructure to support their facilities in other countries. That makes no sense whatsoever.

So tax reform is high on our agenda. I believe, and I am optimistic, that at a time when everybody understands our Tax Code has simply gotten too complex, too expensive, and too counterproductive, we will be able to make some real progress.

Coming from a border State, I can tell you I am delighted to hear President Elect Trump talk about the importance of border security. In a post-9/11 world, it is simply critical we know who is coming into our country and make sure they do so only by legal means. So securing our border is something we need to deal with, and thank goodness there is no shortage of good ideas.

Chairman MIKE McCAUL of the House Homeland Security Committee has a bipartisan bill I think would make great progress along those lines, but obviously we are going to have to have an important discussion among all Members of Congress and the administration about how best to accomplish the goal.

We also need to remember our ports of entry are where legitimate trade and travel occur, and we should do nothing to impede that because legitimate trade and travel are very important to our economy. The U.S. economy enjoys about 6 million jobs as a result of trade between the United States and Mexico alone.

So I look forward to working with the administration and with our colleagues to make sure we secure our border against illegal immigration, including human trafficking, drug trafficking, and the potential violence that goes along with that, while making sure our legitimate trade and travel at our ports of entry are supported so we can benefit from those as well.

Of course, as we debated earlier this Congress, having an updated and efficient infrastructure is vital to the health and well-being of our economy. I mentioned the Transportation bill we passed. A long-term Transportation bill will provide for some of that, but certainly not all that is necessary. We need to take a look at the proposals the President-elect is going to send our way, but there is no shortage of good ideas being discussed both in the House and the Senate as well.

I look forward to learning more about those, but one thing that hasn't been talked about very much is how we are going to pay for it, and that is going to be an important item to discuss as well. Frankly, we can't keep spending our kids' and grandkids' inheritance or at least forcing upon the younger generations the obligation to pay for bills we incur today.

One of the things I hope will occur as a result of this historic election is that we will have the courage and the willingness to sit down and come up with structural solutions to our financial situation, which is \$19 trillion-plus in debt. Because of the Federal Reserve keeping interest rates very low, we are not having to pay huge amounts of money in order to service that debt or pay interest to the people who own that debt, but that is going to change if the Federal Reserve begins to raise

interest rates, and we are going to find ourselves paying more and more money to service that debt to the bondholders and less and less of that money will be available for our priorities domestically, whether they be national security or other investments in things such as medical research and the like.

So finding out how we can crack that nut and come together on a bipartisan basis, working with the White House to deal with our long-term fiscal problems and continuing to meet the needs of our Nation are going to be challenging but exhilarating to do.

Many are talking about the next steps and what should and shouldn't happen in light of the new political reality, but what is clear to me today is that Republicans are united by a strong desire to listen to the concerns of the American people and to deliver results—results that make their lives easier and our collective futures stronger. I want to say that as committed as the majority party is to that, we can't do this without the cooperation and consensus building that comes along as part of the legislative process.

Unfortunately, we have seen the last years characterized by obstruction and filibusters and blocking things that essentially have already received bipartisan support. I am talking particularly about the appropriations process. One of the terrible things that happened this last year in the Congress is the Appropriations Committees have gotten back to work on a bipartisan basis. We would see bills coming out at a fiscally responsible level, with agreed-upon spending caps and Democrats and Republicans supporting them, only to see them dead on arrival on the floor of the Senate. That is the kind of mindless obstructionism I hope we can avoid going forward.

Just from the conversations I have had as a result of this election, many of our Democratic colleagues appear to be willing to work with us. Certainly, with the new leadership on the Democratic side of the aisle, I am more optimistic than I have been in a long time that we can come together while maintaining our strongly held convictions and principles—I am not talking about compromising those but rather working together when we can—and try to develop more ideas to better serve the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of S. 3110, the American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016.

This would increase revenue-sharing with the States for offshore oil and gas development. This legislation is scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor tomorrow.

I am pleased the Senate is finally voting on this critical legislation, and I thank my colleague from Louisiana, Senator CASSIDY, for his lead and his hard work on this crucial issue. Senator CASSIDY and I and several of our colleagues have worked hard over the years to bring this issue to the forefront and help both Congress and the American people understand how important revenue-sharing is not only to Louisiana, to other energy-producing States, but to the country and for the good of the country to expand American energy.

I also thank Leader McCONNELL and Chairman MURKOWSKI for working with us to bring this important bill to the floor for a vote. Revenue sharing with oil- and gas-producing States is only fair, for two key reasons: First, energy-producing States incur real costs and real impacts from that production, including environmental, and second, revenue sharing is the most important way we can continue to incent domestic energy production over the long term in this country. It makes it fair and smart for our U.S. energy future.

Energy production is essential to job creation and an overall healthy economy. If it weren't for the oil and gas jobs that accompanied the energy sector boom earlier this decade, we would perhaps still be in a technical recession. One point I want to emphasize is that many of those jobs have been created by small firms in the oil and gas sector and support sectors. These small business energy jobs are something I have highlighted in my role as chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and they are vital in terms of the impact in this sector.

This legislation would increase revenue sharing for the Gulf States that produce energy offshore and would establish revenue sharing for new production off of Alaska and off of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. These are all areas that welcome the opportunity to have this revenue sharing to incent domestic energy production and increase the availability of American energy.

Contrary to what some have said, this legislation would not authorize any new offshore drilling. Let me repeat. This legislation does not provide for new or expanded lease sales. This bill is about revenue sharing.

Let me be clear on what revenue sharing means for a State like Louisiana, but there are many more. In Louisiana, we spend 100 percent of these revenues on environmental concerns—specifically coastal restoration. We lose about a football field worth of land in coastal Louisiana—just think of the football field you see every Sunday in an NFL game; that amount of

land just in coastal Louisiana—every 38 minutes. That is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year, no time off for weekends, holidays, nothing. It is a constant loss. It is an environmental disaster. That is the most significant environmental issue by far that we face in our State. Our State is committed to spending all of the money we receive from revenue sharing to restore, rebuild, and protect our coast. That is vitally important for Louisiana, but it is also vitally important for the rest of the country because Louisiana supplies so much energy that is good for America.

Let me be clear on what this legislation does. It expands revenue sharing to Alaska and the Mid-Atlantic States, so it has impacts well beyond the gulf in a very positive way. Beginning in 2027, Alaska, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia would begin receiving 37.5 percent revenue sharing from oil and gas production off of their coasts, which is what Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi receive on new production there.

It would also increase revenue sharing that those Gulf States receive under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, or GOMESA. Under that law, revenue sharing in those four Gulf States is capped at \$500 million per year between all of them, but beginning in 2027, that cap would increase substantially. That cap right now is completely arbitrary and far too low. Revenue sharing is vital when it comes to adequately compensating States that help provide so much U.S. energy. It needs to be adequate if we are going to continue to incent those States to play that very important role in our U.S. economy. This legislation would help bring that objective to reality, and it is a critical component of a robust, strengthened revenue sharing regime for those major energy-producing States.

I urge my colleagues to pass this important legislation. Again, I thank everyone who has worked on this, starting with my colleague from Louisiana, Senator CASSIDY, who will be speaking on this topic immediately following me.

With that, I welcome the Senator's remarks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I wish to thank Senator VITTER for his support, his kind words, and his tireless effort over his senatorial career to highlight the fact that Louisiana is losing so much land and there is something we need to do about it.

I also thank Majority Leader McConnell for following through on his commitment to allow a vote on the American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016. This was introduced earlier this year by Senators MURKOWSKI, SCOTT,

VITTER, TILLIS, SULLIVAN, and me. I thank each of them for their hard work.

I also thank Senators KAINE and WARNER for helping draft the Atlantic portion of the legislation and for cosponsoring an earlier version. As I just said, this is a bipartisan piece of legislation that uses an "all of the above" strategy to pursue true American energy independence.

More than anything else, though, this legislation is about creating better jobs with better benefits. If there was one message we heard from this past election—if we actually listened to the American people, if we heard what they were saying, what we heard is that they want jobs that work for them, better jobs with better benefits. This helps accomplish that. For example, a study conducted by Quest Offshore Resources, Inc., projects that this legislation would incentivize the creation of 280,000 new jobs by 2035. That same study estimates \$195 billion in new investments and an additional \$51 billion in cumulative government revenue. That is \$51 billion in new Federal revenue that this bill helps unlock. It goes a long way to addressing our debt, deficit, and obligation to future generations.

The American Energy and Conservation Act will benefit American families and small businesses by expanding opportunities for States—not just gulf coast but elsewhere—to support energy development.

For years, energy activities in coastal Gulf States and adjacent offshore waters have produced billions of barrels of oil and trillions of cubic feet of natural gas for American families. These States support offshore energy development for the rest of the country and provide the support and pay for the infrastructure needed to bring this energy to market. As with all development, there are increased costs associated with supporting increased traffic, additional use of local and State resources, as well as transportation corridors such as pipelines, vessels, and trucks to get this energy delivered to consumers across the United States.

This bill is truly an "all of the above" energy jobs bill. This legislation includes language introduced by Senators HELLER, HEINRICH, RISCH, and TESTER that streamlines the process for developing the renewable energy on public lands while establishing the first-ever revenue sharing paradigm for renewables. This legislation incentivizes tapping into the 27,000 megawatts of carbon-free energy that the Bureau of Land Management estimates could be provided by these projects.

Furthermore, if offshore revenue exists for oil and gas development, the same should be true for offshore wind development. That is why we are using the same model established in

GOMESA to extend revenue sharing to States that support offshore wind projects. This legislation thus incentivizes developing some of the 4,233 gigawatts of carbon-free generation that the Bureau of Land Management estimates is available for development off our coasts.

This is the American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016. This legislation makes significant investments in conservation projects all over the United States. This legislation provides an additional \$807 million for projects that increase access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. This particular provision was included in Senator MURKOWSKI's Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, which 24 Senators have cosponsored. The legislation makes investments in a variety of important programs, including the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program.

This legislation is supported by over 50 important stakeholder groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the American Petroleum Institute, and the Consumer Energy Alliance. These organizations understand that this legislation is a jobs builder and good policy for American workers.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, the American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016.

I yield back.

Mr. VITTER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JACK SHATFORD

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, my Arkansan of the week is Jack Shatford, and the recognition is both honorary and, sadly, posthumous. Jack passed away last month during one of his many hunting trips to Arkansas. He loved our State and its people, and we all miss him badly.

Jack first got to know Arkansas on the other side of the world in Vietnam. Jack and my dad Len served together in the same infantry squad in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. They became closest of friends, a friendship that only grew over nearly a half century.

Jack was from Missouri, so he and Dad were able to see each other regularly, often on deer-hunting trips in Arkansas and duck- and goose-hunting trips in Missouri. He became like the brother my dad never had, a second son to my grandparents and Aunt Pood. Jack also got to know my mom Avis, just as my mom and dad got to know

Jack's wife Joy. Over time, my sister and I came along and Jack and Joy became like an aunt and uncle to us, just like my parents felt about Kurt, Jack and Joy's son. Some of my oldest memories are traveling to Missouri to see the Shatfords at places like Six Flags, Silver Dollar City, and Branson and seeing how happy and excited my dad was in the days leading up to Jack's visits to Arkansas.

Jack was a lifelong hunter and outdoorsman. He worked for 34 years at the Missouri Department of Conservation. If it flew, ran, or swam, you can pretty much bet that Jack knew how to find it, track it, kill it, and cook it. In fact, I have to confess that Jack probably put more meat on the Cotton family table than my dad ever did. He taught me a lot of lessons as well, not just about the outdoors but about life. Jack helped me see some things through my dad's eyes, and I figure he probably did the same thing for my dad. Their example from Vietnam contributed to my decision to join the Army. That wasn't an easy time in the Cotton household, believe me, but Jack was there to help smooth things over, and he encouraged me all along the way.

Jack was a patriot. He had put his life on the line to defend the country we love so much. I know from my dad's war stories that Jack was fearless and brave, but he was also gentle and outgoing, the kind of guy who makes fast friends. He sure made a lot of friends in Dardanelle where he was like an adopted son. He even belonged to our Yell County Wildlife Federation. Above all, though, Jack was a loving family man, a devoted husband to Joy, and father to Kurt and his wife Mary, and Jack was a doting grandpa to Sarah and Shelby. They will miss Jack as we all miss him so dearly.

The pain hasn't gone away yet. It will not for a while, and it may never go away, but with the pain, we ought to be swelled with pride and gratitude to have known and loved such a fine man.

Jack Shatford, rest in peace and follow me.

FUNDING OUR MILITARY

Mr. President, the world may be more unstable than ever. The security architecture we built after World War II is at risk. Our parents and grandparents fought to keep the world free from a conflict between major powers. They created order out of the chaos of world war and genocide. They protected our freedom and ensured that our democratic ideals would be the dominant power in the world. The foundation of that order is the U.S. military. Since they toppled Nazi Germany and imperial Japan, they held firm against the North Korean assault on the democratic South. They faced down a powerful Soviet Union through decades of Cold War. They liberated

Kuwait and have shed blood and sweat for over a decade, keeping America safe from Islamic terrorism.

Today our military is composed solely of volunteers. We don't press our people into service. They choose to serve. Since the draft was abolished, we have had a basic compact with our men and women in uniform. In exchange for their service, we ensure that they have the best training, equipment, and leadership America has to offer. We make certain that if our troops must face the enemy, they are equipped to meet the task. With regret, I must say this compact is fraying and we are failing in our duty to our military.

Today the Armed Forces face a growing number of threats and a shrinking budget. Russia is resurgent. They don't think they lost the Cold War, only that they were behind at halftime. Russia's invasion and occupation of Ukraine and Georgia make it clear that Moscow seeks to dominate its so-called near abroad. Moscow wants to divide the great Atlantic Alliance, viewing the confederation of democracies as a threat to the power and authority of a Putin government. Their bombers probe our airspace in ways unseen since the Cold War. They recently sent a carrier fleet through the English Channel. They probe our electronic defenses with daily cyber attacks and rattle the sabre of their nuclear arsenal at the West.

China has also risen. They have sought to establish military control over the East and South China Seas. China also probes and attacks American servers, stealing vital military and industrial secrets. China has quadrupled its defense spending in the past few years, seeking control of the Pacific Rim.

North Korea is growing a nuclear arsenal and developing the capability to hit any American city with those nuclear bombs.

Iran continues to violate the terms of its nuclear agreement and is the world's worst state sponsor of terrorism. Just last month, Iranian-backed rebels fired Chinese anti-ship missiles at an American warship. Had it not been for the skill of the crew and our modern defenses, sailors may have come home in boxes.

In Afghanistan, we lost 15 service-members in 2016. They continue to fight daily, protecting Americans from the threat of a resurgent terrorist threat.

How do we repay their service? We have cut their budget by over \$1 trillion. We have told them to do more with less. We have ignored their needs, long and repeated deployments, and brutal operations tempo. We have cut their pay, forced them to sail on rickety ships, and told them to fly on aircraft so old they date back to the Truman and Eisenhower administrations. This neglect has taken its toll.

In January, 12 Marines died in a helicopter crash. Low readiness and subpar flying hours were to blame. Last week, six Green Berets were killed in 72 hours. They died in three separate incidents, stretching from the continental United States to Jordan, to Afghanistan. The Air Force is 4,000 airmen short of what is needed to maintain their fleet, and they are 700 pilots short to fly that fleet. They are salvaging parts from scrap yards to keep their aircraft flying.

Since May, five F-18 Hornets and Super Hornets have crashed, killing two pilots and destroying all five jets. In the Army, just 30 percent of brigade combat teams are properly trained and equipped to fight. The Navy has had to defer maintenance for combat ships, leaving them more dangerous for the crews.

We are wrong to ask our military to work and risk their lives under these conditions, and we cannot wait until the next fiscal year to fix this crisis because this is a crisis. This is no way to treat our troops and the military needs relief now.

I will soon introduce a \$26 billion emergency spending request, a lifeline to our overworked warfighters. The funds will be used to address immediate needs in military readiness and overseas operations. They will give our warfighters critical relief in these trying times. They will help keep our men and women in uniform safe as we ask them to do an increasingly dangerous job.

I ask my colleagues to put aside old debates and do what is right for our Armed Forces. They are the ones risking their lives daily, not us. They are the ones out on the front lines defending our country, not us. They are the ones begging for help, and we are the ones obligated to provide it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, it has been the great privilege and honor of my life to represent the people of Arizona in the Senate. I am humbled that in last Tuesday's election they placed their trust in me for another term.

Since I first came to this body, I have never taken that trust for granted, and I never will. I will get up every day for the next 6 years determined to work harder than the day before for the people of Arizona.

Of course, mine was not the only election last Tuesday. The American

people did their civic duty and chose a new President. I congratulate the President-elect. My prayers are with him and his family as he prepares to assume our Nation's highest office, and I will do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges confronting our Nation.

This was a long and difficult national election and not always an uplifting one. I know there were many Americans who were disappointed on election night, and we have seen some of that disappointment in the protests that have taken place in several cities across the Nation. Some of those protesters have even taken to using the slogan "Not my President." This is misguided.

I have been on the losing side of elections before, and it is no fun. But America has only one President at a time. We do not have to agree with the President on every issue, and when we do disagree, we should express ourselves in the spirit of mutual respect that is essential for a free and democratic people.

Therefore, I urge all Americans to offer our next President good will and an earnest effort to find ways to come together to make necessary compromises to grow our economy, defend our security, and leave future generations a stronger, better America.

That better America is one in which we never forget that whatever our differences, we are all Americans. We must respect our common citizenship by treating each other with respect.

That is why I have been so disturbed by reports of increased acts of intimidation, harassment, and even violence directed at minority, racial, and religious groups in the aftermath of this election.

Prejudice and hate have no place in America. Such behavior is a betrayal of who we are as a people and all that we aspire to be. To those who have committed these disgusting acts, I repeat the words of the President-elect: Stop it.

With the campaign over, it is time for all of us to go about the work the American people sent us here to do, and there is a lot of work to do. For too long, Washington has schemed, fought, and maneuvered to gain political advantage at the cost of delivering for the American people. The predictable result is that we have made little, if any, progress toward meeting the great challenges of our time and too many Americans feel left out and left behind.

This election made clear that Americans are fed up with business as usual in Washington, and they want us to make progress now on solving national problems that threaten their ability to prosper and make a better life for their families. They want progress now on growing the economy and increasing their opportunities to live purposeful and satisfying lives. They want

progress now to secure their families and America's interests from the dangerous threats we face overseas.

As chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, America's national security and the men and women in uniform who protect it will be my top priorities.

We have to put an end to business as usual at the Pentagon, where the largest government agency cannot pass a financial audit and where a broken acquisitions system is too often plagued by cost overruns, schedule delays, and poor performance.

We have to put an end to sequestration once and for all and return to a strategy-based defense budget. It gives our servicemembers the resources, training, and equipment they need to meet current and future threats. We have to accelerate the defeat of ISIL in Iraq and Syria and continue to take the fight to radical Islamist terrorists who seek to attack our homeland. Above all, we must remain the free world's leader and stand up always and everywhere for the values that make us exceptional and to which all people are entitled: the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We have to reinvigorate America's alliances around the world, not discard them in favor of cynical deals with adversaries who want us to relinquish our global leadership.

We have to enhance shared efforts to deter and, if necessary, defeat aggression from whatever power threatens our interests and values. Achieving these goals will require a team at the Department of Defense composed of the best people our Nation has to offer. The Senate Armed Services Committee stands ready to receive nominations from the new President. The stakes for our Nation are high. So too must be our standards.

America has many challenges ahead, but none of us should despair of our present difficulties. Instead, we must believe always in the promise and greatness of America. I still do. In that spirit, my promise is this: to work as hard as I ever have; to use all my knowledge, experience, and relationships; and to work with our new President and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to solve our problems together as fellow Americans.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON WINNING THE WORLD SERIES

Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, I rise to offer congratulations to the 2016 World Series champion Chicago Cubs, who are

being congratulated in a resolution that I did with my colleague Senator DURBIN.

For 100 years, it seemed fitting that we would overcome the daunting three games to one to win the series. Many times I have said that any team can have a bad century, like 108 years. One of the most painful moments we have had as Cubs fans is watching the 1969 Cubs when we always knew we were going to beat the amazing Mets. I remember the names: the late Ron Santo, the late Ernie Banks, Fergie Jenkins, and Billy Williams. They were up nine games on the Mets but collapsed at the end of the season.

In 2016, the Cubs blew away the 1969 record and went all the way. They removed the curse of the billy goat and the black cat. That toughness exemplifies the can-do spirit of the people of Illinois. No one deserves this championship more than the best baseball fans in the country, the Cubs fans.

I also want to give a real shout-out to World Series MVP Ben Zobrist. Following the victory, I had the honor of riding in the victory parade. Over 5 million Chicagoans came to watch. I understand from the press that this was the seventh largest gathering in human history. Congratulations to the 2016 World Series champion Chicago Cubs.

I want to send my thank you to Tom Ricketts, Theo Epstein, and Joe Maddon, the players, the fans, and everyone involved in making this the most unforgettable Cubs season.

I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 1 year ago I came to the Senate floor for a series of eight speeches on a subject central to the identity and character of our country's religious freedom. As Congress unanimously declared less than two decades ago, religious freedom undergirds the very origin and existence of the United States.

In that series of remarks, I started with the first principles to establish why religious freedom matters and must be given special protection. I reviewed the central role of religious freedom and the central role that religious freedom has played in shaping our country beginning long before independence. I have an example of how I phrased it on this chart.

From the earliest settlers to the revolutionary generation, to the 19th century, to the modern day, religious freedom has been a driving force in American life. Without the

quest for religious liberty, there would be no United States, and without the continued guarantee of religious freedom, there can be no American ideal.

I also outlined the substance and status of religious freedom in America. In other words, I answered the questions of what religious freedom is and how important it is. From the pen of James Madison to the words of the First Amendment, from statutes to international treaties, religious freedom has always been understood to include both belief and behavior in public and in private, collectively and individually. The status of the importance of religious freedom can be summed up in two words used repeatedly by America's Founders and leaders from the beginning: Religious freedom is both inalienable and preeminent.

In last year's series of speeches, I also described the ways our government institutions are increasingly undermining religious freedom. These attacks come from, of course, the executive branch and even State legislatures, and they occur because our leaders have forgotten, ignored, or never really learned the fundamentals of religious freedom.

A philosopher, George Santayana, wrote that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Put another way, as President Andrew Jackson warned as he left office, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

"You must pay the price," Jackson said, "if you wish to secure the blessing."

Unfortunately, we are no longer paying the price necessary to maintain this fundamental right. Either by negligence or intention, political forces in our society are radically changing what has been the very heart and soul of our great country. They want to restrict the substance of religious freedom so that it includes belief but not behavior; in private but not in public; individually but not collectively. They want to demote the status of religious freedom from inalienable and preeminent to optional and secondary. Examples abound in just the last several years.

When the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress fashioned ObamaCare, for instance, they gave no thought to the law's impact on religious freedom. This is especially shocking given that Federal law required them to do so. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act sets a high standard for government actions that burden religious freedom and explicitly requires that Federal laws and regulations meet that standard. The Obama administration and congressional Democrats, however, ran roughshod over religious freedom in fashioning mandates and policies that force people to violate their deeply held religious beliefs.

The Supreme Court has twice held that the birth control mandate in ObamaCare is incompatible with the protections for religious freedom that Congress previously and nearly unanimously enacted.

Another example is before us today. Two years ago, President Obama issued a sweeping Executive order prohibiting Federal contractors and grant recipients from taking into account sexual orientation or gender identity when making employment decisions. The order itself is not a surprise. President Obama has been a supporter of LGBT rights throughout his Presidency and believes that gays and lesbians deserve the same job opportunities as everyone else. On that latter point, I—along with most Americans—agree. What was remarkable about President Obama's order was that it contained no exemption for employers with religious affiliations.

For years, laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing have routinely included religious liberty exemptions to protect religious organizations from having to take actions that contravene their beliefs. Such exemptions, for example, permit a religiously affiliated school that holds traditional views on marriage and human sexuality to offer married housing only to couples of the opposite sex or decline to hire as a faculty member an individual in a committed, same-sex relationship. These exemptions enable religious organizations to hold true to their beliefs while still complying with the law.

President Obama's decision not to include a religious liberty exemption in his Executive order marked a sharp turn in the wrong direction. One year earlier, Senate Democrats had agreed to include a robust religious exemption in the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, or ENDA, a bill that would have prohibited sexual orientation discrimination in hiring by employers with at least 15 employees. ENDA's exemption tracked similar provisions in numerous State laws, including Utah's. Notwithstanding requests from religious groups, President Obama refused to include a similar exemption in his Executive order.

His refusal means that a religious organization that wishes to compete for Federal funds may be forced to hire individuals who hold views or engage in conduct that contravenes the organization's religious beliefs. This is a direct attack on the ability of such organizations to preserve and promote their religious identity.

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives took action to reverse the President's troubling refusal to protect religious employers. Back in May, the House passed the annual National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, to fund the Armed Forces. At the markup on the bill, Representative STEVE RUS-

SELL of Oklahoma offered, and the committee adopted, an amendment to the bill to clarify that religious organizations that contract with or receive grants from the Federal Government do not lose religious liberty. They do not lose religious liberty protections that they enjoy under other laws merely because they choose to work with the Federal Government.

These protections, which are found in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, include the ability to hire "individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the [organization's] activities" and to "require that all applicants and employees conform to the [organization's] religious tenets."

Such protections enable religious organizations to preserve their religious identity by hiring employees who share the organization's religious beliefs.

Now, the Russell amendment affirms that religious organizations and schools enjoy these same protections when they contract with or receive grants from the Federal Government.

The amendment embodies the commonsense, longstanding principle that religious organizations should not have to surrender control over their religious mission in order to interact with government. Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation spread about the Russell amendment and what it does and does not do so let me take a moment to clear it up.

Some have claimed the amendment would allow contractors to deny service to gays or lesbians or would enable any contractor who so wishes to make hiring decisions on the basis of religious beliefs. It would do no such thing. The amendment is limited only to hiring and employment practices and only to religiously affiliated corporations, associations, educational institutions, or societies, in conformance with the existing protections in the Civil Rights Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The amendment clarifies that religious organizations do not lose religious liberty protections merely because they enter into contract with or receive grants from the Federal Government. That is it. We might think that a position reaffirming existing religious liberty protections would not raise eyebrows. Unfortunately, we would be wrong.

President Obama swiftly expressed his opposition to the Russell amendment. Not only that, but he threatened to veto the entire NDAA, cutting off funding for the entire Department of Defense rather than allow the amendment to take effect. President Obama would rather shutter our Armed Forces than enable religious employers to select employees who share their particular values.

Regrettably, the President has been joined in his opposition by 42 Senate

Democrats who recently wrote a letter to the President outlining their “strong opposition” to the Russell amendment and asking the President to “ensure that [the amendment] is removed from the final version of [the NDAA].”

The President and my Democratic colleagues are concerned, it seems, that if religious organizations that contract with the Federal Government are able to select employees who share the organization’s religious beliefs, they may make decisions that liberals would disapprove of. For example, a religious family services charity may choose to hire individuals who hold traditional views on marriage and human sexuality. Because the President and my colleagues across the aisle do not share these views, they think religious organizations should be unable to take them into account when seeking employees who will promote the organization’s mission. It is difficult to imagine a position more at odds with our heritage of religious freedom.

President Obama and Senate Democrats would empower the Federal Government to compel religious organizations to hire individuals who do not share the organization’s religious beliefs. They would insert Federal tentacles into fundamental decisions regarding religious mission and identity. They would have the Federal Government declare off-limits traditional views on sexual orientation and gender identity that many Americans hold as a matter of religious conviction.

But there is an even more pernicious aspect to the Democrats’ position on this issue. Many liberals argue that claims of religious liberty are nothing more than a front for discrimination. They contend—with some force—that religious liberty claimants just don’t like gay people or don’t like women and use religion as a cover for their deep-seated animus toward disfavored groups. That is, of course, ridiculous.

I would challenge anyone who holds this view to actually interact with a religious person. They will find, contrary to their own prejudices, that people of faith are loving, gracious, and polite and, more often than not, go out of their way to help the poor and the downtrodden. Religious believers don’t treat others with kindness and charity despite their faith; they do so because of their faith.

To my liberal friends, I say: Before you tar religious believers with whatever benighted stereotypes you see portrayed on TV and in the news media, get to know some of them. You will find your assumptions about them are totally wrong.

Nevertheless, many liberals claim that religious liberty is a guise for discrimination. There is no reason, they say, for a religious organization or individual to seek an exemption from an

otherwise equitable law, other than animus toward those the law is designed to protect.

But what, then, are we to make of President Obama’s Executive order and the left’s reaction to the Russell amendment?

President Obama could have included a religious liberty exemption in his order—such exemptions are standard in other laws, and numerous religious groups asked him to include one here—but he chose not to. Senate Democrats could easily have agreed to the Russell amendment, which does nothing more than reaffirm existing protections for religious employers—but they chose not to do so. What reason is there to exclude religious contractors and grant recipients from religious liberty protections that are otherwise generally available? Why single out such contractors and grant recipients for disfavor? It makes you wonder.

Do my Democratic colleagues not see that the very argument they make against religious liberty can be turned against them?

They are seeking to withdraw from religious contractors and grant recipients rights and protections that would otherwise be available under existing law. They are undermining the ability of believers to navigate between secular and spiritual demands. They are bringing to bear the sword of the State when they could easily stay their hand.

It is difficult for me to look at the President’s actions and those of my colleagues across the aisle and see anything other than discrimination against people of faith. They could give room for believers—as our Nation has done for centuries—but they choose not to. Rather, they cut and nip at religious liberty until all that remains is a hollow shell.

I am left to wonder when the drive for equality became the drive to exclude and to undermine religion because that seems to be where we have arrived.

Give a place for us, say people of faith. Allow us to live out our beliefs. We will abide the law, but we ask you to make reasonable accommodations. Surely a simple religious liberty exemption—indeed, one that is already part of our existing laws—would be reasonable.

I close with an appeal to my Democratic colleagues. The outcome of the fight over the Russell amendment is not in doubt. Even if President Obama vetoes the NDAA or the Russell amendment is removed during conference, President Obama’s Executive order will be withdrawn or else amended by the President-elect to include a religious liberty exemption. The Russell amendment will become law whether it is through congressional action or Executive order.

The question for my colleagues across the aisle is whether they will

stand up for the rights of religious contractors and grant recipients or whether they will join President Obama’s losing battle against religious liberty. Will they protect people of faith or will they prosecute them?

President Obama has cast his lot with the prosecution. It is not too late for my Democratic colleagues to choose a different course, and I hope and pray they will.

These are not itty-bitty issues. These are issues that go right back to the core values of our country and our beliefs. Religious liberty is not something that can be cast aside. It is not something that should be cast aside. Religious liberty is a fundamental right, and we should not be playing around with it in the Congress.

When there is prejudice and there is discrimination, that is another matter, but in virtually every case of religious liberty, I don’t find that prejudice or discrimination. Our churches are a vibrant part of America, and we sure as heck ought to stand behind them and make sure religious liberty is always protected.

I hope my colleagues will think these things through, I hope the 42 Democrats who voted to remove the Russell amendment will change their minds, and I hope they start to realize that religious freedom is not some itty-bitty thing. It is the thing in many respects that has been part of making America the greatest land in the world and the freest land in the world and the place where liberty includes real liberty.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I appear to be on the floor for Utah Day, with the junior Senator presiding and the senior Senator speaking. I am delighted to follow the senior Senator. I think in the boisterous days and months we will see ahead, his long-standing reputation for collegiality and reason and the respect in which his colleagues all hold him could become valuable attributes in our Senate.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, I am here as the Senate reconvenes from the 2016 election recess to give my 149th climate speech, but I want first to congratulate my colleagues who were reelected and the new Members elected to the Senate and President-Elect Trump and Vice President-Elect Pence. With control of the White House and majorities coming in the House and the Senate, Republicans will wield great power in Washington, DC, and as the well-known saying goes, “with great power comes great responsibility.”

In his acceptance speech, President-Elect Trump asked us all for help and guidance in governing this great Nation. My guidance would be first to be responsible. A key test will be whether our President-elect and Republicans

here in the Senate choose to be responsible about climate change.

I am gravely concerned about climate change, but based on the President-elect's campaign, he appears blissfully unconcerned, and Congress has been stalled by a decades-long industry-controlled campaign of calculated misinformation on the danger of carbon pollution and by just raw industry political pressure.

But the President-elect will soon hear—and, hopefully, take it to heart—from a grownup world outside the creepy alt-right and the fossil fuel industry, a world of people who actually know what they are talking about. The President-elect will hear from our military and national security experts how deadly serious this is.

Our former Pacific commander, Admiral Locklear, said it was the biggest national security threat we face in the Pacific theater. To use Admiral Locklear's exact words, "climate change is probably the most likely thing that is going to happen . . . that will cripple the security environment, probably more likely than the other scenarios we all often talk about."

Geoffrey Kemp, former Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs under President Ronald Reagan, said:

Our military and intelligence leadership have recognized, under both the George W. Bush and the Obama administrations, that climate change will present real and costly risks to our national security and that the effects are going to get worse if we don't do something about it very soon. As General Douglas MacArthur warned about the dangers of unpreparedness for war, we don't want to be too late.

The President-elect will hear from our National Labs and from NOAA and NASA, the folks who put a rover on Mars and are driving it around and may know a little bit about real science, about the robust scientific consensus on climate change, and the urgency to change our course. If he doesn't trust our own scientific agencies, he can go to any major university in any State in the Nation and confirm what the government and military experts tell him.

The President-elect will hear from world leaders who have pledged, alongside the United States, to work across borders to limit carbon emissions. The Paris Agreement brought nearly 200 countries together with the common goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius and avoiding the most catastrophic outcomes for the planet and its people.

He will also hear from CEOs across America, particularly those in the food and agriculture sectors who are living with climate change consequences every day, and from many others that we need to quit fooling around.

I hope the President-elect will listen to these voices of reason and expertise. The people in our Nation certainly are

listening. Polls show over 60 percent of Americans are concerned about global warming, and more than 80 percent of Americans favor action to reduce carbon pollution.

Rhode Island, the Ocean State, would tell the administration that the oceans are the frontlines of climate change. The oceans have absorbed approximately 30 percent of the excess carbon dioxide that we have added to the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution—30 percent of it. They have also absorbed roughly 90 percent of the excess heat trapped in the atmosphere by those greenhouse gases. Without the oceans to absorb that added heat and carbon dioxide, we would not be worried about the 2-degree warming limit the world community is racing to avoid. We would be looking at a 30-degree increase, and life as our species knows it on this planet would be over.

Oceans have spared us thus far from disaster, but what they have done to buffer our self-inflicted harm comes at its own cost. Global ocean temperatures are rising. In Rhode Island, Narragansett Bay's mean water temperature is up nearly 4 degrees Fahrenheit. Our Rhode Island lobster fishery is crashing, and our winter flounder fishery is gone.

As water warms, of course, it also expands, and as glaciers melt, they add to the volume of the ocean. That is why sea levels are rising worldwide. The water is up about 10 inches at the Newport Naval Station tide gauge since the 1930s, and the Navy is actively planning how to defend the Norfolk Naval Station from rising seas.

The effect of the ocean's absorbing all that carbon dioxide is a little different. It causes a chemical reaction. It is making ocean water more acidic. The ocean is acidifying and doing so at the fastest rate in 50 million years. Considering we have only been on the planet as a species for about 200,000 years, that is a long, long interval.

Rhode Island's clammers, lobstermen, and aquaculture growers are watching with real alarm the damage acidified seas are doing. On America's northwest coast, oyster hatcheries have already experienced significant losses when their new hatches were unable to grow their shells in the acidified seawater. Off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and Northern California, 50 percent of ocean pteropods were measured to have "severe shell damage," mostly from acidified seas. If that species collapses, the bottom falls out of the oceanic food chain.

As the oceans go, so goes the planet.

It is my sincere hope that President-Elect Trump will feel the call of history, of reason, and of patriotism to live up to the awesome responsibilities he now will bear.

The 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the U.N. Framework

Convention on Climate Change, the so-called COP-22, is now taking place in Marrakech, Morocco. A similar gathering took place in Copenhagen 7 years ago. A full-page ad in the New York Times then called for passage of climate legislation in the United States for investment in the clean energy economy and for leadership to inspire the rest of the world to join the fight against climate change. It said:

We must embrace the challenge today to ensure that future generations are left with a safe planet and a strong economy. . . . We support your effort—

They said to President Obama—to ensure meaningful and effective measures to control climate change, an immediate challenge facing the United States and the world today. Please don't postpone the earth. If we fail to act now, it is scientifically irrefutable that there will be catastrophic and irreversible consequences for humanity and our planet.

That full-page ad from which we took this was signed by Donald J. Trump, Chairman and President of the Trump organization. The signatories also included his children, Donald Jr., Eric, and Ivanka. Their future and their reputations are at stake too.

The President-elect campaigned against big special interests controlling Washington, and he mocked Republican politicians groveling before the Koch brothers at their "begathon," as he called it. He has a simple choice now. He can make his own decisions based on the best recommendations of our military, our national science laboratories, and our great universities, or he can fall in tow to the Koch brothers—the biggest special interest of them all.

He can believe our National Labs and our National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or he can believe the National Enquirer. He can believe our military or he can believe the fossil fuel industry's denial apparatus. He can believe established scientific principles or he can believe fanciful conspiracy theories. His choice will be fateful, and the world and history will both be watching.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING COMMERCE LEXINGTON INC.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to recognize an organization in my home State that has been honored for the fine work it is doing for the people of central Kentucky. Commerce Lexington, Inc., the chamber of commerce organization for greater Lexington, has been named Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, ACCE. In doing so, it beat other chambers of commerce from across the country, including those representing Brooklyn, NY; Jacksonville, FL; and Tacoma, WA. This is the first time Commerce Lexington Inc. has won this award.

ACCE's Chamber of the Year award recognizes the leadership role chambers of commerce play in both their respective business communities and in civic life. To win the award, Commerce Lexington Inc. had to compete against hundreds of other chambers, including those from 93 of the top 100 U.S. metro areas.

ACCE presented the award to Commerce Lexington Inc. at its annual convention in Savannah, GA, this past August. Commerce Lexington Inc. has been a finalist for the award 3 years in a row—2014, 2015, and 2016. And in addition to receiving the Chamber of the Year award, Commerce Lexington Inc. also earned one of ACCE's top communications/marketing honors, the Grand Award.

Commerce Lexington Inc. has about 1,700 members, and its mission is simple: to promote economic development, job creation, and growth in the greater Lexington area. It works to foster both the creation of new businesses and the growth of existing ones. Formed in 2004, its roots trace back to 1797. Commerce Lexington Inc.'s president and CEO, Bob Quick, leads a talented and dedicated staff, and he is doing a great job leading the organization, as it receipt of this award so ably demonstrates.

Of course, Commerce Lexington Inc. is successful because they have a great product. Lexington is widely regarded as one of the most livable cities in America and ranks high on lists of best places to start a business, find a job, or pursue higher education. It is a major economic driver of the Bluegrass State, location of the preeminent University of Kentucky, and home to the famous Keeneland Race Course.

I congratulate Bob Quick, Andi Johnson, and the leadership and staff of Commerce Lexington Inc. for winning this prestigious award. Of the thousands of chambers of commerce across our Nation, it is quite an honor to be recognized as one of the very best. I am grateful for Commerce Lexington Inc. and all they do for the Commonwealth.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for November 2016. The report compares current law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2016, the conference report to accompany S. Con. Res. 11, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015, P.L. 114-74, BBA 15. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budget points of order lie against pending legislation. It has been prepared by the Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is the seventh report I have made this calendar year. It is the fourth report since I filed the statutorily required fiscal year 2017 enforceable budget limits on April 18, 2016, pursuant to section 102 of BBA 15, and the 11th report I have made since adoption of the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution on May 5, 2015. My last filing can be found in the RECORD on September 8, 2016. The information contained in this report for fiscal year 2017 and beyond is current through November 14, 2016. This is the final report I will file this year that provides fiscal year 2016-specific data, as that fiscal year ended September 30, 2016.

Tables 1-7 of this report are prepared by my staff on the Budget Committee. While there are no changes to Tables 4, 6, and 7 from the last report, legislative activities by authorizing committees, table 1, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations, tables 2, 3, and 5, have made changes to budgetary levels.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution and the fiscal year 2017 enforceable budget levels filing. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, CBA. Enforceable levels charged to authorizing committees for fiscal year 2016 remain unchanged from the last scorekeeping report, as budget authority remains below assumed levels by \$51 million and outlays are \$2.7 billion above allowable levels. The remaining enforceable levels have all changed since the last report. Notably, over the fiscal year 2017-2026 period, authorizing committees have approved \$550 million in new budget authority and \$505 million in outlays higher than allowable levels. During the last work period, Congress approved two bills with significant direct spending increases, the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, H.R. 5936, P.L. 114-226, and Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act, S. 1698, P.L. 114-241. Over 10 years,

the former increased budget authority by \$44 million and outlays by \$18 million, and the latter increased both budget authority and outlays by \$4 million.

Table 2 gives the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations exceeds or is below the statutory spending limits for fiscal year 2016. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in section 312 and section 314 of the CBA. On September 29, the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, was signed into law, P.L. 114-223. Included in that bill as an offset for supplemental Zika funding was a provision that rescinded \$168 million in budget authority for fiscal year 2016 from funds provided in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. This rescission, which was not designated as an emergency, had the effect of reducing regular nonsecurity discretionary funding charged to the Appropriations Committee by \$168 million.

Table 3 tracks the same enforcement information as Table 2 for fiscal year 2017. The continuing resolution included full-year appropriations for military construction and veterans affairs programs. As such, that funding has been scored against the discretionary caps, leaving \$543.1 billion and \$414.8 billion in budget authority for security and nonsecurity discretionary spending, respectively, for the remainder of fiscal year 2017.

Table 5 tracks compliance with the fiscal year 2016 limit for overall changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills, CHIMPS, established in the fiscal year 2016 budget resolution. This information is used for determining points of order under section 3103 of that resolution. The \$168 million rescission in the CR, discussed above, is classified as a CHIMP; therefore, it is scored against the overall limit of \$19.1 billion. In total, the Committee on Appropriations will be under the CHIMP limit by \$1.1 billion.

In addition to the tables provided by the Senate Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting additional tables from CBO, which I will use for enforcement of budget totals agreed to by the Congress.

CBO provided a report both for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017. This information is used to enforce aggregate spending levels in budget resolutions under section 311 of the CBA. CBO's estimates show that current law levels of spending for fiscal year 2016 exceed the amounts in last year's budget resolution by \$138.7 billion in budget authority and \$103.6 billion in outlays. Revenues are \$155.2 billion below the revenue floor for fiscal year 2016 set by the budget resolution. As well, Social Security outlays are at the levels assumed for fiscal year 2016, while Social

Security revenues are \$23 million below levels in the budget.

For fiscal year 2017, CBO annualizes the temporary effects of the Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, which provides funding through December 9, 2016. For the enforcement of budgetary aggregates, the Senate Budget Committee excludes this temporary funding. As such, the committee views current law levels as being \$952.4 billion and \$582.9 billion below budget resolution levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. Revenues are \$199 million above the level assumed in the budget resolution. Finally, Social Security outlays and revenues are at the levels assumed in the fiscal year 2017 enforcement filing for this budget year.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate's

pay-as-you-go rule. As part of the fiscal year 2017 enforcement filing, the Senate's pay-as-you-go scorecard was reset to zero. Since my last filing, legislative activity has resulted in an increase in the deficit of \$74 million over the fiscal year 2016–2021 period, but deficit reduction of \$35 million over the fiscal year 2016–2026 period. Over the initial 6-year period, Congress has enacted legislation that increased outlays by \$482 million and revenues by \$408 million. Over the 11-year period, outlays were increased by \$505 million and revenues by \$544 million. The Senate's pay-as-you-go rule is enforced by section 201 of S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution.

Finally, there is one new entry in the enforcement table included at the end of this submission, which tracks the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor. On September 14, 2016, a

Senate PAYGO budget point of order, section 201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21, 110th Congress, was raised against the Water Resources Development Act of 2016, S. Amdt. 4979, for increasing the deficit by nearly \$300 million over the fiscal year 2016–2026 period. This point of order was waived through a motion from Senator INHOFE by a vote of 85–12. While the point of order was waived, the bill has yet to clear both houses of Congress, and, as such, its budgetary effects remain unrecorded for enforcement purposes.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE 1.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (–) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	2016	2017	2017–2021	2017–2026
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Armed Services				
Budget Authority	–66	0	0	0
Outlays	–50	0	0	0
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Commerce, Science, and Transportation				
Budget Authority	130	–3	–33	–8
Outlays	0	–3	–33	–8
Energy and Natural Resources				
Budget Authority	0	200	365	370
Outlays	0	200	365	370
Environment and Public Works				
Budget Authority	2,880	2	72	212
Outlays	252	1	57	193
Finance				
Budget Authority	365	0	0	0
Outlays	365	0	0	0
Foreign Relations				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security and Government Affairs				
Budget Authority	0	3	3	4
Outlays	0	3	3	4
Judiciary				
Budget Authority	–3,358	–9	102	–72
Outlays	1,713	–9	102	–72
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Rules and Administration				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Intelligence				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs				
Budget Authority	–2	–1	22	44
Outlays	388	–1	–12	18
Indian Affairs				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0	0
Small Business				
Budget Authority	0	0	0	0
Outlays	1	0	0	0
Total				
Budget Authority	–51	192	531	550
Outlays	2,669	191	482	505

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS ¹

[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]

	2016	
	Security ²	Nonsecurity ²
Statutory Discretionary Limits	548,091	518,491
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	21,750
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	5,101	50,621
Defense	514,000	136
Energy and Water Development	18,860	18,325
Financial Services and General Government	44	23,191

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS ¹—Continued

[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]

	2016	
	Security ²	Nonsecurity ²
Homeland Security	1,705	39,250
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	32,159
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	161,959
Legislative Branch	0	4,363
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	8,171	71,698
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0	37,780
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	210	57,091
Current Level Total	548,091	518,323
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits	0	–168

¹ This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.² Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS ¹

[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]

	2017	
	Security ²	Nonsecurity ²
Statutory Discretionary Limits	551,068	518,531
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	9
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	0	0
Defense	45	0
Energy and Water Development	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	0	0
Homeland Security	0	9
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	24,690
Legislative Branch	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	7,898	74,600
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0	4,400
Current Level Total	7,943	103,708
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (–) Statutory Limits	–543,125	–414,823

¹ This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.² Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 4.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	2016	
	BA	OT
OCO/GWOT Allocation ¹	73,693	32,079
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	0	0
Defense	58,638	27,354
Energy and Water Development	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	0	0
Homeland Security	160	128
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	0
Legislative Branch	0	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	14,895	4,597
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0	0
Current Level Total	73,693	32,079
Total OCO/GWOT Spending vs. Budget Resolution	0	0

BA = Budget Authority; OT = Outlays

¹ This allocation may be adjusted by the Chairman of the Budget Committee to account for new information, pursuant to section 3102 of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution of the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

TABLE 5.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

[Budget authority, millions of dollars]

	2016
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2016	19,100
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	600
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	9,458
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	725
Homeland Security	176
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	28
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	6,967
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	17,954
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (—) Budget Resolution	— 1,146

TABLE 6.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAM (CHIMP) TO THE CRIME VICTIMS FUND

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

	2016
Crime Victims Fund (CVF) CHIMP Limit for Fiscal Year 2016	10,800
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	9,000
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	0
Homeland Security	0
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	9,000
Total CVF CHIMP Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution	– 1,800

TABLE 7.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

(Budget authority, millions of dollars)

	2017
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2017	19,100
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	0
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	0
Homeland Security	0
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	0
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution	– 19,100

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 14, 2016.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2016 budget and is current through September 30, 2016. This report is

submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016.

Since our last letter dated September 8, 2016, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Continuing Appropria-

tions and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (Public Law 114-223). That act had significant effects on budget authority in fiscal year 2016.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget Resolution	Current Level ^a	Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution
On-Budget			
Budget Authority	3,071.2	3,209.9	138.7
Outlays	3,091.2	3,194.9	103.6
Revenues	2,676.0	2,520.7	– 155.2
Off-Budget			
Social Security Outlays ^b	777.1	777.1	0.0
Social Security Revenues	794.0	794.0	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

^a Excludes emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

^b Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted ^a			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,676,733
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,968,496	1,902,345	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	500,825	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	– 784,820	– 784,879	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	1,183,676	1,618,291	2,676,733
Enacted Legislation:			
An act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes (P.L. 114–25)	0	20	0
Defending Public Safety Employees' Retirement Act & Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–26)	0	0	5
Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–27)	445	175	– 766
Steve Gleason Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–40)	5	5	0
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–41) ^b	0	0	99
Continuing Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–53)	700	775	0

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016, AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016—

Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–55)	130	0	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–58)	– 2	368	0
Protecting Affordable Coverage for Employees Act (P.L. 114–60)	0	0	40
Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–74)	3,424	4,870	269
Recovery Improvements for Small Entities After Disaster Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–88)	0	1	0
National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (P.L. 114–92)	– 66	– 50	0
Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114–94)	2,880	252	471
Federal Perkins Loan Program Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–105)	269	269	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–113) ^b	2,008,016	1,563,177	– 156,107
Patient Access and Medicare Protection Act (P.L. 114–115)	32	32	0
Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–125)	20	20	– 7
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114–223) ^c	1,208	0	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	2,017,061	1,569,914	– 155,996
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	9,170	6,674	0
Total Current Level ^d	3,209,907	3,194,879	2,520,737
Total Senate Resolution ^e	3,071,205	3,091,246	2,675,967
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	138,702	103,633	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	155,230

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

^a Includes the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues, and were cleared by the Congress during this session, but before the adoption of S. Con. Res. 11, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016: the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014 (P.L. 114–1); the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 114–4), and the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–10).

^b Emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for certain budgetary enforcement purposes. These amounts, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Surface Transportation and Veterans Health Care Choice Improvement Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–41)	0	917	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114–113)	– 2	0	0
Total	– 2	917	0

^c Certain provisions included in Divisions B–D of P.L. 114–223 provided supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 which, on net, provided an additional \$1,208 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016. CBO estimated that: Division B would result in an additional \$1,108 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 for emergency requirements; Section 145 of Division C would result in an additional \$500 million in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 for disaster relief; and Division D would result in decreases in budget authority in fiscal year 2016 of \$232 million for emergency requirements, and of \$168 million for amounts not designated pursuant to section 251(b)(2) of the Deficit Control Act.

^d For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.

^e Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels in S. Con. Res. 11, pursuant to various provisions of the resolution. The Initial Senate Resolution total below excludes \$6,872 million in budget authority and \$344 million in outlays assumed in S. Con. Res. 11 for disaster-related spending. The Revised Senate Resolution total below includes amounts for disaster-related spending:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Initial Senate Resolution:	3,032,343	3,091,098	2,676,733
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4311 of S. Con. Res. 11	445	175	– 766
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	700	700	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	0	1	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 4313 of S. Con. Res. 11	269	269	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 3404 of S. Con. Res. 11	36,072	– 997	0
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and S. Con. Res. 11	1,376	0	0
Revised Senate Resolution	3,071,205	3,091,246	2,675,967

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 16, 2016.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2017 budget and is current through November 14, 2016. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2016, pursuant to section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–74).

Since our last letter dated September 8, 2016, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that have significant effects on budget authority, outlays, or revenues:

Continuing Appropriations and Military, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Ap-

propriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (Public Law 114–223);

Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–228);

United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–239); and

Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act (Public Law 114–241).

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget Resolution	Current Level ^a	Current Level Over/Under (–) Resolution
On-Budget			
Budget Authority	3,212.5	3,297.5	85.0
Outlays	3,219.5	3,252.7	33.2
Revenues	2,682.0	2,682.2	0.2
Off-Budget			
Social Security Outlays ^b	805.4	805.4	0.0
Social Security Revenues	826.1	826.1	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

^a Excludes emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

^b Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017, AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,681,976
Permanents and other spending legislation	2,054,886	1,960,659	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	0	504,803	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	– 834,250	– 834,301	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	1,220,636	1,631,161	2,681,976
Enacted Legislation:			
Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (P.L. 114–182)	2	1	0
Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (P.L. 114–187)	200	200	200
Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–190)	– 3	– 3	0
Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–198)	– 9	– 9	0
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114–223) ^a	124,397	109,980	0
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–228)	– 1	– 1	0
United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–239)	0	0	– 1
Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act (P.L. 114–241)	3	3	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	124,589	110,171	199
Continuing Resolution:			
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114–223) ^{a,b}	1,037,435	616,126	0
Entitlements and Mandatories:			
Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	914,848	895,267	0
Total Current Level ^c	3,297,508	3,252,725	2,682,175
Total Senate Resolution ^d	3,212,522	3,219,513	2,681,976
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	84,986	33,212	199
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2017–2026:			
Senate Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	32,351,292
Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	32,350,752
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	540
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

^a Division A of P.L. 114–223 contains the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017; those amounts are shown in the “Enacted Legislation” portion of this table. Division C of P.L. 114–223, the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017, provides funding through December 9, 2016; those amounts are shown in the “Continuing Resolution” portion of this table. In addition, certain provisions included in Divisions B–D of P.L. 114–223 provide supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2016 which would result in additional outlays in fiscal year 2017 within the jurisdiction of various subcommittees. CBO estimates that:

Division B would result in an additional \$344 million in outlays in fiscal year 2017 from funding for emergency requirements;

Section 145 of Division C would result in an additional \$1 million in outlays in fiscal year 2017 from funding for emergency requirements and an additional \$10 million from funding for disaster relief; and

Division D would result in a decrease of \$34 million in outlays in fiscal year 2017 from funding for emergency requirements.

^b Emergency funding that was not designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not count for certain budgetary enforcement purposes. These amounts, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114–223)	– 2	– 1	0
^c For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include these items.			
^d Periodically, the Senate Committee on the Budget revises the budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on April 19, 2016, pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–74):			
	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Senate Resolution:	3,212,350	3,219,191	2,681,976
Revisions:			
Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and section 102 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015	172	322	0
Revised Senate Resolution	3,212,522	3,219,513	2,681,976

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS, AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016

(In millions of dollars)

	2016–2021	2016–2026
Beginning Balance ^a	0	0
Enacted Legislation: ^{b,c,d}		
Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act (P.L. 114–148) ^e	0	0
Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (P.L. 114–151)	*	*
Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–153)	*	*
Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–154)	*	*
A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska (P.L. 114–161)	*	*
To take certain Federal lands located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and for other purposes (P.L. 114–181)	– 5	1
Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (P.L. 114–182)	*	*
FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–185)	*	*
Fraud Reduction and Data Analytics Act of 2015 (P.L. 114–186)	*	*
Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (P.L. 114–187) ^f	0	0
FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–190)	– 33	– 8
Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Extension Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–194)	*	*
United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–196)	*	*
Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–198)	119	– 54
Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–210)	*	*
John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission Act (P.L. 114–215)	*	*
A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes (P.L. 114–216)	*	*
Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (P.L. 114–221)	*	*
Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (P.L. 114–222)	*	*
Continuing Appropriations and Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2017, and Zika Response and Preparedness Act (P.L. 114–223)	*	1
Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act (P.L. 114–224)	*	*
West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–226)	– 12	18
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–228)	0	0
Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–231)	*	*
Nevada Native Nations Land Act (P.L. 114–232)	*	*
Survivors’ Bill of Rights of 2016 (P.L. 114–236)	*	*
United States Appreciation for Olympians and Paralympians Act of 2016 (P.L. 114–239)	2	3
Treatment of Certain Payments in Eugenics Compensation Act (P.L. 114–241)	3	4
Alice Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act (P.L. 114–244)	*	*
Federal Communications Commission Consolidated Reporting Act of 2015 (S. 253)	*	*
Program Management Improvement Accountability Act (S. 1550)	*	*
Current Balance	74	– 35

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE 114TH CONGRESS, AS OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

	2016–2021	2016–2026
Memorandum:		
Changes to Revenues	408	540
Changes to Outlays	482	505

Source: Congressional Budget Office.
Notes: n.e. = not able to estimate; P.L. = Public Law; FOIA = Freedom of Information Act; FAA = Federal Aviation Administration. * = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.
a Pursuant to the statement printed in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2016, the Senate Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard was reset to zero.
b The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit. Negative numbers indicate an increase in the deficit; positive numbers indicate a decrease in the deficit.
c Excludes off-budget amounts.
d Excludes amounts designated as emergency requirements.
e CBO estimates that P.L. 114–148 will cause a decrease in spending of \$7 million in 2018 and an increase in spending of \$7 million in 2020, resulting in a net effect on the deficit of zero over the six-year and eleven-year periods.
f CBO estimates that P.L. 114–187 will cause an increase in spending over the six-year and eleven-year periods but would also increase revenues by the same amount over the same periods resulting in a net effect on the deficit of zero over the six-year and eleven-year periods.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF LEGISLATION POST-BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2015 ENFORCEMENT FILING

Vote	Date	Measure	Violation	Motion to Waive ^f	Result
53	April 19, 2016	S. Amdt. 3787 (Sen. Paul, R-KY) to S. Amdt. 2953 to S. 2012 (Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015).	311(a)(2)(B)—Revenues reduced below levels assumed in the budget resolution ^a .	Sen. Paul (R-KY)	33–64, Not Waived
76	May 19, 2016	S. Amdt. 3900 (Sen. Blunt, R-MO) to S. Amdt. 3896 to H.R. 2577 (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2017).	314(e)—Inclusion of emergency designations pursuant to Sec. 251 of BBEDCA ^b .	Sen. Collins (R-ME)	70–28, Waived
79	May 19, 2016	S. Amdt. 4039 (Sen. McCain, R-AZ) to S. Amdt. 3896 to H.R. 2577 (Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act of 2017).	314(e)—Inclusion of emergency designations pursuant to Sec. 251 of BBEDCA ^b .	Sen. McCain (R-AZ)	84–14, Waived
115	June 29, 2016	House Amendment to S. 2328, the vehicle for the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA).	425(a)(2)—Unfunded intergovernmental mandate in excess of limit ^d .	Sen. Hatch (R-UT)	85–13, Waived
139	September 14, 2016	S. Amdt. 4979 (Sen. Inhofe, R-OK) to S. 2848, Water Resources Development Act of 2016.	201(a) of S. Con. Res. 21—Increase in deficits in violation of the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Rule ^c .	Sen. Inhofe (R-OK)	85–12, Waived

^a At the time of consideration, a point estimate was unavailable for the Paul amendment. However, it was estimated that it would decrease revenues below the levels assumed in the budget resolution.
^b This amendment designated \$1.1 billion in outlays as being for emergency purposes. This funding, which was not offset, would be used to combat the Zika virus.
^c This amendment designated \$7.7 billion in outlays as being for emergency purposes. This funding, which was not offset, would be used to extend the Veterans Choice Program.
^d In its estimate for PROMESA, the Congressional Budget Office found that the bill would impose a number of mandates on the territorial government of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities. The costs of these mandates on public entities would exceed the annual threshold in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates (\$77 million in 2016, adjusted annually for inflation).
^e This amendment, as amended, triggered multiple points of order for increases in direct spending over all enforceable time periods. In particular, the amendment increased deficits by \$299 million over the 2016–2026 period.
^f Unless otherwise noted, the motion to waive was offered pursuant to section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-53, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the United Kingdom for defense

articles and services estimated to cost \$1.00 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16–53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: United Kingdom

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$780 million.
Other \$220 million.
Total \$1.00 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Twenty-six (26) Certifiable Predator B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (16 with option for additional 10).

Twelve (12) Advanced Ground Control Stations (GCSs) (8 with option for additional 4).

Four (4) New Launch and Recovery Element GCSs.

Four (4) Upgrades to existing Blk 15 Launch and Recovery Element GCSs (2 with option for additional 2).

Twenty-five (25) Multi-spectral Targeting Systems (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare).

Twenty-five (25) AN/APY-8 Lynx Iie Block 20A Synthetic Aperture Radar and Ground Moving Target Indicators (SAR/GMTI) (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare).

Eighty-six (86) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Guidance Units (EGIs) (3 per aircraft) (48 + 5 spares, with option for additional 30 + 3 spares).

Non-MDE include: Non-MDE items include: communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment, weapons installation kits, and TPE331–10YGD engines. In addition, the package provides a unique and common spares package, support equipment, U.S. Air Force technical orders, country specific technical orders, Contractor Logistics Support for two (optional three) years, contractor provided aircraft components, spares, and accessories, training, and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X6–D–SAC).

(v) 5 Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Armed to be Paid: None.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 16, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—Certifiable Predator B Remotely Piloted Aircraft

The United Kingdom (UK) requested a possible sale of up to twenty-six (26) Certifiable Predator B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (16 with option for additional 10); twelve (12) Advanced Ground Control Stations (GCSs) (8 with option for additional 4); four (4) New Launch and Recovery Element GCSs; four (4) Upgrades to existing Blk 15 Launch and Recovery Element GCSs (2 with option for additional 2); twenty-five (25) Multi-spectral Targeting Systems (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare); twenty-five (25) AN/APY-8 Lynx Iie Block 20A Synthetic Aperture Radar and Ground Moving Target Indicators (SAR/GMTI) (12 + 2 spares, with option for additional 10 + 1 spare); Eighty-six

(86) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Guidance Units (EGIs) (3 per aircraft) (48 + 5 spares, with option for additional 30 + 3 spares). This sale also includes communications equipment, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; weapons installation kits; TPE331-10YGD engines; unique and common spares package; support equipment; U.S. Air Force technical orders; country specific technical orders; Contractor Logistics Support for two (optional three) years; contractor provided aircraft components, spares, and accessories; personnel training; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$1.0 billion.

The UK is a close ally and an important partner on critical foreign policy and defense issues. The proposed sale will enhance U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by enhancing the UK's capabilities to provide national defense and contribute to NATO and coalition operations.

This sale will improve the UK's ability to meet current and future threats by providing improved intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) coverage that enhances homeland security, promotes increased battlefield situational awareness, augments combat search and rescue, and provides ground troop support. The Certifiable Predator B will also be used to support the UK's armed forces and coalition forces engaged in current and future peacekeeping, peace-enforcing, counter-insurgent, and counterterrorism operations. The UK already operates armed remotely piloted aircraft, the MQ-9 Reaper, and will have no difficulty transitioning to the Certifiable Predator B.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. in San Diego, California. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the UK.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-53

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Certifiable Predator B (CPB) Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is a weapons-capable aircraft designed for medium to high altitude-long endurance intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), Target Acquisition, and Strike missions. Protector (formerly known as Scavenger) represents the CPB as modified to a UK-specific configuration which includes the design, development and integration of a UK-specific weapons installation kit for employment of UK-produced weapons (Paveway IV and Brimstone II). Building upon the legacy of Predator B's proven success, CPB/Protector provides up to 40 hours endurance, speeds up to 220 knots true air speed (KTAS) and a maximum altitude of 45,000 feet. The system is designed to be controlled by two operators within an Advanced Ground Control Station (AGCS). The AGCS is designed to emulate a reconnaissance aircraft cockpit, giving users extensive means to operate both the aircraft and sensors. CPB/Protector is able to operate

using a direct Line-of-Sight (LOS) datalink or can be operated Beyond Line-of-Sight (BLOS) using satellite communications (SATCOM). The design enables unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) control to be handed off between multiple AGCSs thus allowing remote-split operations and centralized mission control with other assets. The CPB/Protector system can be deployed from a single site that supports launch, recovery, mission control, and maintenance. The system also supports remote-split operations where launch, recovery, and maintenance occur at a Forward Operating Base and mission control is conducted from another geographically separated location, or Main Operating Base (MOB).

2. The United Kingdom CPB/Protector system includes the following components.

a. A secure Advanced CGCS with workstations that allow operators to control and monitor the aircraft, as well as record and exploit downlinked payload data.

b. The unclassified General Atomics AN/APY-8 Block 20 Lynx IIe Synthetic Aperture Radar and Ground Moving Target Indicator (SAR/GMTI) system provides an all-weather surveillance, tracking and targeting capability. The AN/APY-8 Block 20 operates in the Ku band, using an offset-fed dish antenna mounted on a three-axis stabilized gimbal. It has a large field of regard, produces a strip map and can image up to a 10km wide swath. Swaths from multiple passes can be combined for wide-area surveillance.

c. The Raytheon Multi-spectral Targeting System with Laser Target Designator (LTD) and multi-use Electro-Optical (EO)/Infra-Red (IR) sensor provides long-range surveillance, high-altitude target acquisition, tracking, and range-finding with capabilities up to and including high definition color TV, high definition short-wave IR, medium-wave IR, and long wave IR sensors.

d. The weapons installation kit enables the integration of UK-produced munitions (Paveway IV and Brimstone II) onto the Protector platform. The integration of these munitions requires specialized non-recurring engineering work which will be performed by the platform OEM in the United States.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software in this proposed sale, any information gleaned from exploitation of hardware, publications and software could be used to develop countermeasures (electronic, infrared, or other types) as well as offensive and defensive counter-tactics and allow an adversary to exploit those vulnerabilities during combat.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the United Kingdom.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-43, concerning the Department of the Air

Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Republic of Korea for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$141 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J. W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-43

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Republic of Korea

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$41 million.

Other \$100 million.

Total \$141 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of the Republic of Korea has requested the sale and installation of AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) systems on up to four (4) A-330 Multi-Role Tanker and Transport (MRTT) aircraft. Each LAIRCM system consists of three (3) Guardian Laser Terminal Assemblies (GLTA), six (6) Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System (UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, one (1) LAIRCM System Processor Replacements (LSPR), one (1) Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), one (1) Smart Card Assembly (SCA), one (1) High Capacity Card (HCC), and a User Data Memory (UDM) card. Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-six (26) GLTA AN/AAQ-24(V) (12 + 14 spares).

Twelve (12) LSPR AN/AAQ-24(V) (4 + 8 spares).

Fifty-four (54) UVMWS Sensors AN/AAR-54 (24 + 30 spares).

Non-MDE include: CIURs, SCAs, HCCs, UDM cards, initial spares and repair parts, consumables, support equipment, technical data, engineering change proposals, minor modifications, publications, Field Service Representatives (FSRs), repair and return, depot maintenance, training and training equipment, contractor technical and logistics personnel services, U.S. Government and contractor representative support, Group A and B installation support, flight test and certification, selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) Global Positioning System, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force.

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission. Fee, etc., Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 16, 2016.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Republic of Korea—Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) System

The Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) has requested the sale and installation of AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) systems for up to four (4) A-330 Multi-Role Tanker and Transport (MRTT) aircraft. Each LAIRCM system consists of the following major defense equipment (MDE): three (3) Guardian Laser Terminal Assemblies (GLTA), six (6) Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System

(UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, one (1) LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), one (1) Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), one (1) Smart Card Assembly (SCA), one (1) High Capacity Card (HCC), and User Data Memory (UDM) card. The sale includes spares bringing the MDE total to twenty-six (26) GLTAs, twelve (12) LSPRs, and fifty-four (54) UVMWS Sensors AN/AAR-54.

The sale also includes the following non-MDE items: CIURs, SCAs, HCCs, UDM Cards, initial spares and repair parts, consumables, support equipment, technical data, engineering change proposals, minor modifications, publications, Field Service Representatives' (FSRs), repair and return, depot maintenance, training and training equipment, contractor technical and logistics personnel services, U.S. Government and contractor representative support, Group A and B installation support, flight test and certification, selective availability anti-spoofing module (SAASM) Global Positioning System, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated cost is \$141 million.

The ROK is procuring the LAIRCM system to defend and protect its future aerial refueling and troop transport capabilities. This helps the ROK Air Force become more capable of sustaining and projecting air power across large distances and transporting its forces and fighter aircraft for both operational and training missions with less reliance on foreign partners, such as the United States. The ROK will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

This proposed sale contributes to the foreign policy and national security of the United States. The ROK is one of the major political and economic powers in East Asia and the Western Pacific and a key partner of the United States in ensuring peace and stability in that region. It is vital to U.S. national interests to assist our Korean ally in developing and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This sale increases the ROK's capability to participate in Pacific regional security operations and improves its national security posture as a key U.S. ally.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not affect the basic military balance in the region.

This sale includes provisions for one (1) FSR to live in Korea for up to two years. Implementation of this proposed sale requires multiple temporary trips to Korea involving U.S. Government or contractor representatives over a period of up to six (6) years for program execution, delivery, technical support, and training.

The principal contractor is Northrop Grumman Corporation, Rolling Meadows, IL. At this time, there are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-43

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/AAQ-24(V) Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) is a self-contained, directed energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared-guided surface-to-air missiles. The system features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The system operates in all conditions, detecting in-

coming missiles and jamming infrared-seeker equipped missiles with aimed bursts of laser energy. The LAIRCM system consists of multiple Ultra-Violet Missile Warning System (UVMWS) Sensors AN/AAR-54, Guardian Laser Turret Assembly (GLTA), LAIRCM System Processor Replacement (LSPR), Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), and a classified High Capacity Card (HCC), and User Data Memory (UDM) card. The HCC is loaded into the CIUR prior to flight. When the classified HCC is not in use, it is removed from the CIUR and placed in onboard secure storage. LAIRCM Line Replaceable Unit (LRU) hardware is classified SECRET when the HCC is inserted into the CIUR. LAIRCM system software, including Operational Flight Program is classified SECRET. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

a. The set of UVMWS Sensor units (AN/AAR-54) are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. The UVMWS detects the rocket plume of missiles and sends appropriate data signals to the LSPR for processing. The LSPR analyzes the data from each UVMWS Sensor and automatically deploys the appropriate countermeasure via the GLTA. The CIUR displays the incoming threat.

b. The AN/AAR-54 UVMWS Sensor warns of threat missile approach by detecting radiation associated with the rocket motor. The AN/AAR-54 is a small, lightweight, passive, electro-optic, threat warning device used to detect surface-to-air missiles fired at helicopters and low-flying fixed-wing aircraft and automatically provide countermeasures, as well as audio and visual warning messages to the aircrew. The basic system consists of multiple UVMWS Sensor units, three (3) GLTAs, a LSPR, and a CIUR. The set of UVMWS units (each A-330 MRTT has six (6)) are mounted on the aircraft exterior to provide omni-directional protection. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. Software is SECRET. Technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy justification. Moreover, the benefits to be derived from this sale, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of the Republic of Korea.

RECOGNIZING DOUG PETERSON

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Doug Peterson today as he retires as President of the Minnesota Farmers Union. I join the thousands of farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and residents of rural Minnesota in thanking Doug for his leadership over the years and for being such a tireless advocate for Minnesota farmers.

Doug has made agriculture, advocacy, and public service his life's work.

Prior to his election as State president of the Minnesota Farmers Union in 2002, Doug served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for 12 years, representing a district comprised of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, and Swift Counties in western Minnesota.

Minnesota has taken an incredibly proactive and innovative approach to energy use and sustainability. In fact, we are considered a national leader for boosting bioenergy. Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis once called States the "laboratories of democracy," and when it comes to Minnesota being a laboratory for renewable fuels, we have Doug Peterson to thank.

While he was in the Minnesota House of Representatives, he authored the legislation that established a State-wide ethanol fuels requirement. Because of Doug's work at the State level in steering us toward energy independence, we have seen Federal renewable energy policy being modeled after the groundwork he laid in Minnesota.

In addition to writing landmark legislation and advocating on behalf of greater Minnesota, what some people may not know about Doug is that he is also an accomplished artist and former art teacher. My office in Washington even has one of Doug's paintings on loan and prominently featured. The painting is a depiction of several freshly caught fish, tessellated in shades of orange, purple, and blue. Doug called the artwork "Dead Fish," and I always joke with his members that the painting is much more attractive than the name suggests.

During my time in the Senate, I have had the great opportunity to work on two farm bills with Doug leading the Minnesota Farmers Union: the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. I have seen the dedication he brings to leading the discussion about how to keep agricultural producers competitive, and I will miss his guidance and friendship.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today, on behalf of all Minnesotans, I rise to thank my good friend—and a real jewel in the crown of Minnesota agriculture—Doug Peterson, as he retires as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union after 14 years of leading that important organization.

To say family farming is important to Minnesota is an understatement. One in five jobs in our State is connected to agriculture, and as Doug often told me, when Minnesota farmers and ranchers succeed, prosperity follows.

In all, Doug spent four decades as an influential voice on farm policy, as a family farmer, a State legislator, and, since 2002, as head of the Minnesota Farmers Union. It is fair to say that a great many national, State, and local leaders have looked to Doug not only

for advice and counsel, but also to publicly lead the fight on behalf of our family farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. And I have to tell you, after going through the last farm bill debate, he is one hell of a fighter, and our State and our farmers have reaped the benefits of his work many times over.

For me, as a Senator, Doug was an important mentor. He helped teach me what it takes to put crops in the ground and to get that same crop to market. He also invited me to visit farms across the State to see firsthand the time, expense, and hard work required to raise a bushel of corn or soybeans, a ton of sugar beets, or to produce a gallon of milk. Those lessons have been important to me as I have fought for Minnesota producers in the Senate.

Doug has always known how important our farmers and ranchers are to our Nation's food security and, thus, our national security. And he worked hard to ensure that people in Minnesota and across the country knew how critical our producers are to feeding a world with a growing population.

As our Nation increasingly comes to grips with the causes and seriousness of climate change, it is important to point out that Doug was on the leading edge of Minnesota's clean energy transition for several decades. As a State legislator, he was instrumental in making Minnesota a national leader in ethanol production. As a champion for renewable energy, his priority was not only to reduce our reliance on foreign oil and to cut our use of fossil fuels, but also to create badly needed jobs and economic development in rural communities across Minnesota.

Doug has always been a tireless fighter for family farmers, and he pushed hard against the excessive concentration of foreign and corporate power in U.S. agriculture because those forces were pushing food prices up for American consumers. He knew that our Nation's network of family farms have always delivered a safe, abundant, and affordable food supply to the American people, while receiving just 18 cents of every dollar spent on food in this country. That is a pretty good deal by any measure and one that more Americans should appreciate.

So, to Doug, I say a heartfelt thank you for your years of important work, your friendship, and for teaching us all about how important Minnesota farming is to our State, to our Nation, and to the world. Your service has made a positive difference to a generation of Minnesota producers, and the work you have done will continue to serve our State well, long into the future.

I wish you and your wife, Elly, your two sons, and your entire family the best of luck in the future, and I hope you continue to thrive in your well-earned retirement.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I thank my colleague for his statement and agree.

Doug Peterson has served the Minnesota Farmers Union for 14 years, the Minnesota State House of Representatives for 12 years, and the Minnesota public education system for 20 years. Whether it has been through writing and advocating legislation, painting on a canvas, or educating students, for nearly 40 years Doug Peterson has been leaving his mark. That is why I am proud to honor him today on his retirement from the Minnesota Farmers Union.

TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I would like to recognize the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which covers nine States and thousands of miles of land and water routes.

The Trail of Tears is rooted in a painful, unfortunate time for our Nation. Following the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, five tribes were forced from their homes and into what is now modern-day Oklahoma. These five major Southeast tribes consisted of Cherokee, Choctaw, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Seminole Indians. The trail gets its name from the painful trips these individuals took across the country as disease, desertion, and death characterized many of their journeys.

Arkansas is a State full of rich history and heritage. While it is sometimes painful to recall, the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is a critical part of that history. The National Park Service gave this trail this distinction in an effort to preserve the story of the forced migration of these Native Americans. We must learn from the mistakes of our past so we do not repeat them in the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS WOOD

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Travis Wood, an Arkansan who is a member of the 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs.

Travis was born in Little Rock, AR. He comes from an athletic family and demonstrated his potential on the baseball diamond early. He gained national notice as a member of Bryant's 15-year-old All-Stars team when he pitched a no-hitter and struck out 17 batters at the Babe Ruth World Series.

Travis played baseball at Bryant High School, where he was a three-time All-State selection and helped lead the Bryant Hornets to the State championship game in his junior season. He went on to win more accolades, including

Saline County "Male Athlete of the Year" and the Arkansas Gatorade "Player of the Year" in addition to being named to the Louisville Slugger High School All-American team and the Louisville Slugger "Player of the Year" in Arkansas.

After high school, Travis began his professional baseball career when he was drafted 60th overall by the Cincinnati Reds. He made his major league debut for the Reds against the Cubs at Wrigley Field on July 1, 2010.

Wood was traded to the Cubs in 2011 and was named to the National League All-Star Team in 2013. This season, Travis was an integral part of the Cubs' bullpen, going 4-0 with a 2.95 ERA in 77 appearances.

While he's known for his impressive pitching repertoire, Travis has also had success in the batter's box throughout his career. That was on full display in game 2 of this year's National League Division Series, when he hit a 393-foot solo homerun against the Giants and helped propel the Cubs to a 2-0 lead in the series.

Travis has continued to impress throughout his professional career, and Arkansas is extremely proud of him. We are so excited for Travis and his teammates, who were able to come back from a 3-1 series deficit to win the World Series, the first time the Chicago Cubs have done so in 108 years.

Travis Wood is a great ambassador for the Natural State, and I am pleased to recognize his achievements. Congratulations, Travis and the entire Chicago Cubs organization, on a historic World Series championship.●

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

• Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the 30th anniversary of post-secondary enrollment options for high school students and the former Governor of Minnesota, Rudy Perpich, who founded this program.

Mr. Perpich was the longest serving Governor of Minnesota and a proud member of the Democratic farm and labor party in our great State. Since 1986, Minnesota's high school juniors and seniors have had the opportunity to participate in courses at the college level for dual credit and at no cost to the student or their family. The program has even grown now to allow sophomores to participate. This has made the transition between high school and college so much easier and affordable for our students. I have been honored to continue this effort in the Senate as we reformed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Schools across the country can now invest in accelerated learning programs, including dual enrollment programs, like post-secondary enrollment options, as

part of their efforts to provide students with a well-rounded education.

In 2014, more than 9,000 Minnesota students took advantage of post-secondary enrollment option courses. With the growing cost of college, it is more important than ever that we continue to champion opportunities for students to save. Today I would like to honor Governor Rudy Perpich for investing in the education of our children and working to make higher education more accessible and affordable for all students.●

TRIBUTE TO JULIA RATTI

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Councilwoman Julia Ratti of Sparks on her retirement. After serving as a member of the Sparks City Council for 8 years, Councilwoman Ratti retired on November 14, 2016. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate her on many years of hard work for the city of Sparks and her recent election to the Nevada State Senate.

As a graduate of the University of Nevada at Reno, UNR, Councilwoman Ratti is an exemplary role model who is truly devoted to the citizens of Sparks and Nevada. Before she was elected to the Sparks City Council, Councilwoman Ratti founded and served as president of Strategic Management Services, a consultant firm providing nonprofit and government services. Additionally, Councilwoman Ratti worked as an influential leader for young women as a Girl Scouts of the USA nonprofit manager and former executive.

Since her first term as councilwoman in 2008, she remained committed to helping the Sparks community by serving as a strong advocate for initiatives that helped meet the needs of the city's most vulnerable. Specifically, as chair of the city's redevelopment agency, Councilwoman Ratti focused on improving infrastructure and development in areas around Victorian Square, as well as refining recreational facilities. She also served on the Washoe County District Board of Health, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Capital Funding Protection Committee and Oversight Committee for School Facilities, and the Sparks Legislative Team.

Councilwoman Ratti's impact on local businesses and her relentless advocacy for improving the Sparks community should serve as an example to all. Her steadfast support for the children of Sparks, as well as her entire constituency, will be remembered and missed. Councilwoman Ratti's leadership and achieved success throughout northern Nevada proves her dedication to community service, and she should be proud of her accomplishments throughout her tenure as a Sparks city councilwoman. I am grateful for her

commitment to Sparks and to the great State of Nevada.

Today I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Councilwoman Ratti on her retirement, and I offer my deepest appreciation for all that she has done for Sparks and Nevada. I offer my best wishes for many fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RON SCHMITT

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Councilman Ron Schmitt, of Sparks, on his retirement. After serving as a member of the Sparks City Council for 15 years, Councilman Schmitt retired on November 14, 2016. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate him on his retirement after many years of hard work and dedication to the city of Sparks.

Councilman Schmitt is an outstanding example of someone who is devoted to improving their community. Upon moving to the Silver State and living in the Sparks area for more than two decades, Northern Nevada has greatly benefitted from Councilman Schmitt's leadership in and out of public office. Before taking on the role as city councilman in 2001, Councilman Schmitt served on the Washoe County Human Services Consortium Advisory Board as member and chair, the Sparks Planning Commission, and the Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Schmitt was also a member of the National League of Cities and Municipalities and once served on its board of directors.

Since his first term as city councilman, he consistently remained committed to the people of Sparks and has been a strong advocate for initiatives that meet the needs of families. Additionally, while in office, Councilman Schmitt managed RPS Consultant Enterprise, as principal, served as president of the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, NLCM, and was selected as the "Public Official of the Year" by the NLCM in 2005. He also dedicated much of his time to the Regional Transportation Commission Paratransit Advisory Committee and the crisis call center.

Councilman Schmitt's participation in local business and community programs led him to be a tremendous leader within local government. His unwavering support and focus to ensuring the needs of his constituency were met will be truly missed. Councilman Schmitt remains a prominent leader and will continue to advocate on behalf of the Sparks community. He exemplifies the highest standards of community service and should be proud of his long and meaningful career. I am grateful for his loyalty and commitment to Sparks and to the great State of Nevada.

Today I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating Councilman Schmitt on his retirement, and I offer

my deepest appreciation for all that he has done for Sparks and Nevada. I offer my best wishes for many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JANET SNYDER

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Janet Snyder for tirelessly supporting Nevada's veterans and military families, particularly military spouses and widows. Mrs. Snyder is dedicated to giving back to the brave men and women who defend our freedom and has contributed greatly to the Las Vegas military community and to the greater good of the Silver State.

Mrs. Snyder understands the many sacrifices military families make on a daily basis. As an army wife, mother of three, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of five, she stands as a shining example of someone who has devoted her life to the betterment of others, selflessly serving to advocate for the interests of our Nation's heroes and their families each day. Her dedication reminds us all of the importance of thanking the men and women serving this great Nation, as well as their families, for their countless sacrifices.

Since the passing of her husband of 52 years, Mrs. Snyder has provided unwavering support and care for military widows as president of several military wives clubs and support groups. In fact, Mrs. Snyder was recently installed as president of the National Society of Military Widows in October of 2016. The Silver State is grateful and honored to have a Nevadan leading this critical organization. Additionally, Mrs. Snyder is the secretary and acting treasurer of the Society of Military Widows of Southern Nevada Chapter 34 and was also the founding president from 2012 to 2015. Mrs. Snyder is also an active member of multiple religious groups. She was editor of the Military Jewish Chapel Newsletter and directed and participated in many projects with local religious leaders from Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish communities.

Mrs. Snyder is also known for her outstanding advocacy for military widows by fighting against unfair benefit adjustments that negatively impact families of deceased veterans. Specifically, she has played a pivotal role in fighting for legislation, S. 979, to reverse the offset of the Survivor Benefit Plan, SBP, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, DIC, programs so that spouses of late military retirees fairly receive their deserved benefits without any deductions. As a cosponsor of this bill in the Senate and as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I truly admire Mrs. Snyder's commitment to these families and believe she is an extraordinary role model to all Nevadans.

Mrs. Snyder's hard work has not gone unnoticed. I extend my deepest gratitude to Mrs. Snyder for her noble contributions to the Las Vegas military

community. Her service to Nevada places her among the most remarkable men and women of the State, and acknowledgement of her dedication is well deserved.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in recognizing Mrs. Snyder and her work with veterans and their families. Her efforts are both honorable and necessary. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. MATTI VAZEEN

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Matti Vazeen, an incredible ophthalmologist, for the unwavering care and support he provides to all of his patients in northern Nevada. Dr. Vazeen stands as a true example of someone who has spent many years dedicated to the Silver State.

Before settling in Nevada, Dr. Vazeen studied at Northwestern University and completed his residency from Louisiana State University in New Orleans. He established himself in Northern Nevada in 1999 and has worked in the Carson Valley area ever since. Dr. Vazeen is a well-known, prominent eye physician who specializes in serving seniors. Many of Dr. Vazeen's patients rely on his expertise and appreciate his humility as their physician. I am both humbled and honored to acknowledge Dr. Vazeen for his outstanding work and selfless commitment to his patients in our State's capital.

Dr. Vazeen has served on several industry-related boards, such as the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Vazeen has also performed charitable cataract surgery in developing countries and has hosted multiple speaking seminars at the Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital in Bangladesh. Additionally, Dr. Vazeen was a pioneer in the establishment of a teaching exchange program between the University of California, Davis and the Islamia Institute, which facilitates developmental training for medical students finishing their residencies. Dr. Vazeen's years of service and commitment to helping others is truly inspiring and praiseworthy.

I am grateful for Dr. Vazeen's dedication to the people of Nevada. He exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and should be proud of his hard work that highly benefits many Nevadans. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Vazeen, and I give my deepest appreciation for all that he has done to make Nevada a better place. I offer him my best wishes for many fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DALE SANDSTROM

● Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dale Sandstrom, who is retiring from the North Dakota Supreme Court after 24 years of devoted service.

Justice Sandstrom is a fifth-generation North Dakotan. Born in Grand Forks, he grew up in Fargo and graduated first from North Dakota State University and then from the University of North Dakota School of Law.

After law school, Justice Sandstrom began his career in public service. He came to Washington, DC, to work under Senator Milton R. Young, who was North Dakota's 15th Senator and, for a time, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate.

Justice Sandstrom returned to North Dakota to work on the North Dakota Criminal Justice Commission. He then served for 6 years as assistant attorney general and headed the office's Consumer Fraud and Antitrust Division. In 1981, North Dakota Governor Allen I. Olson appointed Justice Sandstrom to his cabinet as the State securities commissioner.

Two years later, in 1983, Justice Sandstrom was appointed to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, a position to which he was elected in 1984 and then reelected to in 1990. During his tenure on the commission, he served two terms as its president.

In 1992, Justice Sandstrom was elected to the North Dakota Supreme Court. He was reelected to two 10-year terms in 1996 and 2006 and was a member of the court during my time as Governor of North Dakota.

Justice Sandstrom chairs the North Dakota Supreme Court's Joint Procedure Committee and the North Dakota Advisory Commission on Cameras in the Courtroom. He is also a member of the court's Joint Committee on Attorney Standards and is a past chairman of the court's Technology Committee, the North Dakota Judicial Conference, and the North Dakota Judges Association.

North Dakotans have tremendous access to justice, and the State is a leader in court technology because of Justice Sandstrom's work. In 1996, he created the court's award-winning website, and in 2011, North Dakota became the first State in the country to have its entire trial court system on an electronic record system.

Justice Sandstrom is married to Gail Hagerty, who is a judge for the North Dakota South Central Judicial District. Together, they have three children and live in Bismarck.

Throughout his life, Justice Sandstrom has distinguished himself through his example of integrity and hard work, especially during his tenure on the North Dakota Supreme Court. He has shown not only outstanding knowledge of law, but also wisdom in applying it. He has been a mentor to his law clerks, as well as the State bar.

Outside of his work on the court, Justice Sandstrom is an active member in the Bismarck community. An Eagle Scout, he remains active in scouting and received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award for his involvement.

We honor Justice Sandstrom for his excellent work, and we celebrate his achievements. His efforts have made our State a safer and better place to live, and we commemorate him for his dedication to the people of North Dakota. The court has been well-served by his thoughtful opinions from the bench, and North Dakota will always be grateful for his service to our State.●

TRIBUTE TO CYRIL KOFI GUNU

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Cyril "Kofi" Gunu, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Kofi is a graduate of Brandon High School in Brandon, SD. He attends Augustana University in Sioux Falls, where he studies economics and political science. He is a positive and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his experience and who has been a true asset to the office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kofi for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

VERMONT FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATION 2016 AWARDS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, to commemorate Public Recognition Week, the Vermont Federal Executive Association—VTFEA—recognized the more than 4,000 Federal employees working across the State and the good work they do every day. I would like to offer special congratulations to the 2016 Excellence in Government award winners, who have been recognized by VTFEA for their exemplary government service: Vermont Federal Team of the Year Award, The Northwest Vermont Locality Pay Committee—Brandon Ackel, Transportation Security Administration; Robert Brugman, National Credit Union Administration; Brian Johansson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Kelly Larsen, Federal Aviation Administration, Alaska; Bruce McDonald, Transportation Security Administration; Sean McVey, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Mark Nielsen, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Jeff Ostlund, Transportation Security Administration; Corey Price, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Texas; Lisa Rees, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; Diana Richardson, Federal Aviation Administration; Krista Scheele, Transportation Security Administration.

In November 2012, VTFEA discussed what initiatives would benefit the most Federal employees, and it didn't take long to realize that securing locality pay for Vermont was the No. 1 priority.

In early 2013, VTFEA created a Locality Pay Committee, consisting of employees from six Federal agencies. Working tirelessly, the team prepared a locality pay proposal for northwest Vermont and, in December 2013, presented it to the Federal Salary Council in Washington, DC. Unfortunately, the first proposal was denied, so the following year, they tried again. Again, the proposal was denied. Not to be discouraged, the team drafted a third proposal in November 2015, and committee members traveled to Washington at their own expense to support the package and their fellow Vermonters. At the hearing, the council approved the package, which is waiting for approval by the President's pay agent and the President. The Northwest Vermont Locality Pay Committee's tenacity, collaborative spirit, and positivity is why Vermont is being considered for locality pay. And it is because of their efforts that VTFEA chose them as Federal Team of the Year.●

TRIBUTE TO SETH DIASIO

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Seth DiAsio, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Seth is a graduate of the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC, having earned a degree in studio art. Currently, he is attending American University Washington College of Law, where he is focusing on the law of intellectual property. Seth is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Seth DiAsio for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TREY EDWARDS

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Trey Edwards, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Trey is a graduate of Tuscaloosa County High School in Tuscaloosa, AL. Currently, he is attending Auburn University where he is majoring in public administration and minoring in business administration. Trey is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Trey Edwards for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CAITLIN HONE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Caitlin Hone, an intern in my

Rapid City, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Caitlin is a graduate of Saint Pius X High School in Albuquerque, NM. Currently, she is attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where she is majoring in civil engineering. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caitlin Hone for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL YARBROUGH

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Daniel Yarbrough, an intern in my Washington, DC, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Daniel is a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, AL, having earned a degree in political science. This spring, Daniel plans to continue serving the public by working on Capitol Hill. Daniel is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Daniel Yarbrough for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. GREGORY FRITZ

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today Dr. Gregory Fritz will be honored by the Mental Health Association of Rhode Island with the Bell Award. This award recognizes a mental health champion whose work has helped promote the cause of mental health and improved lives of people living with mental illness.

For over three decades, Dr. Fritz's leadership and advocacy have strengthened our Rhode Island community. He arrived in Rhode Island in 1985 to build a comprehensive pediatric psychiatry service at Hasbro Children's Hospital. Since, Dr. Fritz has become the academic director of Bradley Hospital, the director of Bradley Hasbro Children's Research Center, the director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rhode Island Hospital, and the director of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Fritz is also a national leader in the mental health field, serving as the president of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. He has used this platform to encourage integration of mental health services into primary care, a key strategy to improving children's access to mental health care, and ultimately, their health outcomes.

It has been my privilege to see up close Dr. Fritz's dedication and drive to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illness. A decades-long effort I led with Senator JACK REED to provide parity in Federal funding for teaching programs at children's psychiatric hospitals would not have been possible without Dr. Fritz. We hit many road bumps along the way, but Dr. Fritz did not stray from the course. He left no stone unturned—and no strategic partner uncalled—in advocating for this change. He noted, quite honestly, in an op-ed published in the Providence Journal, "I am far from dispassionate about this issue."

Dr. Fritz has displayed passion and energy for raising awareness and bringing people together to identify solutions to a range of issues, including mental health parity, addiction and recovery, and workforce training. This is so important for the communities he serves—children and young adults with mental health and substance use disorders—who too often don't have a strong advocate. Thankfully, in Rhode Island, they have Dr. Fritz.

Dr. Gregory Fritz has dedicated his career to improving the lives of children with mental illness, and many have benefited from his leadership. I offer him my congratulations on this well-deserved award, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside him.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5332. An act to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

H.R. 5732. An act to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

H.R. 6297. An act to reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5332. An act to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 5732. An act to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2566. An act to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications.

H.R. 4665. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7393. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluridone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9951-81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7394. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Penflufen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9952-22) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7395. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mandestrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9945-37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7396. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spirotetramat; Pesticide Tolerances"

(FRL No. 9951-80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7397. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EZ Guarantee Program and Micro Lender Program (MLP) Status" (RIN0560-AI34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7398. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Relaxation of Container and Pack Requirements" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0021) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7399. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oranges and Grapefruit Grown in Lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket No. AMS-SC-16-0059) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7400. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) violations of the Antideficiency Act associated with the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Capital Assistance for High Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Passenger Rail Account; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7401. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal year 2012 Operations and Maintenance, Army, and was assigned case number 15-02; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-7402. A communication from the Law Enforcement Policy Analyst, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Law Enforcement Reporting" (RIN0702-AA62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7403. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Next Generation Operational Control Systems (OCX) program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7404. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of select reserve units, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7405. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office

of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Department of Defense (DoD)'s Defense Industrial Base (DIB) Cybersecurity (CS) Activities" (RIN0790-AJ29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7406. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Afghanistan for the period of October 19, 2016 through December 1, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7407. A joint communication from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, transmitting a request relative to issuing a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to Iraq for the period of October 19, 2016 through December 15, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7408. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sale or Rental of Sexually Explicit Material on DoD Property" (RIN0790-AJ15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7409. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management and Mobilization of Regular and Reserve Retired Military Members" (RIN0790-AJ52) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7410. A communication from the Air Force Federal Register Public Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administrative Claims" (RIN0701-AA79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7411. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Organizational Charters" (RIN0790-AJ53) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7412. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presentation of DoD-Related Scientific and Technical Papers at Meetings" (RIN0790-AI75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7413. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the biennial Space Protection Strategy (SPS); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7414. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Cecil E. D. Haney, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7415. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of sixteen (16) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7416. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Pilot Program on Acquisition of Military Purpose Nondevelopmental Items" ((RIN0750-AI93) (DFARS Case 2016-D014)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7417. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Contiguous United States" ((RIN0750-AJ09) (DFARS Case 2016-D005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7418. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Enhancing the Effectiveness of Independent Research and Development" ((RIN0750-AI81) (DFARS Case 2016-D002)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7419. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 on November 14, 1979, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7420. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7421. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to Burundi; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7422. A communication from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemptions to Facilitate Intrastate and Regional Securities Offerings" (RIN3235-AL80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7423. A communication from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cuban Assets Control Regulations" (31 CFR Part 515) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7424. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Export Administration Regulations: Part 760, Reporting Requirements Optional Electronic Filing of Reports of Requests For Restrictive Trade Practice or Boycott" (RIN0694-AG92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7425. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cuba: Revisions to License Exceptions" (RIN0694-AH12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7426. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR): Control of Fire Control, Laser, Imaging, and Guidance Equipment the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML)" (RIN0694-AF75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7427. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Housing-Federal Housing Commissioner, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retrospective Review—Improving the Previous Participation Reviews of Prospective Multifamily Housing and Healthcare Programs Participants" (RIN2502-AJ28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7428. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Capital Rules, Liquidity Coverage Ratio: Revisions to the Definition of Qualifying Master Netting Agreement and Related Definitions" (RIN3064-AE30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7429. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical and Conforming Changes and Corrections to FHFA Regulations" (RIN2590-AA80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7430. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency relative to the actions and policies of the Govern-

ment of Sudan as declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7431. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discretionary appropriations legislation; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-7432. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Response to Findings and Recommendations of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee during Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7433. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alabama Regulatory Program" ((SATS No. AL-079-FOR) (Docket No. OSMRE-2016-0005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7434. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Proposed New Listings of Substitutes; Changes of Listing Status; and Reinterpretation of Unacceptability for Closed Cell Foam Products under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program; and Revision of Clean Air Act Section 608 Venting Prohibition for Propane" (FRL No. 9952-18-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7435. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Procurements under EPA Financial Assistance Agreements" (FRL No. 9954-30-OA) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7436. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval of Attainment Plan for Oakridge, Oregon PM2.5 Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 9955-32-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7437. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance, Clean Screen Program and the Low Emitter Index, On-Board Diagnostics, and Associated Revisions" (FRL No. 9954-16-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7438. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Adoption of Control Techniques Guidelines for Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions" (FRL No. 9954-29-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7439. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Requirements for Gasoline Dispensing Facilities" (FRL No. 9954-18-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7440. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Authorization of State-Initiated Changes and Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9951-21-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7441. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oklahoma: Incorporation by Reference of Approved State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9951-74-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7442. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to Air Pollution Control Rules" (FRL No. 9954-15-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7443. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Kentucky Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primacy" (FRL No. 9953-37-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7444. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Act Title V Operating Permit Program Revision; New Jersey" (FRL No. 9954-61-Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7445. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; State of New York, State of New Jersey and Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Other Solid Waste Incineration Units" (FRL No. 9954-60-Region 2) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7446. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Disapproval of Prevention of Significant Deterioration for Particulate Matter Less than 2.5 Micrometers—Significant Impact Levels and Significant Monitoring Concentration" (FRL No. 9953-46-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7447. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Louisiana; Prevention of Significant Deterioration Significant Monitoring Concentration for Fine Particulates" (FRL No. 9953-94-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7448. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Revisions and Amendments to Regulations for Continuous Opacity Monitoring, Continuous Emissions Monitoring, and Quality Assurance Requirements for Continuous Opacity Monitors" (FRL No. 9954-40-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7449. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delaware; Disapproval of Air Quality Implementation Plan for Nonattainment New Source Review Emissions Offset Provisions" (FRL No. 9953-90-Region 3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7450. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Infrastructure Requirements for Consultation with Government Officials, Public Notification and Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Visibility Protection for the 2008 Ozone and 2010 Nitrogen Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 9952-76-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7451. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles, Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance" (FRL No. 9952-27-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7452. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Dakota; Revisions to the Permitting Rules" (FRL No. 9953-92-Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7453. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; Interstate Transport of Air Pollution" (FRL No. 9953-85-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7454. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NH; Regional Haze 5-Year Report" (FRL No. 9953-84-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7455. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NC Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 1-hour NO₂ NAAQS" (FRL No. 9954-09-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 7, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7456. A communication from the Paralegal, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Emergency Relief Program" (RIN2132-AB13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7457. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Ozone-Depleting Substances" (RIN0910-AH36) (Docket No. FDA-2015-N-1355) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7458. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Right-of-Way and Real Estate" (RIN2125-AF62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the

President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7459. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Asset Management Plans and Periodic Evaluations of Facilities Repeatedly Requiring Repair and Reconstruction Due to Emergency Events" (RIN2125-AF57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7460. A communication from the Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights" (RIN1024-AD78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7461. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Miscellaneous Refrigeration Products" (RIN1904-AC51) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7462. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Technology Transfer Executive Plan 2016-2018"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7463. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting proposed legislation entitled "Unemployment Compensation Program Integrity Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7464. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports relative to Medicare payments for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7465. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare's Policies and Procedures Identified Almost All Improper Claims Submitted for Deceased Individuals and Recouped Almost All Improper Payments Made for These Claims for January 2013 Through October 2015"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7466. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Medicare Improperly Paid Providers Millions of Dollars for Incarcerated Beneficiaries Who Received Services During 2013 and 2014"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7467. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports relative to the use of the Express Lane Eligibility (ELE) option under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7468. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Computation of Annual Liability Insurance (Including

Self-Insurance) Settlement Recovery Threshold"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7469. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unsuccessful Work Attempts and Expedited Reinstatement Eligibility" (RIN0960-AH66) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7470. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Model (APM) Incentive under the Physician Fee Schedule, and Criteria for Physician-Focused Payment Models" ((RIN0938-AS69) (CMS-5517-FC)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7471. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Relief for Victims of Hurricane Matthew" (Announcement 2016-39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7472. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance Concerning Use of 2017 CSO Tables Under Section 7702" (Notice 2016-63) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7473. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2017 Cost-of-Living Adjustments to the Internal Revenue Code Tax Tables and Other Items" (Rev. Proc. 2016-55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7474. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Programs: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Organ Procurement Organization Reporting and Communications; Transplant Outcome Measures and Documentation Requirements; Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs; Payment to Nonexcepted Off-Campus Provider-Based Department of a Hospital; Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program; Establishment of Payment Rates under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for Nonexcepted Items and Services Furnished by an Off-Campus Provider-Based Department of a Hospital" (RIN0938-AS82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7475. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Coverage and Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program, Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies Competitive Bidding Program Bid Surety Bonds, State Licensure and Appeals Process for Breach of Contract Actions, Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies Competitive Bidding Program and Fee Schedule Adjustments; Access to Care Issues for Durable Medical Equipment; and the Comprehensive End-Stage Renal Disease Care Model" (RIN0938-AS83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7476. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of the Expiration Date for State Disability Examiner Authority to Make Fully Favorable Quick Disability Determinations and Compassionate Allowance Determinations" (RIN0960-AH94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7477. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2017 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Model; and Home Health Quality Reporting Requirements" ((RIN0938-AS80) (CMS-1648-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7478. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Certain Interests in Corporations as Stock or Indebtedness" (RIN1545-BN40) (TD 9790) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7479. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations Concerning Excepted Benefits; Lifetime and Annual Limits; and Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance" ((RIN1545-BN44) (TD 9791)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7480. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a semiannual report entitled, "Acceptance of Contributions for Defense Programs, Projects, and Activities; Defense Cooperation Account" and a semiannual listing of personal property contributed by coalition partners; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7481. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-086); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7482. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-073); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7483. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (DDTC 16-063); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7484. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7485. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2016-0142 - 2016-0160); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7486. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living" (RIN0985-AA10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7487. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Specifications for Medical Examinations of Coal Miners" (RIN0985-AA57) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 24, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7488. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Americans With Disabilities Act Title II and Title III Regulations To Implement ADA Amendments Act of 2008" (RIN1190-AA59) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7489. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Food and Drug Administration's annual report on the performance evaluation of FDA-approved mammography quality standards accreditation bodies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7490. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Performance Report of the Food and Drug Administration's Office of Combination Products for fiscal year 2015; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7491. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of

Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Food and Drug Administration's report relative to the Eighth Review of the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements and Postmarketing Commitments; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7492. A communication from the Chief Actuary, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the impact on premiums for individuals and families with employer-sponsored health insurance from the guaranteed issue, guaranteed renewal, and fair health insurance premiums provisions of the Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7493. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7494. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Family Violence Prevention and Services Programs" (RIN0970-AC62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7495. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Abbreviated New Drug Applications and 505(b)(2) Applications" ((RIN0910-AF97) (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-0830)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 11, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7496. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Freedom of Information Regulations" (RIN0991-AC04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7497. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excepted Benefits; Lifetime and Annual Limits; and Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance" ((RIN0938-AS93) (CMS-9932-F)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 28, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7498. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excepted Benefits; Lifetime and Annual Limits; and Short-Term, Limited-Duration Insurance" (RIN1210-AB75) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on

October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7499. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Low Activity Radioactive Seeds Used for Localization of Non-Palpable Lesions and Lymph Nodes Licensing Guidance" (Revision 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 26, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7500. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for the Handling of Retaliation Complaints Under Section 1558 of the Affordable Care Act" (RIN1218-AC79) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 20, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7501. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program" (RIN1840-AD19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 3, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7502. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Teacher Preparation Issues" (RIN1840-AD07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7503. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program" (RIN1840-AD19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7504. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report (AFR) for fiscal year 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7505. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2015 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7506. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 21-505, "Rental Housing Late Fee Fairness Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7507. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3377-EM in the State of Florida having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7508. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Correction: New Mailing Address for the National Commodity Specialist Division, Regulations and Rulings, Office of Trade" (RIN1515-AE17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 25, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7509. A communication from the Deputy Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Controlled Unclassified Information" (RIN3095-AB80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 19, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7510. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the restating of the Commission's fiscal year 2015 balance sheet; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7511. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7512. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Endowment's fiscal year 2015 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7513. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Government Affairs Division, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual submission regarding agency compliance with the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and revised Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7514. A communication from the Acting Director, Planning and Policy Analysis, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program: Excepted Service and Pathways Programs" (RIN3206-AM98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7515. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Student Loan Repayment Pro-

gram Calendar Year 2015"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7516. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7517. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-508, "Law Enforcement Career Opportunity Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7518. A communication from the Senior Advisor for Native Hawaiian Affairs, Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for Reestablishing a Formal Government-to-Government Relationship With the Native Hawaiian Community" (RIN1090-AB05) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 17, 2016; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-7519. A communication from the Deputy Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Fee Schedule" (RIN1615-AC09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 24, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7520. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trademark Fee Adjustment" (RIN0651-AD08) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7521. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Electronic Visa Update System (EVUS)" (RIN1651-AB08) (CBP Dec. 16-17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 18, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7522. A communication from the Chairman, Board of Trustees, and the President, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Center's financial statements, supplemental schedules of operations, and independent auditor's report for years ended September 27, 2015, and September 28, 2014, and a report relative to the Center's schedule of expenditures of federal awards and independent auditor's reports for the year ended September 27, 2015; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-7523. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist (Executive Resources), Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator, Small Business Administration, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7524. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUBZone and National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 Amendments" (RIN3245-AG81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7525. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disaster Assistance Loan Program; Disaster Loan Credit and Collateral Requirements" (RIN3245-AG61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7526. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Government Contracting, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disaster Assistance Loan Program; Disaster Loan Mitigation, Contractor Malfeasance and Secured Threshold" (RIN3245-AG78) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-7527. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7528. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2016"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7529. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; ordered to lie on the table.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 3470. An original bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-374).

S. 3471. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-375).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2417. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow the Indian Health Service to cover the cost of a copayment of an Indian or Alaska Native veteran

receiving medical care or services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-376).

S. 2739. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-377).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act in order to strengthen rules in case of competition for diabetic testing strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 5. A bill to amend the nondiscrimination provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect older, longer service participants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 3469. A bill to reinstate reporting requirements related to United States-Hong Kong relations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3470. An original bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multi-employer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3471. An original bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement savings, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Finance; placed on the calendar.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 614. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Education Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. Res. 615. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2016, as "American Special Hockey Day"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 375

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to pro-

vide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 1081

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1081, a bill to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

S. 1148

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1148, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1559

At the request of Mr. HELLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1808

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1808, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to provide protections for workers with respect to their right to select or refrain from selecting representation by a labor organization.

S. 2397

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2397, a bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to States that extend or eliminate unexpired statutes of limitation applicable to laws involving child sexual abuse.

S. 2655

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2655, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2750

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to extend and modify certain charitable tax provisions.

S. 2868

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2868, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the deferral of inclusion in gross income for capital gains reinvested in economically distressed zones.

S. 2921

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2921, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accountability of employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve health care and benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 3034

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3034, a bill to prohibit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration from allowing the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions contract to lapse unless specifically authorized to do so by an Act of Congress.

S. 3090

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3090, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration program to provide integrated care for Medicare beneficiaries with end-stage renal disease, and for other purposes.

S. 3256

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3256, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for developing countries to promote quality basic education and to establish the goal of all children in school and learning as an objective of the United States foreign assistance policy, and for other purposes.

S. 3353

At the request of Mr. SCOTT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3353, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from carrying out seizures relating to a structuring transaction unless the property to be seized derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of another criminal law or regulation, to require notice and a post-seizure hearing for such seizures, and for other purposes.

S. 3390

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3390, a bill to ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of Education.

S. 3436

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3436, a bill to prevent proposed regulations relating to restrictions on liquidation of an interest with respect to estate, gift, and generation-skipping transfer taxes from taking effect.

S. 3462

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3462, a bill to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

S. 3464

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3464, a bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and com-

puter employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 41

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 41, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States.

S. CON. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 51, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

S. RES. 608

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 608, a resolution designating the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, as "National Estuaries Week".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 614—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 614

Whereas November 14 through November 18, 2016, marks the 95th annual observance of American Education Week;

Whereas public schools are the backbone of the democracy of the United States, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain the precious values of freedom, civility, and equality;

Whereas, by equipping young people in the United States with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give young people hope for, and access to, a productive future;

Whereas people working in the field of public education, including teachers, higher education faculty and staff, paraeducators, custodians, substitute educators, bus drivers, clerical workers, food service professionals, workers in skilled trades, health and student service workers, security guards, technical employees, and librarians, work tirelessly to serve children and communities throughout the United States with care and professionalism; and

Whereas public schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults, children, educators, volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Education Week; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe American Education Week by reflecting on the positive impact of all those who work together to educate children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 615—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 16, 2016, AS "AMERICAN SPECIAL HOCKEY DAY"

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 615

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 15 percent of children in the United States have a developmental disability;

Whereas the United States needs innovative, high-quality programs that seek to create productive and independent futures for children and adults with developmental disabilities;

Whereas the American Special Hockey Association was created in 2000 to give individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities an opportunity to learn and grow by playing ice hockey;

Whereas team sports provide opportunities for children to develop independence, confidence, and fitness and the programs of the American Special Hockey Association provide the chance for individuals with disabilities to play sports in an accessible environment so that all athletes are able to participate;

Whereas the American Special Hockey Association is the largest special hockey organization in the world with more than 54 member programs in more than 45 cities in the United States;

Whereas special hockey exists to enrich athletes with developmental disabilities and, in addition to physical hockey skills, the program helps children develop critical skills such as dependability, self-reliance, concentration, willingness to share, and personal accountability; and

Whereas "American Special Hockey Day" will help recognize the important role that special hockey plays in empowering individuals with disabilities and developing the characteristics that will help players to be more successful both on and off the ice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of November 16, 2016, as "American Special Hockey Day";

(2) strongly affirms the goals and purpose of special hockey; and

(3) encourages more individuals to volunteer and help create similarly innovative and beneficial programs for individuals with disabilities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5108. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. HEITKAMP) proposed an amendment to the

bill S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

SA 5109. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. AYOTTE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1915, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5108. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. HEITKAMP) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1808, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Northern Border Security Review Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **NORTHERN BORDER.**—The term “Northern Border” means the land and maritime borders between the United States and Canada.

SEC. 3. NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a Northern Border threat analysis to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking—

(A) to enter the United States through the Northern Border; or

(B) to exploit border vulnerabilities on the Northern Border;

(2) improvements needed at and between ports of entry along the Northern Border—

(A) to prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States; and

(B) to reduce criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods, illicit drugs, and smuggled and trafficked persons moved in either direction across to the Northern Border;

(3) gaps in law, policy, cooperation between State, tribal, and local law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counter-terrorism, anti-human smuggling and trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along the Northern Border; and

(4) whether additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance and preinspection operations at ports of entry along the Northern Border could help prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States.

(b) **ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.**—For the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine—

(1) technology needs and challenges;

(2) personnel needs and challenges;

(3) the role of State, tribal, and local law enforcement in general border security activities;

(4) the need for cooperation among Federal, State, tribal, local, and Canadian law enforcement entities relating to border security;

(5) the terrain, population density, and climate along the Northern Border; and

(6) the needs and challenges of Department facilities, including the physical approaches to such facilities.

(c) **CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.**—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines that such form is appropriate for that portion.

SA 5109. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Ms. AYOTTE) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1915, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide eligible anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are made available to States for administration to emergency response providers who would be at high risk of exposure to anthrax if such an attack should occur and who voluntarily consent to such administration.

(2) **DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall determine whether an anthrax vaccine is eligible to be provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the pilot program described in paragraph (1) based on—

(A) a determination that the vaccine is not otherwise allotted for other purposes;

(B) a determination that the provision of the vaccine will not reduce, or otherwise adversely affect, the capability to meet projected requirements for this product during a public health emergency, including a significant reduction of available quantities of vaccine in the Strategic National Stockpile; and

(C) such other considerations as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) **PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.**—Before implementing the pilot program required under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for the pilot program;

(B) develop and deliver education and training for the pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot program, including a preliminary estimate of total costs and expected benefits;

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program;

(E) establish goals and desired outcomes for the pilot program; and

(F) establish a mechanism to reimburse the Secretary of Health and Human Services for—

(i) the costs of shipment and transportation of such vaccines provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security from the Strategic National Stockpile under such pilot program, including staff time directly supporting such shipment and transportation; and

(ii) the amount, if any, by which the warehousing costs of the Strategic National Stockpile are increased in order to operate such pilot program.

(4) **LOCATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the pilot program required under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select not fewer than 2 nor more than 5 States for voluntary participation in the pilot program.

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—Each State that participates in the pilot program under this subsection shall ensure that such participation is consistent with the All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan of the State developed under section 319C-1 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a).

(5) **GUIDANCE FOR SELECTION.**—To ensure that participation in the pilot program under this subsection strategically increases State and local response readiness in the event of an anthrax release, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide guidance to participating States and units of local government on identifying emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax.

(6) **DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall require that each State that participates in the pilot program under this subsection submit a written certification to the Secretary of Homeland Security stating that each emergency response provider within the State that participates in the pilot program is provided with disclosures and educational materials designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, which may include—

(A) materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under the pilot program, and of exposure to anthrax;

(B) additional material consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's clinical guidance; and

(C) notice that the Federal Government is not obligated to continue providing anthrax vaccine after the date on which the pilot program ends.

(7) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—Before implementing the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to—

(A) define the roles and responsibilities of each Department for the pilot program; and

(B) establish other performance metrics and policies for the pilot program, as appropriate.

(8) **REPORT.**—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), not later than 1 year after the date on which the initial vaccines are administered under this section, and annually thereafter until 1 year after the completion of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the progress and results of the pilot program, including—

(i) a detailed tabulation of the costs to administer the program, including—

(I) total costs for management and administration;

(II) total costs to ship vaccines;

(III) total number of full-time equivalents allocated to the program; and

(IV) total costs to the Strategic National Stockpile;

(i) the number and percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate;

(iii) the degree to which participants complete the vaccine regimen;

(iv) the total number of doses of vaccine administered; and

(v) recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in the pilot program.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—The final report required under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) consider whether the pilot program required under this subsection should continue after the date described in subsection (c); and

(ii) include—

(I) an analysis of the costs and benefits of continuing the program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers;

(II) an explanation of the economic, health, and other risks and benefits of administering vaccines through the pilot program rather than post-event treatment; and

(III) in the case of a recommendation under clause (i) to continue the pilot program after the date described in subsection (c), a plan under which the pilot program could be continued.

(b) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this section.

(c) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is author-

ized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 16, 2016, at 3 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Exploring Augmented Reality."

NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY REVIEW ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 269, S. 1808.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1808) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Border Security Review Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term "Northern Border" means the land and maritime borders between the United States and Canada.

SEC. 3. NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a Northern Border threat analysis to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking—

(A) to enter the United States through the Northern Border; or

(B) to exploit border vulnerabilities on the Northern Border;

(2) improvements needed at ports of entry along the Northern Border—

(A) to prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; and

(B) to reduce criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods and illicit drugs, related to the Northern Border;

(3) improvements needed between ports of entry along the Northern Border, including the maritime borders of the Great Lakes—

(A) to prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; and

(B) to reduce criminal activity related to the Northern Border; and

(4) vulnerabilities in law, policy, cooperation between State, tribal, and local law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counter-terrorism, anti-human trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along the Northern Border.

(b) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.—For the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine—

(1) technology needs and challenges;

(2) personnel needs and challenges;

(3) the role of State, tribal, and local law enforcement in general border security activities;

(4) the need for cooperation among Federal, State, tribal, local, and Canadian law enforcement entities relating to border security; and

(5) the geographic challenges of the Northern Border.

(c) CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines that such form is appropriate for that portion.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, that the Heitkamp substitute amendment be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported substitute amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5108) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Border Security Review Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term "Northern Border" means the land and maritime borders between the United States and Canada.

SEC. 3. NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a Northern Border threat analysis to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking—

(A) to enter the United States through the Northern Border; or

(B) to exploit border vulnerabilities on the Northern Border;

(2) improvements needed at and between ports of entry along the Northern Border—

(A) to prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States; and

(B) to reduce criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods, illicit drugs, and smuggled and trafficked persons moved in either direction across to the Northern Border;

(3) gaps in law, policy, cooperation between State, tribal, and local law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counter-terrorism, anti-human smuggling and trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along the Northern Border; and

(4) whether additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance and preinspection operations at ports of entry along the Northern Border could help prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States.

(b) **ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.**—For the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine—

(1) technology needs and challenges;

(2) personnel needs and challenges;

(3) the role of State, tribal, and local law enforcement in general border security activities;

(4) the need for cooperation among Federal, State, tribal, local, and Canadian law enforcement entities relating to border security;

(5) the terrain, population density, and climate along the Northern Border; and

(6) the needs and challenges of Department facilities, including the physical approaches to such facilities.

(c) **CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.**—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines that such form is appropriate for that portion.

The bill (S. 1808), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1808

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Northern Border Security Review Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(2) **NORTHERN BORDER.**—The term “Northern Border” means the land and maritime borders between the United States and Canada.

SEC. 3. NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a Northern Border threat analysis to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking—

(A) to enter the United States through the Northern Border; or

(B) to exploit border vulnerabilities on the Northern Border;

(2) improvements needed at and between ports of entry along the Northern Border—

(A) to prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States; and

(B) to reduce criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods, illicit drugs, and smuggled and trafficked persons moved in either direction across to the Northern Border;

(3) gaps in law, policy, cooperation between State, tribal, and local law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counter-terrorism, anti-human smuggling and trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along the Northern Border; and

(4) whether additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance and preinspection operations at ports of entry along the Northern Border could help prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States.

(b) **ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.**—For the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine—

(1) technology needs and challenges;

(2) personnel needs and challenges;

(3) the role of State, tribal, and local law enforcement in general border security activities;

(4) the need for cooperation among Federal, State, tribal, local, and Canadian law enforcement entities relating to border security;

(5) the terrain, population density, and climate along the Northern Border; and

(6) the needs and challenges of Department facilities, including the physical approaches to such facilities.

(c) **CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.**—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines that such form is appropriate for that portion.

FIRST RESPONDER ANTHRAX PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 458, S. 1915.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1915) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines and antimicrobials available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment and an amendment to the title.

(Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*.)

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—*The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide anthrax vaccines from the strategic national stockpile under section 319F–2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are to be administered to emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax and who voluntarily consent to such administration.*

(2) **DURATION.**—*The duration of the pilot program required under paragraph (1) shall be 36 months beginning on the date on which the initial vaccines are administered.*

(3) **PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.**—*Before implementing the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—*

(A) *establish a communication platform for the pilot program;*

(B) *develop and deliver education and training for the pilot program;*

(C) *conduct an economic analysis of the pilot program, including a preliminary estimate of total costs and expected benefits;*

(D) *create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program; and*

(E) *establish goals and desired outcomes for the pilot program.*

(4) **LOCATION.**—*In carrying out the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select emergency response providers based in not less than 2 nor more than 5 States for participation in the pilot program.*

(5) **GUIDANCE FOR SELECTION.**—*To ensure that participation in the pilot program strategically increases State and local response readiness for an anthrax release, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide guidance to participating States and units of local government on identifying emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax.*

(6) **DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.**—*The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide to each emergency response provider who participates in the pilot program under this subsection disclosures and educational materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under the pilot program, consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention clinical guidance, and of exposure to anthrax, including notice that the Federal Government is not obligated to continue providing anthrax vaccines after the pilot program has ended.*

(7) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—*Before implementing the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to—*

(A) *define the roles and responsibilities of each Department for the pilot program; and*

(B) *establish other performance metrics or policies, as appropriate.*

(8) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—*Not later than 1 year after the date on which the initial vaccines are administered under this section, and annually*

thereafter until 1 year after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the progress and results of the pilot program, including—

(i) a detailed tabulation of the costs to administer the program, including—

(I) total costs for management and administration;

(II) total costs to ship vaccines; and

(III) the total number of full-time equivalents allocated to the program;

(ii) the number and percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate;

(iii) the degree to which participants obtain the necessary vaccinations;

(iv) the total number of doses of vaccine administered; and

(v) recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in the pilot program.

(B) **FINAL REPORT.**—The final report required under subparagraph (A) shall include an analysis of the costs and benefits of continuing the program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers, an explanation of the economic, health, and other benefits of administering vaccines through the pilot program rather than post-event treatment, and a plan under which the program could be continued.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this section.

(c) **SUNSET.**—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn, that the Ayotte substitute amendment be agreed to, that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, that the committee-reported title amendment be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported substitute amendment was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5109) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide eligible anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F-2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such

vaccines are made available to States for administration to emergency response providers who would be at high risk of exposure to anthrax if such an attack should occur and who voluntarily consent to such administration.

(2) **DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall determine whether an anthrax vaccine is eligible to be provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the pilot program described in paragraph (1) based on—

(A) a determination that the vaccine is not otherwise allotted for other purposes;

(B) a determination that the provision of the vaccine will not reduce, or otherwise adversely affect, the capability to meet projected requirements for this product during a public health emergency, including a significant reduction of available quantities of vaccine in the Strategic National Stockpile; and

(C) such other considerations as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) **PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.**—Before implementing the pilot program required under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for the pilot program;

(B) develop and deliver education and training for the pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot program, including a preliminary estimate of total costs and expected benefits;

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program;

(E) establish goals and desired outcomes for the pilot program; and

(F) establish a mechanism to reimburse the Secretary of Health and Human Services for—

(i) the costs of shipment and transportation of such vaccines provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security from the Strategic National Stockpile under such pilot program, including staff time directly supporting such shipment and transportation; and

(ii) the amount, if any, by which the warehousing costs of the Strategic National Stockpile are increased in order to operate such pilot program.

(4) **LOCATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the pilot program required under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select not fewer than 2 nor more than 5 States for voluntary participation in the pilot program.

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—Each State that participates in the pilot program under this subsection shall ensure that such participation is consistent with the All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan of the State developed under section 319C-1 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-3a).

(5) **GUIDANCE FOR SELECTION.**—To ensure that participation in the pilot program under this subsection strategically increases State and local response readiness in the event of an anthrax release, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide guidance to participating States and units of local government on identifying emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax.

(6) **DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall require that each State that participates in

the pilot program under this subsection submit a written certification to the Secretary of Homeland Security stating that each emergency response provider within the State that participates in the pilot program is provided with disclosures and educational materials designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, which may include—

(A) materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under the pilot program, and of exposure to anthrax;

(B) additional material consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s clinical guidance; and

(C) notice that the Federal Government is not obligated to continue providing anthrax vaccine after the date on which the pilot program ends.

(7) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—Before implementing the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to—

(A) define the roles and responsibilities of each Department for the pilot program; and

(B) establish other performance metrics and policies for the pilot program, as appropriate.

(8) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsection (c), not later than 1 year after the date on which the initial vaccines are administered under this section, and annually thereafter until 1 year after the completion of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the progress and results of the pilot program, including—

(i) a detailed tabulation of the costs to administer the program, including—

(I) total costs for management and administration;

(II) total costs to ship vaccines;

(III) total number of full-time equivalents allocated to the program; and

(IV) total costs to the Strategic National Stockpile;

(ii) the number and percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate;

(iii) the degree to which participants complete the vaccine regimen;

(iv) the total number of doses of vaccine administered; and

(v) recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in the pilot program.

(B) **FINAL REPORT.**—The final report required under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) consider whether the pilot program required under this subsection should continue after the date described in subsection (c); and

(ii) include—

(I) an analysis of the costs and benefits of continuing the program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers;

(II) an explanation of the economic, health, and other risks and benefits of administering vaccines through the pilot program rather than post-event treatment; and

(III) in the case of a recommendation under clause (i) to continue the pilot program after

the date described in subsection (c), a plan under which the pilot program could be continued.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this section.

(c) **SUNSET.**—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 1915), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1915

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Anthrax Preparedness Act”.

SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY PRE-EVENT ANTHRAX VACCINATION PILOT PROGRAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROVIDERS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a pilot program to provide eligible anthrax vaccines from the Strategic National Stockpile under section 319F–2(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6b(a)) that will be nearing the end of their labeled dates of use at the time such vaccines are made available to States for administration to emergency response providers who would be at high risk of exposure to anthrax if such an attack should occur and who voluntarily consent to such administration.

(2) **DETERMINATION.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall determine whether an anthrax vaccine is eligible to be provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the pilot program described in paragraph (1) based on—

(A) a determination that the vaccine is not otherwise allotted for other purposes;

(B) a determination that the provision of the vaccine will not reduce, or otherwise adversely affect, the capability to meet projected requirements for this product during a public health emergency, including a significant reduction of available quantities of vaccine in the Strategic National Stockpile; and

(C) such other considerations as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) **PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS.**—Before implementing the pilot program required under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

(A) establish a communication platform for the pilot program;

(B) develop and deliver education and training for the pilot program;

(C) conduct economic analysis of the pilot program, including a preliminary estimate of total costs and expected benefits;

(D) create a logistical platform for the anthrax vaccine request process under the pilot program;

(E) establish goals and desired outcomes for the pilot program; and

(F) establish a mechanism to reimburse the Secretary of Health and Human Services for—

(i) the costs of shipment and transportation of such vaccines provided to the Sec-

retary of Homeland Security from the Strategic National Stockpile under such pilot program, including staff time directly supporting such shipment and transportation; and

(ii) the amount, if any, by which the warehousing costs of the Strategic National Stockpile are increased in order to operate such pilot program.

(4) LOCATION.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the pilot program required under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall select not fewer than 2 nor more than 5 States for voluntary participation in the pilot program.

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—Each State that participates in the pilot program under this subsection shall ensure that such participation is consistent with the All-Hazards Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan of the State developed under section 319C–1 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–3a).

(5) **GUIDANCE FOR SELECTION.**—To ensure that participation in the pilot program under this subsection strategically increases State and local response readiness in the event of an anthrax release, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide guidance to participating States and units of local government on identifying emergency response providers who are at high risk of exposure to anthrax.

(6) **DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall require that each State that participates in the pilot program under this subsection submit a written certification to the Secretary of Homeland Security stating that each emergency response provider within the State that participates in the pilot program is provided with disclosures and educational materials designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, which may include—

(A) materials regarding the associated benefits and risks of any vaccine provided under the pilot program, and of exposure to anthrax;

(B) additional material consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s clinical guidance; and

(C) notice that the Federal Government is not obligated to continue providing anthrax vaccine after the date on which the pilot program ends.

(7) **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**—Before implementing the pilot program under this subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to—

(A) define the roles and responsibilities of each Department for the pilot program; and

(B) establish other performance metrics and policies for the pilot program, as appropriate.

(8) REPORT.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding subsection (c), not later than 1 year after the date on which the initial vaccines are administered under this section, and annually thereafter until 1 year after the completion of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a

report on the progress and results of the pilot program, including—

(i) a detailed tabulation of the costs to administer the program, including—

(I) total costs for management and administration;

(II) total costs to ship vaccines;

(III) total number of full-time equivalents allocated to the program; and

(IV) total costs to the Strategic National Stockpile;

(ii) the number and percentage of eligible emergency response providers, as determined by each pilot location, that volunteer to participate;

(iii) the degree to which participants complete the vaccine regimen;

(iv) the total number of doses of vaccine administered; and

(v) recommendations to improve initial and recurrent participation in the pilot program.

(B) **FINAL REPORT.**—The final report required under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) consider whether the pilot program required under this subsection should continue after the date described in subsection (c); and

(ii) include—

(I) an analysis of the costs and benefits of continuing the program to provide anthrax vaccines to emergency response providers;

(II) an explanation of the economic, health, and other risks and benefits of administering vaccines through the pilot program rather than post-event treatment; and

(III) in the case of a recommendation under clause (i) to continue the pilot program after the date described in subsection (c), a plan under which the pilot program could be continued.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall begin implementing the pilot program under this section.

(c) **SUNSET.**—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

The committee-reported title amendment was agreed to, as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.”.

NO VETERANS CRISIS LINE CALL SHOULD GO UNANSWERED ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5392, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5392) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5392) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAILS STEWARDSHIP ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 845, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 845) to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 845) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE, TO INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN IMPACTS ON COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AND REENTRY ACTIVITIES IN A NAVIGABLE AIRSPACE ANALYSIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6007, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6007) to amend title 49, United States Code, to include consideration of certain impacts on commercial space launch and reentry activities in a navigable airspace analysis, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6007) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2016, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM WORKERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judi-

ciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 560.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 560) designating October 30, 2016, as a national day of remembrance for nuclear weapons program workers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 560) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 15, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL ESTUARIES WEEK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 608 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 608) designating the week of September 17 through September 24, 2016, as "National Estuaries Week."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 608) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 29, 2016, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, No-

vember 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the motion to proceed to S. 3110 occur at noon tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MORAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

ACCOUNTABILITY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I have the honor of serving with the chair on the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I want to speak tonight about a set of issues, a circumstance that we have found ourselves in.

As you will recall, several years ago there was a national news story and our Nation was appalled to learn that Department of Veterans Affairs employees from across the country were creating secret waiting lists that stood between veterans and the care they deserved. Veterans died waiting for care because of deceptive practices at the VA. In the wake of that wrongdoing, I called for the resignation of the then-Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. At that time, I didn't think things could get worse at the Department, but I was wrong.

In 2014, during the confirmation hearings for the current VA Secretary, Bob McDonald, he seemed to understand the urgency demanded by the American people and by their Congress to fix the problems at the Department of Veterans Affairs. In his testimony, he promised that "the seriousness of this moment demands action . . . those employees that have violated the trust of the Nation and of veterans must be, and will be, held accountable."

Now, more than 2 years later, with authorities granted by Congress and signed into law by the President, the Secretary seems to have forgotten that promise. Time and time again, the Secretary uses a talking point on accountability, stating "the VA has terminated more than 4,095 employees" since he arrived. The real number of terminations is three. Only three people

have been discharged from the VA for their misconduct, and another 12 to 15 are “potential removals or demotions.”

What the Secretary hasn’t said is that thousands of those terminations were actually employees placed on paid leave, thereby racking up \$23 million to pay the salaries of 2,500 VA employees who weren’t actually working. The opportunity for the Secretary and for the VA to hold bad actors accountable has been squandered.

The terrible part of this is that Americans have been misled. The accountability the VA created in the wake of the scandal about the fake waiting lists has generated further disappointment and scandal due to the mismanagement and manipulation. Instead of firing people, Americans are paying bad actors to do nothing or, worse yet, they have been transferred to other facilities to continue bad practices. The morale of the vast majority—a huge number—of hard-working people who work for the VA, many who are veterans themselves, has to be harmed as they care for veterans every day and suffer in this culture of corruption.

In Kansas, my home State, we face one of the worst examples of a VA employee violating the trust of a veteran. Yet the VA seems to have no sense of urgency in holding this person accountable or committing to fixing the process that enabled this individual to do what he did.

In 2015, we learned from newspaper reports—certainly not from the VA—that a physician assistant at the Leavenworth VA hospital, Mr. Mark Wisner, had been sexually abusing veteran patients. Shortly after that news broke, the Leavenworth county prosecutors charged this individual with multiple counts of sexual assault and abuse against numerous veterans. We learned, as the story unfolded, that he had targeted vulnerable veterans suffering from PTSD. He prescribed opioids that inhibited their thinking, and he used his position to deepen the wounds of war rather than healing them.

I will share a quote from two Army veteran brothers who were patients and felt they had no choice but to continue seeking the care or lose the health care benefits they had earned. One of them said: “The fear of losing what I had earned [in benefits] versus the fear of being sexually assaulted again, I don’t know which one was more important.” Imagine the desperation of a veteran trying to answer that question.

Again, what is so troubling about this situation is that Mr. Wisner should never have been hired by the VA in the first place. As we add injury to insult for these veteran victims, he was not fired after he admitted the abuse. He was allowed to retire, and his voluntary retirement means he receives certain benefits that he might not oth-

erwise received if he had actually been fired.

According to publicly available documents, Mr. Wisner indicated on his application for licensure that he had been convicted of a crime, and further information indicates the crime and convictions were lewd in nature. Yet he was hired.

It is infuriating—it is worse than infuriating—that a person with a criminal record, convicted of a lewd crime, was still hired to be at the frontlines of veteran patient care. When the VA was asked about his criminal record, they indicated that background checks are contingent upon “the position’s risk level” and that physician assistant positions were considered “low risk” and didn’t require an exhaustive background check.

In my view, a practitioner in patient care should be held to the highest standards of excellence and should receive an exhaustive background check. How can a position in patient care be considered low risk at the VA?

Fortunately, as I said, I serve with the Presiding Officer on the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and I had the opportunity during one of our committee hearings last September—just a few months ago—to question Secretary McDonald about the background check process and why Mr. Wisner was hired with a known criminal background. The Secretary’s response was “there was nothing in his file that suggested that there was a risk.” He also suggested that I had different information than he did—than he, the Secretary, did—which is hard to believe because the documentation I was reading from, the circumstances I was describing, came directly from his own Office of Inspector General.

I have also sent the Secretary a letter with more than 20 questions about this situation, hoping I could receive substantive answers to those questions. More than 2 months passed until I received a response last week from the Under Secretary for Health. Actually, I was hoping to learn something from that response about the VA’s commitment to fixing their hiring practices, not a canned answer regarding the VA’s current process for background checks. Certainly, the 20 questions asked of the Secretary remain unanswered. They remain unanswered regarding why the VA’s credentialing process failed to catch Mr. Wisner—a convict. Does the VA not consider lewd crimes or convictions in an applicant’s file as a risk to veterans? The responses have been unacceptable. The lack of response has been unacceptable.

Also unacceptable are the circumstances surrounding Mr. Wisner’s separation from the VA. Instead of an immediate termination, unbelievably, he was permitted to retire with full benefits. When the VA police received a complaint about Mr. Wisner in May of

2014, they alerted the VA inspector general. Wisner was removed from patient care and placed on paid administrative leave while the IG conducted its investigation. Some days later, in an interview with the VA inspector general’s special agent, Wisner admitted he “crossed the professional line” and that he engaged in “unnecessary and inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature.” Mr. Wisner made no attempt to hide his actions, stating that he “knew what he was doing to these patients was wrong and that he had no self-control.”

Despite confessing to these horrible and illegal actions, Mr. Wisner continued to be an employee of the VA for 37 more days, giving him enough time to beat the VA to the punch and seeking and receiving retirement on June 28, 2014. One would think the moment a VA employee admits to violating or abusing a patient, a client, or a co-worker would be the moment their paycheck would end and they would no longer be employed; that there would be zero tolerance for such egregious conduct.

Grounds for immediate termination clearly existed from Wisner’s own confessions. Yet he was able to gather all his personal documents and submit his retirement paperwork to the VA to guarantee his retirement benefits—benefits, incidentally, that millions of veterans continue to wait for years and decades to receive.

There are so many factors about this situation that are troublesome, upsetting, and disgusting, but most importantly our veterans themselves are distraught. The VA failed to protect them from a sexual predator. They were taken advantage of and they are hurting. One victim took his own life, troubled by what happened to him.

Wisner’s termination void of retirement benefits maybe would have brought a small measure of justice to the victims. Despite having more than enough justification and the authority to fire Wisner, the VA chose to do nothing, and that inaction sends a very strong and disappointing message not only to our veterans but to the VA employees who are looking to the VA to have their best interest and the best interest of patients they care for, our veterans, at heart.

Our veterans are expecting the VA to live up to the “I CARE” values created by the Secretary. Secretary McDonald announced the I CARE Program, and I can tell you that veterans in Kansas would agree that the VA did not demonstrate integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect or excellence in these circumstances.

When given the opportunity in a hearing and in writing, the VA’s top executives are unable to put at rest not just my mind but the minds of veterans back home in Kansas. Veterans deserve a heartfelt, thorough examination, a

thorough explanation of what went wrong and what is now being done to make certain that it never happens again.

Our local VA folks in our State have done what they can do to reach out to veteran patients. The stories continue to grow. Veterans continue to come forward. However, this is a serious and significant incident. The serious and significant incidents require more than just outreach. They require more than just what can happen in Kansas. They require an engagement by the top leadership officials at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The VA's refusal to admit fault or commit to remedying this situation gives little confidence to Congress and,

more importantly, to veterans who are being asked to trust the Department that failed to protect them. It appears the Secretary has forgotten his promise made over 2 years ago to uphold the "seriousness of the moment," to hold those responsible for bad behavior accountable. There could be no more serious moment. There could be no more serious moment of recklessness by the VA than the abuse of a veteran by its own employees.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:45 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 17, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE
ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ANDREW J. WADE

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, the evening of November 14th, I am not recorded on two votes, because I was absent due to a mechanical failure on my flight.

If I had been present, I would have voted: on roll call 575; yes, and on roll call 576; yes.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I recognize the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) as the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Since its inception in 1966 as the Lake-Porter County Regional Transportation and Planning Commission, which became NIRPC in 1973, the agency continues to play a vital role in the planning and coordination of Northwest Indiana's highway, local road, public transit, and trails systems. In addition, NIRPC continues to perform essential regional environmental planning and land use analysis. Serving the people of Lake, LaPorte and Porter Counties, NIRPC's coordinating role among the various public interests has been crucial to the success of the region.

During the course of the past 50 years, NIRPC has been instrumental in shaping our region's view toward transportation infrastructure as well as land-use planning. Often, we narrowly view transportation infrastructure as simply the roads upon which we drive. The organization's executive directors, Board of Commissioners, and transportation planners have challenged this understanding by developing programs focused upon regional transit, through its support for increasing commuter transportation opportunities along existing bus systems and the South Shore Rail Line, upon our waterways, by shaping transportation policies along our rivers, and upon our multimodal trail system, the availability of which increased from 13 miles in 1990 to nearly 150 miles currently under NIRPC's direction. NIRPC's work to expand the concepts of interconnectivity within the communities in its three-county system benefits the economic development of our region as does its work in support of the Marquette Plan, a land-use re-investment strategy focused upon the Lake Michigan shoreline. Working in coordination

with the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority and the lakefront communities, NIRPC's technical expertise has led to the implementation of transformational, intergenerational projects along the lakeshore. Indiana's First Congressional District has resources other areas in our country envy—our transportation infrastructure, our waterways and shoreline, and our proximity to Chicago—all of which have been enhanced by the exceptional leadership exhibited by the dedicated individuals and municipal officials which make up NIRPC.

I would be remiss if I did not mention just a few of the people who have made NIRPC's first 50 years such a great success and guarantee at least another half century of accomplishment. The commission's first Chairman, Dr. Joseph J. Forszt; Vice-Chairman, Virgil O. King; Secretary William L. Staehle; Executive Director, Norman E. Tufford; and Deputy Director Jim Ranfranz were essential in establishing and guiding the organization. NIRPC is currently under the able direction of Chairman, Chesterton Town Councilman James Ton; Vice-Chairman, Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin; Secretary, Beverly Shores Town Councilman Geof Benson; Executive Director, Ty Warner; and Deputy Director, Steve Strains. The wide array of talent and ideas possessed by these individuals and countless others has developed NIRPC's focus and promises its future success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating NIRPC. For the past 50 years, the organization has touched the lives of countless individuals through its unwavering commitment to the community of Northwest Indiana.

TRIBUTE TO DOCTOR TOM LARWOOD AND HIS LEADERSHIP ON VALLEY FEVER RESEARCH

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and achievements of Dr. Tom Larwood, who passed away on September 6, 2016 at the age of 90. He was a devoted community leader in Kern County, California, a pioneer in Valley Fever research, and a good friend of mine.

Doctor Tom—as he was known in Bakersfield—served in the Navy Hospital Corps and went on to graduate from the University of Southern California's School of Medicine. Active in his local Methodist church, Tom went on a missionary trip to South Korea in 1955 where he provided medical assistance and was instrumental in the construction of a new hospital in Wonju. Currently, Wonju Severance

Christian Hospital is the largest university hospital in central Korea, a lasting marker of Tom's desire to help others. Despite contracting polio during his time in South Korea, Tom continued to lead a life of profound professional accomplishment and remained fiercely dedicated to community service.

Tom settled in Bakersfield in the 1950s. During this time, he practiced medicine at Kern County General Hospital, now the Kern Medical Center, where he rose to the position of Chief of Internal Medicine. Over the course of his career, he became a respected leader and expert, both locally and nationally, on Valley Fever. He worked closely with others, including Dr. Royce Johnson and the late Dr. Hans Einstein, to raise awareness of this disease, educate health care professionals on how to diagnose and treat it, pioneer treatments and other therapies to combat Valley Fever, and promote the development of a Valley Fever vaccine—an endeavor that continues today.

Valley Fever—formally known as coccidioidomycosis—is a disease caused by a fungus that is found in soil mainly in the American southwest and is contracted by inhaling spores into the lungs. This disease has long been a threat to our community and is particularly dangerous to individuals with compromised immune systems and the elderly. Tom and his wife, Pauline, whom he married in 1972, worked tirelessly with the Valley Fever Americas Foundation for more than two decades to spread awareness of Valley Fever and raise money to fund critical research designed to stamp out this disease. In fact, I was honored to recently present the Larwoods with the Hans Einstein Lifetime Achievement Award for their work on Valley Fever.

After retiring from medical practice in 1991, Tom remained an active participant in an array of local medical boards and was an enthusiastic volunteer with the American Lung Association, Boy Scouts of America (he was an Eagle Scout), Bethany Homeless Center, and the Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra, among others.

I considered the advice Doctor Tom gave me—whether on Valley Fever, health care issues, or how to better serve our community—as invaluable. He is survived by Pauline, his children, David, Don, Dean, Debbie, Diana, Mike, and Scott, and his eight grandchildren. I will miss Tom's great sense of humor and constant optimism, and I know he will be fondly remembered in the hearts and minds of the countless patients and their families that he served in Kern County.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

COMMEMORATING THE 190TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF SCHUYLKILL
TOWNSHIP

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the residents, businesses, and Board of Supervisors of Schuylkill Township as they celebrate 190 years as a municipality in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Swedish and Dutch settlers first arrived in the area situated between the Schuylkill River and Pickering Creek in 1713 and named the river "Schuylkill", meaning "hidden river" in Dutch. More than a century later on November 4, 1826, the eastern portion of neighboring Charlestown Township was declared Schuylkill Township by the Chester County Court.

One of the Township's most-recognized historical structures is the Schuylkill Friends Meeting House where several generations of Quakers have worshipped and, prior to the Civil War, aided slaves seeking freedom and hosted visits by noted abolitionists of the era. The Township's rich agriculture heritage includes sprawling farms owned by the Reeves family, who operated the Phoenix Iron Works, and relatives of former Pennsylvania Governor Samuel Whitaker Pennypacker. Today, more than 8,500 people call the 9.44 square miles that make up Schuylkill Township home.

The community commemorated the Township's 190th anniversary on Saturday, November 5, 2016, during its annual Founders Day celebration. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the residents, business owners, and community leaders as Schuylkill Township marks this memorable milestone.

HONORING DOROTHY MAY SHARER

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dorothy May Bick Sharer, or Dodo, as she was called by her father. Dorothy is a longtime Michigan resident and a community gem.

Dorothy was born on December 19, 1915, and will be celebrating her 101st birthday this year. She was born in Toledo, Ohio, where she resided until she moved to Michigan with her husband, Raymond Sharer.

Dorothy has one daughter, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, of whom she is very proud. She has a passion for animals and she and her husband spent many years raising and showing horses.

Mr. Speaker, Dorothy has been a community member cherished by many and we are thrilled to celebrate and honor her birthday this year. I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Dorothy.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF
ROBERT SIKES

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Sheriff Robert Sikes who passed away on September 26 at the age of 88.

Mr. Sikes has always been an important part of the coastal Georgia community, dedicated to making it a great place to live as well as improving the lives of his fellow residents.

Even as a high school student at Bradwell Institute, he worked toward improving his community as class president, Beta club president, and a district winner in track.

Mr. Sikes took his community service to the national level by enlisting in the United States Navy and serving during World War II. After his service in the Navy, Mr. Sikes moved back to coastal Georgia where his father was serving as the county sheriff. In 1959, when his father's term was ending, Mr. Sikes ran for sheriff and won the seat originally held by his father. He worked as sheriff of Liberty County for 29 years before retiring.

Now, Mr. Sikes's son holds the position—truly speaking to the amount of respect that the community has for Mr. Robert Sikes and his family. In addition, Mr. Sikes served as president of the Bradwell Football Boosters Club, member of the Allee Temple Shrine Club, the Georgia Sheriffs Association, Hinesville Rotary Club, and the First United Methodist Church.

On May 3, 2014, a section of I-95 was marked and dedicated to Mr. Sikes in gratitude of his devotion for his community. It is an honor today to recognize the life of this great man.

CONGRATULATING CATHEDRAL
HIGH SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding school that is being honored as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. It is a pleasure to congratulate Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, Indiana in celebration of this special occasion.

The National Blue Ribbon designation, given by the United States Department of Education, is awarded to both public and private schools across our great nation. Started by President Reagan and given annually since 1982, the award celebrates great American schools that achieve very high learning standards or are making significant improvements in the academic achievements of their students. In my district and across the country, the award recognizes the great educators, students, and parents who have worked so hard to ensure Indiana's children reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

For all of these reasons and many more, I am so proud that Cathedral High School is receiving this prestigious designation. It is a wonderful acknowledgement of the school's commitment to providing young Hoosiers an exceptional education. While hundreds of schools nationwide were nominated, only 329 schools were designated as 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools and Cathedral High School was 1 of 50 private schools to receive recognition, making this recognition all the more impressive.

Cathedral was the only high school in Indiana to achieve the National Blue Ribbon award in 2016. Cathedral provides its students with an outstanding education both academically and within the Catholic faith. An exceptional Catholic high school in the Holy Cross tradition, Cathedral transforms a diverse group of students spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. Their mission to educate students with the competence to see and the courage to act prepares students to be principled learners and future leaders. I applaud Cathedral High School for its work to ensure its students engage in significant acts of community service and remain dedicated to carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ.

As an advocate for education and youth, I also want to acknowledge how important it is to our nation's future to encourage and raise a new generation of Americans who have the skills and knowledge to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Students like those at Cathedral High School give me hope that we will accomplish this vital mission. Their outstanding work is an inspiration to students, educators, and parents across the nation. Once again, congratulations to Cathedral High School. I am very proud of you.

COMMEMORATING THE 145TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF BETHEL AFRICAN
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN POTTSTOWN

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the oldest African-American Church in Pottstown as its congregation celebrates 145 years of worship, fellowship and stewardship in the community.

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church first opened its doors in April 1871 at North Franklin and Beech Streets.

In addition to tending to the spiritual needs of its members, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church has always taken great pride in serving anyone in need throughout the greater Pottstown community. Specifically, the Church operated a thriving food pantry for many years that fed hundreds of families.

A Saturday church school program geared toward local youth offers meals, field trip opportunities, and a chance to find an outlet for their musical talents by participating in a bell choir, which has performed countless times at other churches in the area.

And a community leadership lecture series named in honor of the late Pottstown NAACP

leader, Newstell Marable, aims to educate and empower by addressing an array of issues related to finding employment, building a secure financial future, and strengthening the community.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Pottstown on this memorable milestone and in extending our sincere appreciation for the outstanding spirit of volunteerism and compassion demonstrated time and time again during the past 145 years by Church leaders and congregants.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDWARD J.
DOHERTY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward J. Doherty on the occasion of his retirement after thirty six years of outstanding public service in our criminal justice system.

Ed, as he is known to all, launched his career in the district court system in 1980 as an Assistant Clerk-Magistrate in the Attleboro District Court in Attleboro, Massachusetts. He quickly moved up to become the First Assistant Clerk-Magistrate, a position in which he excelled at for seven years before being appointed by then-Governor Paul Cellucci as the Clerk-Magistrate of the Wrentham District Court.

Ed is well known to all those who practiced law in Massachusetts district courts as the embodiment of public service and dedicating one's life to the greater good. In addition to his wide array of responsibilities as Clerk Magistrate, Ed also has served on the Massachusetts Association of Magistrates and Assistant Clerks' Executive Board, the board of directors of New England Sinai Hospital, the Massachusetts District Court Task Force on Security, and as a Charter member of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Commission, among many other legal administration and public safety organizations. Through his participation in these organizations Ed has helped to shape and influence policy across the board from domestic violence law to human rights. He has also sponsored a Courthouse Speaker Series to bring awareness to the many topics of concern facing the court and the community.

Throughout his years of service, Ed has never strayed from his commitment to providing each and every dispute, warrant and issue that comes before him the attention and care they deserve. His experience in the criminal justice system, professional and personal relationships with colleagues, law enforcement officers, and other professionals has allowed Ed to become an invaluable member of the district court system in the Commonwealth. In addition, Ed has spearheaded efforts to send holiday greetings to U.S. military service members deployed around the world. His "Court Cards for Combat" program has brightened the holidays of tens of thousands of our troops serving bravely overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in honor of Edward Doherty, who embodies all of the best qualities of a Clerk Magistrate. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished public servant and in wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING STATE SENATOR ANDY
HILL

HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of State Senator Andy Hill from Redmond, Washington.

After beating lung cancer in 2009, he turned toward a bright future in public service. He was elected to represent the 45th Legislative District of Washington in 2010. Senator Hill, a tough negotiator who fought strongly for conservative principles, served as the Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Senator Hill has been praised by people from both parties for his sharp intellect and tireless work ethic.

He led bipartisan budgets for our State and education was his top priority. He made much needed reforms to the State's mental-health system and helped reduce the waitlist for services for people with developmental disabilities.

Senator Hill was a devoted father and husband. My heart goes out to his family—his wife, Molly, and his children, Allie, Charlie, and Katie. While the State of Washington has lost a well-respected leader and dedicated public servant, I cannot imagine the loss they must feel.

Senator, you will be greatly missed.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE S.
LOCKWOOD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a remarkable man. I have had the great pleasure to have known and worked with George S. Lockwood for over 40 years. He is a boundless innovator, an expansive dreamer, and a relentless task master. I have no doubt that he is one of those remarkable human beings whose life's work in aquaculture will continue to pay dividends for humanity long into the future.

George originally trained as an engineer. He earned a BS in Civil Engineering from Northwestern University followed by an MBA from Harvard University. He began his career with Perini, Inc., a large global heavy construction company where he served in various engineering and executive management positions. He next joined Los Angeles based Global Marine where he managed special projects for the firm's offshore drilling, marine engineering, and construction.

George then left the corporate world to begin his second career as an aquaculture in-

novator. He founded Monterey Kelp Corporation in California, a marine plant harvesting and processing company that he later sold to a subsidiary of the pharmaceutical giant Merck. In 1972, he established Monterey Abalone Farms to develop commercial technologies for growing abalone and other seafood. Then in 1984, Mr. Lockwood founded Ocean Farms of Hawaii (OFH) in Kona, Hawaii, to grow salmon, oysters, abalone, sea urchins and marine plants on a commercial scale using cold pure seawater pumped from the deep ocean into ponds and tanks onshore. He recently founded a new company, Ocean Farms of The Bahamas, which he hopes will lead an expansion of aquaculture in the Caribbean.

All along, George used his aquaculture experience to help shape public policy. In 1980, he worked with Congress to help craft the National Aquaculture Act. He then helped me in the California Legislature with drafting the California Aquaculture Act of 1982. This legislation modernized the regulation of aquaculture in California and served as a model for other states. George also served in numerous industry leadership roles, including: past president and multi-year director of the World Aquaculture Society; a founder and past president of the California Aquaculture Association—where I first met George; chairman of the Aquaculture Committee of the California Farm Bureau Federation; and a founding member of the U.S. Aquaculture Council.

Since 2000, George has been involved in official and unofficial capacities advising USDA's National Organic Standards Board regarding the creation of organic certification standards for aquaculture. Since 2005, he has served as Chair of the Aquaculture Working Group of the USDA National Organic Program that has contributed to the development of proposed standards for farmed fish and shellfish currently working their way through the federal rulemaking process.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in applauding George Lockwood's accomplishments. The world is a better place because of his efforts. We wish him, his wife, the Rev. Canon Marcia Lockwood, their four grown children and two grandchildren all the success in the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JORDAN
PIERSON

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Captain Jordan Pierson, a young man who I had the honor of nominating to the United States Air Force Academy. Jordan was an exemplary individual who graduated from Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas, in 2005 before moving on to the Air Force Academy. Through the Air Force, he dedicated his life to serving others.

On October 2, 2015, Jordan, five other airmen, and five civilians died when their C-130J aircraft crashed at Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan. I helped Jordan start out on his

path toward a career in the military by nominating him to the Air Force Academy. I also had the honor of seeing him home, being present when his body was returned from overseas and interred at Arlington National Cemetery. Jordan is survived by his wife, Jaime Pierson. As we remembered those who have served on Veterans Day earlier this month, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jordan Pierson and assuring his friends and family that he is not forgotten.

SEX TRAFFICKERS SHOULD BE SHAMED

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, one hot summer day in Houston, a single mother (we will call her Amy) met a man. At the time, Amy was lonely and struggling to make a life for her young children. He was charming, funny and a talented member of the music industry. He told her he loved her and it made her feel valued and safe.

This man promised her a better life, saying that with her help, the two of them would start a thriving record label together, but in order to do this they would need to move away for awhile. He said this would be good for her future and, more importantly, her children's future. She was vulnerable, financially hurting, looking for a better life, and she trusted him. The plan was to move away for three months, and so they went.

Once they moved, the man immediately changed his tune. He isolated Amy from her family and friends and became hostile and abusive. It quickly became clear to Amy that that there was no record label. Instead, she had found herself in a dangerous situation. She spent her days trapped in a dark room where men would come in one by one. She was used and abused, treated like a prostitute. She was no prostitute. She was a victim of human trafficking being held against her will. The "appointments" with men continued to increase. It became clear quickly to this mother that she was now a sex slave.

One day, one of Amy's fellow captives being held by this man had a nervous breakdown to the point where she could no longer be physically controlled. She was a threat to his secretive business. The trafficker became distracted, and Amy was able to escape back to Houston. Her family picked her up and she returned home, but she was not the same woman that left months before. Her life was forever changed.

Amy was one of the lucky ones who got away, but her story of captivity is all too common in America. Traffickers prey every day on vulnerable women, from the insecure teenager at the mall to mothers like Amy looking for a better life for their children. This modern-day slavery happens right here in Texas in plain sight at our motels, cantinas and massage parlors. The victims live among us in our communities, but behind closed doors, they are slaves living in fear. They totally lose their identity. Meanwhile, their slave traders are

able to keep their lives, committing this horrendous crime anonymously and continuously. Buyers and sellers of humans want to remain anonymous because they can. Those days need to end.

As a former criminal court judge in Texas, I successfully used public punishment for two purposes. First, I wanted to make sure defendants did not end up back in my courtroom. Second, I wanted to instill fear in would-be criminals to deter them from committing crimes in the first place.

I believe this form of public shaming can be successful in combatting human trafficking. That is why I have introduced The SHAME Act in Congress. This legislation will give federal judges the ability to publish both the names and the photographs of both convicted human traffickers and buyers of trafficked victims.

The second part of that is important—in order to effectively combat trafficking, we must go after the customers. The bill is designed to allow the public to easily access the pictures and information of those living among them in society who have purchased sex from victims. That way the buyers will no longer be able to hide in plain sight under the cloak of anonymity.

Furthermore, I hope the SHAME Act strikes fear in those who think about purchasing young women for sex. Perhaps the fear of having their face on a billboard will make them think twice about participating in the modern day slave trade.

Traffickers and sex abusers run a global business second only to the slave trade. Like any business, this trade is successful because of its customers and the continuous demand they provide. It is time to SHAME these horrible humans out of the business.

Our children are not for sale.

IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN PATRIOT

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage, dedication, and extraordinary career of Colonel Andrea Thompson, who retired on October 31, 2016 after 28 years in the United States Army.

Colonel Thompson has spent her life devoted to others—and in defense of our great nation. In May of 1988 Andrea was commissioned into the U.S. Army, and like thousands of other selfless soldiers, stood up and said "send me." She served as a skillful advisor, a steadfast leader, and a committed mentor to younger soldiers while deployed in dangerous places far from home.

A career military intelligence officer, Colonel Thompson has commanded missions from the tactical to the strategic, and the result is clear: her work has made our country safer. Her career is marked by notable achievements—including leadership roles in critical combat tours and operational deployments around the world, including in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, in the NATO Stabilization Force operations in Bosnia, as the Senior In-

telligence Officer for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and in Afghanistan as the Intelligence Directorate/J2 Chief of Staff with General McChrystal during Operation Enduring Freedom.

But Colonel Thompson's service to the United States has extended beyond the military. She was a key advisor to multiple Congressional Committees, including the first Senior Military Advisor to the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives. Colonel Thompson also served as my National Security Advisor on the Committee on Homeland Security, where she proved to be tough, honest, and relentless in her work to defend our country against emerging and persistent threats.

I want to personally recognize the achievements of this patriot and thank Colonel Thompson for her dedication to duty and to the United States of America. Simply put, she embodies what is best about our country. Her grit is unquestioned, and her bedrock beliefs reflect the heart of American values.

We face great challenges in this still-young century, and we must inspire new generations to be equal to the task. To that end, we need guiding lights. Colonel Thompson is one of them. She is a woman whose life is a testament to the age-old truth that we are defined by our character and by our readiness to do what is right. She has already inspired many, but it is clear that Colonel Thompson's continued example will have a ripple effect far beyond our view. For that, she deserves the thanks of a very grateful nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHYLLIS HARDEMAN

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Phyllis Hardeman from Savannah who passed away on September 15, 2016. Mrs. Hardeman was a remarkable woman of many talents and interests—always using her skills to better her community and make people happy. During World War II, she served as an aircraft spotter. She took pride in knowing that no enemy planes were able to successfully attack her hometown.

Additionally, Mrs. Hardeman became a Weather Watcher for WTOG in which she kept a detailed record of Savannah's weather for the local news station. Her love of nature extended to bird watching, observing plants, and keeping up with the changes of the seasons. Some say, she even knew the scientific name for every plant in her home.

Mrs. Hardeman also loved her local sports teams, holding season passes each year to see the Georgia Bulldogs and Georgia Southern Eagles play. Mrs. Hardeman founded the Savannah Area Republican Women's club and served as its president. Now, the club is flourishing with monthly meetings and increasing membership.

She also served on numerous councils and committees throughout Savannah including

the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Chatham Urban Transportation System, the John Birch Society, the Chatham County Republican Committee, the Coastal Heritage Society, Bonaventure Historical Society, Thunderbolt Garden Club, Savannah Bulldog Club, Chatham Club, and the Mighty Eighth Historical Society.

Her presence lit up the Savannah community and she will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF ARTHUR HAWKINS OF THE KENSINGTON, MARYLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50-year career of an extraordinary leader in our community—Chief Arthur “Artie” Hawkins, Kensington, Maryland Volunteer Fire Department’s most senior operational member. Chief Hawkins has been instrumental in developing the Kensington VFD into one of the most outstanding Departments in the region.

A third-generation firefighter, Chief Hawkins began serving the Department at the age of 12 and has dedicated his life to service. Rising through the ranks, he has served as both Department Chief and as President. As a leader and a colleague, Chief Hawkins provided the start for hundreds of volunteers who have continued serving the public through the fire service, Armed Forces, and police and medical fields. Thanks to his outstanding guidance and mentorship for so many leaders, Chief Hawkins’ imprint is on the work of people who are saving lives all over the globe each and every day.

Chief Hawkins is more than a leader. He has played countless roles in the lives of the Department members, whether it be as a father, a brother or a friend. He has been there for them during the happiest moments of their lives as well as the saddest. Chief Hawkins truly embodies the meaning of “brotherhood” within the fire service.

Chief Hawkins has also been a pillar of strength during critical times in our nation’s history. He has played important roles in the Department’s response to numerous emergencies, including the D.C. race riots of the 1960s, the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon, and the sniper attacks that paralyzed the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area in 2002.

On November 20, 2016, Chief Hawkins will lead his final regular shift on a special day—the 50th anniversary of his very first shift with the Department. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the lifetime achievements of Chief Arthur Hawkins. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing gratitude and appreciation to him for his outstanding service to our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for votes on Tuesday, November 15, 2016. I would like to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll call votes 577 and 578.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LLOYD HINOTE OF MILTON, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Northwest Florida’s beloved Lloyd Hinote, who passed away November 13, 2016. A longtime resident of Milton, Florida, Lloyd had a deep love for his family and for his community and his continued efforts to make Milton a more beautiful place has left a lasting impact that will be remembered for years to come.

Born on January 22, 1938, in Alflora, Florida to James and Verble Hinote, Lloyd spent his first eight years in nearby Indian Ford, before moving to live the remainder of his life in his beloved Milton. Lloyd graduated as 1 of 56 students in the Milton High School Class of 1956, and after high school he matriculated to Florida State University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in management and finance.

Lloyd continued his education, completing The School of Banking at the University of Oklahoma, and then embarked on a successful private sector career, working as the vice president of a local bank for over twenty-four years and as a private business owner for over eighteen years, before serving almost ten years as the executive director of the Pace Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, Lloyd decided to serve his community in local government by serving on the Milton City Council.

On the Milton City Council, Councilman Hinote represented Ward IV for over 15 years. It was his leadership as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation committee that initiated the improvements at Sanders Street Park and Russell Harbor Landing. He was fully dedicated to bettering Milton, as evidenced by his work on the council to build a new city hall, fire station, wastewater treatment facility, and build and maintain countless recreation facilities.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Lloyd Hinote. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and condolences to his daughter, Lisa; and grandson, Skylar.

RECOGNIZING EARL L. FULLER

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Earl L. Fuller, who served our country during World War II.

Mr. Fuller enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1941 at the age of 27. He was assigned to the 10th Signal Corps of the 31st Infantry, which was operating in the Pacific Theater. When the Japanese Army invaded the island of Corregidor, Mr. Fuller was taken captive. He spent a total of three years and four months as a prisoner of war.

While a prisoner, Mr. Fuller befriended a Japanese guard who wanted to learn English. The two men played baseball together and formed an unlikely friendship. The guard helped deliver oranges and small fish to the American prisoners—the only food they had to eat besides rice.

Mr. Fuller escaped from the prison camp near the end of the war. As he fled from his captors, he saw the guard who he had befriended. Mr. Fuller saluted the guard, who returned the gesture. Although the two men would never see each other again, the guard’s compassion had a lasting impact on Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Fuller’s courage and respect for the human spirit transcended the political and cultural boundaries of his time. Despite the horrors of war, his courage and optimism shined through the darkness and demonstrated the best of the human spirit.

Mr. Fuller did not tell his incredible story until 2007, when he was 93 years old. He passed away in 2010 in Penn Yan, New York.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and service of Earl L. Fuller—an American hero with a truly remarkable story.

KEVIN BARRY’S PUB

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Kevin Barry’s Pub in Savannah, Georgia. On September 27th, the pub won the 2016 Irish Pubs Global Authenticity Award for giving its customers the most authentic Irish Pub experience, outside of Ireland.

For the past 35 years, this pub has brought some Irish culture to River Street in Savannah. Every night, at 8 pm, Kevin Barry’s Pub features live, traditional Irish music.

The owner of the pub, Vic Power, uses the music as a way to pass down Irish history to younger generations. Locals and tourists alike who want to hear classic Irish storytelling visit Kevin Barry’s Pub to hear it for themselves.

While maintaining a true Irish atmosphere, this pub has certainly brought happiness, laughter, and singing to all ages for the last 35 years.

As the city that hosts the second largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in the U.S., Ireland's culture and community aspect is important to Savannah and this pub is an important part of Savannah's Irish heritage.

I am proud that Kevin Barry's Pub has added to the First Congressional District of Georgia's heritage and wish the pub, its owners, and its customers, the best of luck in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAMAICAN SOCIAL CLUB

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Jamaican Social Club of Toledo, Ohio. I was pleased to join in the celebration of the milestone anniversary in our community.

Since 1976, the Jamaican Social Club has served northwest Ohio and southern Michigan as an organization dedicated to charity, education, social and scientific purposes. Since its inception, the Jamaican Social Club has promoted a better understanding and cooperation among all cultures and citizens in the region.

Almost one year after being founded as a non-profit, multicultural organization in the State of Ohio, the Hon. Harry Kessler, Mayor of the City of Toledo at the time, proclaimed the first week in August "Jamaican Independence Week" and called upon citizens of Toledo to join the organization in celebration.

The Jamaican Social Club has given consistently of its time and talents over the past 40 years and has donated hundreds of volunteer hours each year to assist those in need. For example, at the devastation of Hurricane Gilbert in Jamaica, the Jamaican Social Club, through its support from General Mills, donated one trailer load of cereals to hurricane victims in Jamaica. Two truck-loads of hospital beds and equipment, donations by Toledo area hospitals, were shipped to two hospitals in Jamaica.

In addition, athletic uniforms and equipment, books and pencils have been donated to several schools in Jamaica, including four computers, which were donated to Trench Town School in Kingston and one to Harry Watch School in Manchester, Jamaica.

Over the years, several scholarships have been awarded to high school students in the Toledo area for excellent achievement, and the organization sponsors a "Dreams for Teens" TV talent show designed to enhance students with exceptional ability to perform competitively. Winners of this talent competition are offered prizes and scholarships.

Periodic donations are made to Toledo's homeless shelters as well.

The Jamaican Social Club serves as a liaison between the Citizens of Toledo and its authorities and the people and Government of Jamaica, and offers assistance to newly arrived immigrants to get adjusted in their communities.

The Jamaican Social Club has hosted several Jamaican diplomats as well as many

other guests from Jamaica; Toronto, Canada; Baltimore, MD; New York, NY; and Indianapolis, IN; to the city of Toledo.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to the Jamaican Social Club for its rich history and wonderful contributions to our region over the last 40 years.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELAINE E. THOMPSON

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Ms. Elaine E. Thompson of Hamilton, Virginia. Throughout her life, Ms. Thompson was a respected leader in her community and a notable historian of African American culture in Loudoun County. Coming from a family of educators, I applaud Ms. Thompson's dedication to the search for knowledge throughout her life as teacher, historian, author, and speaker.

Ms. Thompson led many successful efforts to advance the recognition and preservation of African American history. Aside from her numerous contributions of written work on the subject, she was instrumental in the founding of the Thomas Balch Library's Black History Committee, and the establishment of the historic highway marker at the Emancipation Grounds in Purcellville, Virginia. Ms. Thompson was a role model and mentor for many in the community. Most recently, she left her mark on African American history through her contribution of Joseph Trammell's freedom certificate to the Museum of African American History and Culture. Joseph Trammell, a freed slave who was buried in Lincoln, Virginia, was an ancestor of Ms. Thompson. In 2014, she donated Mr. Trammell's freedom certificate to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. One of the last joys of her life was to see her gift at the museum's opening and to be an invited guest at the Dedication Ceremony and Gala. Her selfless legacy will forever be a part of the history of Loudoun County and the nation as a whole.

Elaine was quiet but passionate, resolute and firm in her convictions. She lavished love, affection, and gifts on family members and friends. She also gently shared her displeasure if someone disappointed her. After her retirement, Elaine dedicated her time to caring for her parents in their declining years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Elaine E. Thompson. May she rest in peace, and her family be comforted.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LONG BRANCH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Long Branch Free Public Li-

brary as its administration, Board of Trustees, members and the Long Branch community celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. Its commitment to serving the community is truly deserving of this body's recognition on this significant milestone.

Throughout its history, the Long Branch Free Public Library has supported and been supported by the community. At the proposal by a group of thirty local women, the Long Branch Free Public Library got its start in 1878 as The East Long Branch Reading Room & Library Association. For 38 years, The East Long Branch Reading Room & Library Association was operated by the group until they turned it over to the City of Long Branch in 1916 as a requisite for a Carnegie Corporation grant for a new library that city residents had approved via referendum that November.

Since its founding, the Long Branch Free Public Library has been an integral part of the Long Branch community and maintains outstanding resources and accessibility for its patrons. Over the years, the library continued to grow, expanding to a second branch in the Elberon section of Long Branch and currently averages 10,000 visits per month. It has evolved with technology and the changing needs of its patrons, providing computers and free Wi-Fi access, career services, research assistance, literacy and citizenship classes, and homebound library services among many other vital services. The Long Branch Free Public Library also serves as a place for the community to come together, offering programs for children and young adults, book clubs, cultural events, historical programs and activities for all ages.

The Long Branch Free Public Library is a welcome place for the community to share and has been recognized for its efforts to offer an outstanding space for learning and civic involvement. It was selected by Asbury Park Press readers as one of the Best Libraries in Monmouth County in 2015 and received the 2014 New Jersey State Library Innovation Award. Its Director, Tonya Garcia, was also named the New Jersey Library Association 2016 Librarian of the Year.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Long Branch Free Public Library. The library continues to uphold its mission to assist the community and its efforts are to be recognized.

IN HONOR OF RAMON "CHUNKY" SANCHEZ

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez, an exceptional musician and activist for the community of San Diego. Chunky Sanchez passed away on Friday, October 28, 2016, a few days before his sixty-fifth birthday.

Chunky Sanchez was born in 1951 in Blythe, California to Mexican immigrant parents. He was a talented musician, who was taught traditional Mexican music by his mother and uncles.

Chunky Sanchez quickly learned how to sing, play ten different instruments, and compose his own music. In 1969 he attended San Diego State University on a scholarship and began performing with La Rondalla Amerindia de Aztlan, a noted musical group composed of students and professors.

Later, Chunky Sanchez became a vocalist for the folklore group Los Alcranes (The Scorpions) which he co-founded along with his brother Ricardo. They recorded their first album in 1977. Through his music, he would tell the story of the Chicano movement and of the Mexican American bi-cultural experience.

Chunky Sanchez was so well received that labor leader Cesar Chavez would often invite him to play at union rallies. Chunky Sanchez was also an incredibly active member of the San Diego community. In his song 'Rising Souls', he sang that we needed to 'educate, not incarcerate, so that humanity will shine.'

During his lifetime he embodied these lyrics as he worked with local youth as a coach, an educator, a youth center director, and a gang intervention counselor. His passion and care for the community garnered numerous awards and honors from organizations across California and throughout the City of San Diego.

Chunky Sanchez is best known for his song "Chicano Park Samba", which narrated the struggle for and successful creation of Chicano Park in San Diego. A City Historic Landmark, Chicano Park honors the history of the Chicano Mexican people through monumental murals, sculptures, earthworks, and an architectural piece.

Earlier in the 114th Congress, I introduced H.R. 3711, the Chicano Park Preservation Act to preserve Chicano Park as part of the National Historic system. Coincidentally, this bill is being marked up by the House Natural Resources Committee later today. I would like to thank Chairman BISHOP and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for supporting this legislation. It's a fitting way to honor Ramon 'Chunky' Sanchez's memory.

Ramon Chunky Sanchez will be missed by his family—his wife Isabel, five children, many grandchildren and the San Diego community.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the lyrics of the Chicano Park Samba.

CHICANO PARK SAMBA LYRICS

LOS ALACRANES MOJADOS: CHUNKY SANCHEZ, RICARDO SANCHEZ, MARIO AGUILAR, MARCO ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ

In the year the year 1970, in the city of San Diego, under the Coronado Bridge, lied a little piece of land, a piece of land that the community of Logan Heights wanted to make into a park . . .

A park where all the chavalitos could play in so they wouldn't have to play in the street and get run over by a car . . .

a park where all the viejitos could come and just sit down and watch the sun go down in the tarde . . .

a park where all the familias could come and just get together on a Sunday afternoon and celebrate the spirit of life itself.

But the city of San Diego said, "Chale. We're going to make a highway patrol sub-station here, man."

So on April 22nd, 1970, la raza of Logan Heights and other Chicano communities of San Diego got together, and they organized . . .

and they walked on the land, and they took it over with their picks and their shovels and they began to build their park. And today, that little piece of land under the Coronado Bridge is known to everybody . . . as Chicano Park . . . Orale!

It began in 1970, under the Coronado Bridge En mi barrio, in San Diego

Where my people began to fight

For Chicano Park, for Chicano Park

Under the bridge, under the bridge, under the bridge . . .

We shall continue to live my brother,

We shall continue to fight my friend

For Chicano Park, under the bridge . . .

Raza!, Que vivan, que vivan, Los barrios unidos!

RECOGNIZING 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF GEORGIA SCHOOLS FOR ACHIEVING THE NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Calvary Day School and Jacob G. Smith Elementary School in Savannah as well as Midway Elementary School in Blackshear for being awarded the National Blue Ribbon in 2016 by the U.S. Secretary of Education, John B. King, Jr.

These outstanding schools won the blue ribbon for their overall academic excellence, progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups, and demonstrating that all students can strive to achieve peak levels in education.

The award is an extraordinary achievement for these schools. The selection process for National Blue Ribbon Award is highly competitive and schools from all over the country compete for this prestigious honor.

I am proud to rise today to congratulate the principals, staff, students, and families of the schools for their hard work in achieving this national recognition. I wish them the best of luck this school year and encourage them to continue their impressive work in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

CONGRATULATING TAYLORVILLE AS THE CHILLI CAPITAL OF ILLINOIS

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate my hometown of Taylorville on its designation as the Chilli Capital of Illinois.

Taylorville hosts five International Chilli Society cook-offs every year, in addition to numerous local and regional events. Each summer, Taylorville is home to the Christian County Ag Fair's chilli cookoff and in October, Taylorville hosts its own "Chillinois Regional" Chillifest.

Annually, these competitions bring twelve chilli-cooking world champions to Taylorville

and as many as ten thousand chilli connoisseurs. Earlier this year, the Illinois General Assembly passed H.R. 1357, which officially named Taylorville the Chilli Capital of Illinois.

I am very proud of my hometown and I would like to commend Mayor Brotherton and the City of Taylorville on this distinction. I look forward to celebrating many more years as the state's chilli capital.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GERTIE FLETCHER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor the life of Mrs. Gertrude "Gertie" Mae Smith Fletcher of Ashburn, Virginia. Throughout her life, Mrs. Fletcher was a respected leader in the community as she and her husband Charlie were founding members of Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. Her dedicated service has kept the people of the Ashburn community safe for over 60 years.

One morning in 1947, Gertrude was busy preparing for an event at the fire station when an alarm was dispatched. Her brother-in-law, Carly Fletcher, was the only fireman that responded to answer the call that morning. Realizing that he may need help in this situation, Carly called for Mrs. Fletcher to get in the truck with him and promptly deputized her as a volunteer firefighter. Ever since that day, Mrs. Fletcher supported the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department through her service as an officer of the Ladies Auxiliary. Her selfless legacy will forever be a part of both organizations.

Always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor in need, Gertie was an irreplaceable pillar of our community. Mrs. Fletcher was active in all phases of community life in Ashburn, from her leadership at the Calvary Baptist Church to her role in forming the Blue Ridge Speech and Hearing Center. She always worked tirelessly to better her community. Mrs. Fletcher is survived by her son, Tom Fletcher, two grandchildren, Brian and Catherine, and two great-grandchildren, Taryn and Brock and a sister, Aileen. She will be missed by the countless lives she has touched over her years of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the life of, and bidding farewell to, Gertrude Mae Smith Fletcher. May she rest in peace, and her family be comforted.

RECOGNIZING IMPACT BROWARD

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Impact Broward and the critical work they do in South Florida. This vital organization has served Broward County through a

dedicated commitment to providing at-risk children, veterans, senior citizens, and other individuals with the resources and care that they so urgently need.

Each day, Impact Broward provides students with academic assistance, offers support to veterans, assists struggling senior citizens, and supports Broward County Non-Profits. These programs exist because of the strong commitment of all Impact Broward's staff, and I would like to especially acknowledge their President and CEO, Peter Kaldes, for the exceptional work that he has done to ensure that all Broward County residents get the care and support that they need.

Congratulations to today's honorees: Dr. Philip Greenberg of the William "Bill" Kling VA Clinic, receiving the 2016 Edith S. Lederberg Wisdom in Action Award; Bruce Williams of the Pride Center, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award; Deputy Lauren Apollo of the Broward Sheriff's Office, receiving the Individual Award; Whole Foods Market, receiving the Award of Excellence; Flora Lathem of the Foster Grandparent Program, receiving the Robert Scott Public Service Award for Volunteering with Children; Jacqueline Coleman, receiving the Senior Companion Volunteer Award; Lisa Pohle, receiving the RSVP Seniors, Teachers Achieving Reading Success Volunteer Award; and American Express receiving the Corporate Excellence Award.

I express deep appreciation for Impact Broward's great work. Their dedication to provide struggling individuals with critical attention and support is noble.

RECOGNIZING DIRECTOR GALE MCCOY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Gale McCoy and all of her accomplishments as Director of the Atlanta Passport Agency.

Over the last 5 years, the Atlanta Passport Agency has assisted a copious amount of Americans with passport issuance for immediate travel since the agency opened in 2011. This year alone the Atlanta Passport Agency has helped more than 38,000 citizens.

Director McCoy has worked with the Atlanta Passport Agency since its inception, providing a service which is important to residents across Georgia because, otherwise, Georgians would need to travel to New Orleans, Miami, or Washington, DC, to gain an urgent, new passport. In addition to her time working with the Atlanta Passport Agency, Director McCoy has worked for the U.S. Department of State in various other capacities for more than 30 years.

Later this year, Mrs. McCoy will retire as the Director of the Atlanta Passport Agency. I rise today to recognize her effort and accomplishments in assisting U.S. Citizens and thank her for the service she has provided to many people in the First Congressional District of Georgia. I wish her the best with her future endeavors.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) which is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. With the mission of promoting self-sufficiency among low-income and vulnerable populations by confronting the causes and reducing the effects of poverty, CEO has consistently advanced the well-being of my constituents and our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Commission on Economic Opportunity was established in 1966 as a multi-service, nonprofit organization. With its central office in Wilkes-Barre, CEO has expanded to include offices throughout my district in Hazleton, Tunkhannock, and Kingston. CEO operates more than 20 community development programs, and, with over 150 full and part-time employees, their work serves over 32,000 individuals in Northeastern Pennsylvania each year. CEO's ability to adapt to the changing nature of poverty has been a key part of their success, and this allows them to use flexible and local solutions to promote self-sufficiency in our region.

When I was mayor, I worked with Gene Brady and CEO to develop the Pine Street neighborhood in Hazleton. This area was in need of renovation, and after a four block section of land was donated, Gene and I brought the community together to build single-family homes. Staying true to their mission, CEO helped these families take control of their mortgages and become self-sufficient homeowners. Over ten years later, the Pine Street neighborhood is still thriving thanks to the work of Gene and all of the employees and volunteers at CEO, and this truly exemplifies their ability to increase the standard of living for all.

As a father of four and grandfather of four, I recognize the importance of providing our children with every opportunity to succeed. That's why I am grateful that an organization like CEO has taken a leading role in creating child and family-centered services in my district to ensure that the challenges of poverty do not limit anyone's potential. The Commission on Economic Opportunity also understands the need for strategic partnerships to address the root causes of poverty. Their efforts to provide funding and leadership for groups such as Luzerne County Head Start, the Child Development Council of NEPA, Rural Health Corporation of NEPA, and Maternal and Family Services of NEPA, have allowed them to reach the community at large, while efficiently using their resources to establish more low-income organizations in the region. The Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan Center for Healthy Living exemplifies their strategic partnerships, as they utilize their own Weinberg Food Bank to store and distribute food to a network of regional agencies, with the intent of helping people go "from hungry to healthy."

Mr. Speaker, with 50 years of successful service in Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Commission on Economic Opportunity has consistently set an example of what can be achieved when a private organization engages with their community. On behalf of my constituents, I want to thank the board of directors, staff, and volunteers that have worked tirelessly to make their goal of "People Helping People" possible, and I look forward to their continued success in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAXINE PRATHER

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge one of my constituents, Maxine Prather, who turned 99 years old on September the 19th. Mrs. Prather's life has been a truly American story. Born in 1917, Maxine lived through some of the most uncertain times in American history during which she not only endured, but flourished.

Maxine Prather, affectionately called Gigi by her grandkids, worked as a secretary for many years. She was a devoted wife to her husband who was a Methodist Minister. Through the years, the family travelled the country to preach the scripture. It was through these travels that Maxine developed an interest in collecting beautiful china for her home. To this day Maxine Prather still enjoys entertaining guests, shopping and visiting the great museums our nation has to offer every chance she gets.

Mr. Speaker, this is a woman of extreme courage and fortitude, whose life story serves as an inspiration to all. She has spent nearly her entire life in service to others and her selflessness should be acknowledged for all to witness. I would ask my fellow members to stand with me and applaud Mrs. Maxine Prather and wish her well.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL SERVICE WEEK

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October 9th–15th, 2016 as International Central Service Week.

During this week, we recognize and show appreciation to the Central Service Professionals across the world, who work each day to guarantee that all surgical instruments are clean and sterile.

I think everyone has either experience themselves or has a loved one who has experienced a surgical procedure where a Central Service Professional was directly responsible for decontaminating, cleaning, processing, assembling, and sterilizing the instruments used throughout that procedure.

To all of those dedicated Central Service Professionals, thank you for what you do. Please know your work is appreciated and you are an important part of keeping our nation healthy.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE FLYNN

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, George Flynn, who is retiring after nearly 30 years of dedicated public service as Pulaski County Circuit Clerk in Somerset, Kentucky.

George has honorably served as Circuit Clerk since winning his first election in 1987. Since then, he has proven to be one of the most beloved and respected leaders in the county with his unmatched work ethic and quick wit. Everyone "south of the river" in Pulaski County is related to George, or claims to be, and his support has never wavered. Whether you have known George for five minutes or fifty years, he treats you like family, earning him a loyalty with friends in and out of the political arena. He always has a personal story to share—and at a moment's notice, he can rattle off the history of Pulaski County, along with the genealogy of nearly every family in town. He has never been one to pass through with a quick hello—but genuinely inquires about the well-being of friends and family.

Over the last three decades, George has brought the Pulaski County Circuit Clerk's office up to speed with 21st century technology—overseeing the digitization of thousands of records and managing growing court dockets on a daily basis. His operation is top-notch.

Outside of the clerk's office, his volunteer service has been second to none. From the Lake Cumberland Friends Association, to the Boy Scouts of America, to the Ducks Unlimited Club and the Pulaski County Lincoln Club—his tireless efforts to improve local quality of life expands across the Lake Cumberland region.

Everyone is equipped with the same components to make a difference in their community, but it is only those with the courage of conviction and dedication, like George Flynn, who will leave a legacy of community service, such as he has done. My wife, Cynthia, and I wish George and his wife, Resa, many years of joy and good health in their retirement.

CONGRATULATING EL COMERCIO DE COLORADO

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate El Comercio de Colorado on their award-winning editorial excellence.

El Comercio de Colorado is a bilingual newspaper which has served Colorado and

the Denver area since 1999 with articles about international, national and local news topics of importance to our community. El Comercio de Colorado has embodied leadership in the Hispanic printed media industry. In recognition of their quality publications, the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) has presented El Comercio de Colorado with four Gold José Martí Publishing Awards.

El Comercio de Colorado was noted as having the number one Classified Ads section in the nation during the 34th edition of the José Martí Publishing Awards. For industry leading distinction, the sports section was awarded two gold awards for content and design, as well as cartoonist Angonoa, who received gold for outstanding work. El Comercio de Colorado also received honorable mentions for editorial content, photography, illustrations and design.

I would like to congratulate partner and Editor Eva Tejada, as well as the entire staff at El Comercio de Colorado on a job well done. These awards show El Comercio de Colorado's unwavering commitment to quality publications and the Hispanic printed media community.

TRIBUTE TO ISAAC B. ROSENBERG

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, our Ranking Minority Member, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Isaac B. Rosenberg, who is leaving the House to join the United States Department of Justice, National Courts Section. Mr. Rosenberg has served in the Office of the General Counsel for nearly three years as an Assistant General Counsel. Mr. Rosenberg provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House community, particularly in connection with federal court litigation involving issues of great institutional importance. Mr. Rosenberg provided extensive advice and litigation expertise to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on Ethics, House Leadership, and numerous Members, officers, and other committees of the House. House staff came to rely on Mr. Rosenberg's expertise and guidance, particularly in connection with their investigative and oversight activities. Mr. Rosenberg has played a very significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives. He has served the House with great distinction, and we know he will continue to serve our Nation with that same level of distinction at the Department of Justice. On behalf of the Committee on House Administration and the entire House community, we thank Mr. Rosenberg for his devoted service, and extend to him our very best wishes for continued success.

RECOGNIZING STATE REPRESENTATIVE RON STEPHENS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Representative Ron Stephens from Savannah, Georgia, for being awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Representative Ron Stephens represents the 164th District in the Georgia General Assembly. During his time as Representative, he has done a remarkable job representing his constituents. Currently, he is Chairman of the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee and a member of the Appropriations, Rules, and Ways and Means Committees allowing him to advocate important issues for his constituency. In addition, Governor Nathan Deal appointed Representative Stephens to the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

Before his time in the Georgia General Assembly, Representative Stephens was already working for the betterment of his community. He began in pharmacy and served the medical needs of others for thirty-seven years. Thereafter, he served as a councilman in Garden City.

Representative Ron Stephens has accomplished a great deal for his community. I am proud of my friend for his work and overjoyed that he is receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award from Armstrong Atlantic.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILICON VALLEY COUNCIL OF NONPROFITS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today together with my colleagues, Congress members ANNA ESHOO and MIKE HONDA to acknowledge the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN). As is widely known, Santa Clara County, particularly Silicon Valley, receives worldwide attention for its technological innovation, but Silicon Valley's innovative spirit is not limited to technology, it also extends to public/private partnerships and the nonprofit sector.

The Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits (SVCN) was founded in 1996 to represent the local community interests of nonprofits in Santa Clara County. Its mission is to continue to foster and magnify the influence and contribution of nonprofit agencies and businesses in Santa Clara County.

SVCN achieves this mission with a broadly diverse approach, which includes policy work and advocacy, community partnerships and alliances, and budget and leadership development. This approach is second to none, when compared to other common Organizational Development groups, namely because it participates in the public and private sectors to leverage the effectiveness and impact of nonprofits. SVCN has a network of 200 member

agencies which serve as a vital catalyst for building and maintaining nonprofit leaders, partners and collaborators. Furthermore, it is an integral and unifying voice for health and human service agencies in Santa Clara County.

SVCN focuses on building alliances and partnerships to increase the effectiveness of nonprofits. It increases the capacity of nonprofits through trainings, summits and skill building programs that make nonprofits more effective and it encourages nonprofit leaders to be better advocates for their system of care and serve as spokespersons at public forums; hearings, and developing meaningful relationships by participating with local elected and government officials at key decision making tables.

When SVCN achieves its goals, it benefits the entire nonprofit sector and ultimately our community, particularly those individuals and families who are disenfranchised and find themselves struggling to meet even their most basic needs of housing, healthcare, food and education.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Silicon Valley Council of Nonprofits, for its 20 years of extraordinary leadership and advocacy in the nonprofit sector.

IN HONOR OF LOUDOUN
PRESERVATION LEADER SU WEBB

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember my constituent Carolyn "Su" Allen Saunders Webb from Loudoun County, Virginia. Mrs. Webb was well known throughout the community for her passion and dedication to park conservation. She was an individual committed to protecting the landmarks that make up Virginia's beautiful and historic Loudoun County. Mrs. Webb earned recognition through her preservation efforts on the Piedmont Environmental Council, Aldie Heritage Association, and the Lovettsville Park Advisory Board. She was one of the foremost preservation leaders in Loudoun County, and her tireless efforts can be seen throughout our great Commonwealth.

As a long-serving newspaperwoman, Mrs. Webb consistently focused her energy on the local community by keeping Loudoun County informed. Additionally, she served on the Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board for over 20 years. Few individuals have had such a sterling record of protecting their community's resources. Clearly, Mrs. Webb's unrelenting belief in preservation gave her the strength to protect the community she loved until her passing.

Mrs. Webb led the way in founding the Farm Museum at Claude Moore Park in Sterling, Virginia, as well as the transfer of the Historic Mt. Zion Church and Aldie Mill Park to the protection of NOVA Parks. For her actions she was named the 2012 Heritage Hero by the Mosby Heritage Association and was inducted as a Loudoun Laurel.

Mrs. Webb is survived by her sister and brother-in-law Sally and Richard Garrison, her daughter and son-in-law Anne and Steve Fabry, her aunt Mary Hirschi, and the Hirschi and Carey cousins.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to highlight the life and legacy of Su Webb and the impact she had on our district. I ask that my colleagues join me in remembering Mrs. Webb on her commitment to natural and historical preservation in Loudoun County. May she rest in peace.

REMEMBERING DOYLE KELLEY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doyle Kelley from Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on September 30th. Mr. Kelley, known throughout the Savannah community as Coach Kelley, dedicated his life to teaching and mentoring students.

After graduating from Armstrong Atlantic State University in 1969, Coach Kelley started coaching Jenkins High School's basketball team, sparking his commitment to students.

Coach Kelley's passion shows not only in his incredible success on the court, but also the notorious testimonials from students about how he changed their lives for the better. After he moved to coach basketball at Savannah Christian Preparatory School, he had 427 victories in basketball alongside 18 state championships, but the number of students he positively impacted is far greater.

After his successful years in the sport, Coach Kelley served as the high school principal for 14 years at Savannah Christian until his retirement.

His caring and compassionate nature was seen by everyone in the community—from friends, colleagues, students, and certainly family members. Coach Kelley's presence in the community will be deeply missed and felt by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE
STANDARD-SPEAKER

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize The Standard-Speaker, which is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. With a humble beginning in my hometown of Hazleton, The Standard-Speaker has provided generations of my constituents with reliable and current news in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is hard to imagine what our city would be like without The Standard-Speaker to keep us informed. When I was mayor for more than ten years, the newspaper was always there on my front step in the mornings, and the reporters and editors would be weighing in letting

me know how I was doing. Now that I am a member of Congress, The Standard-Speaker is still a good barometer of what is happening at home and what the people are thinking about.

The Standard-Speaker has a long and proud history. It was founded in 1866 as The Hazleton Sentinel, and after numerous ownership changes during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the paper was eventually purchased by former Hazleton Treasurer Henry Walser. For a time, there were three publications in Hazleton: The Plain Speaker, the Daily Standard, and The Hazleton Sentinel. After acquiring the Daily Standard in 1917 to create The Standard-Sentinel, Henry Walser and his new partner, John R. Dershuck, combined their efforts to bring The Standard-Sentinel and The Plain Speaker under one roof in 1961. Ownership was eventually consolidated in the hands of Henry's son, Frank, who merged not just the morning and afternoon papers, but also their names, to give rise to the all-day publication, The Standard-Speaker.

Staying true to the paper's heritage of family ownership and strategic mergers, in April of 2007, it was announced that the Lynett and Haggerty families of Scranton would purchase the paper. The company already owned The Citizens' Voice in Wilkes-Barre, The Times-Tribune in Scranton, and The Republican & Herald in Pottsville, which made The Standard-Speaker a natural fit for their vision of treating Northeastern Pennsylvania as a single region in which Hazleton occupies a unique spot.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a century, The Standard-Speaker has been an integral part of the community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Generations of families have not only relied on the paper for their daily news, but have been the ones working to produce it. I am incredibly grateful for the work of all the employees that make The Standard-Speaker so special, and I look forward to the paper's continued success and innovation in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, located in my congressional district in Henderson, North Carolina.

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church was founded in 1866, three years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln and months following the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution. The Church property was acquired by its members for religious worship, and has since remained a place of worship and fellowship for the Henderson/Vance County community and other surrounding areas in eastern North Carolina.

In the Church's early days, both Methodists and Baptists worshipped in the same building,

but in 1867, the membership had grown so significantly that the two denominations agreed that the Baptists would buy the Methodists' share of the property. Under the leadership of Reverend Jefferson Burwell and Mr. Aaron Pratcher, Shiloh Baptist Church proceeded to organize a place of worship on one acre of land located in Henderson.

Mr. Speaker, much of Shiloh Baptist Church's growth over the years can be attributed to its dedicated leadership and congregation. In 1985, Reverend Richard I. Walden led the Church to a larger building to accommodate the growing congregation. With Reverend C. R. Mitchell as pastor in 1967, the Church saw the erection of a new Sanctuary and Educational Department. In October 2002, Shiloh further expanded with a new multipurpose building that was named in honor of Shiloh's church mother, Mother Johnnie Young Mims Sanders. Since 1995, Shiloh has been pastored by Reverend Joseph L. Ratliff. Today, Shiloh Baptist Church remains a pillar of the Henderson community and in the state of North Carolina.

The Church remains active in its community, serving as a longtime partner of the Food Bank of North Carolina. As a member of the food pantry, Shiloh serves over 975 households and over 2,280 individuals each month. Shiloh has also partnered with area churches to provide school supplies to students and Christmas food boxes to over 225 families annually.

Shiloh Baptist Church's 150th anniversary observes the labor and dedication over 150 years as well as the Church's promise for the future. By the grace of God, Shiloh Baptist Church's outstanding leadership and devoted congregation have allowed for significant growth in membership and ministry and continued outreach in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the rich history of Shiloh Baptist Church in Henderson, North Carolina, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Ratliff, the congregation, and the residents of Henderson on this historic milestone.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,847,114,759,737.23. We've added \$9,220,237,710,824.15 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLD DOMINION COTILLION

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the 25th anniversary of Old Dominion Cotillion. Established in 1991, Old Dominion Cotillion has worked tirelessly to educate young women about how to conduct themselves with grace and poise, as well as the value of community service.

Old Dominion Cotillion is an all-volunteer, nonprofit women's social organization founded by Sherry Clark Pressley of Vienna, Virginia. Her original vision, along with friends Alice Cromarty, Lisa Alexander and Lynn Williams, was to establish an organization of families working together to expand their daughters' knowledge and confidence to deal with their future adult lives. The work done by the women of Old Dominion Cotillion has helped shape the lives of countless young women who will serve as the leaders of tomorrow.

The ODC's commitment to the community can be seen not only through their efforts to prepare young women for adulthood, but also through their service efforts. This year alone their membership contributed more than 900 hours of service to the Ronald McDonald House in Falls Church, as well as to several other organizations. During these years of volunteerism, ODC has received many accolades and recognitions, such as the Fairfax County Youth Volunteer Service Award for outstanding service and the Shelter House 30th Anniversary Champion Award for the high level of service and commitment to preventing and ending homelessness. It is organizations like this which keep the communities in Virginia's 10th District vibrant and thriving, and it is my privilege to represent them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 25th anniversary of Old Dominion Cotillion and thank them for their efforts to prepare young women for adulthood. What has evolved throughout their twenty-five-year history has been nothing less than magical. It has brought women together to work for the betterment of not only their girls but their families and communities. I know the Old Dominion Cotillion will continue to provide these young ladies with opportunities to serve and grow as individuals, and I wish them all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL DUNNE

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Michael Philip Dunne of Brunswick, who passed away on September 21st, 2016.

He will be remembered by many in Georgia's First Congressional District for his 25

years of work with Gulfstream Aerospace where he served as Safety Manager. Colonel Dunne also served in the United States Army for 11 years and spent the following 9 years in the Army Reserves.

After 20 years of honorably serving his country, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. In his spare time, he loved to spend time with his family and stayed active in his community by fishing with his neighbors.

Colonel Dunne's life will always be admired for his leadership, compassion, generosity, and devotion to service. It is an honor to recognize Colonel Dunne's life today. His presence and work in his community will certainly be missed.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week marks National Apprenticeship Week, a time set aside to celebrate and recognize apprenticeship programs for their success in providing a clear pathway from education to employment.

Apprenticeship programs are mutually beneficial for employers and job-seekers. They connect well-qualified, trained employees with meaningful, high paying jobs for fulfilling lives.

They have played a critical role in the successes companies across South Carolina, such as BMW, Michelin, Bridgestone, MTU America, Boeing, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Volvo. Quality education and training is vital for competing in the workplace and I am grateful to Apprenticeship Carolina, led by Director Brad Neese, for their work in creating jobs.

I appreciate that the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act passed the House in September. It is an honor to be a co-sponsor of this bipartisan legislation, and Congressman GLENN THOMPSON has been successful for his leadership on this important issue. Tax and regulation reduction by President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence partnered with Speaker PAUL RYAN will create jobs.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops and may the President by his actions never forget September 11th in the Global War on Terrorism.

HONORING NATIONAL VOICES FOR EQUALITY, EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional work of National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment (NVEEE) in combatting bullying and instilling the values of acceptance and love in the students of our South Florida community.

Since 2009, NVEEE has worked tirelessly to prevent bullying, violence and suicide as well as create a safe space for students and adults to seek counseling and support. Led by Jowharah Sanders, a fierce advocate for today's youth, NVEEE has educated thousands of children through engaging workshops, mentorships and direct service. I applaud their efforts in addressing the root causes of bullying and the challenges children face as they mature.

As a mother and a Member of the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, it is with great honor that I recognize National Voices for Equality, Education and Enlightenment.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL B. STAEBLER, A LEADER IN MICHIGAN'S LEGAL COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael B. Staebler, a leader in Michigan's legal community, on the day of his retirement. Mr. Staebler has served the state of Michigan in a variety of roles throughout his distinguished career.

Mr. Staebler graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1969 and has extensive experience in the legal field. From 1975 to 1980, Mr. Staebler was the president and CEO of Michigan Capital and Service Inc., a Small Business Investment Corporation (SBIC) that provided financing for small businesses in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has served on several advisory boards and trade groups, including working on the Small Business Committee of the American Bar Association. Mr. Staebler has also been a partner for Pepper Hamilton, LLP, where he led the firm's practice on the formation and development of SBICs.

Mr. Staebler's work with Pepper Hamilton has focused on small business financing. As a partner of the firm and leader of its SBIC practice, he has helped create over 270 SBICs, which have provided startup funding for hundreds of small businesses across the country. Additionally, Mr. Staebler serves as co-chair of the firm's Funds Services Group, a division of the firm that provides advisory services for investment advisors and managers. He has served as counsel to numerous venture capital and public employee pension funds to help them better manage their investment activities.

Mr. Staebler has been active in a variety of community groups and nonprofit organizations. He has been the director for the American Heart Association and Legal Aid as well as the Defender's Association of Michigan. Mr. Staebler has also utilized his small business expertise to promote economic development in the state of Michigan. He has worked as the director of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and Ann Arbor SPARK, public-private partnerships that encourage entrepreneurship and business formation in Michigan. In addition, Mr. Staebler has supported individual rights and freedoms through his involvement with the American Civil Liberties

Union. He served as co-chair of the ACLU Michigan Annual Dinner in 2011 and 2012 and has been instrumental in helping provide resources and raising awareness on behalf of the organization.

Mr. Staebler has been widely acclaimed for his work and has been named one of the Best Lawyers in America by his peers. He is recognized as one of the foremost experts in the area of small business financing and has lectured extensively on his experiences in his practice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the career and achievements of Michael B. Staebler. His achievements in business and the community are a testament to his hard work and character, and his outstanding work on behalf of the state of Michigan have been critical to driving innovation and attracting jobs to the state.

SUPPORTING THE D. RAY JAMES CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, only in Washington could it make sense to heap praise and award a bonus to a contractor just two weeks before you try to cancel their contract. That's exactly what the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Bureau of Prisons (BOP) are trying to do in my district to the D. Ray James Correctional Facility in Folkston, Georgia.

Despite the fact that D. Ray James has been rated "superior" by BOP in each of the last three years, and operates \$3,000 more efficiently per inmate than its federal peers, bureaucrats at the DOJ and BOP are threatening to shut it down. This stems from an unsubstantiated DOJ report that admits they didn't study several critical factors during their review, and a politically motivated attempt to shut down prisons holding illegal aliens, with no plan on how to deal with them.

In the balance are nearly 500 jobs in my district and thousands more across the county. To make matters worse, the BOP extended D. Ray James' contract just a day before trying to go back on its word. Better yet, the author of the report—Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates—and officials from the Bureau of Prisons are refusing to take my call to explain their actions or answer my questions. The simple truth is the facts do not support their conclusion and they are afraid to admit it.

The American people are sick and tired of a bureaucracy run amok and there is perhaps no better example than this, from the same Administration that accidentally gave more than 1800 illegal aliens bound for deportation full American citizenship last year. I call on the BOP and DOJ to honor their commitment to the outstanding employees at D. Ray James and at private correctional facilities across the county. It's time for them to stop stonewalling the efforts of Congress to hold them accountable for their actions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately was unable to be present for votes taken on the House floor on May 25, 2016, missing Roll Call Vote Number 250. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Roll Call Number 250: NAY

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on the Motion to Order the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5711 and H.R. 5982, I would have voted "no." Had the Motion to Order the Previous Question failed, Ms. SLAUGHTER would have been able to offer her amendment to the Rule, which would have made in order Mr. SARBANES' bill H.R. 6324. H.R. 6324 is important legislation that would amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to prevent registered lobbyists from serving on Presidential Transition Teams.

Additionally, had I been present for the vote on H. Res. 921, I would have voted "no." H. Res. 921 is the Rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 5711, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2016. I oppose these bills.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 17, 2016

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week where we have given thanks for peaceful elections throughout our country, and the welcoming of those newly elected to this assembly in anticipation of the 115th Congress.

Now we approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed, not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BOST led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TYLER IUBELT

(Mr. BOST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Tyler Iubelt.

Tyler was a Tamaroa, Illinois native, a 2015 graduate of Pinckneyville High School. He enjoyed the outdoors, grilling, playing practical jokes on his friends and teachers. He was known as a smart and good-natured kid, and had a great future. He was a son, a husband and, just recently, a father. Last Saturday, he died a hero.

Upon graduation, Tyler entered the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He was transferred to Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. According to the Pentagon, a Taliban terrorist managed to ignite an IED at the base, killing Tyler, Sergeant John Perry, and two American contractors. Seventeen more were injured. An investigation is ongoing.

But our prayers are needed now for Tyler's wife, Shelby, for baby Violet, for his parents, his extended family, and his many friends in southern Illinois.

Tyler paid the ultimate sacrifice for this Nation, and, for that, we will always be grateful.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF BARBARA WONG

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Wong, an incredible advocate for the arts, who has been executive director of Providence CityArts for Youth for 16 years.

Throughout her career, Barbara has helped thousands of youth realize the importance of art in their own lives, as well as its extraordinary power to create social change. Thanks to her, the arts community in Providence is more vibrant, more diverse, and more accessible for children from all backgrounds than ever before.

In 2014, her dedication to ensuring that all children have the same opportunities to learn about and pursue the arts helped Providence CityArts for Youth earn a trip to the White House to receive the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award.

It is my honor to thank Barbara for her years of service to the children and

young people of Providence, and I wish her all the best in the coming years.

IN MEMORY OF RALPH J. CICERONE

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Ralph Cicerone, who passed away on November 5, at the age of 73.

Ralph served as the University of California-Irvine's chancellor from 1998 to 2005. During that time, UCI experienced tremendous success under his leadership, including raising the school's national rankings and breaking ground on its teaching hospital.

Beyond his contributions to the Irvine community, Ralph was world-renowned for his innovative, scientific research that has helped shape environmental policy.

Our thoughts are with Ralph's wife, Carol, his daughter, Sarah, and his two grandchildren. He will be truly missed but will be long remembered for his contributions to the Orange County UCI and science communities.

DISTRIBUTION OF GREENHOUSE GASES

(Mr. McNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, this is another in a series of 1-minutes on cool science endeavors by American scientists.

Today I discuss a system that provides data about the distribution of greenhouse gases around the Earth. The National Science Foundation funded the Airborne Platform for Pole-to-Pole Observations, called HIPPO, that maps the composition and interactions of greenhouse gases as they move around the Earth. This information is used to identify the sources and sinks of carbon dioxide.

The field efforts were highly successful, and these unique experiments are providing valuable insight into the role of the global carbon cycle in the climate system. This data has been made publicly available and will be a source of information for years to come.

The project was a coordinated effort by the NSF and the NOAA to acquire a clearer picture of the impact of carbon dioxide on rainforests and other ecosystems.

I urge Congress to continue its support for scientific endeavors, such as

HIPPO, so that we can gain a better understanding of our Earth's climate system.

LET'S GET THE 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT ACROSS THE FINISH LINE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shine a light on the millions of Americans impacted by deadly diseases that currently have no cure. We know that better treatments and cures for diseases like cancer, ALS, Alzheimer's, and the 7,000 rare diseases are within our reach.

We need to break down the government barriers to innovation and discovery. The 21st Century Cures Act will do just that. I stand with my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee when I say: let's get this done. We have the chance now to help make a profound impact on people's lives.

With Cures, and my provision in the OPEN Act, we are opening the doors for medical breakthroughs to happen. For the sake of millions of patients and their families, let's get 21st Century Cures across the finish line.

THE FINAL 1-MINUTE SPEECH

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, over the last 5½ years, I have spoken here on the House floor more times than I can count, but this will be my last. I am retiring from Congress and joining the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, a position my father held for 40 years, where he did so much good for so many people.

Few people have the privilege to serve their community and their country in the United States Congress. I am honored by the trust my constituents invested in me to represent them. I have been humbled by the experience and continue to be in awe of the time I have spent as both a witness and participant to history.

Washington can be a difficult place, but I have managed to make incredible friends here with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, from my good friend, Congressman TED POE, my co-chair on the PORTS Caucus; to DAVID CICILLINE, my best friend, my inspiration for the issues that he addresses each and every day; and to LOUIE GOHMERT, my co-chair for the National Prayer Breakfast.

I want to thank Leader PELOSI for her example and for the strength she instills in all of us in the Democratic Caucus.

I am eager to get back to work in Los Angeles, but I will be sorry to say

goodbye to all of you. I have appreciated your support, your friendship, your dedication to your constituents, and to this great country, and I will forever be grateful to have known you.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PARK SERVICE DIRECTOR JONATHAN JARVIS

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Director Jonathan Jarvis on his impressive career preserving some of our Nation's most treasured places as Director of the National Park Service.

Director Jarvis serves as the 18th director in the NPS history and developed his love for national parks at a young age, with his family's farm tucked in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley backing up to the Washington National Forest.

A Virginia native, Director Jarvis graduated from the College of William and Mary with a degree in biology and began his career as a seasonal interpretive ranger on the National Mall in 1976.

As Director, he oversees an agency responsible for over 400 national parks, attracting some 280 million visitors each year. Recently, while on the grounds of Teddy Roosevelt's beloved home, Sagamore Hill, I was pleased to hear his vision for the essential role of parks in our national life.

At the end of this year, the centennial year of the National Park Service, Director Jarvis will retire after 40 years of service. I extend my warmest regards and best wishes to Director Jarvis in this next chapter of his life. Happy trails.

TOOLS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week this House passed two important measures dealing with the problems we have in the Middle East. One measure on extending the Iran sanctions, the ability for the President to authorize those that would have expired at the end of this year, was passed by this House in order to give this administration and the next one tools needed for the bad behavior of Iran that it continues to exhibit. We cannot trust that they will continue to adhere to the bad agreement that was made.

Also an important measure was that for Syria to cause sanctions against their proclivity to bring violence upon their citizens. We need both of these measures for this President and this

administration currently and, very importantly, going into the next one to be able to enforce against these bad activities that are happening in the Middle East.

I urge the Senate to take up these measures. I urge this President to pass these measures, so we have these important tools to prevent this kind of violence in the Middle East using our sanction ability.

MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT OF 2016

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 5982.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HILL). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 921 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5982.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0914

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes, with Mr. DENHAM in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

□ 0915

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As the Obama administration comes to a close, Americans' freedom and prosperity is once again threatened by one of the most abusive features of modern bureaucracy: midnight regulation.

Midnight regulation is one of the most vexing problems in Washington's overreaching regulatory system. Administration after administration, there is a spike in rulemaking activity during the last year of a President's term—particularly between election

day and Inauguration Day, but even in the months before then.

These successive waves of midnight regulation present deeply troubling issues. First and foremost, because outgoing administrations are no longer accountable to the voters, they are much more prone to issue midnight regulations that fly in the face of the electoral mandate the voters just gave the new, incoming administration.

Waves of midnight rules can also be very hard for Congress or a new administration to check adequately. As a new Congress and President begin their terms, both, understandably, must be focused on implementing the new priorities within the mandates the voters have given them. That doesn't always leave time to focus on cleaning up all of the last acts of the departing administration.

In addition, the Congressional Review Act currently allows Congress to disapprove of regulations—including midnight regulations—only one at a time. A wave of midnight regulations can easily overwhelm Congress' ability to use one-rule-at-a-time resolutions as an effective check.

Finally, it is well-documented that the rush by outgoing administrations to impose midnight rules before the clock strikes 12 leads to more poorly analyzed rules with lower quality and lower benefits.

The Obama administration has imposed more runaway regulation than any other in memory, and its midnight rulemaking period is no exception. This administration has issued or plans to issue at least 180 midnight rules within the scope of this bill, including multiple billion-dollar rules and more than 20 major rules imposing \$100 million or more in costs per year. It has been estimated that as many as \$113 billion in new regulatory costs can be attributed to the final months of the Obama administration's rulemaking activity.

But this is not a partisan issue. Administrations of both parties have issued midnight rules in the past. The Judiciary Committee has been searching for that solution for some time, and I applaud our colleague, Mr. ISSA, for introducing the Midnight Rules Relief Act to respond to the need. This bill offers, at last, a simple and powerful means to stop the problem of abusive midnight rules—allowing Congress to disapprove of any and all midnight regulations in one fell swoop by one en bloc disapproval resolution under the Congressional Review Act.

Any outgoing administration, understanding that it has this sword of Damocles hanging over its head for the next Congress' use, will surely hesitate much more before abusing midnight rules. Further, once enabled to dispose of all improper midnight rules with one simple resolution, Congress and succeeding administrations would be free

to focus more of their energies on the voters' new priorities rather than the mess left by midnight rules.

The relief offered by the bill, moreover, is highly flexible. No set number of regulations would have to be covered by a resolution. No categories of regulation would have to be included in or excluded from a resolution. On the contrary, any midnight rule disapproval resolution could be sweeping or narrow, depending on how many rules merited inclusion.

Finally, the Midnight Rules Relief Act offers a solution that is not intrusive upon legitimate executive branch authority. An outgoing administration remains free to conduct necessary rule-making activity up to the stroke of midnight on Inauguration Day. It then falls to Congress to respond swiftly and surgically to the results, to accept the good and excise the bad.

This is truly a better way to govern. That is why the reform embodied in this bill is featured in Speaker RYAN's Better Way agenda.

I thank Mr. ISSA for his work on this important legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act. This sweeping measure would empower Congress to undo virtually every regulation submitted to Congress since May through to the end of this year. I repeat: this measure would empower Congress to undo virtually every regulation submitted to Congress since May through to the end of this year. The bill accomplishes this end by authorizing Congress to disapprove these rules through a single joint resolution, thereby depriving Members to consider the merits of each individual regulation.

H.R. 5982 presents numerous concerns. To begin with, this bill would provide special interests with yet another opportunity to block critical, lifesaving regulations.

Prior to submitting results to Congress, agencies typically take several years to ensure that rules are carefully vetted. As administrative law expert Washington University School of Law Professor Ron Levin has previously testified, much of modern rulemaking involves a "very detailed analysis of legal, factual, and policy issues, many of them highly technical. This work is better suited to the subject matter specialists in the respective agencies."

Faced with this complexity, H.R. 5982 would result in Congress predictably relying on industry input when presented with an up-or-down vote on a long list of complicated and often highly technical rules. David Goldston of the Natural Resources Defense Council has previously cautioned that similar

measures would result in special interests descending on the Congress with even greater fervor than is currently the case.

I am also concerned that H.R. 5982 is based on the fundamentally flawed premise that rules finalized during the final year of a President's term are somehow rushed or improperly vetted. In fact, the nonpartisan Administrative Conference of the United States found in 2012 that "a dispassionate look at midnight rules issued by past administrations of both political parties reveals that most were under active consideration long before the November election."

The conference also reported that many of these rules involved purely routine matters initiated before the Presidential transition period or as the result of deadlines outside the agency's control, such as year-end statutory or court-ordered guidelines.

Indeed, the so-called midnight rules may actually take longer to adopt than other rules. For example, Public Citizen reports that rules adopted during a Presidential transition period were typically proposed 3.6 years prior to their adoption, while other rules adopted in non-transition periods took only 2.8 years to complete.

The Center for Progressive Reform has likewise observed that concerns surrounding midnight rulemaking are overstated, stating that "there simply is no reason to believe that a rule released at the end of an administration is worse than those that are released at any other point." Perhaps this is because Congress already has the tools to vacate an unreasonable rule under current law known as the Congressional Review Act.

Lastly, as with the many other antiregulatory bills we have considered in this Congress, this legislation completely ignores the benefits of regulation and is premised on the unsubstantiated belief that regulations undermine employment or economic growth. This is why H.R. 5982 is opposed by a broad coalition of organizations, including the AFL-CIO, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

As the administration correctly observes in connection with its veto threat to this bill—and there is one—H.R. 5982 would create tremendous regulatory uncertainty, potentially impose additional costs on businesses, and represent a step backwards for applying sound regulatory principles to protect public health, safety, the environment, and other critical aspects of society. Accordingly, I oppose—and hope that you will too—this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, the Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2016 is yet another unfounded and reckless attempt to prevent the implementation of critical laws by the Republican majority.

H.R. 5982 would amend the Congressional Review Act to enable Congress to bundle numerous rules finalized during the final year of a President's term into a single vote on a joint resolution of disapproval. Alarming, once these rules have been invalidated through this process, the agency may not adopt a subsequent similar rule absent express authorization by Congress.

According to my Republican colleagues, the Obama administration's regulatory agenda has eroded job growth and economic prosperity—far from it, however. Under President Obama's leadership, we have seen the longest consecutive streak of private job creation, the fastest growth of middle class income ever, and more high-quality and affordable health care for working Americans.

Recently, the Census Bureau released new data indicating that in 2015 the median household income grew at the fastest rate on record, while the poverty rate fell at a faster rate than at any point since 1968. New data from the American Community Survey indicates that the number of uninsured Americans is declining in nearly every State. These metrics reflect a strong record of progress as Federal agencies implement laws like the Dodd-Frank Act and the Affordable Care Act.

If anything, Mr. Chairman, we need new rules and better enforcement of existing law to ensure corporate accountability. In fact, it has only been months since the shocking revelations of Wells Fargo's years of illegal banking practices have come to light. This sweeping display of corporate deception and hubris smacks of the very culture and lack of internal controls that gave rise to the mortgage crisis, collapsing the economy and employment.

Indeed, as U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has cautioned, this scandal ought to be a moment where people stop and note, remember how dangerous the system is when you don't have the proper protections in place.

While the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has issued its largest civil penalty ever—\$100 million—in response to this scandal, this was a drop in the bucket compared to the bank's \$20 billion in profits last year or its chief executive's \$200 million stock compensation deal. What is more, not only did the bank deceive its own customers, Wells Fargo buried the scandal through forced arbitration clauses that shielded itself from liability and public accountability.

This is simply unacceptable and drives home the point that there is still much work to be done to ensure fairness and accountability in the financial system, regardless of how many days may be left in the President's term.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

□ 0930

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the chairman of the Small Business Committee.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. Mr. GOODLATTE has done an excellent job there, and we appreciate the work on this bill and many other things as well.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act, introduced by my friend and colleague from California (Mr. ISSA).

Over the last 8 years, the Obama administration has gone, let's face it, on a regulatory rampage. Each year, the administration's major rules have cost over \$100 billion—\$100 billion. A disproportionate share of those enormous costs have fallen on America's 28 million small businesses.

As chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I have heard firsthand from the owners and employees of these small businesses in our hearing room, and also back home in my district in Cincinnati, Ohio, how these new regulations have harmed them personally. And I want to emphasize that it doesn't just hurt the owner of the small business, but all those folks who work for him. Sometimes that is two people, three people, five people, ten people. It affects them and their families, and generally it is very adversely.

I think it is critical we realize that about 70 percent of the new jobs created in the American economy nowadays are created by these small businesses that, basically, have had these regulations that this administration has imposed on them. It is like a wet blanket over them and over this economy. So this particular legislation is absolutely critical. It is critical that we pass it.

The last thing that these small businesses need right now is a flood of new regulations from the President's army of bureaucrats as they beat a hasty retreat out of Washington. Outgoing Presidents oftentimes push through new regulations in the final days of their administrations to lock in as much of their agenda as possible.

Let's face it, on election day, that agenda was, for the most part, rejected. And to allow an administration to impose even more bureaucracy and more regulations on the small business community and on the American people is

just something that we should not allow to happen. That is why this legislation has been introduced.

These so-called midnight rules are thrown together hastily with little analysis or regard for the costs and burdens that they will impose on America's entrepreneurs. Sadly, the administration has given every indication that they will be ramping up, not slowing down, the red tape dispenser over the next 9 weeks. This common-sense, bipartisan legislation will give Congress, the elected representatives of the American people after all, the power to stop all midnight rules with one vote.

Next weekend, we will celebrate Small Business Saturday, an opportunity to celebrate small businesses, and recognize that they are a key to making our economy succeed. Midnight regulations are an imminent threat to their success. So let's not spoil Small Business Saturday by having a whole bunch of new regulations, new red tape, new things that they have to deal with other than actually doing things which will make their business successful so that they can actually make a profit and hire more people. Let's not allow the bureaucrats here in Washington to spoil that.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill and send a clear message to our small businesses all across America that we have their back and regulatory relief is on the way.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5982, the so-called Midnight Rules Relief Act, which amends the Congressional Review Act. This bill would allow Congress to consider a joint resolution to simultaneously disapprove multiple regulations en bloc, all at once, when such rules are issued within the last 60 legislative days of a session of Congress in the final year of a President's term. Now, that is legislative days. In this case, 60 legislative days would reach back until May of this year, almost 8 months before the end of the President's term. To call the rules issued last spring a midnight rule is a curious use of the word.

This bill puts in place an indiscriminate process to eliminate rules, many of which have been under consideration for years, even decades, to protect consumers, working people, and students. This bill denies Congress the opportunity for a careful case-by-case review that the congressional review process now provides, and that process would be appropriate for reasoned decision-making by a legislative body.

This bill would jettison rules without even considering the costs and benefits of whether the rule followed the least

burdensome approach to achieve a goal under the law. Once a rule is rejected, the rule can never be taken up again in substantially similar form. So after a thoughtful review, we might decide that the unpleasant regulation was actually the better way to address a problem than any alternative, but by then it is too late.

Mr. Chairman, under the Congressional Review Act, the Senate could pass its en bloc resolution of disapproval without even holding a hearing, and send it to the House for a vote on the floor without any form of consideration by the committee of jurisdiction. So we would end up just voting on a slogan or a sound bite without any opportunity for deliberative consideration. That is not a responsible way to legislate.

There has always been criticism of a tendency of a significant number of rules and regulations to be issued following a Presidential election before the President leaves office, regardless of the party in control. However, the nonpartisan congressionally mandated Administrative Conference of the United States found that “a dispassionate look at midnight rules issued by past administrations of both political parties reveals that most were under active consideration long before the November election.”

They go on to say that many of the rules involved routine matters or were required by law. For example, a final OSHA rule to prevent injuries caused by inadequate fall protection has been under development for over 26 years.

The Administrative Conference called for Congress to put in place a 60-day waiting period for rules that are issued after a Presidential election so that the new incoming administration can review the rules. Now, that legislation is what we really ought to be considering, not the bill before us today.

I think it is important to look at some of the rules that could be impacted under this bill:

The Department of Labor issued a rule requiring Federal contractors to provide up to 7 days of paid sick leave annually for people working on Federal contracts.

A forthcoming OSHA regulation, which has been under development for over 18 years, would protect workers from overexposure of beryllium. That is a substance that causes incurable lung disease often resulting in death by suffocation. That rule has been under consideration for 18 years and we are finally getting to the actual rule.

The rule to implement the Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces Executive Order, which ensures that taxpayer dollars support those Federal contractors who comply with labor, civil rights, and workplace safety laws, not those who routinely and seriously violate such laws.

The EEOC's pay data rule, which helps eliminate pay disparities due to race, ethnicity, and gender.

The Department of Education's borrower's defense rule, which helps protect student borrowers who were defrauded by their universities.

The Department of Education's forthcoming K-12 accountability rule, which provides clarity and ensures faithful implementation of the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act in order to graduate all students ready for success in college and career.

The Department of Education's forthcoming supplement not supplant rule, which ensures that Federal dollars actually supplement State and local education funds that target at-risk youth.

And, finally, another Health and Human Services' Head Start rule, which improves quality and access for our Nation's most vulnerable early learners.

Each of these rules involves complex issues that cannot be discussed or properly addressed through the en bloc process where you have a bunch of regulations all in one bill. Now, if a rule needs to be challenged, the present law provides for a deliberative process to challenge the rule. Regrettably, H.R. 5982 is poised to allow the wholesale undermining of critical protections for students, workers, taxpayers, and consumers.

I, therefore, urge a “no” vote on the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a Statement of Administration Policy in opposition to the rule.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

HR. 5982 MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT OF 2016—
REP. ISSA, R-CA, AND EIGHT COSPONSORS

The Administration is committed to ensuring that regulations are smart and effective, that they are tailored to advance statutory goals in the most cost-effective and efficient manner, and that they minimize uncertainty. When a Federal agency promulgates a regulation, the agency must adhere to the robust and well-understood procedural requirements of Federal law, including the Administrative Procedure Act, the Regulatory Flexibility Act, the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act, the Paperwork Reduction Act, and the Congressional Review Act, in a manner that ensures that the rulemaking process is transparent and considers the input of stakeholders. In addition, for decades, agency rulemaking has been governed by Executive Orders issued and followed by administrations of both political parties. These require regulatory agencies to promulgate regulations, consistent with their statutes, upon a reasoned determination that the benefits justify the costs, to consider regulatory alternatives, and to promote regulatory flexibility.

The Administration continues to be guided by the same rigorous practices and principles used to develop and review regulations that have been upheld throughout the entirety of this Administration and previous Administrations. On December 17, 2015, the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs reiterated that the Adminis-

tration would maintain its normal review standards, and instructed agencies to plan and prioritize its regulations in order to ensure an orderly review process during the final year of the Administration. For these reasons, H.R. 5982 is intended to solve a problem that does not exist.

Lastly, the Congressional Review Act (CRA) already allows for the Congress to disapprove of rules on a case-by-case basis. Thus, providing for an arbitrary packaging of rules for an up-or-down vote, as this bill does, is unnecessary. In addition, the bill would expand the scope of rules subject to the CRA such that by the time a vote on a resolution occurs, some of the rules may have been in effect for over a year. By doing so, H.R. 5982 would create tremendous regulatory uncertainty, potentially impose additional costs on businesses, and represent a step backwards for applying sound regulatory principles to protect public health, safety, the environment, and other critical aspects of society.

If the President were presented with H.R. 5982 his senior advisors would recommend he veto the bill.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Presidents from both parties have made a habit of midnight rules. And although here today we hear about 18 years of a deliberative process on beryllium, 18 years of consideration and it has to be passed in the last few days of a departing administration? What was the administration doing for 8 years? How deliberative can one be?

The fact is these are not accidents. Midnight rules are, in fact, deliberately held to the end of an administration. That is the reason they are called midnight rules.

Now, having said that, the bill today, H.R. 5982, is not, in fact, about midnight rules. We already have legislation to take care of that. What we don't have is an effective way to do it when we are dealing with, perhaps, 100, 120, 150, and, if not checked, perhaps more, in times to come, midnight rules from an outgoing administration.

We are talking today about the balance of power, about whether Congress should be efficient and effective in its ability to consider legislation. In this case, legislation done by the other branch, a branch not constitutionally allowed to do legislation. Let's remember, regulations are, in fact, a loan to the executive branch to clarify legislation done by this body.

If we believe that they do not fairly and appropriately interpret our legislation in their rulemaking, if we believe they exceeded the authority or the meaning of the legislation, whether passed just a few days ago, a few years ago, or, in fact, a century ago, we have an obligation to bring up, consider, and respond. In fact, rulemaking, as we know it, is, in fact, something that if the gentleman, my colleague on the other side of the aisle, wanted to, he

could bring up the regulation as a law and consider it in this body at any time.

I believe it is pretty clear that the objection in this case is an anticipated objection to the efficiency of being able to deal with one or two regulations at the end of a Presidency. We have an obligation to deal with all of them in a fair way.

Now, one thing that was missed in this is nothing in this legislation requires that we take them all up at the same time. In the next Congress, it certainly would be appropriate for Members who wanted to have longer debate to ask for longer debate on the overall vote, or, in fact, to break it into pieces and ask for that. That is true in this body and it is true in the other body. As a matter of fact, the other body hasn't even created rules yet and certainly could create rules that would define further debate on midnight rules.

So I think today what we are really talking about is: Will Congress live up to its responsibility to the American people to, in fact, be the bastion of law creation, whether laws are created by this body directly or in the review of regulations created by an administration on behalf of this body? Ultimately, we own responsibility for laws and regulations, whether they work or don't work.

Lastly, this body has not done nearly enough to review regulations and their effect. During my tenure on another committee, over and over again I saw regulations by both administrations I have served under to create regulations that they said would cost little or nothing. By the time they come to pass, we discover they almost inevitably have a greater impact to our economy, adverse impact in many cases, than forecasted. That review is another area that we should do.

But for today, this simple piece of legislation is only asking that Congress live up to its responsibility and do so in a way that would not tie up weeks or months of either body simply to decide that a regulation needs to be sent back for further review and, perhaps, reissued in a fashion more consistent with the laws created by this body and signed by previous Presidents.

□ 0945

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I have no other requests for speakers, and I am prepared to close if the gentleman is likewise.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Yes, I am prepared to close as well.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I have closing remarks that I would like to present at this time, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

With just a few weeks remaining in this Congress, it is a disservice to the American people that we are now wasting our limited time and resources on

this legislation. As many of my colleagues will recall, less than 4 months ago, the House passed comprehensive anti-regulatory legislation that imposes a moratorium on so-called midnight rulemaking. So, clearly, the House has already acted to address the nonexistent problem of midnight rulemaking.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to seriously join me in opposing H.R. 5982, a bill that is utterly unnecessary, anointed, and ill conceived.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On election day, the American people delivered a resounding message to Washington: do not continue the Obama administration's policies; stop the regulatory Big Government onslaught that has been killing our jobs, strangling recovery, and suffocating our futures.

Passage of this bill is the way to say immediately: We have heard you loud and clear. The American people have said "no" to the continuance of the Obama administration's policies. This bill guarantees that Congress can prevent any and all last-minute defiance of the people's will by midnight regulations that stubbornly seek to entrench the last pieces of the administration's partisan agenda.

Those regulations come from a host of agencies. They include everything from overtime rules to greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty engines and vehicles and scores of other regulations in between, and they threaten to impose on our economy over \$100 billion in new annual costs.

It is not Obama administration bureaucrats who should tell the people what they must do in these areas, rushing costly political preferences out the door before the stroke of midnight. It is the incoming administration, working with Congress, that should determine the rules to govern the future and the regulatory rollbacks that will let freedom ring and Americans prosper.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 5982, the Midnight Rules Relief Act, which allows Congress to disapprove en bloc regulations from the Administrations submitted for review within 60 days of the end of a presidential term.

Under current law, Congress can only use its authority under the Congressional Review Act to disapprove one regulation at a time. Presidential Administrations of both parties have issued bulk regulations as their term comes to an end. These midnight regulations are usually rushed and not properly vetted by federal agencies, often imposing high costs on taxpayers, threatening small businesses with new burdens, and frustrating American voters. Currently, Congress lacks the ability to check

this type of regulatory overreach. H.R. 5982 ensures that rules are not rushed in order to achieve an outgoing partisan agenda without having the people's representatives carefully review them.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DOLD). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5982

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Midnight Rules Relief Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL PERTAINING TO "MIDNIGHT RULES".

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 801(d) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) In applying section 802 to rules described under paragraph (1), a joint resolution of disapproval may contain one or more such rules if the report under subsection (a)(1)(A) for each such rule was submitted during the final year of a President's term."

(b) TEXT OF RESOLVING CLAUSE.—Section 802(a) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting after "resolving clause of which is" the following: "(except as otherwise provided in this subsection)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "In the case of a joint resolution under section 801(d)(4), the matter after the resolving clause of such resolution shall be as follows: 'That Congress disapproves the following rules: the rule submitted by the ___ relating to ___; and the rule submitted by the ___ relating to ___. Such rules shall have no force or effect.' (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in and additional clauses describing additional rules to be included as necessary)";

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 114-818. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 114-818.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 12, insert "(A)" before "In applying".

Page 3, line 14, insert after "one or more such rules" the following: "(other than an excepted rule)".

Page 3, line 16, insert after "President's term." the following:

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “excepted rule” means a rule that is necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would exempt from H.R. 5982 the rules issued in response to an imminent threat to health, safety, or other emergencies.

My amendment addresses one of the most problematic aspects of H.R. 5982 which would permit Congress to invalidate rules en bloc without proper consideration of any individual rule’s benefits and no matter how important or time-sensitive such rule may be.

Agencies often promulgate emergency rules in response to immediate threats to public health and safety. As the Congressional Review Act itself recognizes, such critical rules can go into effect immediately if the President so directs by executive order.

H.R. 5982 would, however, empower a subsequent Congress and administration to override such determination and disapprove these rules. As a result of such disapproval, these regulations would be null and void, as if they had never taken effect.

It is no secret that industry and special interests have strenuously opposed many life-saving requirements that the Federal Government has imposed over the years, such as air quality standards, the mandatory installation of automobile airbags, and emergency exit lighting for passenger airplanes.

Nevertheless, H.R. 5982 provides an open invitation for industry to have yet another bite of the apple by seeking to undo regulations in a new Congress and administration.

For example, let us consider the Flint water crisis in my State, which was a preventable public health disaster. While much blame for the Flint water crisis lies with unelected officials who prioritized saving money over saving lives, the presence of lead in drinking water is not unique to Flint. In fact, the drinking water of potentially millions of Americans may be contaminated by lead. It is a continuing problem.

Long before this crisis surfaced, the Environmental Protection Agency had been in the process of updating its Lead and Copper Rule, which was originally promulgated in 1991 after years of analysis. In fact, that agency is still in the process of finalizing this regulation.

Yet, had this rule been submitted to Congress last month and gone into effect immediately pursuant to executive order, H.R. 5982 could be used by the incoming Congress and administration to invalidate this critical regulation.

So, accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, the Midnight Rules Relief Act leaves to each Congress, making use of its maximum flexibility, to fashion a midnight rule disapproval resolution. No one category of regulation is in; no one category of regulation is out.

The question, instead, is: Which are the midnight rules, from whatever category, that fly in the face of the voters’ mandate or are otherwise abusive or infirm?

No carve-outs of any kind are needed, including for health, safety, and other emergency rules, because nothing is categorically carved in.

Indeed, by carving out emergency rules, the amendment would only impede the ability of Congress to both respond swiftly and efficiently to abusive midnight rules and clear the path for the incoming administration to issue appropriate new rules to meet emergencies.

I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I have no other requests, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 114-818.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 12, insert “(A)” before “In applying”.

Page 3, line 14, insert after “one or more such rules” the following: “(other than an excepted rule)”.

Page 3, line 16, insert after “President’s term.” the following:

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “excepted rule” means a rule that was proposed by a Federal agency more than three years prior to the agency submitting the rule to Congress.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is simple. It would exempt rules issued by an agency more than 3 years prior to their submission to Congress.

This amendment is designed to confront the fundamentally flawed premise of H.R. 5982, namely, that rules submitted to Congress during the final 60 legislative days of a session are somehow less valid than rules submitted prior to that period.

To set the record straight, this bill does not apply to rules submitted during the lameduck period following an election.

Notwithstanding the bill’s colorful title, H.R. 5982 applies to every rule submitted to Congress within the final 60 legislative days of a session.

As the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service has clarified, this would include rules submitted as early as May 2016. Eight months should be adequate time for Congress to consider the merits of economically significant rules, which often take years to finalize.

Indeed, according to the nonpartisan, congressionally established Administrative Conference of the United States, the ACUS, many of these rules adopted between an election and the inauguration of a new President involve “relatively routine matters not implicating new policy initiatives by incumbent administrations.”

Public Citizen similarly found in a report issued earlier this year that rules adopted during the final months of an administration take 3.6 years on average to finalize. And that is just rules that are submitted to Congress during the final 3 months of a President’s term.

Again, this bill applies to rules adopted during much of the final year of the President’s term, dramatically undercutting the bill’s stated purpose. So, despite the majority’s claims that the bill applies to midnight rules, this legislation would allow Congress to bundle numerous rules finalized during the final year of a President’s term into a single vote on a joint resolution of disapproval. In other words, Mr. Chairman, this bill is a solution to a nonexistent and undocumented problem.

Alarming, once these rules have been invalidated through this process, the agency may not adopt a subsequent similar rule absent express authorization by Congress.

I am also struck by the irony of the majority’s stated concerns with a lack of transparency and public scrutiny in the policymaking process. This bill has

not been subject to a single hearing. In fact, it was introduced less than a week prior to its markup in committee.

This legislation is symptomatic of a Republican majority more interested in focusing on coming up with the next great bill title or acronym than actually solving issues or helping the American people.

□ 1000

Perhaps the majority should follow its own advice and proceed with regular order on new and controversial legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, which is critical to ensuring that the rules that have already taken years to finalize to improve lives and protect people actually see the light of day.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment encourages two of the worst features of Washington bureaucracy. First, it gives heel-dragging, inefficient agencies a powerful incentive to take even longer to finalize rules proposed long ago to the public. This will only extend the regulatory uncertainty that hovers over job creators whenever new rules are proposed. Regulatory uncertainty freezes investment and job creation, and that is exactly what we do not need Washington to do.

Second, the amendment gives agencies the incentive to cram even more rules into the abusive midnight rule period. We should be discouraging the use of midnight rules not encouraging it.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I would submit that we, on this side, are always interested in making the rulemaking process more efficient, and this is an important bipartisan concern. The trouble is when you get bills that are half-baked and they are sprung on the minority and not even subjected to a full committee and the regular order that we would proceed through with legislation as important as this—it is sprung on us, and it ends up on the House floor as half-baked as it was when it was introduced—this is no way to go about reform.

I would just ask that this amendment be accepted. There is no doubt that this legislation is not going to go anywhere during this session of Congress, in terms of being signed into law.

My pledge is that we would work together in the future to draft legislation

that improves the rulemaking process, and not shut it down or gum it up.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I was rather surprised at my colleague from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Since I am the author of the bill, I would say that for the 16 years I have been in Congress, I have been deliberating this piece of legislation, so it certainly is not new.

In much more seriousness, to call this not regular order is simply inaccurate. This has been discussed in multiple hearings, and it went through regular order with a full committee markup. So I would hope that the gentleman would reevaluate his words and recognize that half-baked would be inappropriate. This was fully vetted, and he had time for all the amendments we are hearing today at the time it was in committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 114-818.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 12, insert “(A)” before “In applying”.

Page 3, line 14, insert after “one or more such rules” the following: “(other than an excepted rule)”.

Page 3, line 16, insert after “President’s term.” the following:

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “excepted rule” means a rule that pertains to critical matters of national security.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me take a moment to acknowledge my ranking member and my chairman for I believe that this past session has generated an enormous amount of bipartisanship and cooperation. I thank Chairman GOODLATTE for his leadership. I also thank Ranking Member CONYERS for the important leadership he has given to issues that we have warned about for a long time, and that is criminal justice reform.

I say that in the backdrop of being enormously concerned about H.R. 5982, which is redundant since we have al-

ready passed midnight regulation legislation. The House did that earlier this year to establish a moratorium on midnight rules, rather than addressing critical issues, such as creating new opportunities for job growth and advancement, or fixing our Nation’s broken immigration system, providing relief from crushing student loan debt, and, yes, moving forward on criminal justice reform.

We have legislation that now seems directed at President Obama before the election of last week and now, again, continuing to wish to do something that impacts, I think, personally and directly on the President of the United States, who happens to be President Barack Obama. Because otherwise there is no real basis for this legislation.

I have amendment No. 3 that speaks to it and clearly specifically states why this is a problem. It provides a limited exception from the provisions of H.R. 5982 of any administrative regulation or rule promulgated to prevent or respond to matters of critical national security.

Mr. Chairman, if enacted in its current form, this bill will severely hamper our Nation’s capacity to respond to public health emergencies or to address many other critical public policy matters related to public safety or national security.

The American people should know this is an en bloc destruction of regulations that may save lives. It is to say: in your eye, Mr. President—and yes, whoever it may be—because it feigns itself to be bipartisan because it says “a President.” Well, obviously we know what President we are talking about right now. Probably next year, this will be completely eliminated.

First of all, if it goes through now, it should be vetoed; and I am sure any other President would veto it. They have to have the opportunity and the responsibility, as their constitutional duties, to stand in the gap for the American people. This would severely hamper our Nation’s capacity to respond to public health emergencies or to address many other critical public policy matters.

It would amend the congressional review to allow joint resolutions disapproving en bloc resolutions submitted to Congress for CRA review within 60 days of the end of the Presidential term. I don’t attribute to any President any malice just because their term is about to end.

I hold up for you the west Texas fertilizer plant blast that killed 15. The blast was preventable, the safety board says. And our President, rightly so, in mourning the loss of these individuals—the bomb explosion, if you will, was around schools. Thank God it was at night and these children were not nearby because the schools were leveled—so the President issued executive orders dealing with this issue.

I ask my colleagues to vote down this particular underlying bill and support my amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment. It carves out rules pertaining to critical matters of national security. As we know, with President Obama, President-elect Trump, and any other President, they have huge powers of executive authority when it comes to national security. So to exclude something under the guise that it would be national security would inherently undermine the intent of the rule.

I always find it interesting that people internalize and personalize something. In this case, there is nothing better than this President could do for the American people—and perhaps for regulations that he would oppose in the future—than to sign this legislation. The fact is President Obama likely objects to many of the regulations that would come out of the new Trump administration.

There is no better time than now to reassert or allow to be reasserted the power of a Congress, a Congress that might very well reject President-elect Trump's legislation or regulations in the future.

So the reality is, although the gentlewoman from Texas would have you believe that this was a personal attack on our President, it is not an attack on our President. It is not an attack on our next President.

It is, in fact, a law that would allow Congress to reassert, in an efficient way, the authority which is constitutionally, inherently, and always ours.

For decades, perhaps two centuries plus, we have yielded the power, the right, and the responsibility of this body in appropriations, in regulations, and even in spending of a number of areas in taxation to the executive branch. We can yield to the executive branch, but we cannot run away from our responsibility. A regulation—ten regulations, a hundred regulations, or a thousand regulations that are disapproved by the American people and, from them through us, needs to be dealt with in an efficient fashion.

So do I disagree with this? Yes. Sadly, I disagree with the gentlewoman from Texas' characterization of the nature of this legislation. This legislation does not expire a few weeks or months from now, and it is intended to go on.

Lastly, to say we have already passed legislation in this Congress would imply that it was run through the Senate and signed by the President and, as a result, the reform is in place. No such thing is the case.

I would offer the gentlewoman from Texas in the next Congress to work

with her on such legislation as would be signed by the next President.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains, please.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas has 1 minute remaining, and the gentleman from California has 2 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me indicate that the gentleman from California is a good friend. We have served on the Judiciary Committee for a period of time. I could not disagree with him more. Yes, a very poison pill bill passed out of the House, and it did not go any further, which I hope this one will not go any further as well.

This bill is dangerous. It is a sweeping measure that would jeopardize the ability of the Federal Government to protect our Nation in times of urgent and imminent danger. Post-9/11, in the world we now live in, the role of the government in protecting its people has never been more important.

Specifically, my amendment ensures that the Federal Government is not further prohibited from responding to emergencies, such as the 2013 West Texas chemical explosion that killed 15 people and created a fireball that leveled nearly the entire town.

This legislation wants to en bloc—not separate, analyze, or work with the administration—en bloc. Mr. Chair, what that means is to take the whole ball of wax—take the bag and wipe out regulations that may be helping to save lives and protect the American people.

I have to disagree with, again, the gentleman from California. On Homeland Security, we deal with this all the time. On the Judiciary Committee, we deal with this all the time. I have to stand in the gap. We have to stand in the gap for the security of the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment to protect the national security of this Nation.

Thank you for this opportunity to briefly explain the Jackson Lee Amendment.

Specifically, the Jackson Lee Amendment provides a limited exception from the provisions of H.R. 5982, the “Midnight Rules Relief Act,” of any administrative regulation or rule promulgated to prevent or respond to matters of critical national security.

Mr. Chairman, if enacted in its current form, H.R. 5982, would severely hamper our nation's capacity to respond to public health emergencies or to address many other critical public policy matters relating to public safety or national security.

H.R. 5982 would amend the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to allow joint resolutions disapproving en bloc regulations submitted to Congress for CRA review within 60 days of the end of the presidential term.

In particular, H.R. 5982 purports to address concerns associated with new regulations and

rules that are issued as the clock of an outgoing presidential administration runs out—otherwise known as “midnight rules.”

This is a sweeping and dangerous measure that would jeopardize the ability of the federal government to protect our nation in times of urgent and imminent need.

In the post-September 11th world we now live in, the role of the government in protecting its people has never been more important.

It is important that the Administration at all times retains the authority to act in times of imminent need to protect citizens from national security emergencies.

The Jackson Lee Amendment does just that.

Specifically, my amendment ensures that the federal government is not further prohibited from responding to emergencies, such as the 2013 West Texas chemical explosion that killed 15 people and created a fireball that leveled nearly the entire town.

In response to this mass explosion, the President issued an Executive Order to necessary to improve the safety and security at chemical facility in West, Texas and across the nation.

Recognizing the importance of responding to public health and safety emergencies, the Congressional Review Act specifically permits agencies to issue rules where the agency has good cause, such as responding to an emergency.

However, as the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has clarified, this exception is only available where an agency has not already undertaken regulatory action.

An exception substantively similar to the Jackson Lee Amendment appears in H.R. 4361, another bill that would establish a moratorium on “midnight rules” that has already passed the House this Congress.

We should include a similar exemption here to ensure that agencies retain the ability to effectively respond to urgent and pressing national security measures.

Now is not the time to undermine or slow the ability of our regulatory agencies ability to address growing threats and active cases of public health crises.

The Jackson Lee Amendment would ensure that any rule promulgated to prevent or respond to matters of national security would not be obstructed.

Accordingly, I urge adoption of the Jackson Lee Amendment.

[From CNN, Tue., April 22, 2014]

WEST, TEXAS, FERTILIZER PLANT BLAST THAT KILLED 15 “PREVENTABLE,” SAFETY BOARD SAYS

(By Elliott C. McLaughlin)

The 2013 fertilizer plant blast that killed 15 people and wounded another 226 in West, Texas, “should never have occurred,” the chairman of the U.S. Chemical Safety Board said Tuesday.

Though the board's report says that at least 14 people were killed, the death toll was updated to 15 people in the days after the blast. The board's investigation was released a few days after the first anniversary of the explosion.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I have served in this body for almost exactly 16 years; and I have observed the

extremely rare times that a resolution of disapproval comes to this body. So I think if we can set a tone for the remainder of the debate, the tone should be set in recognition that these resolutions are rare. And they never—I repeat, never in my 16 years—and the gentlewoman and I have served a similar time—never have I seen one that is as well-founded as dealing with the safety of potentially explosives. Those kinds of regulations are routinely run through fairly quickly with congressional oversight and encouragement.

So I think we have to set the tone and ask how many times—Ranking Member CONYERS has served longer than anyone in this room—how many times have we brought these up. The fact is, even under this en bloc, it will be a small portion of those regulations created in the last days of an outgoing administration.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ISSA. I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, my emotion, of course, deals with, as I think you know, many of the tragedies we have faced in the Nation.

Here is my point: Your interpretation, I need to analyze all of that, and I have not to date. But I would say to you, there is always a first time. There is always the possibility. What we are trying to do is to make an exception if that happens to occur, and it might not. But we give that privilege so that the people can be protected.

I thank the gentleman from California for yielding.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas, and let us continue that tone.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

□ 1015

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 114-818.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 12, insert “(A)” before “In applying”.

Page 3, line 14, insert after “one or more such rules” the following: “(other than an excepted rule)”.

Page 3, line 16, insert after “President’s term.” the following:

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “excepted rule” means a rule that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines would have benefits that exceed its cost.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I would ask that my colleague consider his two amendments en bloc if he would. I would be happy to yield to make sure time is sufficient.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has been recognized for 5 minutes.

The gentleman from Virginia is recognized.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I have no objection to the request of the gentleman from California. Is it, from a parliamentary point of view, a possibility?

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair would entertain a unanimous consent request from the proponent.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT NOS. 4 AND 5 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA EN BLOC

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the two amendments pending, 4 and 5, be amalgamated into one for the purpose of debate on the floor instead of separate consideration.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia to consider amendment Nos. 4 and 5 en bloc?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I offer amendment Nos. 4 and 5 printed in part B of House Report 114-818.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments.

The text of the amendments is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Page 3, line 12, insert “(A)” before “In applying”.

Page 3, line 14, insert after “one or more such rules” the following: “(other than an excepted rule)”.

Page 3, line 16, insert after “President’s term.” the following:

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “excepted rule” means a rule that the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines would have benefits that exceed its cost.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

Page 3, line 12, insert “(A)” before “In applying”.

Page 3, line 14, insert after “one or more such rules” the following: “(other than an excepted rule)”.

Page 3, line 16, insert after “President’s term.” the following:

(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “excepted rule” means a rule that addresses the harmful effects of climate change.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 921, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, it seems this Congress will close out the 114th session much the same as it opened. Then we considered H.R. 185, a repeat of the anti-public health, anti-environment, anti-public safety legislation that was defeated in the 112th and 113th Congresses and which would come to characterize, unfortunately, this Congress. So I guess we shouldn’t be surprised that just before we adjourn, the House majority will offer one last retread of this social Darwinian philosophy.

This latest iteration, the seductively titled Midnight Rules Relief Act, is nothing more than a retread, a backdoor attempt to roll back important steps to protect our constituents and our communities. My amendment would, at the very least, ensure we continue to take steps to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Climate change already poses a real and growing threat to our children, our families, our national security, and our economy. Denying it exists doesn’t make it so. I can tell you in my native State of Virginia, we are seeing the effects of climate change in low-lying areas, including in and around our all-important naval base in Norfolk.

I know there are some who believe that the Clean Power Plan and similar rules which seek to curb climate change will crush the economy, but I will point out we have to listen to rhetoric all the time about job-killing regulations in the environment. The fact of the matter is Clean Air Act amendments and related amendments to protect our air and our water have, in fact, created jobs and, with respect to power rates, have, in fact, lowered power rates in large parts of the country, including my own in Virginia.

Turning my attention, Mr. Chairman, to the second amendment amalgamated, this bill once again amends the Congressional Review Act to allow a joint resolution disapproving en bloc regulations. The title of the bill leads one to believe that the period of coverage spans the waning hours of a Presidency when, in fact, according to the nonpartisan CRS, 60 legislative days takes us back to May of 2016, before we even confirmed our final Presidential candidates.

The Congressional Review Act already permits Congress to disapprove

of regulations. This bill is nothing more than a partisan attempt to prevent the implementation of critical laws by our Federal Government to delegitimize President Obama's final months in office. I think it is unwise. I think it is imprudent. I think just like leaving a vacancy on the Supreme Court for an entire year on the dubious theory that a President in his last year of office ought to be somehow a lame-duck in every respect as if he had not legitimately been elected by the people of this country is certainly, I think, false logic, false constitutional logic, and dangerous to the functioning of a republic.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, on this en bloc pair of amendments, I have two very different reasons for objecting. In the case of the portion that is the Director of Office of Management and Budget, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and I spent an amazing amount of time over the years looking at times in which OMB makes an estimate and then the reality is dramatically different.

So to carve out based on the Office of Management and Budget, which is a Cabinet-level, partisan appointment of the President, would have one believe that it is perfect. The reality is not only is it not perfect, but its track record tends to be very self-serving. Just the amount of times in which CBO scores very differently would cause all of us to know that this is not a good enough reason for a carve-out.

Having said that, I look forward to working with the gentleman from Virginia on both CBO and OMB scoring reform in the next Congress because I think we have a long way to go to get numbers right. If we get numbers right on both regulations and proposed laws, we can all do a better job.

In the case of the second portion of these two, I have to say that climate change has been unfairly made a political issue. The world is getting warmer; we know that. How much of it is caused by various things, we need to know, and I would hope that regulations would not be a source of that. But this President has, by many of his own statements, taken great credit for his use of a pen and a phone to make decisions related to his view of a single cause of climate change, that being carbon.

The fact is I look forward to working with any President on sensible regulations, but those regulations have to be consistent with the laws passed and the regulatory options given to the other branch. It is for that reason that we have the ability to disapprove.

So again, I would hope we all not look at specific regulations that may or may not be contested by the next Congress and, instead, look more appropriately at should we have the efficiency to consider maybe 20, maybe 10, maybe only 4 en bloc, all as one, or maybe in two separate. The reality is efficiency of the process of disapproval does not for a moment change the responsibility and authority of this body.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time remains on my side.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I take my friend from California's point about data. Let's look at OMB's latest report to Congress on Federal regulation which found that the monetized benefits of Federal regulations over the past decade are significantly higher, by a 10 to 1 margin, than their cost. That is their report. It is an inconvenient fact, but there it is.

I will finally end, Mr. Chairman, because I want to be respectful of my friend's intent here in trying to amalgamate these two amendments.

I am sorry, this is another bill in the long process of trying to delegitimize President Obama's Presidency, and it, to me, is a shameful episode where some of my friends on the other side of the aisle—not necessarily Mr. ISSA—have attempted to basically nullify his ability to function as President, and therefore he has had to rely on executive powers in the absence of legislative action and thwarting.

I think the most egregious one besides this bill is, of course, leaving a vacancy open on the Supreme Court under the very dubious logic that somehow he is not entitled in the last year. That logic leads every single Member of Congress basically to not do anything in the second year here in the House because the same logic would pertain to them. They are lameducks until they are reelected or until the will of the people is heard in the next election cycle. That is, to me, foolish logic, dangerous logic, and I think it will put a cloud over the next President's tenure.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ISSA. I won't use it all. I thank the chairman, and I thank my colleague from Virginia. Let me take a moment to reflect, perhaps, on something that my colleague and friend said.

During my tenure with Mr. CONNOLLY, our committee sent 23 pieces of

legislation to the President that he signed; we sent 74 to the other body. So if there is an enemy, perhaps it is the great bipartisan legislation that left the House and never got to the President. The President signed all 23 pieces of legislation, though, that got through the Senate, including legislation that Mr. CONNOLLY and I worked on together.

Since my leaving that committee, additional legislation has come through that committee on a bipartisan basis, including a huge expansion of the Freedom of Information Act. I would hope that in these last days, we would reflect on the successes of this Congress and the successes of our outgoing President because, in fact, for all that we all do in the performance of our oversight role, we also have had fine and notable successes and good legislation under this President; and I would like to take this moment to take note that, in fact, the President has signed the vast majority of legislation that left here on a bipartisan basis, including a piece of legislation that Mr. CONNOLLY was critical on.

I yield to the gentleman if he has any further comment.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank my friend for yielding.

I am struck by a humorous observation when he talks about what happened in the other body to a lot of legislation. I believe it may have been Sam Rayburn who said, as a Democratic Speaker, the Republicans are in the opposition but the Senate is the enemy.

Mr. Chairman, I, of course, meant no disrespect. I was simply quoting a former Speaker of this body.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO) having assumed the chair, Mr. DOLD, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 10:50 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 28 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1050

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa) at 10 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.

MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT OF 2016

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 921 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5982.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) kindly resume the chair.

□ 1050

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes, with Mr. DOLD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendments en bloc printed in part B of House Report 114-818 offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 114-818 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. CONYERS of Michigan.

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

Amendments en bloc by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 180, noes 233, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 581]

AYES—180

Adams
Aguilar
Ashford
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Evans
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)

Garamendi
Graham
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kuster
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lee
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebach
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowe
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano

NOES—233

Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon

Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (FL)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)

Blumenauer
Brown (FL)
Costello (PA)
Deutch
Duckworth
Ellison
Fitzpatrick

Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Knight
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert

NOT VOTING—21

Forbes
Hanna
Hensarling
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Labrador

□ 1113

Messrs. ZINKE, HARRIS, HURD of Texas, HARPER, WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Messrs. BILIRAKIS, KATKO, and WALKER changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia, KENNEDY, EVANS, and CROWLEY changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON
LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 179, noes 238, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 582]

AYES—179

Adams	Gallego	Nadler
Aguilar	Garamendi	Napolitano
Ashford	Graham	Neal
Bass	Grayson	Nolan
Beatty	Green, Al	Norcross
Becerra	Green, Gene	O'Rourke
Bera	Grijalva	Pallone
Beyer	Gutiérrez	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Hahn	Payne
Bonamici	Hanabusa	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan	Hastings	Peters
F.	Heck (WA)	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Higgins	Pocan
Brownley (CA)	Himes	Polis
Bustos	Hinojosa	Price (NC)
Butterfield	Honda	Quigley
Capps	Hoyer	Rangel
Capuano	Huffman	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Israel	Richmond
Carney	Jackson Lee	Roybal-Allard
Carson (IN)	Jeffries	Ruiz
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Ruppersberger
Castor (FL)	Johnson, E. B.	Rush
Castro (TX)	Kaptur	Ryan (OH)
Chu, Judy	Keating	Sánchez, Linda
Cicilline	Kelly (IL)	T.
Clark (MA)	Kennedy	Sanchez, Loretta
Clarke (NY)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Cleaver	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clyburn	Kind	Schiff
Cohen	Kuster	Schrader
Connolly	Langevin	Scott (VA)
Conyers	Larsen (WA)	Scott, David
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Serrano
Costa	Lawrence	Sewell (AL)
Courtney	Lee	Sherman
Crowley	Levin	Sires
Cuellar	Lewis	Slaughter
Cummings	Lieu, Ted	Smith (WA)
Davis (CA)	Lipinski	Speier
Davis, Danny	Loeb sack	Swalwell (CA)
DeFazio	Lofgren	Takano
DeGette	Lowenthal	Thompson (CA)
Delaney	Lowey	Thompson (MS)
DeLauro	Lujan Grisham	Titus
DeBene	(NM)	Tonko
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray	Torres
Deutch	(NM)	Tsongas
Dingell	Lynch	Van Hollen
Doggett	Maloney,	Vargas
Doyle, Michael	Carolyn	Veasey
F.	Maloney, Sean	Vela
Edwards	Matsui	Velázquez
Engel	McCollum	Visclosky
Eshoo	McDermott	Walz
Esty	McGovern	Wasserman
Evans	McNerney	Schultz
Farr	Meeks	Waters, Maxine
Foster	Meng	Watson Coleman
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Welch
Fudge	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Gabbard	Murphy (FL)	Yarmuth

NOES—238

Abraham	Graves (MO)	Pearce
Aderholt	Griffith	Perry
Allen	Grothman	Peterson
Amash	Guinta	Pittenger
Amodei	Guthrie	Pitts
Babin	Hardy	Poliquin
Barletta	Harper	Pompeo
Barr	Harris	Posney
Barton	Hartzler	Price, Tom
Benishek	Heck (NV)	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Renacci
Black	Holding	Ribble
Blackburn	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Blum	Huelskamp	Rigell
Bost	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Boustany	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Brady (TX)	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Brat	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Bridenstine	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Issa	Rokita
Brooks (IN)	Jenkins (KS)	Rooney (FL)
Buchanan	Jenkins (WV)	Ros-Lehtinen
Buck	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Bucshon	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Burgess	Jones	Rothfus
Byrne	Jordan	Rouzer
Calvert	Joyce	Royce
Carter (GA)	Katko	Russell
Carter (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Salmon
Chabot	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Chaffetz	King (IA)	Scalise
Clawson (FL)	King (NY)	Schweikert
Coffman	Kinzing (IL)	Scott, Austin
Cole	Knight	Sensenbrenner
Collins (GA)	Labrador	Sessions
Collins (NY)	LaHood	Shimkus
Comer	LaMalfa	Shuster
Comstock	Lamborn	Simpson
Conaway	Lance	Sinema
Cook	Latta	Smith (MO)
Cramer	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Long	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Loudermilk	Smith (TX)
Culberson	Love	Stefanik
Curbelo (FL)	Lucas	Stewart
Davidson	Luetkemeyer	Stivers
Davis, Rodney	Lummis	Stutzman
Denham	MacArthur	Thompson (PA)
Dent	MacDermott	Thornberry
DeSantis	Marino	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Masse	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy	Trott
Dold	McCaul	Turner
Donovan	McClintock	Upton
Duffy	McHenry	Valadao
Duncan (SC)	McKinley	Wagner
Duncan (TN)	McMorris	Walberg
Elmers (NC)	Rodgers	Walden
Emmer (MN)	McSally	Walker
Farenthold	Meadows	Walorski
Fincher	Meehan	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	Messer	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Mica	Webster (FL)
Flores	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Westerman
Fox	Moolenaar	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Wittman
Garrett	Mulvaney	Womack
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Woodall
Gibson	Neugebauer	Yoder
Gohmert	Newhouse	Yoho
Goodlatte	Noem	Young (AK)
Gosar	Nunes	Young (IA)
Gowdy	Olson	Young (IN)
Granger	Palazzo	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	Palmer	Zinke
Graves (LA)	Paulsen	

NOT VOTING—17

Blumenauer	Fitzpatrick	Kline
Brown (FL)	Forbes	Nugent
Clay	Hanna	Pelosi
Costello (PA)	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Duckworth	Jolly	Westmoreland
Ellison	Kirkpatrick	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1120

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR.
CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 180, noes 237, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 583]

AYES—180

Adams	Frankel (FL)	McGovern
Aguilar	Fudge	McNerney
Ashford	Gabbard	Meeks
Bass	Gallego	Meng
Beatty	Garamendi	Moore
Becerra	Graham	Moulton
Bera	Grayson	Murphy (FL)
Beyer	Green, Al	Nadler
Bishop (GA)	Green, Gene	Napolitano
Bonamici	Grijalva	Neal
Boyle, Brendan	Gutiérrez	Nolan
F.	Hahn	Norcross
Brady (PA)	Hanabusa	O'Rourke
Brownley (CA)	Hastings	Pallone
Bustos	Heck (WA)	Pascarell
Butterfield	Higgins	Payne
Capuano	Himes	Pelosi
Cárdenas	Hinojosa	Perlmutter
Carney	Honda	Peters
Carson (IN)	Hoyer	Pingree
Cartwright	Huffman	Pocan
Castor (FL)	Israel	Polis
Castro (TX)	Jackson Lee	Price (NC)
Chu, Judy	Jeffries	Quigley
Cicilline	Johnson (GA)	Rangel
Clark (MA)	Johnson, E. B.	Rice (NY)
Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Richmond
Cleaver	Keating	Roybal-Allard
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz
Cohen	Kennedy	Ruppersberger
Connolly	Kildee	Rush
Conyers	Kilmer	Ryan (OH)
Cooper	Kind	Sánchez, Linda
Costa	Kuster	T.
Courtney	Langevin	Sanchez, Loretta
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Schakowsky
Cummings	Lawrence	Schiff
Davis (CA)	Lee	Schrader
Davis, Danny	Levin	Scott (VA)
DeFazio	Lewis	Scott, David
DeGette	Lieu, Ted	Serrano
Delaney	Lipinski	Sewell (AL)
DeLauro	Loeb sack	Sherman
DeBene	Lofgren	Sinema
DeSaulnier	Lowenthal	Sires
Deutch	Lowey	Slaughter
Dingell	Lujan Grisham	Smith (WA)
Doggett	(NM)	Speier
Doyle, Michael	Luján, Ben Ray	Swalwell (CA)
F.	(NM)	Takano
Edwards	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Engel	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
Eshoo	Carolyn	Titus
Esty	Maloney, Sean	Tonko
Evans	Matsui	Torres
Farr	McCollum	Tsongas
Foster	McDermott	Van Hollen

Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky

Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman

Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HULTGREN) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1124

So the en bloc amendments were rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5982) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for “midnight rules”, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 921, he reported the bill back to the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. POCAN. I am opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Pocan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5982 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add, at the end of the bill, the following:

(c) EXCEPTION FOR RULES THAT PUT AMERICANS BACK TO WORK AND MAKE THE UNITED STATES MORE COMPETITIVE INTERNATIONALLY.—Section 801(d) of title 5, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following: “(5) Paragraph (4) shall not apply to any rule that pertains to improving employment, retention, and earnings of workforce participants, especially those participants with significant barriers to employment, improving the quality of the workforce, and enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the nation.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, this is the final amendment to the bill, which will not kill the bill or send it back to committee. If adopted, the bill will immediately proceed to final passage, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, when I was 23, I decided to open a small business in my home State of Wisconsin, a business which I

still own today nearly 3 decades later. I know what it takes to create jobs, good family supporting union jobs. I know what a headache misguided regulation can be.

No one supports dumb regulation. There is a regulation that says it is a crime to sell “turkey ham” as “ham turkey” or with the words “turkey” or “ham” in a different font. That is just dumb.

But I also know that rhetoric about regulation can go too far and in the wrong direction and sometimes be done for the wrong reasons. Last week, we all heard loud and clear that there is economic anxiety in this country, more than anyone ever imagined.

□ 1130

While the economy has largely come back from the crash of 2008, too many are working more hours for less, and many don't earn what they used to in jobs that have left us and have gone overseas. The last thing we should be doing right now is anything that costs us jobs in this country, and that is exactly what this bill before us would do today.

This motion to recommit is simple. We should support any rules and regulations that help put Americans back to work. I think that is something everyone should be able to agree with; but, unfortunately, some in Congress want to stop all sorts of regulations, even ones that help the American people get back to work, just because some powerful special interests don't like them. That means you would throw out regulations that have the ability to help increase people's paychecks and create jobs right here in America.

Let's face it. President Obama knows a thing or two about creating jobs. Under his administration, over 13 million jobs have been created—twice the number that were created under President Bush—and we have added jobs consistently for the last 73 months. That should be something we are all glad about and support. It is no wonder that President Obama's approval rating is at 56 percent today; but now Congress wants to take away the President's ability to continue to help the economy—Congress, which, by the way, cost 1.6 million jobs through passing sequestration; Congress, which cost the economy \$24 billion when we shut down the government a few years back; and Congress, which can't even pass a budget or appropriations bills—the essential 101 of government.

Congress is going to tell the President what he is doing wrong and what he should and shouldn't do while he is still President. Really?

Remember, the President's approval rating is 56 percent, and the majority's rating is about 15 to 20 percent. So Congress is going to tell the President what he should do even if it would cost

NOES—237

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodel
Babin
Barletta
Barr
Barton
Benishek
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Clawson (FL)
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Comstock
Conaway
Cook
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dold
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Farenthold
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)

Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Hardy
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Hill
Holding
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Knight
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Massie
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris
Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen

Pearce
Perry
Peterson
Pittenger
Pitts
Poliquin
Pompeo
Posey
Price, Tom
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Russell
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NOT VOTING—17

Blumenauer
Brown (FL)
Capps
Clay
Costello (PA)
Duckworth
Ellison
Fitzpatrick
Forbes
Hanna
Hensarling
Jolly
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Nugent
Poe (TX)
Westmoreland

us jobs. That is not the message from last week, my colleagues. People want more job growth and bigger paychecks, not less.

If you are serious about stopping bad regulation, we are with you. If you simply want to stop the President from continuing to be President for the remainder of his term and stop us from creating jobs by doing that, you didn't get the message from last week—but we did. We are hyper-focused on creating good, family supporting jobs, and we aren't going to stop a President who is doing that just so Republicans can say "thank you" to some corporate special interests.

I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, the majority leader and the committee chairs sent a letter to hundreds of government departments and agencies, saying stop, stop with the overregulation of our economy. It is time to stop this. We heard the results of the election loud and clear.

This motion to recommit misses the forest through the trees, and the ever-increasing avalanche of Washington regulation is stifling job creation, suffocating recovery, and strangling our economy. Federal regulation since 1980 has been estimated to have cost this country \$4 trillion worth of annual GDP—a full 25 percent—by 2012; and things have only gotten worse since then as the record-setting Obama administration has piled evermore costs on top. Now here they come again. Here is the list in fine print of over 180 new midnight regulations they want to jam through before the end of this administration.

In administration after administration, the most abusive period of regulation has been the midnight rule period—the last, vanishing months of an outgoing administration as it seeks to cement the last pieces of its regulatory edifice in place. This is the time when the pace of executive branch regulation most easily overwhelms Congress' institutional capacity to check executive overreach.

With one simple change to the Congressional Review Act—this bill—it will free Congress to disapprove any and all midnight regulations in one fell swoop. With one disapproval resolution, we can boldly restore Congress' Article I authority over lawmaking and check the abuse of midnight regulations. The motion carves out some rules that may be good, but we can always leave them out in the disapproval resolution under the bill, as written.

Vote against this motion. Vote for this bill. Vote for job creation. Vote for the new administration. I urge my colleagues to vote for the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX and the order of the House of November 16, 2016, this 5-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on the passage of H.R. 5982, if ordered; the motion to recommit on H.R. 5711; and the passage of H.R. 5711, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 181, noes 239, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 584]

AYES—181

Adams	Doyle, Michael	Loeb sack
Aguilar	F.	Lofgren
Ashford	Edwards	Lowenthal
Bass	Engel	Lowe y
Beatty	Eshoo	Lujan Grisham
Becerra	Esty	(NM)
Bera	Evans	Lujan, Ben Ray
Beyer	Farr	(NM)
Bishop (GA)	Foster	Lynch
Bonamici	Frankel (FL)	Maloney
Boyle, Brendan	Fudge	Carolyn
F.	Gabbard	Maloney, Sean
Brady (PA)	Gallego	Matsui
Brownlee (CA)	Garamendi	McCollum
Bustos	Graham	McDermott
Butterfield	Grayson	McGovern
Capps	Green, Al	McNerney
Capuano	Green, Gene	Meeks
Cárdenas	Grijalva	Meng
Carney	Gutiérrez	Moore
Carson (IN)	Hahn	Moulton
Cartwright	Hanabusa	Murphy (FL)
Castor (FL)	Hastings	Nadler
Castro (TX)	Heck (WA)	Napolitano
Chu, Judy	Higgins	Neal
Cicilline	Himes	Nolan
Clark (MA)	Hinojosa	Norcross
Clarke (NY)	Honda	O'Rourke
Clay	Hoyer	Pallone
Cleaver	Huffman	Pascarell
Clyburn	Israel	Payne
Cohen	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
Connolly	Jeffries	Perlmutter
Conyers	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Cooper	Johnson, E. B.	Pingree
Costa	Kaptur	Pocan
Courtney	Keating	Polis
Crowley	Kelly (IL)	Price (NC)
Cuellar	Kennedy	Quigley
Cummings	Kildee	Rangel
Davis (CA)	Kilmer	Rice (NY)
Davis, Danny	Kind	Richmond
DeFazio	Kuster	Roybal-Allard
DeGette	Langevin	Ruiz
Delaney	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Rush
DeBene	Lawrence	Ryan (OH)
DeSaulnier	Lee	Sánchez, Linda
Deutch	Levin	T.
Dingell	Lewis	Sanchez, Loretta
Doggett	Lieu, Ted	Sarbanes
	Lipinski	Schakowsky

Schiff	Swalwell (CA)	Vela
Schrader	Takano	Velázquez
Scott (VA)	Thompson (CA)	Visclosky
Scott, David	Thompson (MS)	Walz
Serrano	Titus	Wasserman
Sewell (AL)	Tonko	Schultz
Sherman	Torres	Waters, Maxine
Sires	Tsongas	Watson Coleman
Slaughter	Van Hollen	Welch
Smith (WA)	Vargas	Wilson (FL)
Speier	Veasey	Yarmuth

NOES—239

Abraham	Graves (LA)	Paulsen
Aderholt	Graves (MO)	Pearce
Allen	Griffith	Perry
Amash	Grothman	Peterson
Amodei	Guinta	Pittenger
Babin	Guthrie	Pitts
Barletta	Hardy	Poliquin
Barr	Harper	Pompeo
Barton	Harris	Posey
Benishke	Hartzler	Price, Tom
Bilirakis	Heck (NV)	Ratcliffe
Bishop (MI)	Herrera Beutler	Reed
Bishop (UT)	Hice, Jody B.	Reichert
Black	Hill	Renacci
Blackburn	Holding	Ribble
Blum	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Bost	Huelskamp	Rigell
Boustany	Huizenga (MI)	Roby
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Roe (TN)
Brat	Hunter	Rogers (AL)
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Brooks (AL)	Hurt (VA)	Rohrabacher
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rokita
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Rooney (FL)
Buck	Jenkins (WV)	Ros-Lehtinen
Bucshon	Johnson (OH)	Roskam
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Ross
Byrne	Jones	Rothfus
Calvert	Jordan	Rouzer
Carter (GA)	Joyce	Royce
Carter (TX)	Katko	Russell
Chabot	Kelly (MS)	Salmon
Chaffetz	Kelly (PA)	Sanford
Clawson (FL)	King (IA)	Scalise
Coffman	King (NY)	Schweikert
Cole	Kinzinger (IL)	Scott, Austin
Collins (GA)	Knight	Sensenbrenner
Collins (NY)	Labrador	Sessions
Comer	LaHood	Shimkus
Comstock	LaMalfa	Shuster
Conaway	Lamborn	Simpson
Cook	Lance	Sinema
Costello (PA)	Latta	Smith (MO)
Cramer	LoBiondo	Smith (NE)
Crawford	Long	Smith (NJ)
Crenshaw	Loudermilk	Smith (TX)
Curberson	Love	Stefanik
Curbelo (FL)	Lucas	Stewart
Davidson	Luetkemeyer	Stivers
Davis, Rodney	Lummis	Stutzman
Denham	MacArthur	Thompson (PA)
Dent	Marchant	Thornberry
DeSantis	Marino	Tiberi
DesJarlais	Massie	Tipton
Diaz-Balart	McCarthy	Trott
Dold	McCaul	Turner
Donovan	McClintock	Upton
Duffy	McHenry	Valadao
Duncan (SC)	McKinley	Wagner
Duncan (TN)	McMorris	Walberg
Ellmers (NC)	Rodgers	Walden
Emmer (MN)	McSally	Walker
Farenthold	Meadows	Walorski
Fincher	Meehan	Walters, Mimi
Fleischmann	Messer	Weber (TX)
Fleming	Mica	Webster (FL)
Flores	Miller (FL)	Wenstrup
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Westerman
Fox	Moolenaar	Williams
Franks (AZ)	Mooney (WV)	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Mullin	Wittman
Garrett	Mulvaney	Womack
Gibbs	Murphy (PA)	Woodall
Gibson	Neugebauer	Yoder
Gohmert	Newhouse	Yoho
Goodlatte	Noem	Young (AK)
Gosar	Nunes	Young (IA)
Gowdy	Olson	Young (IN)
Granger	Palazzo	Zeldin
Graves (GA)	Palmer	Zinke

NOT VOTING—14

Blumenauer	Forbes	Kline
Brown (FL)	Hanna	Nugent
Duckworth	Hensarling	Poe (TX)
Ellison	Jolly	Westmoreland
Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1143

Ms. SINEMA changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 240, noes 179, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 585]

AYES—240

Abraham	Crenshaw	Hartzler
Aderholt	Cuellar	Heck (NV)
Allen	Culberson	Herrera Beutler
Amash	Curbelo (FL)	Hice, Jody B.
Amodei	Davidson	Hill
Babin	Davis, Rodney	Holding
Barletta	Denham	Hudson
Barr	Dent	Huelskamp
Barton	DeSantis	Huizenga (MI)
Benishkek	DesJarlais	Hultgren
Bilirakis	Diaz-Balart	Hunter
Bishop (MI)	Dold	Hurd (TX)
Bishop (UT)	Donovan	Hurt (VA)
Black	Duffy	Issa
Blackburn	Duncan (SC)	Jenkins (KS)
Blum	Duncan (TN)	Jenkins (WV)
Bost	Ellmers (NC)	Johnson (OH)
Boustany	Emmer (MN)	Johnson, Sam
Brady (TX)	Farenthold	Jones
Brat	Fincher	Jordan
Bridenstine	Fleischmann	Joyce
Brooks (AL)	Fleming	Katko
Brooks (IN)	Flores	Kelly (MS)
Buchanan	Fortenberry	Kelly (PA)
Buck	Fox	King (IA)
Bucshon	Franks (AZ)	King (NY)
Burgess	Frelinghuysen	Kinzing (IL)
Byrne	Garrett	Knight
Calvert	Gibbs	Labrador
Carter (GA)	Gibson	LaHood
Carter (TX)	Gohmert	LaMalfa
Chabot	Goodlatte	Lamborn
Chaffetz	Gosar	Lance
Clawson (FL)	Gowdy	Latta
Coffman	Granger	LoBiondo
Cole	Graves (GA)	Long
Collins (GA)	Graves (LA)	Loudermilk
Collins (NY)	Graves (MO)	Love
Comer	Griffith	Lucas
Comstock	Grothman	Luetkemeyer
Conaway	Guinta	Lummis
Cook	Guthrie	MacArthur
Costello (PA)	Hardy	Marchant
Cramer	Harper	Marino
Crawford	Harris	Massie

McCarthy	Ratcliffe	Stefanik
McCaul	Reed	Stewart
McClintock	Reichert	Stivers
McHenry	Renacci	Stutzman
McKinley	Ribble	Thompson (PA)
McMorris	Rice (SC)	Thornberry
Rodgers	Rigell	Tiberi
McSally	Roby	Tipton
Meadows	Roe (TN)	Trott
Meehan	Rogers (AL)	Turner
Messer	Rogers (KY)	Upton
Mica	Rohrabacher	Valadao
Miller (FL)	Rokita	Wagner
Miller (MI)	Rooney (FL)	Walberg
Moolenaar	Ros-Lehtinen	Walden
Mooney (WV)	Roskam	Walker
Mullin	Ross	Walorski
Mulvaney	Rothfus	Walters, Mimi
Murphy (PA)	Rouzer	Weber (TX)
Neugebauer	Royce	Webster (FL)
Newhouse	Russell	Wenstrup
Noem	Salmon	Westerman
Nunes	Sanford	Williams
Olson	Scalise	Wilson (SC)
Palazzo	Schweikert	Wittman
Palmer	Scott, Austin	Womack
Paulsen	Sensenbrenner	Woodall
Pearce	Sessions	Yoder
Perry	Shimkus	Yoho
Peterson	Shuster	Young (AK)
Pittenger	Simpson	Young (IA)
Pitts	Sinema	Young (IN)
Poliquin	Smith (MO)	Zeldin
Pompeo	Smith (NE)	Zinke
Posey	Smith (NJ)	
Price, Tom	Smith (TX)	

NOES—179

Adams	Evans	Maloney,
Aguilar	Farr	Carolyn
Ashford	Poster	Maloney, Sean
Bass	Frankel (FL)	Matsui
Beatty	Fudge	McCollum
Becerra	Gabbard	McDermott
Bera	Gallo	McGovern
Beyer	Garamendi	McNerney
Bishop (GA)	Graham	Meeks
Bonamici	Grayson	Meng
Boyle, Brendan	Green, Al	Moore
F.	Green, Gene	Moulton
Brady (PA)	Grijalva	Murphy (FL)
Brownlee (CA)	Gutiérrez	Nadler
Bustos	Hahn	Napolitano
Butterfield	Hanabusa	Neal
Capps	Hastings	Nolan
Capuano	Heck (WA)	Norcross
Cárdenas	Higgins	O'Rourke
Carney	Himes	Pallone
Carson (IN)	Hinojosa	Pascarell
Cartwright	Honda	Payne
Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Pelosi
Castro (TX)	Huffman	Perlmutter
Chu, Judy	Israel	Pingree
Cicilline	Jackson Lee	Pocan
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Polis
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Price (NC)
Clay	Johnson, E. B.	Quigley
Cleaver	Kaptur	Rangel
Clyburn	Keating	Rice (NY)
Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Richmond
Connolly	Kildeer	Roybal-Allard
Conyers	Kilmer	Ruiz
Cooper	Kind	Ruppersberger
Costa	Kuster	Rush
Courtney	Langevin	Ryan (OH)
Crowley	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez, Linda
Cummings	Larson (CT)	T.
Davis (CA)	Lawrence	Sanchez, Loretta
Davis, Danny	Lee	Sarbanes
DeFazio	Levin	Schakowsky
DeGette	Lewis	Schiff
Delaney	Lieu, Ted	Schrader
DeLauro	Lipinski	Scott (VA)
DeBene	Loebach	Scott, David
DeSaulnier	Loftgren	Serrano
Deutch	Lowenthal	Sewell (AL)
Dingell	Lowey	Sherman
Doggett	Lujan Grisham	Sires
Doyle, Michael	(NM)	Slaughter
F.	Lujan, Ben Ray	Smith (WA)
Edwards	(NM)	Speier
Engel	Lynch	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo		Takano
Esty		Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)	Veasey	Waters, Maxine
Titus	Vela	Watson Coleman
Tonko	Velázquez	Welch
Torres	Visclosky	Wilson (FL)
Tsongas	Walz	Yarmuth
Van Hollen	Wasserman	
Vargas	Schultz	

NOT VOTING—15

Blumenauer	Forbes	Kline
Brown (FL)	Hanna	Nugent
Duckworth	Hensarling	Peters
Ellison	Jolly	Poe (TX)
Fitzpatrick	Kirkpatrick	Westmoreland

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1149

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROHIBITING THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FROM AUTHORIZING CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, and the order of the House of November 16, 2016, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 5711) to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a U.S. financial institution in connection with the export or re-export of a commercial passenger aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 181, nays 235, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 586]

YEAS—181

Adams	Cicilline	Doyle, Michael
Aguilar	Clark (MA)	F.
Ashford	Clarke (NY)	Edwards
Bass	Clay	Engel
Beatty	Cleaver	Eshoo
Becerra	Clyburn	Esty
Bera	Cohen	Evans
Beyer	Connolly	Farr
Bishop (GA)	Conyers	Foster
Bonamici	Cooper	Frankel (FL)
Boyle, Brendan	Costa	Fudge
F.	Courtney	Gabbard
Brady (PA)	Crowley	Gallo
Brownley (CA)	Cuellar	Garamendi
Bustos	Cummings	Graham
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Grayson
Capps	Davis, Danny	Green, Al
Capuano	DeFazio	Green, Gene
Cárdenas	DeGette	Grijalva
Carney	DeLauro	Gutiérrez
Carson (IN)	DeBene	Hahn
Cartwright	DeSaulnier	Hanabusa
Castor (FL)	Deutch	Hastings
Castro (TX)	Dingell	Heck (WA)
Chu, Judy	Doggett	Higgins

Himes	Matsui	Sanchez, Loretta	Poliquin	Salmon	Valadao	Gosar	Maloney, Sean	Rothfus
Hinojosa	McCollum	Sarbanes	Pompeo	Sanford	Wagner	Gowdy	Marchant	Rouzer
Honda	McDermott	Schakowsky	Posey	Scalise	Walberg	Graham	Marino	Royce
Hoyer	McGovern	Schiff	Price, Tom	Schweikert	Walden	Granger	Massie	Russell
Huffman	McNerney	Schrader	Ratcliffe	Scott, Austin	Walker	Graves (GA)	McCarthy	Salmon
Israel	Meeks	Scott (VA)	Reed	Sensenbrenner	Walorski	Graves (LA)	McCaul	Sanford
Jackson Lee	Meng	Scott, David	Reichert	Sessions	Walters, Mimi	Graves (MO)	McClintock	Scalise
Jeffries	Moore	Serrano	Renacci	Shimkus	Weber (TX)	Griffith	McHenry	Schweikert
Johnson (GA)	Moulton	Sewell (AL)	Ribble	Shuster	Webster (FL)	Grothman	McKinley	Scott, Austin
Johnson, E. B.	Murphy (FL)	Sherman	Rice (SC)	Simpson	Wenstrup	Guinta	McMorris	Sensenbrenner
Kaptur	Nadler	Sinema	Rigell	Smith (MO)	Westerman	Guthrie	Rodgers	Sessions
Keating	Napolitano	Sires	Roby	Smith (NE)	Williams	Hardy	McSally	Sherman
Kelly (IL)	Neal	Slaughter	Roe (TN)	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (SC)	Harper	Meadows	Shimkus
Kennedy	Nolan	Smith (WA)	Rogers (KY)	Smith (TX)	Wittman	Harris	Meehan	Shuster
Kildee	Norcross	Speier	Rohrabacher	Stefanik	Womack	Hartzler	Messer	Simpson
Kilmer	O'Rourke	Swailwell (CA)	Rokita	Stewart	Woodall	Heck (NV)	Mica	Smith (MO)
Kind	Pallone	Takano	Rooney (FL)	Stivers	Yoder	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)	Smith (NE)
Kuster	Pascrell	Thompson (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen	Thompson (PA)	Zoh	Hice, Jody B.	Miller (MI)	Smith (NJ)
Langevin	Payne	Thompson (MS)	Roskam	Thornberry	Young (AK)	Hill	Moolenaar	Smith (TX)
Larsen (WA)	Pelosi	Titus	Ross	Tiberi	Young (IA)	Holding	Mooney (WV)	Stefanik
Larson (CT)	Perlmutter	Tonko	Rothfus	Tipton	Young (IN)	Hudson	Mullin	Stewart
Lawrence	Peters	Torres	Rouzer	Trott	Zeldin	Huelskamp	Mulvaney	Stivers
Lee	Peterson	Tsongas	Royce	Turner	Zinke	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)	Thompson (PA)
Levin	Pingree	Van Hollen	Russell	Upton		Hultgren	Neugebauer	Thornberry
Lieu, Ted	Pocan	Vargas				Hunter	Newhouse	Tiberi
Lipinski	Polis	Veasey	Blumenauer	Forbes	Lewis	Hurd (TX)	Noem	Tipton
Loeb sack	Price (NC)	Vela	Brown (FL)	Hanna	Nugent	Hurt (VA)	Nunes	Trott
Lofgren	Quigley	Velázquez	Delaney	Hensarling	Poe (TX)	Issa	Olson	Turner
Lowenthal	Rangel	Visclosky	Duckworth	Jolly	Rogers (AL)	Jenkins (KS)	Palazzo	Upton
Lowe y	Rice (NY)	Walz	Ellison	Kirkpatrick	Stutzman	Jenkins (WV)	Palmer	Valadao
Lujan Grisham	Richmond	Wasserman	Fitzpatrick	Kline	Westmoreland	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen	Vargas
(NM)	Roybal-Allard	Schultz				Johnson, Sam	Pearce	Vela
Luján, Ben Ray	Ruiz	Waters, Maxine				Jones	Perry	Wagner
(NM)	Ruppersberger	Watson Coleman				Jordan	Peterson	Walberg
Lynch	Rush	Welch				Joyce	Pittenger	Walden
Maloney,	Ryan (OH)	Wilson (FL)				Katko	Pitts	Walker
Carolyn	Sánchez, Linda	Yarmuth				Kelly (MS)	Poliquin	Walorski
Maloney, Sean	T.					Kelly (PA)	Pompeo	Walters, Mimi
						King (IA)	Posey	Weber (TX)
						King (NY)	Price, Tom	Webster (FL)
						Kinzing er (IL)	Ratcliffe	Wenstrup
						Knight	Reed	Westerman
						Labrador	Reichert	Williams
						LaHood	Renacci	Wilson (SC)
						LaMalfa	Ribble	Wittman
						Lamborn	Rice (SC)	Womack
						Lance	Rigell	Woodall
						Latta	Roby	Yoder
						LoBiondo	Roe (TN)	Zoh
						Long	Rogers (KY)	Young (AK)
						Loudermilk	Rohrabacher	Young (IA)
						Love	Rokita	Young (IN)
						Lucas	Rooney (FL)	Zeldin
						Luetkemeyer	Ros-Lehtinen	Zinke
						Lummis	Roskam	
						MacArthur	Ross	

NOT VOTING—18

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1155

Mr. OLSON changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 243, nays 174, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 587]

YEAS—243

Abraham	Dold	Katko	Abraham	Bucshon	Denham
Aderholt	Donovan	Kelly (MS)	Aderholt	Burgess	Dent
Allen	Duffy	Kelly (PA)	Allen	Byrne	DeSantis
Amash	Duncan (SC)	King (IA)	Amash	Calvert	DesJarlais
Amodei	Duncan (TN)	King (NY)	Amodei	Carson (IN)	Diaz-Balart
Babin	Ellmers (NC)	Kinzing er (IL)	Ashford	Carter (GA)	Dold
Barletta	Emmer (MN)	Knight	Babin	Carter (TX)	Donovan
Barr	Farenthold	Labrador	Barletta	Chabot	Duffy
Barton	Fincher	LaHood	Barr	Chaffetz	Duncan (SC)
Benishek	Fleischmann	LaMalfa	Barton	Clawson (FL)	Duncan (TN)
Bilirakis	Fleming	Lamborn	Benishek	Coffman	Ellmers (NC)
Bishop (MI)	Flores	Lance	Bilirakis	Cole	Emmer (MN)
Bishop (UT)	Fortenberry	Latta	Bishop (MI)	Collins (GA)	Farenthold
Black	Fox	LoBiondo	Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Fincher
Blackburn	Franks (AZ)	Long	Black	Comer	Fleischmann
Blum	Frelinghuysen	Loudermilk	Blackburn	Comstock	Fleming
Bost	Garrett	Love	Blum	Conaway	Flores
Boustany	Gibbs	Lucas	Bost	Cook	Fortenberry
Brady (TX)	Gibson	Luetkemeyer	Boustany	Costello (PA)	Fox
Brat	Gohmert	Lummis	Brady (TX)	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Bridenstine	Goodlatte	MacArthur	Brat	Crawford	Frelinghuysen
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	Marchant	Bridenstine	Crenshaw	Garrett
Brooks (IN)	Gowdy	Marino	Brooks (AL)	Culberson	Gibbs
Buchanan	Granger	Massie	Brooks (IN)	Curbelo (FL)	Gibson
Buck	Graves (GA)	McCarthy	Buchanan	Davidson	Gohmert
Bucshon	Graves (LA)	McCaul	Buck	Davis, Rodney	Goodlatte
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McClintock			
Byrne	Griffith	McHenry			
Calvert	Grothman	McKinley			
Carter (GA)	Guinta	McMorris			
Carter (TX)	Guthrie	Rodgers			
Chabot	Hardy	McSally			
Chaffetz	Harper	Meadows			
Clawson (FL)	Harris	Meehan			
Coffman	Hartzler	Messer			
Cole	Heck (NV)	Mica			
Collins (GA)	Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)			
Collins (NY)	Hice, Jody B.	Miller (MI)			
Comer	Hill	Moolenaar			
Comstock	Holding	Mooney (WV)			
Conaway	Hudson	Mullin			
Cook	Huelskamp	Mulvaney			
Costello (PA)	Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)			
Cramer	Hultgren	Neugebauer			
Crawford	Hunter	Newhouse			
Crenshaw	Hurd (TX)	Noem			
Culberson	Hurt (VA)	Nunes			
Curbelo (FL)	Issa	Olson			
Davidson	Jenkins (KS)	Palazzo			
Davis, Rodney	Jenkins (WV)	Palmer			
Denham	Johnson (OH)	Paulsen			
Dent	Johnson, Sam	Pearce			
DeSantis	Jones	Perry			
DesJarlais	Jordan	Pittenger			
Diaz-Balart	Joyce	Pitts			

NAYS—174

Adams	Cummings	Hinojosa
Aguilar	Davis (CA)	Honda
Bass	Davis, Danny	Hoyer
Beatty	DeFazio	Huffman
Becerra	DeGette	Israel
Bera	Delaney	Jackson Lee
Beyer	DeLauro	Jeffries
Bishop (GA)	DelBene	Johnson (GA)
Bonamici	DeSaulnier	Johnson, E. B.
Boyle, Brendan	Deutch	Kaptur
F.	Dingell	Keating
Brady (PA)	Doggett	Kelly (IL)
Brownley (CA)	Doyle, Michael	Kennedy
Bustos	F.	Kildee
Butterfield	Edwards	Kilmer
Capps	Engel	Kind
Capuano	Eshoo	Kuster
Cardenas	Esty	Langevin
Carney	Evans	Larsen (WA)
Cartwright	Farr	Larson (CT)
Castor (FL)	Foster	Lawrence
Castro (TX)	Frankel (FL)	Lee
Chu, Judy	Fudge	Levin
Cicilline	Gabbard	Lewis
Clark (MA)	Gallagher	Lieu, Ted
Clarke (NY)	Garamendi	Lipinski
Clay	Grayson	Loeb sack
Cleaver	Green, Al	Lofgren
Clyburn	Green, Gene	Lowenthal
Cohen	Grijalva	Lowe y
Connolly	Gutiérrez	Lujan Grisham
Conyers	Hahn	(NM)
Cooper	Hanabusa	Luján, Ben Ray
Costa	Hastings	(NM)
Courtney	Heck (WA)	Lynch
Crowley	Higgins	Maloney,
Cuellar	Himes	Carolyn

Matsui	Polis	Smith (WA)
McCollum	Price (NC)	Speier
McDermott	Quigley	Swalwell (CA)
McGovern	Rangel	Takano
McNerney	Rice (NY)	Thompson (CA)
Meeks	Richmond	Thompson (MS)
Meng	Roybal-Allard	Titus
Moore	Ruiz	Tonko
Moulton	Ruppersberger	Torres
Murphy (FL)	Rush	Tsongas
Nadler	Ryan (OH)	Van Hollen
Napolitano	Sánchez, Linda	Veasey
Neal	T.	Velázquez
Nolan	Sanchez, Loretta	Visclosky
Norcross	Sarbanes	Walz
O'Rourke	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Pallone	Schiff	Schultz
Pascarella	Schrader	Waters, Maxine
Payne	Scott (VA)	Watson Coleman
Pelosi	Scott, David	Welch
Perlmutter	Serrano	Wilson (FL)
Peters	Sinema	Yarmuth
Pingree	Sires	
Pocan	Slaughter	

NOT VOTING—17

Blumenauer	Hanna	Poe (TX)
Brown (FL)	Hensarling	Rogers (AL)
Duckworth	Jolly	Sewell (AL)
Ellison	Kirkpatrick	Stutzman
Fitzpatrick	Kline	Westmoreland
Forbes	Nugent	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1201

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5392. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

H.R. 6007. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include consideration of certain impacts on commercial space launch and reentry activities in a navigable airspace analysis, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1808. An act to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a Northern Border threat analysis, and for other purposes.

S. 1915. An act to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make anthrax vaccines available to emergency response providers, and for other purposes.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. JOYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE
MEL LAIRD

(Mr. DUFFY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart and offer condolences for the passing of former Secretary of Defense Mel Laird who served under Richard Nixon. Secretary Laird was well known, among many things, for the drawdown of troops in Vietnam and, to the delight of many, he suspended the military draft.

But for us in Wisconsin, Mel Laird was our Congressman, a young man who was elected at 30 years old and served from 1953 to 1969 until he went to the Secretary of Defense position.

When I was running for Congress in the late spring, my phone rang, and on the other end this guy says: Hello, Mel Laird here. Could I speak with SEAN DUFFY?

Well, Mel Laird is larger than life in Wisconsin, a guy from Marshfield. I nearly dropped the phone to think that the great Mel Laird would give me a call. He knew everyone and every issue in Wisconsin at the ripe old age of 90.

He passed away yesterday. With a heavy heart, we mourn his passing. I would just like to say, he was a man that President Ford said was the can-do conservative from Wisconsin. He was a patriot more than a partisan, so much so that he was the mentor of Colin Powell. And to the friends he had on both sides of the aisle, they would be tickled to know that Hillary Clinton once interned for him. In true Wisconsin fashion, when I won the seat that he had formerly held, he sent me a Wisconsin block of cheddar cheese.

So, today, with a heavy heart, I want to extend my condolences to the family of Mel Laird, thank him and his family for his service, and may his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF TOM
WEISNER

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Tom Weisner, the mayor of Aurora, Illinois. He served as the mayor for a decade, and for many years before that as a dedicated public servant and a friend to our district and our community.

Before he entered public service, Tom and his wife, Marilyn, served as Peace Corps volunteers. Since then, Tom has served the city with passion, commitment, competence, and dedication.

Public service is more than just a job to him; it is a calling. He cares for others in his community like an extended family, and Aurora is a better place because of it.

Whether it is the safety of rail cars passing through the city or concerns about gun violence, Tom speaks from the heart about issues that matter to our community and to our country. He does this because, to him, our community is his family.

Unfortunately, in the face of his longstanding battle with cancer, Mayor Tom Weisner stepped down at the end of last month. We will all miss his leadership and dedication to our community and wish him well.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NORTH-
WEST ADVANCED RENEWABLES
ALLIANCE

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance for their efforts to use the world's first renewable jet fuel made from timber harvest residuals on a commercial flight from Seattle to Washington, D.C., this last Monday, November 14.

NARA is a diverse coalition consisting of Washington State University, University of Washington, Alaska Airlines, Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, the U.S. Forest Service, and many other partners. Their goal was to create a sustainable aviation biofuel, increase bioenergy literacy, and advance rural economic development.

This achievement of fueling a cross-country flight entirely on wood products is a great testament to the cooperation, innovation, and hard work of the NARA members. Moreover, it demonstrates the forward-thinking commitment to an all-of-the-above energy strategy that the Pacific Northwest is renowned for. Again, congratulations to NARA and their members on this amazing achievement.

AMERICAN FOOD FOR AMERICAN
SCHOOLS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, is there anybody among us here who does not believe our children ought to have nutritious, safe food in the schools, in the school nutrition program? I think we all do. However, you may not know that back home in your school districts that your school is using your taxpayer money to buy food grown in China or someplace else in the world. Is it safe? Maybe yes. Maybe no. You don't know.

We are going to introduce a bill here, and I would seek the support of all the

□ 1215

Members here. We call it American Food for American Schools. Why not? Why not American food in the school nutrition programs, the lunch programs? In our own area in Sacramento, California, the school district there decided they ought to buy Chinese peaches, yet the biggest peach-growing place in all the United States is the Sacramento region.

Let's do that. Let's make sure that our students have nutritious, safe, American-grown food. So American Food for American Schools. Seek your attention to this; seek your support on this. I am quite sure the American public and parents and students would say: yeah, right on.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate hospitals in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District for being recognized by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. This year, 32 hospitals in Pennsylvania reached top quartile performance status in quality, outcomes, patient satisfaction, and financial strength compared to all acute care hospitals in the nation.

Now, I am proud to represent seven of these outstanding health facilities, including Kane Community Hospital, Lock Haven Hospital, Corry Memorial Hospital, Penn Highlands DuBois, Warren General Hospital, and UPMC Northwest.

In light of these and the many other tremendous accomplishments that have been achieved in rural health care this year, I am honored to join with key stakeholders across the United States to celebrate National Rural Health Day.

It is no secret that healthcare providers in underserved areas play a vital role in maintaining and safeguarding the health of millions of Americans. Due to my previous experience as a healthcare provider, I have nothing but the deepest respect and admiration for those who work to enhance the quality of healthcare services in rural communities.

Congratulations again to the rural healthcare providers in Pennsylvania for their tremendous work. Thank you for your service.

I STAND WITH THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX

(Mr. RUIZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux in peace and prayer to halt the desecration of their sacred sites and clean water source.

This month, an independent review concluded that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' original assessment of the pipeline underestimated the risk of a spill exposing tribal lands to grave risk.

Just this week, the Corps announced they will delay an easement for construction of the pipeline on Corps land under and around Lake Oahe until they conduct further environmental reviews with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Further study and a possible reroute of the pipeline is a welcomed idea.

But construction continues, and there has been no final decision that could conclusively halt the pipeline and protect tribal sacred sites. This could be devastating.

The government must take action to uphold our Federal trust responsibility to protect tribal treaties, land, and resources. They must meaningfully consult with the Standing Rock Sioux and all tribes before developing on or near tribal land. They must rescind their permit that was issued without full understanding of potential risk and must stop construction.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, Saturday is National Adoption Day. It is an annual celebration of the thousands of new adoptions that take place every year. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness of the thousands of children who are still in foster care in need of permanent homes.

Since National Adoption Day was started 16 years ago, several children advocacy groups, including the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, have worked with foster care agencies and courts in all 50 States to finalize more than 40,000 adoptions to take place on that day. This is amazing work that helps bring wonderful additions to selfless, committed families. It is great to see so many children finding new beginnings through adoption, but it is also important to remember those who are still in need of permanent homes.

There are more than 100,000 children who are waiting for an adoptive family in foster care, and, on average, they wait nearly 3 years to be adopted. Every child deserves to grow up in a loving family and a safe and open-hearted home.

Mr. Speaker, adoption is a joyous occasion for thousands of children and families, and National Adoption Day is a reminder of how to create more of these powerful life-changing experiences.

TIME TO LOOK AHEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURBELO of Florida). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a pleasure to be in this somewhat hallowed Hall.

The election is behind us. It is time to look ahead. But as everyone who studies history knows, those who fail to learn from history are destined to repeat it. And so we go.

We continue too often to repeat the mistakes of the past, but it looks like the American people wanted a change—quite a change—and I know there are calls that we get rid of the electoral college, but when one looks at the map of the United States district-by-district within the States that voted for the different parties, candidates, one sees very clearly that you have the big cities that were voting Democrat and the 90 percent or so of the rest of the country voted Republican. It really is amazing to see just how distinctive that has become.

South Texas is not highly populated, but is blue. Otherwise, most of the country that voted Democrat is just large cities, many of which are failing, many of which have become sanctuary cities, many of which have high crime rates. So I was a bit encouraged to continue to hear statements made by President-elect Trump.

There is an article today—with regard to the government, that is—from The Washington Examiner by Paul Bedard: “\$42 billion in Obama regulations are on Trump's chopping block. Nearly 50 massive and costly regulations that cost Americans and businesses 53 million more hours filing paperwork and that have already put a \$42 billion hit on the U.S. economy are being teed up for President-elect Trump to cut in his first weeks in office.”

And you go through and you look and top on the list are Head Start performance standards. Really, education was doing pretty well in my home State. Back before President Carter created the Department of Education, between 70 and 75 percent of all employees in the education system in Texas were teachers; but when you create this big bureaucracy called the Department of Education, it means for every cubicle we put here in Washington, D.C., just down the street here at the Department of Education, every State has to hire additional people to work in cubicles. But some States are more generous than others. Some have very nice offices.

But then, for every bureaucrat you put in a State capital office that is going to respond to the bureaucrats in

the Department of Education here, you have to have additional clerical help, administrative help in each individual school district. That is people that could be helping our children. That is people that could be making students brighter than any other students.

But what are they doing?

They are filling out mountains of paperwork to send to the State capital so they can fill out mountains of paperwork and send it to the Department of Education.

To see that just one item within the Department of Education could cut \$42 billion in Obama regulations is incredible. At a time when we have skyrocketed over the last 7-plus years from \$11 billion in debt to \$20 billion in debt, it is just incredible. Incredible. Yet, there is so much we are costing America.

I am excited about the coming year because the kind of things that are listed here is just government overregulation; government bureaucrats from here overregulating. I know most people are proud when they set new all-time records, which this administration did in new regulations for the years with regard to pages of regulations. I think it seems like the Bush administration may have hit 74,000 pages or so one year, but that didn't create a problem for the Obama administration. They have blown right past 74,000 pages of regulations.

How is anyone in business in the United States supposed to stay in business if they have to go through 74,000 pages of new regulations in addition to the old regulations that may still be in effect?

It is incredible. Like the Heritage Foundation has pointed out, more persons are committing three or four Federal crimes every day because we don't know what all the regulations are.

I am very encouraged as we go into the new year that one of the things we want to accomplish—and Chairman GOODLATTE in the Judiciary Committee has it on his list of things to get done—is really address the overcriminalization that has occurred over all these years. You slap a prison sentence on some vague crime or on some vague statute that says it is a crime if you violate any of the laws or regulations, and then bureaucrats sit around and dream up things that annoy them, and all of a sudden somebody can be going to prison for things none of us knew were crimes.

One guy did know that a substance he was sending through the mail, since he was a scientist, required ground only. So he checked the box “ground only.” He didn't know that some bureaucrat had passed or created a regulation that said not only do you check the box, you have to put a little ticker with an airplane with a red line through it. And if you don't do that, you get arrested, drug to Alaska, where

he was sending it—he didn't even live there, didn't have friends—and held up there for 18 months or so, I think. It is incredible. We have got to do right by the American people.

I have been blessed to be able to travel all over the country in the past year or so. And everywhere I go, it just seems like the economy is ready to take off. If we can just get this massive, oppressive bureaucracy in Washington off of the neck of the economy, people will start having jobs again.

I know some people are worried about the wall or fence, but as you see people out of work—some of them being paid, apparently, to riot or picket, the things they do. I remember one picketer out here on The Mall back during the shutdown said he was getting \$15 an hour from Democratic sources to picket out there at the World War II Monument. Some of them get paid. Maybe that is all the work they can find.

Well, how great would it be to take that picket sign out of their hand and say: My friend, we have productive work for you. You can help your country, you can help yourself by cutting down on potential terrorism coming across other southern border, by cutting down on people coming into the country illegally and getting welfare, food stamps, all these benefits that other Americans will have to pay for those who are here illegally. You can take this trowel, take this mortar, and go over to that brick pile by our border and just start helping us build the wall. We will pay you to do that.

I don't know, if they get \$15 an hour to come picket in Washington, they may want \$16 or \$17 to help build the wall or the fence down on our border, but we have certainly got plenty of people that can work, because you see them in the streets all over the country. They have come out of their safe spaces where their feelings were hurt because things didn't go like they wanted and nobody has told them, as my late mother, brilliant as she was, used to say: Well, nothing is fair, and the quicker you get used to it, the better off you will be.

I would contend—and she would roll her eyes—yeah, but we can take care of our own little part to make it more fair. And that is what we are supposed to do. If things are not fair, then you get involved in government and you try to fix it.

That is why I came to Washington. I saw that things weren't fair up here, that the Federal Government was luring people away from their God-given potential. I kept having young women come before me as a felony judge in Texas for welfare fraud. And the cases were nearly identical. They pour out their hearts, lay out their situation. They were bored with high school and somebody said: Well, the Federal Government will send you a check if you

just drop out and have a baby. Then they find out after they have the child: I can't really live on this little bit. This is not enough to live on. So they have another child and another child. These are just the ones that came to my court, but I would imagine that there are other situations just like this all over the country.

When I was teaching a joint sociology class at a predominantly African American school back in Tyler, Texas—a great school that has done so much good for so many—Texas College—but there were women there probably in their late twenties, and when we started talking about this, I was blown away with the intellectual level of these women and their commitment that we have to fix our Federal system that is destroying people and their potential.

One lady in her older twenties, God bless her, she came back. She decided: I have had kids. I have been in debt. I am going to improve myself. I mean, that is the American Dream. That is what we hope for. She said, You have got to put that work requirement in and you have got to make it more forceful.

Another lady said: You have got to put drug tests on there. Man, I was spending my money I was getting from the government not so much for my kid, but for my drugs. You need to have a drug test. Don't just give people money like that. You are ruining them.

I am hearing people across the country that have figured out this massive welfare state that was created with the best of intentions in the mid-sixties has done more to pull people away from their God-given potential and put them into ruts or ditches from which they couldn't get out of.

Yet, that is not supposed to ever be the role of government, whether you look to Biblical scripture, like I do. In Romans 13, the government is supposed to be an encourager of good conduct, help people, encourage them, direct them to reach their potential. Don't lure them away from their potential and make them beholden to this big master government. Encourage them. We need a safety net here and there, but encourage them. The sky is the limit and get out of the way.

Like Edison said, I didn't fail however many hundreds of thousands of times. I tried to find the filament that would make a light bulb work. He didn't fail all those times. He just found that many ways that would not work in a light bulb, then he found the one that would. You encourage people to try. Failure shouldn't necessarily be a trophy, but it ought to get a slap on the back, Come on, you can keep going. You can do it.

□ 1230

The government should not lure people away from trying. It was never intended to be anything but a safety net

so you could rebound and get back on your feet. Instead, we take people off their feet and lead them away from being productive in the country for themselves.

I have mentioned this before, but I, as a freshman here in Congress, 12 years ago, went to a conference at Harvard. One of the speakers, the dean there—I was surprised, dean at Harvard Business School—had these charts, and he showed single mothers' income in the United States, when adjusted for inflation, from the creation of welfare until welfare reform, from the mid-sixties to mid-nineties when Newt Gingrich and Republicans took the Congress in January 1995, did welfare reform. I know President Clinton now takes credit for it, but he vetoed it. It wasn't until they had enough votes, basically, to override his veto that they finally got him on board, and now he likes to take credit for it. It was the Republicans that drove them there.

He likes to take credit for the balanced budget. He vetoed numerous things that would have made it balance, and once they had the votes that would override his veto, he would sign them, and we got to a balanced budget back in the late nineties.

But that is what we are going to have to do come January, and we can't give away the farm when we come back. I am encouraged today to hear our Speaker and leader talking about what we are going to be doing. And wow, isn't it wonderful that now that Donald Trump is the President-elect, Republican leadership is now saying: You know what we are going to do is we need to take care of the military so we don't suffer there any more than we already have for 8 years. But maybe get that done for the rest of the year and then, basically, have a continuing resolution that gets us out maybe to March so that we can come in with the Congress the people of the United States have said they now want making the decisions. That makes sense. They have spoken: Let's let that Congress make the big calls then with the new President when he comes in in January.

What is so great about that is some of us were talking about that back in September, and then we were told no, no; we have got to do it for the whole year, and we are going to have to add this and that. We can't just go to March because that will destroy the military. We have got to do everything for the whole year.

A new President is elected named Trump, and all of a sudden, hey, let's just go to March. Sounds great to me. That sounds like a good idea. I would have been willing to do that in September as we were talking about then. It wasn't acceptable then. I am glad it is acceptable now for a new Congress.

And when we talk about problems in the United States, our military has

been deflated back to a pre-World War II position. We were not a superpower after World War I. We weren't the main defender of truth, justice, freedom.

But as you travel around the world, like I have mentioned, in Africa, where Africans were saying, you know: We were so excited when you elected your first Black President, but since he has been in office, we have seen America get weaker and weaker. And you have got to go back to Washington and tell those people there to stop getting weaker.

This was a group of African Christians. They said, you know: We all know where we are going when we die, but our only chance for peace in this life is if America is strong.

Now, the world, so many countries like to deride us and take verbal shots. Some take other kinds of shots. But some like to fly planes closely, mocking our ships, and I am looking forward to that happening under President Trump. I suspect if it happens, it probably won't happen more than once, and they will learn not to mess with us.

So it will be nice to have a reputation: You are not going to continue to bully the world. While this administration likes to talk about bullies in elementary school and send—they like to see little kids who were bullies in elementary school arrested, threatened.

Well, I was a little bitty kid, and one of my best friends from elementary school was here yesterday. We were talking about old times. He and I were the same little bitty runt size, so we got picked on a lot. But we didn't want anybody to come get arrested, and we figured out ways that we made sure the biggest bully never bothered us again.

But to give an elementary school kid an arrest, drag them in for being a bully? I mean, kids have to grow up, and that is why we are called adults. We are supposed to have learned and supposed to understand kids will be kids.

Foolishness can be found in the heart of a child. But some say maybe Proverbs is encouraging a crime when it says: but the rod can drive it far from them. Nobody wants a child to be abused, but I know most of my friends in school, we got paddled at one time or another.

I had friends I played football with, whether it was freshman year, junior varsity, or varsity, that if they had not been paddled, I had no doubt they were headed for prison. But they had coaches that cared about them. They didn't just want to win as coaches. They wanted these kids to be good adults, so they used discipline. We had some troubled folks after high school, but the coaches saved a lot of kids by caring.

I mentioned before that I had some coaches that I loved, and they are more like friends, even though they were adults. My favorite year, my favorite coach was Willie Williams.

It was interesting, you know. Conservatives are called bigots all the time. First time I mentioned that here in Washington, that my favorite high school coach was—happened to be Black, and I never noticed any racial problems on that team because he was rough on all of us. He was a very smart man, too, good coach.

I love Coach Williams, and it was my great honor to be invited back to my hometown a couple of weeks ago when Mount Pleasant was playing Greenville. Greenville is a lot bigger city. Mount Pleasant had won two games.

Coach Williams is now retired, but I was told Coach Williams was up in the press box, that he did some of the calling color for the games. There were so many thrills there, getting to know the kids and being with the team on the sideline and rejoicing at good plays. But they won. Apparently, it was the best game they played. Those kids have a lot of potential they didn't realize, but they gave me the game ball.

Just so many things that thrilled me there, my hometown where I grew up, Mount Pleasant, but nothing more than when I got to hug Coach Williams up there at the press box. That was special.

Although he is substantially older now and gray—and, fortunately, his memory has not waned at all—Coach Williams remarked: You had a great team, but it wasn't because you had good talent—that's how I know his memory had not failed him—but you guys played so well together. You gave it everything. You played well together, and that is how you were a winning team.

I really had hopes that that is what would happen. I didn't support Barack Obama for President, but I really had hopes that we would be brought together as never before, just the way Coach Williams brought us together on that football team.

I thought it was rather ironic, one of the liberal press immediately did a story on my favorite basketball coach in high school. Apparently, they figured, since they are liberal, well, he is Black, so I guess Blacks are only good at basketball, so he must have been his basketball coach. He was my football coach, JV football coach before I went to varsity the next year. But, ironic, who is the more bigoted, I wonder. But, nonetheless, it wasn't like our team under Coach Williams. We have become a very divided country.

In this article from FOX News, Dakota Wood, just this week, points out our military is no longer large enough, strong enough, or modern enough to keep America safe, and that is why China is making moves in the South Sea. It is why Russia is rattling sabers and looking around them if they should possibly move before a more authoritative President, a more decisive President like President-elect Trump, comes

into office. So I think the world is scared for the next couple of months.

Are these countries like Iran, Russia, China, are they going to try to make a move in the next 2 months because they know this President may send some rockets or something, may send a SEAL team, but they are not going to really be final-type activities to really send a message. So we will see. Hopefully, the threat of President Trump coming in January will be sufficient to keep Iran from trying to make a move on Mecca, Russia from trying to make a move on Georgia, Ukraine, Crimea—Crimea being part of Ukraine, of course, should be—but remains to be seen.

And then after all of the trauma that has been created by—I just can't call it the Affordable Care Act because it is so costly. But the President was proud that it was called ObamaCare initially, and so that is a better term. People know what it means immediately, know what we are talking about.

But this article from the Washington Free Beacon, Ali Meyer, says one-third of adults went without health care due to expensive costs. We were doing so much better. Most of the people I hear from in my district, over 700,000 people, were doing a lot better under—before ObamaCare kicked in. They are not going to be able to afford health care next year. That was one of the reasons that 90 percent of the geographical U.S. voted to change parties as President because they have seen the suffering they have had because their health care has suffered.

This article says one-third of adults in the U.S. went without recommended health care due to expensive costs, according to a Commonwealth Fund survey. The survey actually was conducted in 11 countries—the U.S., Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom—and this was all within this year, from March to June of this year, and that is what we find. A third of Americans, now that we have been under ObamaCare for 6 years, have really felt the pinch, and some have felt it to their demise or detriment.

Another article from Elizabeth Harrington, ObamaCare premiums are to increase 27 percent. It points out that a new study obtained by the Washington Free Beacon shows premium increases under ObamaCare will actually be higher than the Federal Government's projections, and it points out they will increase by 27 percent, according to the American Action Forum.

□ 1245

It points out that the Department of Health and Human Services announced last month that premiums would increase an average of 22 percent in 2017. But premiums will actually increase as much as 145 percent in some States.

"The American Action Forum found that the average increase is likely to be higher than predicted because the agency did not factor in that nearly half of ObamaCare plans no longer exist, forcing enrollees to switch to costlier plans," if they have them at all.

Then we have this from Lana Shadwick: "DHS Sued for Ignoring Environmental Effects of Mass Immigration." There is so much damage that has come from our border not being secured. I heard one of my friends across the aisle say just this week in the press that our southern border is secure and that Mr. Trump should come down and see it. Mr. Trump has come down and seen it, and I have been down there many times.

To be on the border as I was just in the last month, recent months, out there on the Rio Grande, it is pretty wide, and yet that is still where so many thousands and thousands and thousands cross. At 2, 3 in the morning, we were on a Texas Department of Public Safety boat because Texas, though they are not authorized by the Supreme Court to defend our borders, they are authorized under the Texas Constitution and required to protect our State. They spent millions of dollars. They have these fantastic boats. We had night vision on the boat. They have thermotechnology. They could see where people were hiding and what they were hiding behind. They have other technology. When they would see people, they would radio it to the Border Patrol. There were agents on the U.S. side along the riverbank, and we reported some in. We went down, turned off the engine and sat there for an hour or so.

Finally, the U.S. Border Patrol asked if we would go back to the dock because those people that we had been watching, they were watching with their technology, and they weren't going to move. They knew our boats were there somewhere in the area, and so our boat went back.

I thought that meant they were saying they know you are in the area so they are not going to make a move. We can't catch them redhanded until you make a move. I thought that meant they would interdict and protect the homeland. No. Homeland security doesn't protect the homeland. No. What they were saying is: We want you to get out of the way because there are people—oh, and then there were some we could see were clearly carrying stuff that was probably drugs. There were only two or three in those groups of people who were carrying drugs. There were 17 or 18 groups like that would be wanting to come across, and it didn't look like they were carrying anything, maybe they had a raft.

So it turned out we leave, and we get radio transmission from Border Patrol: Okay, all of those folks who you had

spotted, they have now all come across when you left the area, and we have got all of those in the big groups. But we didn't get those who were probably bringing in drugs, but we put somebody out at an intersection. They are going to watch for them.

These people are not stupid. They knew the intersection they put them in. They weren't going through that intersection.

If I had had any idea that our boat leaving that area of the river, the Rio Grande, was going to cause President Obama's Border Patrol to not protect our homeland but to keep welcoming drug dealers, massive drugs, and lots of folks we don't know what diseases they have—we don't know if there were any terrorists in there. We don't really know who they are. They don't carry proper identification. I have seen that time and time and time again on our border in the middle of the night. They are not carrying.

I watched two guys. They looked at their own little xeroxed piece of paper they use for identification, and if they didn't like it, they switched.

What kind of identification is that?

It is a little piece of paper, it had some English on it, and they switched. They didn't like the identity they were bringing in. We don't know who these people were.

So it will be nice come next year to know that our Border Patrol—and they are frustrated, I know. Most of them really have wanted to do their jobs. I hear from them. They are so tired of watching their homeland be assaulted. It just goes on and on, a wave every night, and we are not protecting our homeland.

We are supposed to protect this place against all enemies foreign and domestic. Some of those folks aren't enemies. They want to come in for jobs. Some want to come in for welfare. Some want to come in for food stamps. Some want to come in, but they have made commitments through the drug cartels that pay the coyotes to bring them across.

I have been out there at night when they have said: Well, no, I didn't have \$7,000, but they are going to let me work it off in the city I am going to.

How do they work it off in those cities for the drug cartels?

They help them spread poison to American young people. They are bringing poison into our country. They come in with good motivation—wanting jobs, wanting a better life. Yet we have allowed such a massive insurgence into this country. We need to take some kind of pause and kind of figure out who in the world is in this country. We know from FBI Director Comey—such as his testimony is worth—that there are terrorist cells in every State, and that they are investigating every State. So we need to figure out who all have we let in here. In

the last 8 years—and, yes, it was going on during the Bush administration, but nothing like it has just amassed in the last 8 years. We have to figure out who is here. Even this administration had no idea who they have let in.

Then when you see the article that indicates that the number of those wrongly given citizenship is much higher than initially reported—and this is from Jake Tapper with CNN—that the number of individuals who were supposed to have been deported but instead were granted citizenship is far higher than was initially reported by the media covering homeland security. This is from September: “On Monday, the Inspector General reported that 858 individuals from ‘special interest countries’—meaning countries that are considered to be ‘of concern to the national security of the United States’—were supposed to have been deported but were instead granted U.S. citizenship.

“But the truth is the report is even worse than reported, with more than 1,800 individuals naturalized who should have been deported from the country.

“A reason for the underplaying of the number may have been the report’s focus, which was whether the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was using digital fingerprints effectively.”

So it goes on to say that there might be 1,000 more—953 more—that they didn’t realize they were supposed to deport because they are probably going to kill people and create havoc here. With all the rhetoric we have heard over and over, we don’t need a fence, we don’t need a wall, this campaign you don’t need any fence or wall down on our border.

WikiLeaks—and who knows where this stuff is coming from, but I never did hear outright denials to: Well, we are not sure where that is coming from.

Yeah, but they are saying this was your email. Did you send this email?

I just didn’t hear people denying the facts that were in what was released.

Anyway, they leaked an internal memo from Barack Obama’s 2008 campaign, and it made very clear that then-Senator Obama believed that fencing at the U.S.-Mexico border could help cut down on illegal immigration. Of course, once he is in office, we hear his surrogate, Janet Napolitano, saying that if you build a 10-foot wall, then they will build a 12-foot ladder.

So what do they do?

They build a 10-foot fence around the White House. After she made fun of a 10-foot fence, they built a 10-foot fence to make it higher around the White House.

I ask: Does that fence work? Because if it works, then we need to have something like that down on our border. If it doesn’t work, then let’s remove the

fence from around the White House. But the Obama administration, though they clamored that fences would do no good, made their fence even stronger, bigger, taller, and more secure around the White House.

So I know they said that fences didn’t work, but their actions said pretty clearly: Yes, we know they work. That is why we are fixing ours up around the White House.

In my own home country, November was a very, very sad time. A 10-year-old little girl, Kayla, was finally found as friends around the country were texting, emailing, and praying for Kayla. They finally found 10-year-old Kayla. Our Smith County sheriff, Larry Smith, reported that Kayla’s body was found in a well next to a home rented by her relative 4 days after her disappearance. The Sheriff said: “We assure you there will be no stone unturned as we enter the next phase of this investigation.”

That is what they did. They arrested Gustavo Zavala-Garcia. He was in the country illegally. He had been deported for a violent crime in 2014, but because this Federal Government refused to protect the United States of America from all enemies foreign, this guy comes back in and killed Kayla. That is the charge.

We have seen this across the country. I know President-elect Trump has said he is going to do something about it, and, God help us, he needs to. In government we have a job. As an individual Christian, I am supposed to turn the other cheek; but when I am acting in the role of the government, my job is to make sure those who have religious beliefs can practice and keep their religious beliefs without worrying about some guy who has been deported five times coming in and shooting them.

If we find here in Congress that the executive branch is not doing what they should, then we cut off the money. That is what is supposed to happen. Cut off the money to those who aren’t doing the job and send it over to people that are doing the job. If nobody is doing the job, then create another department and eliminate that department, and get somebody until you do protect the country.

There are so many across this country that are suffering and mourning the loss because the Federal Government did not protect them from some immigrant who was a criminal who was deported. We don’t protect our borders. They came back, they killed, raped, and pillaged yet again.

Then there are those who say: Well, let’s just go ahead and do a complete amnesty.

This report is from Robert Rector, a brilliant guy from the National Academy of Sciences. He says: “The findings in the report indicate that if amnesty for illegal immigrants were en-

acted, the government would have to raise taxes immediately by \$1.29 trillion and put that sum into a high-yield bank account to cover future fiscal losses generated by the amnesty recipients and their children.

“To cover the future cost, each U.S. household currently paying federal income tax would have to pay, on average, an immediate lump sum of over \$15,000.”

Wouldn’t it be better to just enforce our borders?

Nobody lets in legally as many as we do in the United States. I don’t know a single person in this Congress that is a xenophobe, whatever kind of phobe, but we want to do our job. There is an obligation to make sure that the over 1 million visas—more than any country in the world—that are handed out by your United States Government go to people that are not going to be a threat but are to be a blessing to this country.

The U.N. General Secretary—the new one that just came in—said over a year ago that the reason there is such a tiny fraction of a fraction of Christians who are being brought out of the Middle East as refugees is because they are so historically important right where they are. We have already recognized there is a genocide of Christians going on right now in the Middle East.

So what do we do with the Christians?

The government said: Well, we want to leave most of them there. We like what the U.N. says. Let’s leave them over there to be wiped out in a genocide of Christians.

□ 1300

I am saying, Mr. Speaker, there will be a price to pay someday by this country for our callousness to Christians and Jews in the Middle East that have cried out for help. Instead of helping them, we have welcomed those who have tortured and created a living hell for them.

And one from September 10: “Suspect in Brutal Maryland Murder Deported Twice.”

“Austin Sex Assault Suspect Previously Deported Five Times.”

Then this administration has sent billions of dollars, a lot of it cash—load up those pallets, put them on a plane, and send them to our enemy Iran. And we find out there was an IAEA report indicating that Iran had continued to violate the Iran executive agreement. It is really a treaty, but the Senate never confirmed it, never ratified it, so it can be wiped out as soon as Trump goes in. I know I saw a headline he doesn’t think he will do that. I suggest he needs to do that. It was a rotten deal. There will be a lot of people in the Middle East and around the world, including America, who will die because this administration sent billions of dollars to Iran, a big hunk of it just pure cash.

This article says: “Iran Pressuring Palestinian Jihadists to Resume Terrorism Against Israel.” But they didn’t just do terrorism against Israel. They love to kill and do harm to Americans.

It is time we stood up to our oath and protected this place, protected our Constitution, our way of life, against all enemies, foreign and domestic. That is basically the oath I took when I went on Active Duty in the Army. We didn’t know if we were going to be sent. We weren’t sent anywhere. We were put on alert in 1979 when an act of war occurred in Iran, but President Carter wouldn’t defend our people. He tried way too late and way too weakly to rescue.

But even a successful rescue would have told the world we don’t have a leader in America that will protect the American people because, if you harm us, then we will come back and get out of your country, but we will leave you alone. I mean, this was President Carter that called Ayatollah Khomeini—the biggest radical Islamist terrorist in modern history—a man of peace when he was welcoming him to the power of an entire country and its military.

Radical Islamic caliphate had been out of business for many years, and Carter opened the box. Once Pandora’s box was open, many thousands and thousands of our American military would die in the days to come because of it, not just military. But when a Taliban—radical Islamist terrorists—in Afghanistan get control of the country, there is going to be terrorism spread around the world. That is what happened. When a radical Islamic terrorist becomes the head of Iran, there is going to be terrorism spread around the world, and that happened.

Now, this: “Leaked FBI Data Reveal 7,700 Terrorist Encounters in USA in One Year; Border States Most Targeted.”

But Andrew McCarthy, a dear friend, wrote a great article: “Deadliest Lie: Without ‘Lone Wolf’ Lie, U.S. Could Have Stopped Nearly Every Attack.” As my friend Patrick Poole has said, there are no lone wolves, there are known wolves.

Each time we find out these people were on the radar of the FBI, of law enforcement, and they didn’t know how to recognize a radical Islamist. So I hope and pray that, as a new administration comes in, we will finally put the Muslim Brotherhood, CAIR and any of the groups with which it works, on a terrorist watch list. Stop them from giving advice to the State Department, the White House, the Justice Department, Homeland Security. Stop allowing them to come in and review material and tell us what we have to remove from our training material so that next time Russia says there is a Tsarnaev brother that has been radicalized and he is going to kill people, the FBI agents who want to stop

terrorism will actually recognize it because they have been properly trained to do so instead of being treated with some politically correct garbage that keeps them from recognizing what a real radical Islamist is. You have got to know what they are reading. You have got to know what their beliefs are.

When I talked to the FBI agent whose material was completely eliminated for a time because, apparently, CAIR, named as a coconspirator in the Holy Land Foundation terrorism financing trial, was bothered by some of that stuff, when I asked the FBI Director at that time, Mueller, “You didn’t even go to the mosques where the Tsarnaevs went and ask questions—What are they reading? What are they learning? What are they saying? How are they acting?—to determine if they had been radicalized?” they didn’t know what to look for. Mueller said they did go out there, but it was in their outreach program.

Yeah, go out there and have a meal. Let’s get together and be buddies, but not even investigate when the Russians tell you this guy is a radical, he is going to kill Americans.

They sent somebody out. They talked to him and talked to his mom. He said, “No, I am not a terrorist”; and Mom said, “He is a good boy, not a terrorist.” And then he goes and kills people in Boston at the marathon because they didn’t know what they were looking for.

It is time to get back to fulfilling our oath to the United States of America to protect this country, to get government out of the way, to create a level playing field across the country and then let people compete. Don’t reward the losers. Encourage them to pick up and keep going when they fail because, like Edison, it is not a failure. You just found a way not to succeed on that, but you will find a way next time. We keep trying.

It is time to wake up, protect the people within the United States so that we can continue to be the biggest, brightest beacon of light in the world where people will want to come instead of a place that was once great, was once free, was once safe, but now countries around the world have travel alerts out on our cities because we are not safe anymore. It is time to protect America and put America first, which is our oath and obligation. When we do that, we can do more good for the world than we have done since World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January

6, 2015, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to say that my colleague from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), who spoke just before me, mentioned a divided country and used a metaphor—I hope it will become a metaphor—for the coming Congress of the African American coach who coached a White team and seemed to be able to reconcile people. If this Congress doesn’t learn the art of compromise, even though my Republican colleagues have captured the reins of government, they will still have trouble, without thoughtful compromise, getting matters through the House and the Senate. So I endorse the metaphor—that is what Mr. GOHMERT meant—of Coach Williams as the kind of Congress we should be beginning in January if we want to override the last several Congresses which got very little done. It will take more than bringing all the reins of government under one party to get that done.

I come to the floor this afternoon particularly to offer some background to new Members of Congress—but, I must say, to current Members of Congress as well—because there seems to me to be great mystery concerning what role Members of Congress should play when matters affecting a jurisdiction, not their own, come before them in this House. They know for sure that their own constituents didn’t send them here to legislate for somebody else’s district, so how come and what does it mean and how can we get on with the business of the Nation?

On November 8, the residents of the District of Columbia in an over-the-top 85 percent majority—with support, by the way, from our Republican Party in the District—passed a statehood referendum to petition the Congress for statehood for the District of Columbia. I don’t think they did so because they thought that either a Democratic President or a Republican President, a Democratic Congress, would move quickly on a statehood bill, but it does express frustration that I believe my colleagues would identify with at not being treated as the full-fledged American citizens they are. On November 8, not only was I running for Congress and many of my colleagues—or most of my colleagues—the District of Columbia was, in effect, running for statehood.

Now, there are three ways to become a State: you can amend the Constitution; you can have Congress pass a bill, and we have a bill pending here now; or a State can formally petition the Congress to become a State, instead of waiting for Congress to pass a bill in the ordinary course of business.

The way to petition the Congress was patterned by the State of Tennessee, which was then a territory. In 1795,

Tennessee drafted a constitution, passed a referendum, indicated what its boundaries would be, and petitioned, succeeding in becoming the 16th State of the Union.

At the same time that 85 percent of the residents of the District of Columbia passed the statehood referendum to do the same thing—I don't want to be misunderstood. Our residents have not given up on seeking any and all elements of statehood. Even before statehood is granted, statehood consists of many different elements. Indeed, almost simultaneously, indeed, before the statehood referendum, they had voted for a budget autonomy referendum. You can imagine the insult to the residents of the District of Columbia to raise \$7 billion and then have to call on somebody else for permission to spend their own money.

□ 1315

Budget autonomy has long been the priority of the District of Columbia, and every Member of this body knows that what you prize most is the control that your own jurisdiction has over its own local budget and that, no matter what we do on the Federal budget, they can't touch your budget. Yes, they add to your budget, but your budget is your budget, and our budget is our budget. Members of Congress don't look at our budget. They know they don't know how to run a big city of, going on, 700,000 people, but the budget becomes a vehicle for interfering with the business of a local jurisdiction—the District of Columbia.

Now, Congress, in the congressional resolution that is pending, has appropriated next year's budget—that is to say, the 2017 budget. At the same time, I want to alert Congress that the budget autonomy referendum I just spoke of is in effect. That has not been overturned. It has been tested in court. The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia vacated an opinion of the district court that indicated that the budget autonomy referendum, whereby the District was giving itself autonomy over its own budget, was unconstitutional. It vacated that, so that does not stand. Instead, it sent it to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and the superior court considered it and upheld the Budget Autonomy Act. No appeal was filed; so the Budget Autonomy Act is still law.

It is interesting that the Federal court sent the matter to the local court. I think the Federal court was telling us something: that, when it comes to discerning what are the local powers, we ought to look first to the local courts. No appeal was filed. The Federal courts have, in effect, deferred to the local court; so the budget autonomy referendum stands as law, notwithstanding the fact that the congressional resolution does, in fact, appropriate D.C.'s budget.

So you can see how there is some attempt to come to grips with this issue in Congress and to come to some kind of, at least, compromise, and I appreciate that. It is very hard to understand congressional opposition to autonomy, such as it is, that the District wishes over its own budget.

What the District has done in designing its own budget autonomy referendum is certainly not to give itself statehood. The referendum is a very moderate notion because the local budget would still come to the House of Representatives and to the Senate for a review period, just as all local legislation—even though almost none of it is overturned during this period—has to come here before it becomes law. Congress would continue, under the current budget autonomy referendum, to have the existing jurisdiction over the District of Columbia, and it is going to have that jurisdiction until the District of Columbia becomes the 51st State.

Budget autonomy does not interfere, as it is mapped out in the budget autonomy referendum, with the powers of the Congress. So why not say to the District: you can have control over your own budget. If we want to interfere, we can still interfere; but you don't have to bring it up here. We can interfere without your bringing it up here.

Until this Congress, actually, the District had bipartisan support for budget autonomy. The last two Republican chairmen of the committee of jurisdiction over the District, which is the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, understood—maybe precisely because they were Republicans—why budget autonomy was the very first thing a local jurisdiction ought to demand. Former Representative Thomas Davis and DARRELL ISSA fought for budget autonomy. Mr. ISSA is still in this body, as I understand it.

Representative Davis said recently: “The benefits of budget autonomy for the District are numerous, real, and much needed. There is no drawback.”

Budget autonomy means lower borrowing costs, more accurate financial projections, improved operations, and the District government will not shut down during a Federal Government shutdown. Imagine that. That is what has happened several times here because this budget has to come here even when the District of Columbia, as always, is not implicated in disagreements with the Federal Government. If it shuts down then I have to take action to make sure the District doesn't shut down with it because, in the past, it has, indeed, been shut down for no reason except the Federal Government, itself, was shut down because it couldn't agree on Federal matters.

The District has tried all conceivable ways to get some equality with other citizens. For example, the House in 2007

and the Senate in 2009 passed the House Voting Rights Act. That would have given the District a vote in the House but not in the Senate. But at least in the people's House, you would not have the outrage of, for example, this Member who cannot vote on any matter on this floor but whose matters do come before the House of Representatives. It had good bipartisan support. Speaker RYAN, at the time, supported it. Our current Vice President, at the time, supported it. Our Vice President-elect supported it. There was some understanding that, even if you are not ready for statehood, you are not ready for the status quo for the almost 700,000 people who live in the District of Columbia.

There are other elements of statehood: legislative autonomy. If the District passes a bill, it can't become law until it lies over. That means it just stops until we see whether somebody from the House or the Senate wants to overturn a law. It is almost never used. I can't remember the last time it was used, yet that is an authority that lies in this Congress. Why would Congress want to keep an authority when it never uses it? There are other ways, if it wants to interfere, rather than forcing the District through long waits to have its bills become law. These are enigmas of the last century. They have no place in a modern House and Senate.

I have been able—and I am grateful—that, each year, for the last several years, I have been able, in advance, to get language that has meant that, even if the House or the Senate had to close down, the District would not close down. It is not as if there aren't some in the House who see why I come before you today. We believe that, ultimately, as Congress sees that the components of statehood work—not shutting down the government, maybe budget autonomy or legislative autonomy—they will see that a new State of American citizens should have the same rights in every respect as other American citizens.

In 2014, we were very pleased to get the first official hearing ever in the Senate on D.C. statehood. There was a huge overflow crowd. They had to open up other rooms beyond where the hearing was held. The case for statehood was made by a number of witnesses at that hearing. The District was able to show that it has one of the strongest economies in the Nation.

How many of my colleagues are from States that have a \$12.5 billion budget, much less their districts? Because that is larger than the budget of 12 States. How many of my colleagues can boast for their States, much less their Districts, \$2 billion in surplus, which has become the envy of the States?

How many of my colleagues have per capita personal income as high as ours? None, because the per capita income—

per person income—in the District of Columbia is higher than that of any State. Our total personal income per capita is higher than that of seven States. Our per capita personal consumption expenditure is higher than that of any State.

Look at the growth in population with people coming in large numbers to live in the Nation's Capital—one of the highest growth rates in population in the United States. In a city that was about 600,000, it has increased more than 50,000 since the last census, giving the District a larger population than two of our States that have two Senators and one Representative—Wyoming and Vermont.

Of course, there are many reasons statehood is very personal to me. If the bell rings for votes on bills, I cannot cast a vote for the more than 650,000 people I represent, though my constituents pay more taxes per capita than those who do come to cast that vote.

I feel it also very particularly when we have votes on any matter affecting war, like ISIL, because I have gone to the floor to debate matters of war a number of times since coming to Congress 25 years ago. I remember, for example, District residents who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I was not able to vote “aye” or “no” as they went off and got the vote for those in their jurisdictions. I remember the purple fingers that showed that people had voted, while these District of Columbia residents, in having gotten the vote for others, came home and still did not have the vote.

Mr. Speaker, this is an embarrassing anachronism that comes out of the 18th century. When the Framers, who were otherwise—I must say in virtually every other way—perfect, couldn't figure out what to do when the Capital was in Philadelphia and the Revolutionary War veterans marched on that Capital, they thought: well, we want to make sure the Capital is not a part of a State. What will we do with the District of Columbia?

They were not sure, but they said: we will retain some jurisdiction over the Capital in case we need to.

You don't need to—or let us say you do. There are 20 different Federal police forces that help protect the local District of Columbia every single day. This is a figment of another era if we are talking about protecting the Capital. In any case, it is impossible to lay to the Framers, who invented the slogan “no taxation without representation,” that they meant the people who fought in that war, that Revolutionary War, were to come home and have no representation.

□ 1330

Mr. Speaker, statehood has been very difficult for every State to achieve. The last two States were Alaska and Hawaii, and it took them each more

than 50 years. It would have taken us much longer.

So what the District did in voting 85 percent for statehood was to understand it has to fertilize on a continuing basis our effort to become equal citizens or it just won't happen. This is a political matter and a moral matter, but the two mix. So we know we have to convince our colleagues, and we know everything depends on us.

So that energy that comes out of that vote you will see manifest all next year. It has already raised the national profile for statehood for our country.

Now, many, many Americans know that when they see me speak on the House floor does not mean I have the same rights as everyone else. My greatest frustration is that most Americans think that the Americans who live in the Nation's Capital have the same rights they do.

The statehood vote and the drive leading up to it, the statehood referendum has helped many more Americans to understand that is not the case. There has never been a poll that showed anything but the desire of the American people that the people of the District of Columbia be treated equally with themselves.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has two choices: It can continue to exercise authority over the American people who reside here in the Nation's Capital, treating them—if I may quote the words of the great Frederick Douglass—as “aliens, non-citizens,” but subjects or it can take another course. This Congress can live up to the national promise, the ideals that we all profess, and help the people of the District of Columbia move toward equal citizenship, toward autonomy over their own budget, toward legislative autonomy, and finally toward statehood as the 51st State of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4511. An act to amend the Veterans' Oral History Project Act to allow the collection of video and audio recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 18, 2016, at 3 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

7485. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Teacher Preparation Issues [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0057] (RIN: 1840-AD07) received November 1, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7486. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Major final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, and Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program [Docket ID: ED-2015-OPE-0103] (RIN: 1840-AD19) received November 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7487. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Division of Regulatory Services, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's Major final regulations — Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, As Amended By the Every Students Succeeds Act — Accountability and State Plans [Docket No.: ED-2016-OESE-0032] (RIN: 1810-AB27) received November 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7488. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluxaproxad; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2016-0380; FRL-9953-87] received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7489. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Redesignation Substitute for the Dallas-Fort Worth 1-hour Ozone and 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas; Texas [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0721; FRL-9953-93-Region 6] received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7490. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Redesignation Substitute for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Texas [EPA-R06-OAR-2015-0609; FRL-9953-89-Region 6] received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7491. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Rescission of Preconstruction Permits Issued Under the Clean Air Act [EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0782; FRL-9954-88-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AS56) received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7492. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; NH; Rules for Reducing Particulate Emissions [EPA-R01-OAR-2016-0285; FRL-9953-83-Region 1] received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7493. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Determination of Full Program Adequacy of Washington's Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permitting Program [EPA-R10-RCRA-2016-0629; FRL-9928-27-Region 10] received November 4, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7494. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Commercial Packaged Boilers [Docket No.: EERE-2014-BT-TP-0006] (RIN: 1904-AD16) received November 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7495. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Test Procedure for Commercial Water Heating Equipment [Docket No.: EERE-2014-BT-TP-0008] (RIN: 1904-AD18) received November 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7496. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-092, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7497. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-009, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7498. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-089, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7499. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-068, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7500. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-051, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7501. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-038, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7502. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-076, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7503. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-062, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

7504. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. ACT 21-621, "Constitution and Boundaries for the State of Washington, D.C. Approval Resolution of 2016", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7505. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (NASA Case 2015-N030) (RIN: 2700-AE29) received November 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

7506. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Disaster Assistance Loan Program; Disaster Loan Mitigation, Contractor Malfeasance and Secured Threshold (RIN: 3245-AG78) received November 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Small Business.

7507. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's notice — Medicare Program; CY 2017 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement [CMS-8063-N] (RIN: 0938-AS71) received November 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7508. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final regulations and removal of temporary regulations — United States Property Held by Controlled Foreign Corporations in Transactions Involving Partnerships; Rents and Royalties Derived in the Active Conduct of a Trade or Business [TD 9792] (RIN: 1545-BJ48) received November 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7509. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Extension of the Expiration Date for State Disability Examiner Authority to Make Fully Favorable Quick Disability Determinations and Compassionate Allowance Determinations [Docket No.: SSA-2016-0014] (RIN: 0960-AH94) received November 7, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7510. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Medicaid Program; Covered Outpatient Drug; Delay in Change in

Definitions of States and United States [CMS-2345-IFC] (RIN: 0938-AT09) received November 14, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7511. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2017; Medicare Advantage Bid Pricing Data Release; Medicare Advantage and Part D Medical Loss Ratio Data Release; Medicare Advantage Provider Network Requirements; Expansion of Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Model; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements [CMS-1654-F] (RIN: 0938-AS81) received November 3, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7512. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule and interim final rule — Medicare Program; Prospective Payment and Reporting Requirements for Organ Procurement; Transplant Outcome Measures; Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs; Nonexcepted Off-Campus Provider-Based Department of a Hospital; Hospital Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) Program; Nonexcepted Items and Services Furnished by an Off-Campus Provider-Based Department of a Hospital [CMS-1656-FC and IFC] (RIN: 0938-AS82) received November 2, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 564. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114-830). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. POCAN (for himself and Ms. STEFANK):

H.R. 6336. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to provide grants for access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of

Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 6337. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to the definition of urbanized area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 6338. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require corporations to disclose to their shareholders the amounts disbursed for certain political activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. LANCE, and Mr. PITTS):

H.R. 6339. A bill to limit the use of the Judgement Fund to settle any lawsuit arising under section 1342 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 6340. A bill to extend conflict of interest provisions to the President and Vice President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. CONYERS):

H.R. 6341. A bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6342. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to restrict the use of exotic and wild animals in traveling performances; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6343. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the sale of locally and regionally produced agricultural products in underserved communities; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 6344. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Mohave County, Arizona, to qualified entities and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. JONES, Mr. BRAT, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 6345. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the procedure to designate a foreign state, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr.

CÁRDENAS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KIND, Mr. POLIS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 6346. A bill to require that States and units of local government that receive funds under subpart I of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) report information pertaining to hate crimes to the Attorney General for inclusion in the Uniform Crime Reports and National Incident-Based Reporting System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6347. A bill to extend for one year the program for priority review to encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6348. A bill to extend for two years the program for priority review to encourage treatments for rare pediatric diseases; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6349. A bill to require that "None of the Above" be provided as an option in general elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6350. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for energy-efficient existing homes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6351. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for new qualified fuel cell motor vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6352. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6353. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for new qualified fuel cell motor vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6354. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the above-the-line deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6355. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for energy-efficient existing homes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6356. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6357. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for alternative fuel vehicle refueling property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6358. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for biodiesel and renewable diesel used as fuel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6359. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for biodiesel and renewable diesel used as fuel; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6360. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for energy efficient commercial buildings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6361. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for energy efficient commercial buildings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6362. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the Indian employment credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6363. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the Indian employment credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6364. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for certain qualified film and television and live theatrical productions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the credit for energy efficient new homes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6366. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for energy efficient new homes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the mine rescue team training credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6368. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the mine rescue team training credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6369. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for certain qualified film and television and live theatrical productions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 6370. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes of the tax on private foundation excess business holdings to treat as outstanding any employee-owned stock purchased by a business enterprise pursuant to certain employee stock ownership retirement plans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6371. A bill to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor posthumously to Doris Miller for acts of valor during World War II while a member of the Navy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 6372. A bill to amend the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 to permit the construction of certain noise barriers with funds from the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LONG, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. CLAY):

H.R. 6373. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

324 West Saint Louis Street in Pacific, Missouri, as the "Specialist Jeffrey L. White, Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 6374. A bill to extend the Vietnam Service Medal to veterans of the Armed Forces who participated in the S.S. Mayaguez rescue operation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. POMPEO (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 6375. A bill to provide for consideration of the extension under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of nonapplication of No-Load Mode energy efficiency standards to certain security or life safety alarms or surveillance systems; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. REED, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 6376. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARDENAS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. GRAHAM, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 6377. A bill to waive recoupment by the United States of certain bonuses and similar benefits erroneously received by members of the Army National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

H.R. 6378. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise the amount of minimum allotments under the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VELA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. ELLISON):

H.J. Res. 102. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.J. Res. 103. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct popular election of the President and Vice President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H. Con. Res. 173. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding re-

consideration of the merits of awarding the Medal of Honor posthumously to Doris Miller for acts of valor during World War II for which she was originally awarded the Navy Cross; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CARDENAS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAWSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PASCARELL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROKITA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIREN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. DONOVAN):

H. Res. 928. A resolution honoring the life of Shimon Peres; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKS of Arizona (for himself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PAULSEN, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MARINO, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BASS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H. Res. 929. A resolution expressing support for the goals of "National Adoption Day" and "National Adoption Month" by promoting national awareness of adoption and the children awaiting families, celebrating children and families involved in adoption, and encouraging the people of the United States to secure safety, permanency, and well-being for all children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PETERS:

H. Res. 930. A resolution expressing support for designation of the month of June 2016 as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" and June 27, 2016, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NOLAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H. Res. 931. A resolution supporting the designation of the week beginning November 14, 2016, as "National Apprenticeship Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

306. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Memorial 601, urging Congress to enact legislation to promote economic recovery in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

307. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, relative to House Memorial 417, requesting the Congress of the United States call a convention of the states to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. HULTGREN introduced a bill (H.R. 6379) for the relief of Lance N. Armstrong; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 6336.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 6337.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 6338.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4: "The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators."

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

Amendment XVI: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 6339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 9 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 6340.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. POE of Texas:

H.R. 6341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Fourth Amendment of the United States

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 6342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 6343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 3 (relating to interstate commerce)

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 6344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (the Property Clause). Congress has the power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States. By virtue of this enumerated power, Congress has governing authority over the lands, territories, or other property of the United States—and with this authority Congress is vested with the power to all owners in fee, the ability to sell, lease, dispose, exchange, convey, or simply preserve land. The Supreme Court described this enumerated power as one “without limitation” in *Kleppe v New Mexico*, 426 U.S. 529, 542–543 (1976).

By Mr. BROOKS of Alabama:

H.R. 6345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the US Constitution

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6347.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, and Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6352.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6365.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRAYSON:

H.R. 6369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HOLDING:

H.R. 6370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas:

H.R. 6371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. LEWIS:

H.R. 6372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 6373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, “The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and Post Roads . . .” In the Constitution, the power possessed by Congress embraces the regulation of the Postal System in the country. Therefore, the proposed legislation in naming a post office would fall under the powers granted to Congress in the Constitution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 6374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POMPEO:

H.R. 6375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 6376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United

States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 6377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

National Guard Bonus Repayment and Financial Relief Act is constitutionally authorized under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 12, 13, 14, and 16, which grants Congress the power to pay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; raise and support Armies, to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 6378.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 6379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.J. Res. 102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority, whenever two-thirds of both chambers deem it necessary, to propose amendments to the Constitution.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.J. Res. 103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 5

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 153: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 381: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1095: Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 1399: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 1422: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1477: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. RIBBLE, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1530: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 1736: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
H.R. 1984: Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2016: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 2096: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 2449: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 2737: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2813: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 2844: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 2858: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 2889: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3166: Mr. KIND and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 3385: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3463: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4298: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 4559: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 4880: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 5090: Mr. LANCE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 5240: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. WALZ, and Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 5272: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 5301: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 5369: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 5373: Mr. MEEKS and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
H.R. 5474: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 5586: Mr. SIRES.
H.R. 5738: Ms. DELAULO, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 5745: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 5886: Mrs. BUSTOS.
H.R. 5951: Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 6117: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 6148: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.
H.R. 6174: Mr. HARPER.
H.R. 6176: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 6195: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 6208: Mr. KING of New York and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6241: Mr. MULVANEY.
H.R. 6316: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 6319: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H. Con. Res. 160: Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 165: Mr. HILL and Mr. Cárdenas.
H. Con. Res. 168: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. WALZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. BUCK, Mr. JONES, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms.

LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H. Con. Res. 171: Mr. LOBIONDO and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 540: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H. Res. 776: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PERRY, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H. Res. 867: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H. Res. 886: Mr. BOST, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BLUM, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. REED, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. EMMER of Minnesota, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARINO, Mr. MULVANEY, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TONKO, Ms. PINGREE, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SIRES, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. PERRY.

H. Res. 887: Mr. POLIS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H. Res. 910: Mr. CICILLINE.

H. Res. 924: Mrs. DINGELL.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

93. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Eastern Regional Conference, The Council of State Governments, relative to Resolution No. CA3016-01, urging the U.S. Congress to expeditiously pass, and the President to sign, the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act of 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

94. Also, a petition of Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin, Texas, relative to urging Congress to enact legislation that would allow state governments to refuse to accept refugees from outside of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE—Thursday, November 17, 2016

VOL. 162, PT. 10

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the source of our joy, in this season of gratitude, thank You for Your sustaining power and unsurpassed greatness.

Lord, we borrow our heartbeats from You each day. Search the hearts of our lawmakers, guiding them with Your wisdom and empowering them with Your might. In all their labors, may they work for Your glory. Help them to stand true to what they believe, maintaining a clear conscience in all they think, do, and say. May they acknowledge You in every area of their lives, knowing that You will direct their path. Supply all their needs from Your glorious riches.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

WORK BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been a busy and exciting week as we have welcomed new Members, assembled our leadership teams for the 115th Congress, and gotten to work on important issues.

Today we will have an opportunity to take up a bill that is particularly important for Gulf Coast States like Louisiana. Senator CASSIDY has been a leader on this issue, and I appreciate the work he has done to bring this measure up for a vote.

Sometime this session we will also take up an extension of the Iran Sanctions Extension Act, which passed the House overwhelmingly. This bipartisan bill will provide the basis for any sanctions that may be reimposed on Iran,

which is critical, given the belligerent behavior exhibited by Tehran since the signing of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. I expect we will pass it on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis here as well.

Discussions are also ongoing on how to fund the government and for how long, as I noted yesterday. I will have more to say on that issue as more details are available.

So we all have some work to do. Let's get together to finish up the business of this Congress as we begin looking forward to the next.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY TO HEAL WOUNDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, two days ago I came to the Senate floor and called upon the President-elect to rise to the dignity of his office. I called upon Mr. Trump to take responsibility for his rhetoric and his actions and to work to heal the wounds that he created.

I am disappointed to say that our President-elect has chosen to do none of those things to this point. Meanwhile, vile acts of hate and intimidation continue to occur all across America.

On Tuesday, I said that the Southern Poverty Law Center had reported 315 hate crimes since the election. As of Wednesday, that number jumped to 437. That is a 40-percent increase in 2 days. That is startling.

Here are just a few examples of the instances that have been reported. In Michigan, a Latino family awoke to find that someone had used boxes to form a wall blocking their driveway. The perpetrators left behind vulgar graffiti that denigrated Mexican Americans and praised Donald Trump for "taking back America."

In Tennessee, two men returned home to find a threatening homophobic note. Using gay slurs, the message told the men to go back where they came from. A folding knife with a picture of Donald Trump on the handle was stabbed through the paper.

At a high school in Missouri, a 15-year-old African-American student was burned with a hot glue gun and told he didn't belong in America. Another African-American student at the same school was told by a White student: "Are you ready to get back on the boat now that Trump is President?"

This morning the Washington Post editorial board related this story of a student at Baylor:

The morning after Donald Trump's election as president, a student at Baylor University had a nasty, hate-filled encounter on her way to class. A native of Zambia, she was called the n-word by another student, who shoved her off the sidewalk and said he was "just trying to make America great again," the signature slogan of Mr. Trump's campaign. What is perhaps most appalling about the incident is that it was not isolated.

As I said, I picked just a few examples. There are hundreds of these same kinds of things happening, as we speak, across the country. These are sickening acts of hate, prejudice, and just simple meanness, and they need to be stopped.

The Washington Post editorial board called on Donald Trump to do everything he can to bring these acts to an end. They said:

Mr. Trump should pay heed. These hateful acts are the work of . . . his supporters, but they have been emboldened by the ugly rhetoric of his presidential campaign. It is his responsibility—not, as his campaign manager has foolishly suggested, President Obama's or Hillary Clinton's—to do as much as he can to discourage such actions. Granted, his appointment of media mogul Stephen K. Bannon to a top White House job makes that all the more difficult. So does his mild response when asked about the threats and slurs on Sunday's "60 Minutes" interview.

He didn't say much when he was pressed to do so.

Mr. Trump promised in his victory speech to be a president for all Americans. His wife has said she wants to make fighting hate and bullying her main priority as first lady. They need not wait until Inauguration Day to start living up to those promises.

I have several pages of hate-filled, awful incidents that have been reported. There is only one person that can bring a stop to this quickly, and that is the President-elect. Our Nation is looking at Donald Trump. For the sake of the American people, I hope he will.

I ask unanimous consent that these pages be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER HATE WATCH—UPDATE: MORE THAN 400 INCIDENTS OF HATEFUL HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION SINCE THE ELECTION

November 15, 2016

Between Wednesday, November 9, the day after the presidential election, and the morning of Monday, November 14, the Southern Poverty Law Center collected 437 reports of hateful intimidation and harassment.

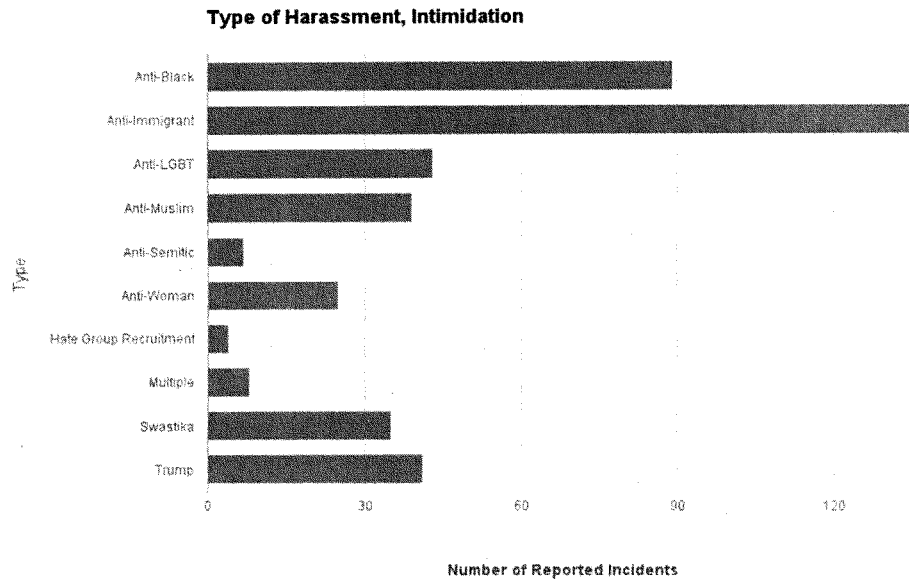
The following reports were collected through news reports, social media, and direct submissions via SPLC's #ReportHate

page. These incidents, aside from news reports, are largely anecdotal. The SPLC did follow up with a majority of user submis-

sions in an effort to confirm reports. As we reported earlier, many incidents involved di-

rect references to the Trump campaign and its slogans.

Here's the overview:



Most of the reports involved anti-immigrant incidents (136), followed by anti-black (89) and anti-LGBT (43). Some reports (8) included multiple categories like anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant. The "Trump" category (41) refers to incidents where there was no clear defined target, like the pro-Trump vandalism of a "unity" sign in Connecticut. We also collected 20 reports of anti-Trump intimidation and harassment.

Here are some examples from around the country:

In Oregon:

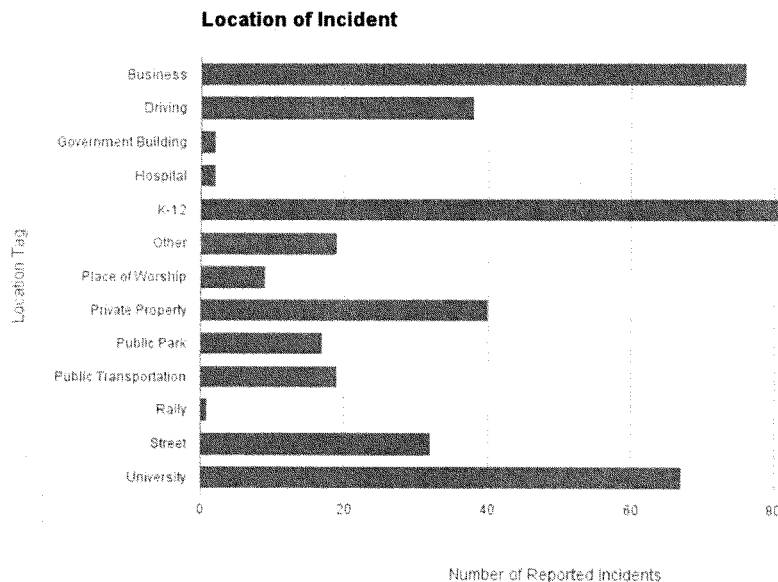
A Muslim woman was riding the Max to Beaverton in the early afternoon and a group of teenagers went to the corner of the car where she was sitting and got up in her face yelling at her that she was a terrorist, that our new president was going to deport her, that she can't wear her hijab anymore. They got increasingly menacing, and my friend went over and made them get off the train. When they were leaving through the door they tried to spit on her.

A gay man in North Carolina:

My boyfriend and I were walking down the sidewalk in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was 9:30 PM, and we were holding hands and walking to a restaurant for dinner. A white car passed us and a white male in the back passenger-side seat leaned out the window and yelled, "F* * * f* * *!" at us.

A Latina woman in Texas reported:

I was walking my baby at my neighborhood park and a truck drove by with a male driving and a female passenger. The female yelled "white power" at us as they drove by and then sped away.



Venues of harassment included K-12 schools (99), businesses (76), and universities (67). Common also was vandalism and leafleting on private property (40) and epithets and slurs hurled from moving vehicles (38).

At an elementary school in Texas:

My 13 yo half Filipino daughter was approached by a child she didn't know as she waited to board her bus after school. The young man stated "You're Asian, right? When they see your eyes you are going to be deported" and he walked away. I reported this to my district Superintendent.

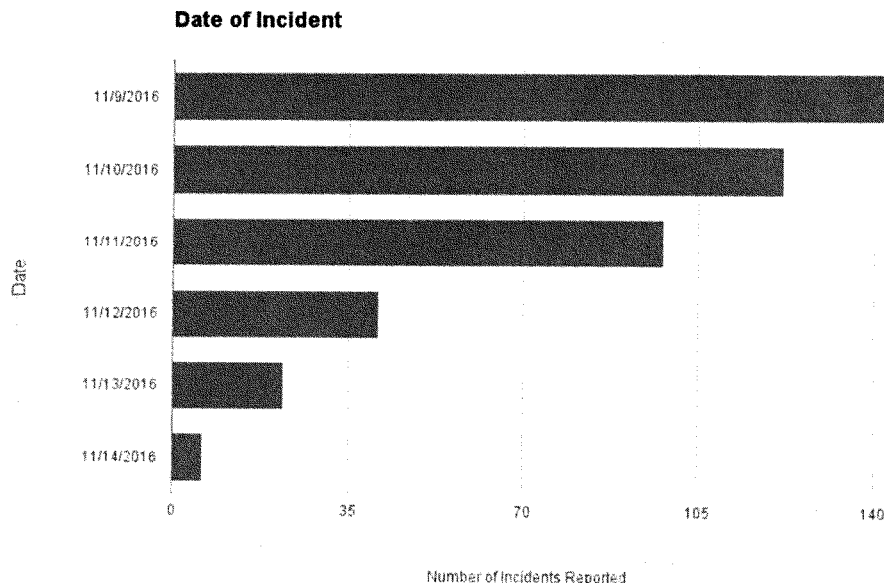
From a news report in Georgia:

A Gwinnett County high school teacher said she was left a note in class Friday telling her that her Muslim headscarf "isn't allowed anymore." "Why don't you tie it around your neck & hang yourself with it . . ." the note said, signed "America!"

Vandalism involving swastikas (35) was also frequently reported. In California:

A swastika was spray painted on a billboard for the movie "Almost Christmas," which shows an African American cast.

It appears that incidents are subsiding, although earlier incidents are still being reported:



Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see no one on the floor. So I ask the Chair to tell us the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AMERICAN ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3110, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

REMEMBERING SERGEI MAGNITSKY AND BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, 7 years ago, in a squalid cell inside the prison that once held the political opponents of the Czars and the Soviets, Sergei Magnitsky was murdered for defying the tyranny of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Many Americans are not familiar with the life of this Russian patriot, but it was one life dedicated to and ultimately sacrificed for principles that we all hold dear.

Sergei Magnitsky was an unlikely hero in the cause of freedom. He didn't spend his life as a human rights activist or as an outspoken critic of the Russian Government. He was an ordinary man, but he became an extraordinary champion of justice, fairness, and the rule of law—principles that have lost their meaning in Putin's Russia.

Magnitsky was a tax attorney working for an international company that had invested in Russia. He blew the whistle on tax fraud and large-scale theft by Russian Government officials who had looted more than \$230 million from the Russian state, but the Russian Government blamed the crime on Magnitsky and his company.

He was thrown into one of Russia's harshest prisons without trial. Russian officials pressured Magnitsky to deny what he had uncovered, to lie and recant. He refused. He was sickened by what his government had done, and he refused to surrender principle to power. For his refusal, he was beaten and tortured. He was denied medical care. After 358 days in prison, he died in excruciating pain on November 16, 2009. He was 37 years old. Even after his death, Russian courts convicted him of tax evasion in a show trial.

Sergei Magnitsky's torture and murder is an extreme example of a problem that is unfortunately all too common and widespread in Russia today—the flagrant violations of the rule of law and basic human rights committed by the Russian Government and its allies.

Today I also remember my friend Boris Nemtsov, a true Russian patriot who committed his life to fighting against Putin's tyranny and corruption, and fighting for freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.

In 2015, Boris was murdered on a bridge in the shadow of the Kremlin in one of the most secure parts of the Russian capital—another victim of the culture of impunity that Vladimir Putin has created in Russia, where individuals are routinely persecuted and attacked for their beliefs, including by the Russian Government, and no one, no one, is ever held responsible.

It has been said that in a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act. My friend Boris Nemtsov was a revolutionary and, without a doubt, Sergei Magnitsky was a revolutionary. He told the truth, and he gave his life for it.

That is why, when the circumstances of Magnitsky's death became known to the world, Congress acted to protect those still under attack for the crime of telling the truth in Putin's Russia.

In December 2012, Congress passed and the President signed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which gives the Federal Government the ability to ban entry to and freeze the American assets of anyone "responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights" committed against whistleblowers or human rights activists in Russia.

This important piece of legislation is a fitting tribute to Sergei Magnitsky, and it is a foundation on which we must continue to build. We must fully implement the Magnitsky Act by expanding its reach to more individuals

who fit the criteria in the law, and we must pass the Global Magnitsky Human Rights and Accountability Act, which will provide new tools to hold perpetrators of corruption and human rights abuses accountable for their actions around the world.

The Senate has already passed this legislation, and I hope the House and Senate will soon have an opportunity to send Global Magnitsky to the President's desk when we consider the conference report on the Defense authorization bill.

Our message must be clear. If you violate the human rights and civil liberties of others, the United States will hold you accountable. By living up to that principle, we honor the life and memory of Sergei Magnitsky. Our Nation and free people everywhere must continue to draw strength from his example and, with that strength, renew our commitment to stand by those who carry on the fight for freedom around the world.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business on a matter related to privacy protection, to be succeeded by Senator RON WYDEN and, if he arrives during the time of our remarks, by Senator DAINES.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DAINES pertaining to the introduction of S. 3475 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am here to speak about the American Energy and Conservation Act, which we will be voting on today. I thank once more my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016.

Yesterday, the senior Senator from Florida made some statements, and I would like to address some of those.

The senior Senator from Florida suggested that developing America's energy resources off our coast is incompatible or somehow conflicts with Department of Defense activities.

Let's be honest. Let's just be honest. There have been oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico for almost 80

years. Through all of this activity, industry and the United States military have been able to coexist. As for future production off the Atlantic, I personally sat with representatives from the Department of Defense to discuss this issue. Their analysis showed that in President Obama's original Atlantic Draft Proposed Program, less than 2 percent of the acreage was recommended to not have oil and gas development because of operation conflicts.

Now, here sometimes it is "he said, she said" or "she said, he said." This is objective. This is the DOD Mission Compatibility Planning Assessment regarding the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program from October 30, 2015. That is where that 2 percent number comes from. The American people deserve honesty. We should not mislead them. The senior Senator from Florida can vote as he wishes, but, again, Department of Defense operations are not an excuse.

Secondly, the senior Senator from Florida suggested that he is looking forward to working with the new administration. Although he did not support President Trump, he is looking forward to working with the new administration on behalf of the American people. Again, let's be honest. If there is one thing that came out of this last election, it is that Americans want better jobs with better benefits. The last 8 years have been hard on working families. That is why they are desperate for these better paying jobs. It is fitting in that regard that we are voting on the American Energy and Conservation Act. This has been studied and is said to incentivize the creation of 280,000 new jobs by 2035. This legislation is expected to trigger \$194 billion in new capital investment in our economy, creating \$51 billion in cumulative government revenue for our Federal Government and for States.

Now, let's be honest. If you are going to work with the new President, let's work on programs that will create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs for Americans who need those jobs, as well as revenue to address debt, deficit, and other issues in our State and Federal Government.

Now, let's also be honest. If America does not develop our natural resources, the vacuum will be filled with the likes of Iran, Venezuela, Russia, and Cuba—Cuba, which would like to drill off their coastline. Now, the choice is either to create good-paying jobs in the United States—off States like Virginia and North Carolina—or to forfeit these jobs abroad.

By the way, the senior Senator from Florida gave the reason why Senators from mid-Atlantic States should vote for this. He spoke specifically about the billions of dollars in revenue that would come to States. He complains about it. If I were from Virginia and

North Carolina or a Middle Atlantic State, I would say: My gosh, I get hundreds of thousands of new high-paying jobs and billions of dollars to address our States' needs? I would be all about this.

Now, there are different ideas about the future of energy in the United States, and this legislation does not discriminate. It includes language introduced by two Democrats and two Republicans—Senators HELLER, HEINRICH, RISCH, and TESTER—that streamlines the process for developing renewable energy on public lands and establishes the first-ever revenue-sharing paradigm for renewables.

For those who say we need to do something for carbon-free energy as well, this bill does so. The change would incentivize the production of 27,000 megawatts of carbon-free energy that the Bureau of Land Management estimates could be provided for these projects.

Additionally, we bring offshore wind into the mix, by creating the first-ever revenue sharing for offshore wind, incentivizing the development of 4,233 gigawatts of carbon-free generation that, again, the Bureau of Land Management estimates will be available for development off our coast. Now, some say they don't want to look at development off their coastline. This would be 50 miles out—at least in the case of the oil rigs, 50 miles out. Your sight line stops somewhere around 25 miles, at most. So this would not be seen by anyone who is otherwise enjoying the beach.

This legislation makes investment and conservation projects across the country. We included another bipartisan provision that provides an estimated \$807 million for projects that increase access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. This provision was included in Senator MURKOWSKI's Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, which 24 Senators have cosponsored. The legislation makes investments in a variety of important programs—important to Western States—including the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program.

The bill also restores the traditional 50-percent onshore oil and gas State and Federal share for production on public lands, which the Obama administration had reduced since 2010 to pay for spending elsewhere. Again, all of this is of particular importance to Western States.

The American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016 is supported by over 50 important stakeholder groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the American Petroleum Institute, the Western Energy Alliance, and the Consumer Energy Alliance.

There is one more thing. It has been suggested by implication by the senior

Senator from Florida that we are trying to open up acreage off the coast of Florida—that we are trying to open up acreage in general. We don't open up any acreage at all offshore in this bill. All this does is say that if a new President—President Trump—decides to have Outer Continental Shelf drilling, there would be a certain model of revenue sharing. But we absolutely do not open up new acreage. Again, that sometimes seems to be implied. We need to be honest with the American people.

All energy-producing States deserve to share the revenue derived from energy developed both onshore and offshore. Responsible revenue sharing allows States hosting energy production to mitigate for the historic and prospective infrastructure demands of energy production. It just makes sense. They need more roads. It helps those States build the roads and allows States to make the strategic investment needed to ensure for future generations the resiliency of the infrastructure and for vital natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support proceeding to the legislation so the Senate's voice can be heard on this important topic.

Let's be honest with the American people. This is about creating great jobs. It is about sharing revenue with States. It is not about opening up new acreage. It is thoroughly compatible with the Department of Defense's mission to protect our country.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, Americans are concerned that we are overspending. We are overspending by more than half a trillion dollars a year. That is more than \$500 billion a year. Now, \$500 billion sounds a lot more than half a trillion.

As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, one of the most important things that we focus on is oversight on what exactly the Federal Government spends its money on. This critical oversight has been missing. It is critical that we follow the money because, as we say in the budget world, you can lie about the numbers, but the numbers never lie.

Now, Congress evidently doesn't have the time to allocate to see how the money is spent because it takes us so much time to allocate the money to be spent. In fact, in the last 40 years we have only had four times that the budget process has been finished by October 1. The budget process for this year, which started October 1, still is not finished. We are under a continuing resolution for that. So that would leave it up to the administration. Any administration, any business is supposed to efficiently manage its area of responsibility. That hasn't been happening.

Just to give an example of some responsibility, I had one young man come to me and say: You know, the job that I do in the Federal Government doesn't make any difference. Nobody ever uses what I produce. He said: I probably shouldn't tell you this because I will lose my job.

I said: Well, I will do everything I can to see that you get promoted for doing what you are supposed to be doing.

I want to give one small example of what I am talking about on oversight. Last October, a little known Federal agency called the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hired a big-time public relations agency to ask reporters for help "refining their agency messaging." This PR firm asked the reporters to "keep the conversation confidential" and not to "report anything discussed in the interview." Naturally, that caught my attention.

I immediately reached out to the Director of the President's Office of Management and Budget to get more information on the individual agency's contract and other such "messaging" activities conducted by the executive branch entities.

Simply put, agency spending on advertising, public relations, and media relations is largely a black hole, according to the recent Congressional Research Service report. No one really knows how much these agencies spend on trying to influence the American public about what a great job the government is doing. Well, I can tell you that America is not buying it. It is hard to tell how much is spent and where the money is going, according to the CRS, which reports that agencies tend to have great discretion over how such funds are spent. Well, why do they have all that discretion?

To my surprise, President Obama's Director of the Office of Management and Budget not only did not know how much the government spends on public relations and advertising activities, but he also didn't seem to care. That is because they don't want the oversight responsibility. Remember that President Obama's administration was supposed to be the "most transparent administration" in history. As Congress and the American people have now learned, it has been anything but.

But the bigger question was now raised: How much do Federal agencies spend on public relations and advertising? As Lewis Carroll famously wrote in *Alice in Wonderland*, "How far down does the rabbit hole go?" The reason this is so important is that Federal law prohibits the use of appropriated Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

It was this pursuit of fiscal transparency that resulted in my request to the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, to investigate how much the Federal Government actually spends

annually on advertising and public relations. What we found is a cautionary tale of how little Congress and, possibly, the administration actually understand about what the Federal Government spends its money on.

It turns out this administration spends \$1.5 billion annually on public relations and advertising. President Obama added hundreds of PR staffers between 2009 and 2011 to the thousands who already worked in these agencies, which cost hardworking taxpayers more than \$500 million a year in employee expense. These employees have an average salary of \$90,000. This contrasts with the average household income in America at almost \$54,000.

This information is crucial for policymakers because America's overspending problem has created a mammoth national debt of more than \$19 trillion, on its way to almost \$29 trillion in a few short years. We hardly have any years where overspending in that year doesn't exceed half a trillion dollars—\$500 billion.

GAO notes that these salary and advertising figures do not include the \$100 million spent on private PR consultants to bolster the government's PR efforts. The government also spends more than \$800 million on contracts with outside advertising firms in 2015 alone to promote the administration's policies, which when you total these numbers equals almost \$1.5 billion. That is with a "b." This is real money we are talking about. The question is, What do hardworking taxpayers get for this money? Some of it probably is essential advertising signs, military recruitment, et cetera, but is all of it essential and really needed? If they are doing a good job, will people not know?

Certain agencies spend much more of their budgets on public relations and advertising than others. In fact, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau spent a higher percentage of its total budget on public relations and advertising than any other agency. I called it an agency. It is really not an agency of the Federal Government. We don't have any oversight. We don't have any review of the agency's budget or Director. That money comes from the Federal Reserve before their money goes to the Federal Government so it truly comes out of the money that can be spent on projects, but it is taken out so there can be no oversight over that agency.

We got an inspector general appointed to that agency, and he came back to say that we don't have the right to take a look at anything there. How can that be a government agency? Recently, the Court said it is not.

Why am I concentrating on \$1.5 billion? Remember the old saying: A billion here, a billion there, and pretty quickly it runs into real money?

Next year I look forward to holding additional hearings on this oversight

issue and others in order to help American families understand where their taxes are being spent and what they are getting for their money. If American taxpayers see waste out there, I hope they are calling my office or other offices to let them know about it. Evidently, we are going to have to have it come from the bottom up because it is not coming from the top down.

It is time for the Federal Government to become more efficient, effective, and accountable. If government programs are not delivering results, they should be improved, and if they are not needed, they should be eliminated. Americans who work every day to provide for their families and pay their taxes understand it is time for the Federal Government to live within its means, just like they do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, we are going to vote on a very important piece of legislation later on this afternoon. This is a bill that is going to move revenues from 46 States to 4 States. This is no small thing. Let me just tell you a little bit about what this bill will do.

The revenue generated from oil and gas drilling on Federal lands offshore is one of the largest nontax revenue streams for the Federal Government. These oil and gas resources on public lands offshore belong to all of the American people. They are public resources that belong as much to someone living in Massachusetts, Kansas, or California as they do to someone in Louisiana or in Texas. These are resources that should help every American, not just a select few.

The revenue generated from these public resources goes to the Federal Treasury to help pay for Medicare, Medicaid, education, our Defense Department. It helps to pay for everything, including reducing our Federal deficit. However, in 2006, the four Gulf States—Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas—succeeded in passing a law that is going to direct an ever-increasing share of these offshore drilling revenues away from the Federal Treasury to just those four States. By redirecting this revenue, that 2006 law is going to take money that should benefit taxpayers in all 50 States and send it instead to just 4 States.

How much money are we talking about? In that 2006 law, over the next 60 years, it is projected to send \$190 billion away from the Treasury, away from the 46 other States, other than the 4 that are Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. That is the problem. Those are the numbers from the Department of the Interior—\$190 billion. Now the Gulf States are coming back for more. The legislation we will vote on today would divert an additional \$5.4 billion over the next 40 years away from 46 States and to the 4

Gulf States. That is on top of the \$190 billion, which they are already going to get.

If you come from one of these four States, you should absolutely vote for this bill today. You should put out a press release today touting your support for this legislation. If you can pass legislation to take an additional \$5 billion directly from the pockets of the taxpayers in the other 46 States and send it to your States, that will be one of your greatest legislative victories of your career.

If you come from the other 46 States, there is no reason in the world that you should support this legislation to take even more money from your taxpayers and send it to Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi. That is all we are talking about—a massive wealth transfer from 46 States to those 4 States.

At a time when my friends on the other side of the aisle are saying we need to cut spending to crucial programs that help our seniors, help low-income Americans, and help students, we simply can't afford to divert \$190 billion away from our national priorities and to the Gulf States. We certainly can't afford to divert \$5 billion more as the legislation before us today would do.

The proponents of this legislation argue this revenue is needed to pay for past and future infrastructure demands and to ensure the resiliency of natural resources. The Gulf States have already been getting revenue from offshore drilling in waters near their States for decades, and now most of the fines—\$20 billion from the BP oil spill—are, rightly, going to the Gulf States that were affected by this catastrophe.

We should fund coastal restoration and climate resiliency as a big issue for all States, but this legislation is not about our eroding beaches and wetlands; it is about eroding our ability to pay for our national priorities.

This legislation would go even further by trying to bribe other cash-strapped States into allowing expanded drilling off the east coast and in other areas offshore. We haven't passed a single law to improve the safety of offshore drilling following the BP oil spill, but this legislation would try to incentivize new areas to drill in and to risk ultimately a spill off one of those States' coasts.

Fishing off the east coast produces roughly \$1.75 billion in direct value for our States and more than \$4 billion in total economic activity each year. Tourism on the east coast generates hundreds of billions of dollars in additional economic activity and supports an estimated 800,000. That is what we would be putting at risk on the east coast, as this bill would do. As we learned from the BP oil spill, offshore spills don't respect State boundaries. We would have no protections whatsoever.

OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. President, I would like to take the remainder of my time and talk about what I believe is the most important task facing this Congress in the lameduck session—providing funding to combat the opioid crisis that has spread all across our country.

Last year, Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky and I called on the Surgeon General of the United States to issue a Surgeon General's report and a call to action on prescription opioid and heroin abuse. We both believed the Federal Government needed to document and outline a national effort to address this opioid crisis.

Today, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy released a new report, "Facing Addiction in America," and I thank him and his staff for their efforts. This report should serve as a call to all Americans to change the way we address substance misuse and substance use disorders in America.

As a nation, we must approach and treat addiction like the disease it is. The physical toll addiction takes on Americans makes this a health imperative. The costs of addiction to society make this an economic imperative, and the human duty to provide care and hope for those suffering from addiction makes this a moral imperative punctuation. In order to get help for all of the families who are suffering from opioid addiction, the Federal Government needs to invest in funding treatment and recovery programs now. So far, I am sad to report that Congress has failed in this task.

When I am home in Massachusetts, I hear enormous frustration from people who don't feel adequate resources are being brought to bear on this epidemic of prescription drug, heroin, and fentanyl addiction. Countless individuals and families suffering with addiction cannot find a bed for detox. Then, when they are at their most vulnerable, they cannot find a place, a provider, or a behavioral support team for long-term treatment and recovery.

To our everlasting credit, this past May, my colleague Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN introduced legislation to infuse a one-time payment of \$600 million in emergency funding to combat this crisis. We were denied. Then, again in July, I and others argued on the Senate floor for the need to invest \$1.1 billion into opioid treatment and recovery programs over 2 years. Again, we were denied. We passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, but a vision without funding is just a hallucination. We will not save lives and stop this scourge of addiction with just words and promises.

I stand here again today to call on my colleagues and both parties to come together and pass legislation that includes immediate, massive funding to combat this ever-worsening opioid crisis. Nearly 30,000 people in the United

States died from an opioid overdose in 2014. Over the last few years Massachusetts, which is mirrored in numbers across the rest of the country, has seen a dramatic increase in the number of deaths related to opioids.

In 2014, 1,400 people were estimated to have died in the State of Massachusetts from an opioid addiction. Last year the number went up to 1,700 people who were estimated to have died from an opioid addiction. In 2016, it is estimated that that number is going to go up to 2,000 people who will die this year from opioid overdoses, heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil. Here is the interesting number. Just from last year to this year, the number of deaths that are estimated to be related to fentanyl has risen to 1,500. Out of those 2,000 people, it is estimated that 1,500 people in Massachusetts alone will die from opioid overdoses. That is a dramatic rise to 75 percent of all opioid deaths in our State in 1 year. That is up from 57 percent of the deaths last year that would be related to fentanyl in the blood system of those who had toxicology exams after they died from an opioid overdose.

Let's take those numbers and project them. If 2,000 people die in Massachusetts this year—and Massachusetts is 2 percent of the population of the United States of America—and all you did was multiply that number by 50 to get the entire country, that would mean that 100,000 people will die this year from an opioid overdose in America—100,000.

This problem is not as huge in the rest of the country as it is in Massachusetts and several other States, but we are a preview of coming attractions. We have to make sure we put in place the programs that are going to help these families deal with this issue.

Let's put that number in context for the entire country. We have 41,000 women who die each year from breast cancer. If we don't stop this, we are on pace to having as many as 100,000 people die from opioid overdoses every single year, which is the same as having two Vietnam wars worth of people dying in our country every single year. We need to declare war on this epidemic. We need to put the treatment and prevention programs in place. Thus far we have not provided the resources to the States, cities, towns, families, and community health care centers to be able to deal with this issue.

Right now in America there are more than 2.5 million people who are dependent upon opioids, but only a very small percentage of them will get the treatment they need and deserve. Our country should be providing for those families.

I believe history is going to judge this Congress on the question of how well we responded to this epidemic, on whether or not we heard the cries of these families across the country to provide them with the treatment they

need. This is an epidemic that began because the pharmaceutical industry sold a bill of goods to the Food and Drug Administration and the American people that these prescription drugs were not, in fact, addictive.

Physicians across our country turned a blind eye, and, in fact, rejected mandatory training so they could correctly prescribe opioids. Now it is 20 years later, and this prescription drug epidemic that morphed into a heroin epidemic has now morphed into a fentanyl epidemic, and fentanyl is infinitely more dangerous than heroin and prescription drugs.

We have a moral responsibility here on the floor to provide massive new funding in any legislation we pass over the next 3 weeks that leaves this Chamber. We cannot, on a bipartisan basis, ignore the magnitude of this challenge. Otherwise, we are going to come back here next year and the year after and the year after, and we are ultimately going to see millions of people die from this epidemic, and history will wonder why we did not do enough to deal with it. It is the job of this Congress to begin to provide the massive funding that the States, cities, towns, and families need to deal with this issue.

I thank the Presiding Officer for my time on the floor, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the bill that is before us today. We hear a lot of nice rhetoric coming from the proponents of this legislation. We hear that the bill is about revenue sharing. We hear that the funds will be used for conservation and coastal restoration. We hear that the bill is about providing parity, and at the same time, there is a lot of rhetoric, but underneath the rhetoric and the rosy picture being painted, one thing is clear: This bill isn't about conservation or infrastructure or environmental restoration. This bill is about one thing and one thing only: another giveaway to Big Oil. It is about paving the way for oil drilling up and down the Atlantic coast. It is about expanding drilling in the gulf, even as those communities work to recover from the BP disaster. It is about turning the Arctic wilderness from a wildlife haven into an oil field.

We have seen this from the majority before—a legislative agenda focused on giving handout after handout to Big Oil no matter what the cost to our constituents. The majority party, the

party of so-called fiscal conservatism, has no problem breaking out the checkbook when it is time to give billions of dollars of tax subsidies to oil companies. They see no issue with capping the oil industry's liability for the economic costs of offshore oil spills at \$134 million—for spills that we know can cost tens of billions of dollars, but their liability is limited at \$134 million. They are all too eager to lift the crude oil export ban, shipping U.S. resources and refining jobs overseas, and now we have a bill before us that is designed to make it easier to drill in the Arctic, gulf, and Atlantic. This bill doesn't just line the pockets of oil executives; it takes away revenues from the U.S. Treasury and increases the deficit by \$7 billion in the long term—a \$7 billion debt that we are signing over to our children and grandchildren, along with a shoreline full of oil rigs. We have a responsibility in Congress to make better for future generations and not to leave them with a dirty, costly legacy based on the fuels of the past, but serving future generations doesn't help oil companies in the short term, and the majority party has made their choice clear. We have seen this before. Yet it is hard not to be surprised by the timing. We are one week past an election where my colleagues on the other side of the aisle campaigned on promises to “drain the swamp” and break the mold in Washington and free government from the powerful special interests. What is the first bill we debate on the Senate floor after that election? Another giveaway to Big Oil, one of the most powerful special interests in Washington.

Unfortunately for voters who bought into the campaign rhetoric, it is very clear who the majority party is here to serve in Washington. It is not the people who elected them; it is the same corporations and special interests that have set the public agenda for years, and that agenda doesn't come without costs.

Drilling for oil is a risk-reward proposition. All of the risk is on the backs of our shore communities, and all of the reward goes to Big Oil. For New Jersey, those risks are substantial. An oil spill in the Atlantic would devastate our tourism industry, which generates \$38 billion a year and supports nearly half a million jobs—nearly 10 percent of the State's entire workforce. An oil spill in the Atlantic would destroy one of the largest saltwater recreational fishing industries in the Nation. Just in our State, it would jeopardize over 50,000 jobs in the seafood industry. An oil spill would sink the value of \$700 billion worth of coastal properties, family homes, and small businesses.

The people I have met on the Jersey Shore are some of the most hard-working, resilient people I have ever known. These are people who, even today, are

rebuilding their lives and livelihoods in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. These are the fishermen who wake up at 5 in the morning and spend the day working their fingers to the bone to provide for their families. These are the shore businesses that depend on a summer tourism season to meet their expenses throughout the year. The last thing they need is the threat of an oil spill wiping out their businesses, hard work, and ability to provide for their families.

The oil companies that would benefit from this bill don't need our help. Large oil companies—even with gas prices as low as they are—are making annual profits the likes of which the people on the Jersey Shore will not see in a lifetime. Those people have been working to make their voices heard.

I am proud there are currently 11 other Senators who have cosponsored my bill to permanently ban drilling in the Atlantic, but I am even more proud that thousands of my constituents have taken the time to email, call my office, or become citizen cosponsors of the bill. Many of them shared their thoughts on why we should ban Atlantic drilling.

Charles from Toms River wrote: "We already have shoreline concerns thanks to Superstorm Sandy. We definitely don't need another threat to our economy."

Jeanne from New Brunswick wrote: "Tourism is a major New Jersey business. Our beaches are pristine and must be protected."

Leopoldine from Highland Park wrote: "I would rather give up my car to save on oil consumption than give up the Jersey Shore."

My constituents are not alone. There are 120 municipalities up and down the Atlantic coast that have opposed offshore drilling and the seismic blasting used to locate oil deposits. Over 1,200 elected officials have done the same. They have been joined by an alliance of over 12,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families. Their opposition to offshore drilling transcends political boundaries and geographic boundaries alike. It unites local chambers of commerce with environmental advocates.

We are hearing the same message, whether it is from a beach town in Georgia, a homeowners association in Delaware, or the North Carolina Council of Churches: Not on our shores. The people who elected us have spoken clearly, and we in this Chamber should be listening.

This past March, President Obama made it clear that he was listening when he fully removed the Atlantic Ocean from the 5-year oil and gas leasing plan. This was an important victory, but it was only a temporary victory.

It is clear by the Senate's consideration of the legislation before us today that lining the pockets of big oil execu-

tives is going to remain a top priority for the majority party. We must do everything in our power to stand up to the oil industry, protect our coastal communities, and fight for the people whose lives depend on a vibrant shore economy.

That is why today I am calling on President Obama to use his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently ban drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. The authority was given to the President by Congress to permanently protect coastal waters from oil and gas drilling, while still allowing for important economic activities such as fishing, shipping, and developing offshore wind energy. Unlike a traditional Executive order, this designation cannot be undone by a future administration. It would ensure that the rights of our shore communities—to run their businesses, to vacation with their families, to fish in clean coastal waters—are protected for generations to come. It would continue the administration's commitment to preserving our environment, to protecting public health, and to strengthening global economies.

It is not just the Atlantic that deserves this protection; I also hope that President Obama gives the same consideration to the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic is a fragile ecosystem depended on by subsistence hunters and diverse wildlife. Extreme cold and harsh weather conditions make an Arctic oil spill both more likely and harder to clean up.

Declaring the Atlantic and the Arctic off limits to Big Oil is a step the President can take immediately to show that we as a nation are committed to the future of our shore towns, our beaches, and our environment, and to being good stewards of the land for future generations of Americans.

Our public lands should be just that—public assets that are part of our national heritage. This Presidential action will ensure that we treat them that way instead of monetizing them to build profits for the oil industry.

To me, the decision on offshore drilling is a simple question of values. I value the generations of families who spend their vacations on the Jersey Shore. It is a birthright. I value the small businesses and fishermen who have built and sustained a thriving shore economy against all odds in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. I value having clean coastal waters, which are home to diverse and rich ecosystems. I value the commitment New Jerseyans have for a clean energy future. Drilling in the Atlantic is antithetical to any of these values. And it is because of those values that I intend to stand with the millions of Americans who have raised their voices and delivered the message to big oil: Stay off our shores.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and my constituents in the

coming weeks to secure a permanent drilling ban for the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. It will be a lasting message for future generations that we are not willing to sell the future of their economy or the future of their environment for short-term profits. It is a fight worth having, and it is one I believe we can win.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, soon we will have a chance to vote on the American Energy and Conservation Act, a bill that has been championed by our colleague from Louisiana—actually, both of them, Senators CASSIDY and VITTER—and they have done a terrific job of getting us to this point where we are voting on this important piece of legislation.

This bill is about as straightforward as it can get. It incentivizes American energy production through revenue sharing agreements with the Federal Government. This is important because States like mine—especially along the gulf coast—spend an awful lot of money investing in infrastructure to support an industry that benefits not just our States, not just the region, but the entire country. It is time to balance these costs with reasonable revenue sharing agreements such as we have struck in the past. Given that these States produce a big portion of the oil and gas our entire Nation needs to keep the lights on, it is only right that these States should benefit from some modest revenue sharing. This legislation would make sure that is possible. So I hope our colleagues will support it when we vote on it shortly.

ENERGY POLICY

This legislation is a good example of the kind of energy policy that a new Congress can put forward next year and actually have the prospect of being signed into law under a new administration, under a new President.

One of the things I think I have observed about the Obama administration is that while the President claims to be "all of the above" in terms of his outlook on energy, he really isn't. He is into picking winners and losers. One of the reasons many people in coal-producing regions in our country felt betrayed by his policies and by the President was reflected in the outcome of the vote. In West Virginia, for example, I think Mrs. Clinton got 27 percent of the vote in a State that previously had been predominantly a Democratic State. That is because many people felt as though their very livelihood had been taken from them as a result of the regulatory overreach and, frankly, what they call—and I think appropriately so—the War on Coal.

But, as I said, "all of the above" is actually the right policy; it is just that I don't think President Obama ever really meant it.

A lot of folks try to paint with broad strokes about energy: Either you are on the side of the environment, climate change, or you are on the side of innovation and new technologies, or you are on the side of traditional oil and gas development.

I would dare say—and this may come as a surprise to some of my colleagues—that Texas actually produces more clean energy from wind than any other State in the Nation. I know we are known as an oil and gas State, and that is true, but we really do embrace an “all of the above” strategy. As a result, I think it has really helped our economy stay ahead of the national economy, even during tough economic times for the country. So we can have literally an “all of the above” policy, including one that works well for the environment. As a matter of fact, because of fracking and horizontal drilling and the ability to produce more natural gas in the United States, we have actually seen emissions into the environment come down dramatically because more people are opting for natural gas rather than other fuel sources. So this is, frankly, a win/win proposition.

We know that, as I said, Texas is known as leading the way in oil and gas production, and this fact was underlined and emphasized just this last week when the U.S. Geological Survey announced that one shale formation in the Permian Basin near Midland-Odesa contained the largest estimate of continuous oil that they have ever surveyed in our country. This should give us a little bit of humility when it comes to making long-term predictions. I don't know whether it was 10, maybe 15 years ago, there was some discussion about something called peak oil. In other words, the argument was that we had basically discovered all of the oil and gas there was to discover and there wasn't any more out there. This just shows how time and time again people underestimate the initiative and the ingenuity of our entrepreneurs and the people who work hard, including our scientists, to create new technologies to help us move forward. That is why I am optimistic about our country as long as we don't stand in the way of those innovators and those entrepreneurs.

In Texas we have learned that the best policies sometimes are just to get the government out of the way, off our back, out of our way, with its hand out of our pocket, and frankly, let the experts do their jobs with limited bureaucratic influence. That is something the whole country can benefit from, and I am hopeful that during this new administration under President-Elect Trump, working with Republican majorities in both Houses, we can begin to untangle the stranglehold the regulatory state has imposed on so much of our economy, whether it is in the

banking industry—I see the chairman of the Banking Committee here, and he knows this hot topic well. The regulations put on our small businesses, on our energy producers—all of this has stunted the sort of normal economic rebound we would see following a recession like we had in 2008.

I am looking forward to getting a lot done to help free up our Nation's economy and in particular by promoting our Nation's energy resources. We used to think of natural resources as a tremendous benefit and a comparative advantage one nation has over another, but I have to tell my colleagues that we have squandered those natural advantages we have had in this country by not unleashing this sleeping giant of American energy.

It is not just important to our economy, it is important to our national security and the world order. As we all know, in Europe and elsewhere, people like Vladimir Putin use energy as a weapon. When people have a sole source of energy and it is from Russia and he can turn it off and on at his whim, that creates a lot of problems for them and, frankly, keeps them from asserting themselves in the world order. But by providing export capacity like we did with lifting the export ban on oil in December and, hopefully, doing the same thing with liquefied natural gas—something we have an abundance of, cheap, liquefied natural gas—we can provide an alternative energy supply to countries in Europe and around the world.

So we need to seize this opportunity to reform the regulatory process. We need to address the renewable fuel standard, which is not working for anybody, and we need to build on the energy renaissance occurring in States such as North Dakota and Texas and States that take a pro-growth, pro-energy outlook.

I am proud of the energy-friendly environment in my State. The Texas example proves that we can take advantage of the natural resources that God blessed us with to help consumers, to help seniors, to help people on fixed incomes, and we can do this without damaging the environment. We can actually do it and improve the environment, as we have seen in the case of natural gas production and use taking the place of other forms of energy production, and a reduction in emissions occurring consistently as well.

So it is time we take this know-how to the rest of the country.

I want to make it clear that making our energy sector stronger is so essential because it benefits everyone. No. 1, it creates jobs. It creates benefits for families who are provided for by those jobs. It helps daily commuters out on the road with affordable energy. It also helps small businesses do what they can do to keep the lights on, not to mention the jobs, as I said a moment

ago, created by a healthy energy industry.

With the election that occurred on November 8, with the Republicans in the majority in both Houses and now with President-Elect Trump coming into the White House, we can make real strides in energy innovation and production. It is really a historic opportunity, if we think about it. I look forward in the future to discussing even more ideas about how we can capitalize on our Nation's energy resources for everyone's benefit.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

HONORING JOHNNY MICHAEL SPANN

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of an Alabama patriot and American hero, Johnny Michael Spann.

Nearly 15 years ago, on November 25, 2001, while fighting on behalf of our grateful Nation, Mike made the ultimate sacrifice to our country in northern Afghanistan. Mike Spann served as a U.S. Marine officer and then later with the CIA, when he became the first U.S. combat casualty in the War on Terror in Afghanistan.

As Americans we honored the sacrifices made by those who have served and defended our Nation on Veterans Day last week. Mike Spann is one of the heroic Americans who ran towards danger, putting his life on the line to fight for our freedom. Mike Spann was dedicated to combating the tyranny, oppression, and terror that would be inflicted on the world by the Taliban and others who share their goals. He gave his life to a noble undertaking, and our Nation will be forever indebted to him and his family for his service.

It is my honor to offer my deep appreciation and gratitude to Mike Spann for his willingness to put himself in harm's way to protect the values and freedoms that we hold dear. His life exemplified honor and courage, and he will always be remembered for his great sacrifice.

As the Director of Central Intelligence said at Mike's funeral, “May God bless Mike Spann, an American of courage, and may God bless those who love and miss him, and all who carry on the noble work that he began.”

We should not forget Mike Spann and others like him.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in strong support of S. 3110, the American Energy and Conservation Act. I would

like to thank my colleague from Louisiana for introducing it, and I would also like to thank all of the Members who are cosponsoring it with us. I certainly thank Leader McCONNELL for scheduling a vote on it this morning.

I would like to begin by providing a little bit of context for why this legislation is necessary before I move into specifics of what it contains.

For literally centuries in Alaska, we have relied upon balanced and environmentally responsible resource development. Whether it is fish, game, our mineral resources such as copper or gold, timber, our marine mammals, or oil that was used to waterproof ocean-going vessels, resources have been extracted or harvested relatively lightly for thousands of years but more intensively harvested and extracted over the last 100 years. This resource extraction has fed us, it has housed Alaskans, and it has allowed us to sustain a life in oftentimes a very harsh but, without question, an extraordinarily beautiful environment.

In the last few years, resource extraction has become strategically and economically important to the livelihoods of all Americans. We have carefully regulated our resource extraction and protected our environment, and today millions of tourists from all over the world come to Alaska to view nature and look at the amazing landscapes that are hard to find anywhere else in the world.

Some might say that it is a contradiction to have resource extraction on the level that we have in Alaska—providing oil resources, mineral resources—and still have this amazing place that people from around the world want to see. Our State has truly managed to balance accessing our resources while still maintaining the environment and the natural beauty that makes us who we are.

I think many here are aware that Alaska is this amazing place, but what I am about to say should not surprise or amaze people. A majority of the residents living in Alaska's Arctic, a majority of the tribal governments, a majority of Alaska's Native corporations representing Alaska's Natives who live in the Arctic, a majority of residents statewide, a supermajority of our State legislature, our Governor, and every Member of the Alaska congressional delegation wholeheartedly support oil and gas development in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

I know that the President, the Secretary of the Interior, and the team that is responsible for developing a leasing program for Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf have all heard this support because, believe me, we have made sure that they have. So I am hoping that the news reports I have just heard—as I walked onto the Senate floor—from a reporter about rumors that the administration intends to put

off-limits the Beaufort and Chukchi in this upcoming 5-year OCS lease plan. I hope the news reports are wrong. I hope they are nothing more than a rumor. I hope the administration will see reason and that it will allow new lease sales to proceed in the Arctic as is clearly the desire of the vast majority of Alaskans.

This is not the only step that this administration should take. When responsible resource production does begin in the Alaska OCS, the 96-year-old Federal policy of sharing resource revenues with the States hosting this development must also apply.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 established this policy for Federal onshore revenue sharing at a time when there was very little offshore production occurring in our country. That policy has not forced resource development on States that are not interested, but instead it recognizes that the development requires infrastructure that counties and State governments pay for.

Congress realized in 1920 that we need to share the revenues from resource development to help local and State governments with the impacts of these activities. This policy has nationwide benefits from the east to the west, from the north to the south. Just in the past 10 years, residents of Michigan have received \$5.7 million of shared Federal revenues. Missouri residents have received \$30.6 million. Residents of Nevada have received \$108.6 million. I have full confidence that these States and counties put those dollars to tremendous productive use and certainly do not have any interest in parting with them.

What we are considering today with the legislation that we will vote on shortly is an effort to expand Federal revenue sharing to offshore areas. It is time to do just that. This is a matter of simple fairness. At its core, it is a matter of simple fairness. Offshore production should be no different than onshore production. No other State will bear the burden of development like we will. Most will only see the end result of it. They will see the benefits that come from it—the benefits that come with affordable fuel coming out of the pump at their local gas station, for instance. But those who host the development will bear the burden of development, and in Alaska we are willing to bear that burden.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to apply only to States where responsible OCS development is supported. That is important to reinforce. We are not pushing this on those who do not want development. The legislation applies only to States where responsible OCS development will support it. So if a Senator is not interested in this development, we have respected their views and left their State out of this legislation. This is only

about revenue sharing. Our bill will not open any new offshore areas to energy development. So those that would suggest that this is a Pandora's box, well that is clearly not the case. We are talking about the revenue sharing that will come to those who support the development offshore. It will not force any State to develop its resources if that State does not want to do it. Florida is a good example. Florida would see no different treatment after the passage of this bill.

What the American Energy and Conservation Act will do is to make our policies equitable so that the States that bear the burden of development are finally allowed to share in the government's rewards. This is true for both conventional energy such as oil and gas as well as the renewables that many Members of this Chamber claim to support.

In addition to allowing offshore revenue sharing for Alaska and the Middle Atlantic States, we have also incorporated a number of priorities that this Senator believes the Senate would do well to approve.

Some of these priorities are pretty important to us. We have a small funding stream to increase sportsmen's access to Federal areas for hunting, fishing, and similar activities. We have included additional funding streams for energy research and to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog at the National Park Service. This is something so many of us have talked about—how to achieve the funding necessary to reduce the backlog at the National Park Service. This will help them. It also provides a funding stream for TIGER grants at the Department of Transportation.

We fund a tribal resilience program. This is very important to us in my State of Alaska, to ensure that our Native communities have the ability to adapt to a changing climate and to invest in critical infrastructure. If coastal erosion is impacting this, whether it is the water infrastructure in a place like Barrow, whether it is the need for an emergency evacuation route for a community such as Shismaref or Kivalina or relocation, this can help to facilitate this with our Tribal Climate Resilience Program.

We have also dedicated revenues to the PILT program, which has become a chronic funding challenge. If you vote for this bill, what you are voting for is a more rational energy policy for our country. You are also voting for sportsmen's rights, for renewable energy, for the health of our national parks, for better infrastructure, and for our native communities and their ability to be more resilient and adaptable.

On the other hand, if you vote against this bill, you are not voting to halt or even limit offshore development. What you are doing is voting to continue an unfair practice toward the

coastal producing States, and you are also voting against the priorities of thousands of your constituents. Those of us who have assembled this bill have respected those who do not want development off their shores. Now we would ask those Members to respect those of us who do support development for our States. We ask you to support this legislation.

I see my colleague from Alaska. I think it is fair to say that not only is our Congressional delegation very unified on this, but the support from our State and an understanding as to why revenue sharing for Alaska and other coastal States that seek this development is critically important. I appreciate all of the good work he has done on this issue to help it advance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I commend my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI, who occupies certainly one of the most important positions in the country with regard to energy as the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for her leadership on this bill and so many other bills. I am proud to be a cosponsor, with a number of other Senators, of the American Energy and Conservation Act, which will be taken up here in a few minutes.

I echo what Senator MURKOWSKI said about this bill. It is a commonsense bill. We already have revenue sharing for onshore oil and gas production, so it only makes sense—really it is only fair, as she noted very articulately—that the States closest to the impacts of OCS drilling also receive their fair share of revenues from resource extraction off their coast.

Again, as Senator MURKOWSKI mentioned, this is not going to open up development where States don't want it. It is just providing a fair share to the communities that bear some of the impact of development in the States that do want it, like my State. That is what this is about.

I am hoping all of my colleagues will vote favorably for this very important bill. Senator MURKOWSKI also talked about how this bill does not open new areas. At the same time we certainly should not be shutting down areas that exist right now for responsible resource development in this country.

In addition to focusing on this bill, which I certainly hope we pass soon, we also—I just want to mention we are hearing indications that despite the fact that our country needs more energy and more jobs to grow the economy, the President might move to close the OCS development off the coast of my State to further oil and gas exploration and production before he leaves office. This would not only unilaterally harm Alaska's economy and kill thousands of good jobs, but it also

fundamentally misunderstands what is going on in the country right now. It fundamentally misunderstands the enormous opportunity of energy for America.

For 8 years we watched the Obama administration delay, disrupt, and block energy development for America, certainly for Alaska but also for the whole country. It shows an incredible lack of understanding of what a great opportunity this is. Let me give some examples: making sure that we have our own energy, that we produce our energy, that we can be energy independent, that we can create jobs. These are great jobs, by the way, for our country.

Also, something that is never really acknowledged is that in Alaska and other places in the United States we have the highest standards on the environment, the highest standards of developing our natural resources offered anywhere in the world. So when the Obama administration has been delaying projects year after year—tiny cuts—Shell had to spend 7 years and \$7 billion to get permission from the Obama administration to drill one exploration well in 100 feet of water. Eventually they just said: We give up. We are leaving. What does that do to the country? It harms our energy independence. It kills jobs.

But here is something else it does. It doesn't help the environment as some claim, as the Obama administration claims. What it does is take capital to develop energy resources from America, from Alaska, the places that have the highest standards on earth, and it shifts that capital to places like Russia or Azerbaijan or Kazakhstan or Brazil. Remember when the President said: Yeah, we should drill off the coast of Brazil in thousands of feet of water. He was supportive of that, but he is not supportive of drilling off the coast of his own country. It moves the capital to these places that do not have high standards on the environment. So, overall, the global environment is negatively impacted by these policies. Developing energy in America is a win-win for everybody, including the environment.

I certainly hope my colleagues will vote in favor of this bill that we are going to vote on in a few minutes. I certainly would urge the Obama administration not to make the short-sighted decision to kill more jobs and energy production in my State by locking up the Arctic OCS before they leave.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this Senator, who has a great stake in this legislation, is certainly not opposed to drilling off the shore, unless it happens to threaten the interests of the United States. In many places on the Atlantic

coast and certainly the gulf coast, such as the Gulf of Mexico off of Florida, it is the largest testing and training area for the U.S. military in the world. Two Republican Secretaries of Defense have said: You cannot have drilling activity off the coast where this restricted military area is.

You looked at a map of what the military has suggested off of Virginia. It is the same thing. It is no oil and gas activity at all, and then no permanent oil and gas activity in a remaining portion off the State of Virginia.

In the State of Florida, of course, we have all the other considerations, the economic ones, a \$50-billion-a-year tourism industry that depends on our beaches being clean.

This Senator certainly does not have an objection to oil drilling off of the coast of Louisiana. The last time I checked, they did not have a lot of beaches. But that is what this bill does. It gives the incentives for States because they get additional Federal revenue. By the way, CBO says that is \$7 billion over a 10-year period that would otherwise go to the Federal Treasury that would go to the States. It gives them that incentive to have drilling off their coasts.

For those reasons alone, I would suggest that the right vote is to vote no on this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the bill before us would incentivize offshore drilling for vast swaths of the Atlantic coast, in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, putting one of our most precious natural resources and drivers of economic growth at risk in order to enrich a few big oil companies. The two Democratic leads on the relevant committees—we have just heard from one, Senator NELSON, and we will hear from another, Senator CANTWELL—are very knowledgeable about the risks to coastline communities posed by offshore drilling. They are opposed to this legislation. I agree with them.

It should be readily apparent to everyone in this Chamber why this bill is a bad idea. Fishing and tourism on the Atlantic coasts accounts for tens of billions of dollars in annual revenue. In my home State of New York, commercial fishing accounts for tens of millions of dollars of revenue.

From the pristine beaches of Florida, from Daytona to the Outer Banks, to Virginia Beach, the Atlantic Seaboard is home to some of our most visited and beloved vacation spots. A drastic increase in offshore drilling, as this bill intends, comes with drastic risks, risks that are not imagined or even hypothetical any longer. We know that after Deepwater Horizon and other disasters.

When it comes to protecting our unique and nearby Atlantic Ocean

habitats, we must guard against policies that can best be summed as “spill baby, spill.” It is a risk we don’t need to take. Domestic energy production has grown significantly over the past 8 years. Our dependence on foreign oil is at a 40-year low. I would also call into question the revenue sharing proposals of the bill. Over the long term, it would direct \$7 billion—billion, that is, not million—away from the Federal Treasury. States would see some of that money, but the real winners would be the big oil companies for which the market would be tilted even more in their favor.

I think it is telling that one of the first bills the Republican majority puts on the floor is a boon to special interests. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the bill.

I ask unanimous consent that our leader on our Energy Committee, the Senator from Washington, be given the time she needs, even if it delays the vote for a couple of minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who have already spoken on this issue, but maybe to give a little bit more of a historical context.

I know my colleagues from a variety of States throughout the United States have presented a different viewpoint and have a viewpoint because of their own economic interests in their State, but the larger question here is what is in the economic interests of the United States? All of the land submerged between the territory and seas beyond our shores and the oil and gas resources they contain belong to the Nation as a whole and to the people of the United States. More than 60 years ago, a few of these coastal States tried to claim the submerged lands and their resources, but the Supreme Court rejected that, rejected the coastal States’ claims, and held that submerged lands and their resources did belong to the Nation—the whole Nation. Their response was: “National interests, national responsibilities, national concerns are involved.”

In spite of the Supreme Court’s decision, Congress voted to give away the submerged lands beneath our territories and seas to the adjacent States in 1953. That Submerged Lands Act was dubbed the “Oil Give-Away Law” by its opponents. The law gave the coastal States the submerged lands to a distance of 3 nautical miles from the coast land.

For these historical reasons, Florida, Texas, and others were included. But in the “Oil Give-Away Law,” they also gave coastal States the right to develop oil and natural gas resources be-

neath the submerged lands and retain all of the royalties for themselves; thus, this big discussion about whether we are going to give Federal resources away to these States and put a hole in our Federal deficit to the tune of \$7 billion. In giving away to the coastal States the first 3 nautical miles of the Continental Shelf, Congress made it clear at that time that it was retaining for the Nation as a whole the Outer Continental Shelf, the rest of the Continental Shelf. So the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, enacted just 3 months after the lease giveaway, gave the Federal Government exclusive ownership and control over the minerals and wealth of the Outer Continental Shelf.

We are here because States not satisfied with the generous gifts—Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas—persuaded Congress to give them even more revenue in 2006—37.5 percent of the Federal Government royalties. Again, some of my colleagues may have supported this—but also added to our Federal deficit and blew a big hole into what were Federal revenues at that time.

Senator CASSIDY’s bill would compound this huge loss to the Federal Treasury. It begins by raising the \$500 million annual cap on the payment of Federal royalties to the Gulf States from \$500 million to \$835 million from 2027 through 2036 and then, in addition, \$705 million from 2037 to 2055.

But this bill doesn’t stop just there, it extends the payment of royalties to five more coastal States—Alaska, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia—and gives 37.5 percent of the Federal revenues from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf to the coast of Alaska, and it gives 37.5 percent of Federal revenue from the Outer Continental Shelf to the Atlantic coast: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

I get that my colleagues would like this money grab out of the Federal Treasury. I am sure many of our colleagues would write Federal legislation that would also give their States revenue. But all of these amounts, in addition to the State royalties by the coastal States for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, are in contrast, I believe, to our national interest.

This may be a great deal for the nine States and the Senators who represent them, but it is a terrible deal for the Nation as a whole and the other 41 States that will not have the revenue. What will they do about the raid to the Federal budget of over \$7 billion that will be absent from the Federal Treasury? Are my colleagues going to raise taxes on the other side to supplant that revenue, that \$7 billion loss? Again, those revenues belong to the Nation as a whole, to our citizens, not just the nine coastal States.

President Truman said when he voted on an earlier version of the oil giveaway bill:

The vast quantities of oil and gas in the submerged ocean lands belong to the people of all States. They represent a priceless national heritage. This national wealth, like other lands owned by the United States, is held in trust for every citizen of the United States. It should be used for the welfare and security of the Nation as a whole.

I ask my colleagues, please do not blow a \$7 billion hole in the Federal Treasury and give it to a few States, when these lands and resources belong to all of us. If we want to help our coastal States in some other economic way or some way, let’s discuss that, but blowing a hole of \$7 billion in the Federal budget and then trying to make it up later on the backs of the rest of our constituents is an unfair deal for the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this proposition.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Daniel Coats, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, John McCain, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Capito	Hatch	Risch
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Roberts
Coats	Heller	Rounds
Cochran	Hoeven	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	Manchin	Toomey
Ernst	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—47

Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskill	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Collins	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—2

Boxer Sessions

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BRINGING AMERICA TOGETHER

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, the United States of America has a number of defining characteristics: our diversity, our commitment to free enterprise, our ingenuity, and our creativity. American ingenuity has given us phones, automobiles, airplanes, and the Internet. Our creativity has made us the world's biggest exporter of culture, movies, television, and music ranging from Motown to Nashville and beyond.

While these characteristics are central to who we are as a nation, I believe it is our democratic system of republican government that truly defines who we are. The American experiment began with the casting off of the British monarchy as American patriots spilled blood for the right to control their own destiny.

I am proud to be standing here today as a member of the Sons of the Amer-

ican Revolution, and one of my ancestors served with General George Washington at Valley Forge.

Our ancestors learned firsthand that freedom is not free, and it is not easy. If you survey the systems of government in place across the planet since the advent of democracy in Greece over 2,500 years ago, it is clear that democracy is the exception and not the rule.

We live in a world that in 2016 has theocracies, monarchies, and autocracies. The creation of a democracy can require revolution, but its preservation requires constant commitment and sacrifice. We must hold onto this commitment if we want to keep our democracy healthy. We have worked toward the more perfect union envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution. We have abolished slavery and expanded the franchise to make sure that Americans can vote and have an equal say in our future.

We have also welcomed new generations of Americans from every corner of the globe. Just as I am proud to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, I am also proud to be the son of an immigrant. My father served in World War II and met my mother in France. She immigrated to the United States, started a family with my father, and found opportunity working as a nurse's aide and an SEIU union steward.

My parents are part of the greatest generation—a generation of Americans who defeated Nazism in Europe, struggled to advance equality here at home during the Civil Rights Movement, and saw women move from home to the factory floor, to the company board room.

Our memories can be short as we can become consumed in recent turmoil, but we cannot forget the challenges and successes of the past. We are fortunate to still have living veterans who liberated German concentration camps. Millions of Americans still remember the horrors of Jim Crow laws.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., famously said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We have made progress in fits and starts, and we have done so, in significant part, due to our constitutional democracy. Every democracy is different, and our country continues to evolve, but successful democracies share two common traits: One, they have fair, vigorous, and participatory elections where citizens passionately support candidates of their choosing, and, two, when the election is over, all parties accept the outcome and facilitate a peaceful, orderly transition of power.

As long as these traits persist, we will remain a successful democracy. While I am deeply disappointed by the outcome of last week's Presidential election, I accept it, and so do President Obama and Secretary Clinton.

I hope Americans of all political stripes can acknowledge President

Obama's commitment to put President-Elect Trump in a position where he can begin working for the good of the country. I also hope that all Americans are able to appreciate Secretary Clinton's strength and resolve since the election and her acceptance of the electoral college result, once again showing that a person who receives the most votes does not necessarily win, even though she received well over 1 million more votes than President-Elect Trump nationally.

The weeks after elections generally are a time for healing. While President Obama and Secretary Clinton have done their part, we remain a very polarized country. This has been a particularly contentious, abnormal election. I have never seen anything like it in my life.

During a campaign season, we need to engage in vigorous debates about the future of our country and vigorously advocate for our preferred candidates. But when it is all said and done, and the election is over, we must come together as a country and do what is right for America. We must seek a common good, especially at a time when the country is nearly equally divided. We need to think about the dreams that unite us and not the nightmares that could tear us apart.

Michiganders from across the ideological spectrum want the same things: a job that pays a fair wage, the chance to send their children to good schools and live in safe neighborhoods, affordable, quality health care, and, after they have worked their whole life, the ability to retire with dignity. While our economy continues to grow and create jobs, too many families find themselves unable to get ahead. We need to take a step back and ask some serious questions about whether our policies are helping everyone. Are American trade deals working? Are we doing enough to support American manufacturing?

While he tapped into some of these legitimate concerns over the past 2 years, it is no secret that President-Elect Trump, unfortunately, ran a divisive campaign that stoked deep-seated fears and anxieties in many Americans. Much of the rhetoric of the Trump campaign far exceeded the acceptable norms of political discourse.

We cannot have a mainstream political dialogue that demeans women and disabled Americans or that advocates for conversion therapy for LGBT Americans. It is dangerous, it is unacceptable, and it is not normal. It must never, ever be normal. We can never accept or normalize hatred. Trafficking in racism, misogyny, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism is dangerous, it is unacceptable, and it is not normal. It must never be normal.

What is now happening with the appointment of a White House Chief Strategist with ties to the White nationalist movement is dangerous, it is

unacceptable, it is certainly not normal, and it must never be normal. I am deeply alarmed that President-Elect Trump has appointed Mr. Bannon to such an important position, and I urge him to reconsider this decision.

I am proud that Michigan is a diverse State. I have heard from over 1,000 Michiganders about Mr. Bannon's appointment. Yes, some are angry, but more are scared—scared that the America that had welcomed them and welcomed my mother is at risk of disappearing. I have heard from mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, African Americans, and Latino Americans. They are asking what their place will be in President Trump's America as our American experiment enters into an unprecedented new era.

As our Nation continues to move forward, I would urge President-Elect Trump to look back and consult the namesake of the city in which he will soon be living—President George Washington. In a letter written in 1790 to the Newport Hebrew congregation, at the time the largest community of Jewish families in America, President Washington succinctly addressed their fears of religious oppression, and he wrote: “The government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens.”

He added that “every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.”

President-Elect Trump won, and the people are afraid. It is now his job to bring our Nation together. It is his job to give bigotry no sanction and persecution no assistance. The appointment of Mr. Bannon is clearly a large step in the wrong direction. If this is indicative of how the President-elect is going to run his administration, he can expect me and my fellow Democratic colleagues to fight him every step of the way. On the other hand, if the President-elect is prepared to be a “President for all Americans” and to “bind the wounds of division,” as he pledged in his victory speech just last week, I certainly hope that we can find common ground.

Whether it is making trade policy work for American manufacturers, supporting small businesses, bolstering cyber security, establishing meaningful paid and parental leave policies, or investing in infrastructure, if the President-elect is ready to roll up his sleeves and do what is right by American workers and American families, I will work with him.

We don't have Democratic bridges or Republicans roads; we don't have Democratic ports and Republican railroad tracks. They are truly non-partisan. Improving our country's in-

frastructure is something we can come together on and show Americans we are ready to do the people's work.

Democracy is a wonderful thing, but history shows us that it can also be fragile. We must preserve our democratic institutions and show the people of America that these institutions and their elected officials are working for all Americans. I intend to spend the next 4 years working for what is right for our country and what is right for Michigan, and I hope our President-elect joins me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEVASTATION FROM HURRICANE MATTHEW

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I come to the Chamber to talk about a devastating event we have experienced in North Carolina. Last month, Hurricane Matthew skirted along the Atlantic coast, and then it plowed right through North Carolina with devastating results. Matthew is the worst storm we have experienced in almost 20 years, and it is already responsible for taking some 28 lives.

Millions of people in North Carolina and across the country watched as the storm made landfall, but after a few days, many of them turned their attention back to their daily lives. I don't fault them for doing this because unless you are there and see it firsthand, it is easy to think it was just a lot of rain and a storm that came and went, but it is far worse than that. Thousands of adults and children will take years to recover from the devastation that they have experienced over the last month.

The first opportunity I had to survey the damage was just 2 days after the hurricane made landfall. I traveled across the State in a helicopter with the commissioner of agriculture, and what I saw was remarkable. In fact, it was after the rain had occurred but before the floods began almost a week later.

The next week I spent time with many of my staff working as volunteers down in one of the areas that was hit hard by the flood. We worked with the American Red Cross, the Baptist Men, and the Salvation Army, which were trying to prepare food and provide shelter for so many people who were displaced.

I was back in the area last weekend, and I had an opportunity to witness

firsthand the farm damage and the damage to one of our major areas outside of Fort Bragg, an urban area that was hit very hard. Over the course of the last 3 weeks, I have literally seen long stretches of interstate highways under water. I have seen major roads completely washed out. I have seen entire communities under water and a couple of towns that have been washed away. Some of them were washed away just 20 years ago.

I have seen farms that were under water for a period of time, and now their crops are rotting in the field. In other cases, farmers who had harvested their crops and prepared their land for the next planting season now have sand and debris on their fields.

I have heard heartbreaking stories from victims, rescue workers, and volunteers. I will share some of those stories. I also heard heartwarming stories about the responsiveness of our local, State, and Federal agencies and the kindness of neighbors and volunteers.

I wish to thank the State and local officials, FEMA, and the first responders, who are doing an excellent job under some of the most difficult circumstances.

The death and destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew is really impossible to comprehend. The 28 lives we lost are a cross section of the State. They are parents and grandparents, sons and daughters, leaders of our community and young people who had their entire lives ahead of them. One of the victims was Charles Ivey. He was a resident of Lumberton, one of the areas that was hardest hit. He was a pillar of his community. Charles served as a deacon and Sunday school director at West Lumberton Baptist Church. He was an active member of the Lumberton Lions Club, Jaycees, Robeson County Fair Board, and West Lumberton Community Watch. He was the loving father of two daughters, had four grandchildren, and leaves behind his wife Wanda.

Another victim who perished as a result of the storms was Isabelle Ralls of Godwin. She was a resilient woman who survived cancer, triple-bypass surgery, and kidney failure. She devoted her life to others, spending years as a caregiver for the Peace Corps. She was a Sunday school teacher and the church historian at Spring Hills Baptist Church. Her family and friends will always remember her as a phenomenal woman and role model who had an inspiring faith in God.

These are just a couple of stories about the victims of Hurricane Matthew. They were all people I could probably tell stories about. They were mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and loving friends—28 precious lives lost in total. I hope the family and friends of the victims know that millions of North Carolinians and people across the Nation are praying for them and their recovery.

Although the loss of life alone was devastating, it is really not the total story. In fact, it will take years to recover. Hurricane Matthew was a massive storm. To give you an idea, it is what is referred to as a 1,000-year flood event. In other words, for this area, statistically speaking, it will be another 1,000 years before they see the amount of water dumped in the same period of time. It was a 500-year flood event for a massive part of Eastern North Carolina. Thousands of people were forced out of their homes and relocated to shelters. Many are still in temporary housing and thousands of the homes are not habitable. The storm flooded areas that were well outside of the 100-year floodplain. So many of them didn't have flood insurance.

Last week I visited one of those communities. It was a Habitat for Humanity community that had some 90 homes built over the last 15 to 16 years. Sixty of those homes are under water. Those 60 homes are not habitable, and as a result, 60 families are displaced.

The pain is, as I said before, hard to imagine. It is immeasurable. To give you an idea, we have reports of several victims, and I have summarized a few of them. Another victim is Ann Johnson from Lenoir County, another county that was hard hit. She was one of the many people who were displaced and had to live in a shelter. As she was waiting in the shelter, she told a reporter:

I just feel kind of lost right now, loss for words. You kind of feel like you don't have anything and you're just starting all over again.

Another victim, Perry Harris of Johnston County, south of Raleigh, sustained more than \$1 million in damage to a small business that four of his children worked at and had for some 15 years. He said:

It is very emotional. I've been trying to do the best I can. I have four kids that work for me. It has been very hard on my family. We just don't know what tomorrow brings.

Another victim, Charlie Mitchell, who is a farmer in Wayne County, lost the home he lived in for 49 years. He has a 2,000-acre farm that was submerged under water. He said: "I've been in floods or around floods all my life, but I've never seen anything like this."

Hurricane Matthew has been especially difficult for children as well. In fact, the teachers and school counselors in Cumberland County asked the students to write down their experience to kind of help them begin to cope and recover from the traumatic experience. There was one sixth grade student who wrote:

I heard a loud crack followed by three loud thuds. When my family got out of bed, I saw three big trees, and one destroyed the kitchen. Not even five minutes after we left, the ceiling collapsed in all rooms except for the bathroom and my mom's room.

Matthew has been a life-changing event for many North Carolinians. Rel-

atives and friends who lost a loved one, families who lost their homes, small businesses and owners who can no longer find a place to work and employ others, farmers who have watched their once-fertile land become unproductive due to the flooding.

I share these stories because North Carolina will need help, just like West Virginia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Those States have also been damaged in this storm season or in the flood season. Many people lost their lives, and those States need help. North Carolina needs help.

My team is working with Senator BURR and my House colleagues to really try and quantify the damage. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be working to make sure we work with our colleagues in other States to make sure they get the assistance they desperately need before we leave at the end of the year.

More than anything else, I want to make sure the victims of this storm know they have people working for them, and we are going to make sure this great body and this Nation comes to their aid in their time of crisis.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WASTEFUL SPENDING

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, after a long district work period and a national election, I am returning to the Senate floor to resume my weekly "Waste of the Week" speeches.

The Presiding Officer and my colleagues have watched me come to the floor 53 times in the 114th Congress to talk about documented waste, fraud, and abuse, and the expenditure of funds—of taxpayer dollars—on things that produce no positive effect.

Regardless of which party is controlling any branch of government—and we have had a significant change here in just the last couple of weeks—it is imperative that our focus remains on governing for the benefit of the American people, and this includes, from my perspective, rooting out any kind of waste, fraud, and abuse found within the Federal Government.

Taxpayers should demand an effective and efficient government that spends their money on the behalf and the future of this country and on behalf of the future of our constituents. When they read about waste, fraud, and abuse, it is perfectly natural that they would call on us to address the problem, which has been paying a dime

more than is necessary to run the Federal Government, and to pull us out of this ever-spiraling deficit spending and deep entrance into debt which may not be able to be repaid.

That is why I am taking a look at yet another waste of the week, and this one is called identity theft tax refund fraud which, over the past 2 years, has accounted for \$23 billion in stolen taxpayer money; that is right, \$23 billion of stolen taxpayer money.

How does this happen? Well, the theft occurs when criminals gain access to someone else's personal information, like their name and Social Security number, in order to essentially steal the tax refund that might be owed to them for the tax returns that have been interrupted and sent before the victim's tax return has actually been filed. Often criminals file someone else's tax return before the victim does so the IRS ends up sending tax refund money to criminals instead of the workers who earned the money. When such abuses happen, not only is the IRS unknowingly paying criminals, but the real tax refunds are denied or seriously delayed to the millions of hard-working Americans who are counting on those refunds.

So for families who struggle to make ends meet, annual tax refunds are often seen as a lifeline, but when those families have their tax returns stolen, it can take up to a year or more to rectify this mess.

Sadly, many of these criminals prey on senior citizens and low-income individuals because they know they are more likely to receive a tax refund and less likely to pursue the lengthy and often complicated process of getting the tax return that is due them.

Some hacks have even targeted children under the age of 14, often because parents don't think it is necessary to monitor their children's credit. Unfortunately, this makes children easy targets.

Within the past decade, identity theft-related tax fraud has exploded. In fact, from 2011 to 2014, the Government Accountability Office and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, TIGTA, estimates that the IRS paid out \$23 billion in tax refunds to identity thieves instead of the taxpayer who was due the money. Let that sink in—\$23 billion paid out by the Federal Government to criminals in just a 4-year period of time, and that is just the fraud the IRS has discovered. We don't know the number of returns that have not been identified or discovered over that period of time. This is the year 2016, and this is an ever-increasing amount of money in fraud that is occurring.

The continued success of those who are able to hack in and get Social Security numbers of individuals and use that to steal their tax returns is drawing ever more criminal activity. These

criminals are getting more sophisticated, making it much harder for the IRS to track down and next to impossible for the government to recover those funds.

There is no silver bullet for addressing identity tax fraud. The IRS has detected and prevented numerous attempts of ID theft-related tax fraud. However, there is more that can and should be done.

First, the IRS data security system needs to be updated to comply with the Federal Government's own security standards. According to TIGTA, three different Federal agencies have data security requirements for the Federal Government, and the IRS data system doesn't fully comply with any of them. This could be fixed. It should be fixed immediately.

Coordinating between agencies is something I have been talking about over and over again. The left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing. Social Security disability doesn't know about Social Security retirement payments and the unemployment insurance disability being paid. There is a lack of communication between agencies within the Federal Government.

The Government Accountability Office, GAO, testified at the Senate Finance Committee in April that there are nearly 100 recommendations that the GAO has made to the IRS to improve their data security. So the government agency charged with looking at how efficient or inefficient an agency is has the opportunity to make recommendations to that agency, and hopefully they will be complied with, but because of our lack of oversight in the U.S. Congress, we are not following up with enough pressure on those agencies to actually employ those recommendations. As a consequence, we are standing down here on the floor talking about this waste that goes on and on. Yet we don't go after the agencies to get those recommendations in place.

We learned that GAO's 100 recommendations have not been fully implemented, and worse, more than half of these recommendations are over 1 year old.

Imagine how the American people would react if a private company had so many persistent holes in its data system that it wrongfully paid criminals \$23 billion of their money.

Another way to prevent fraud suggested by the IRS watchdogs is to first receive the W-2 forms before issuing refunds. Here is what happens: employers issue the W-2s showing how much you earn and we attach those to our tax returns. The problem is, the tax returns that go to the government and the returns that come in from the taxpayer are not coordinated, and so there is a gap that potentially exists. The 2017 tax-filing season will be the first year

this accelerated system is implemented to address this particular issue because the legislation that was passed in 2015, which I supported, has accelerated the issuance of W-2s from the IRS so the IRS can verify the validity of the return.

In the meantime, I will continue to work with my colleagues in the Senate as long as I am here to keep the pressure on the IRS to ensure it meets Federal data security requirements and fulfills the other unimplemented security recommendations.

So adding to our chart, which we thought when we started we might be able to reach \$100 billion—we weren't sure—but it just keeps coming in. It just keeps pouring in, record after record, examination after examination, by certified nonpartisan government organizations. We added \$23 billion more to the waste of the week thermometer, reaching now well over \$350 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse.

To those who say there are no more cuts we can make in spending to reduce the deficit and the ever-increasing Federal debt or to those who say we need to find ways to address critical needs such as funds to address the spread of the Zika virus or money for cancer research or money to help strengthen our military during this time of conflict and threat to our homeland, I say to them: Let's at least start with what we know are tax dollars that are lost to waste, fraud, and abuse. We owe that to the taxpayers and to future generations. We owe that to our children and grandchildren who will be saddled with this debt. We owe that to our Nation to run an effective, efficient government to retain the trust of the American people that the tax dollars they sent to Washington are wisely spent for necessary purposes that only the Federal Government can accomplish.

We have a duty. We have a duty that rises above politics. We have a duty to make every effort we can to make government efficient and effective on behalf of the taxpayer.

So I am calling on my colleagues to say, yes, we need to look at the long-term impact in our midst. It is critical. It can have negative implications for the future of America. Until we get to that point—and we have made several attempts to do that under this administration, and each one was shut down before it hit the White House or was rejected by the White House—can't we at least look at the \$350 billion of waste, fraud, and abuse that is documented? Can't we at least start there? That is what I am calling on my colleagues to do. We don't have many weeks left in this session, but you can count on me being here each week that we have left, talking yet again about yet another instance of waste, fraud, and abuse.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Arizona.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, here we go again. For the eighth consecutive year, Congress has failed to pass an appropriations bill for the Department of Defense on time, leaving our troops operating on a so-called "continuing resolution."

Now, fresh off an election where the American people were clear that they are fed up with business as usual, that is exactly what we are about to get if Congress adopts another continuing resolution that would cut resources to our troops, hamper the war against ISIL, and delay the cutting-edge equipment and reforms they need.

A continuing resolution would also make the job of managing the government's largest agency even more difficult—and at the worst possible time.

The Presidential transition process currently underway is difficult enough on its own, but no incoming President has ever had to inherit a Department of Defense operating under a continuing resolution—no incoming President—but this is not the time for us to break that streak.

As the name suggests, a continuing resolution is supposed to continue funding the government in situations where the Congress fails to pass a regular appropriations bill. So what is the big deal about continuing last year's funding levels?

Our Nation asks a lot of the men and women serving in uniform. We are asking them to defend our Nation and our interests in real time against rapidly changing threats and adaptive adversaries, but a continuing resolution would lock our military into last year's budgets and last year's priorities. Does anybody believe this year isn't greatly dissimilar from last year on the battlefield?

A continuing resolution would place our troops at greater risk by forcing them to operate under an outdated budget that does not recognize the full extent of the threats they face. Worse still, a continuing resolution doesn't quite live up to its name. A continuing resolution would actually cut funds for our troops. The continuing resolution passed by Congress in September to keep funding through the end of this year cut the military's budget by \$9 billion at annualized levels. Under a potential yearlong continuing resolution, our military would be short \$12 billion.

The incoming and elected President of the United States stated time after time that we needed to spend more money on defense; we are not taking care of the defense needs of this Nation; we are not taking care of the equipment, training, and benefits of men and women who are serving in the military; that we have the smallest Army that we have had since World War II; that we have the smallest Air Force that we have had since the end of the Korean war; that we have the smallest Navy since the end of World War I.

So what are we going to do? What are we going to do in response to all that? As the conditions around the world become more chaotic, we are going to cut defense spending by \$12 billion. Not only would a continuing resolution cut resources, it would leave them with the wrong mix of funding among accounts. That means the wrong kinds of money is being spent on the wrong programs because we are continuing what we did last year.

Under a continuing resolution, our military would experience shortfalls in some very important areas. Training for our National Guard and Reserve troops would be at risk of falling off-track. As Vladimir Putin's Russia continues to menace our NATO allies, our military would not be able to carry out the expansion of the European Reassurance Initiative, which is essential to deterring Russian aggression in Eastern Europe.

Might I add an aside, it didn't seem to get much notice that a Russian aircraft carrier, launching aircraft with airstrikes into Aleppo—my friends, that is the first time in history that Russia, generally regarded as a land power, now has sufficient ships and aircraft capability to launch attacks into Aleppo, Homs, and other parts of Syria. Guess what they are doing. They are slaughtering innocent men, women, and children. They are killing the very people whom we have armed, trained, equipped, and sent into battle. It is atrocious.

A continuing resolution would put our groups at greater risk in Afghanistan and in the fight against ISIL. The President has requested a \$5.8 billion emergency supplemental to cover the costs of additional troops deployed to Afghanistan and expanded operations against ISIL in Iraq and Syria, but a continuing resolution would not include any of these necessary funds which would fill a shortfall that is looming in January.

Put simply, this cockamamie idea, this abrogation of our responsibilities called a continuing resolution would shortchange American troops who are putting their lives on the line in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

Meanwhile, the Department of Defense could have an excess of as much as \$6 billion in money under a yearlong

continuing resolution. However, those funds would be unusable because of restrictions on new procurement, on buying new weapons systems, and other requirements. There are restrictions on that and there is not authorization for increases in production rates.

For example, we are firing off a lot of missiles. We need to replace those missiles. We need to replace the aircraft that are wearing out. We need new parts for them. None of that is possible under what is now being contemplated.

Under a continuing resolution of any duration, our military would have to delay 78 new starts, 89 production increases which would affect critical programs. That includes the Ohio-class submarine replacement program, the KC-46 tanker, the Apache, the helicopters—the Black Hawk helicopters.

A continuing resolution would also delay major research and development initiatives. In short, what we are contemplating—cutting funds for our troops—inhibits their ability to serve the Nation, and they are putting the men and women who are serving in the military at greater risk.

Why? Why? Because we refuse to act. We who represent them, we who are supposed to be standing for them. We are not going to pass a new appropriations bill. We are just going to kick the can down the road for another 3 months or more. In other words, some may ask: If this continuing resolution delays some programs, can't we just make it up later? For some programs, perhaps, but there is one area where we cannot make up the losses of a continuing resolution, and that is readiness. We are asking our troops to be ready to defend this Nation at a moment's notice. We are asking our troops to be ready to take the fight to ISIL. We are asking our troops to be ready to deter and, if necessary, defeat aggression in Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific. We are asking them to be ready today.

But a continuing resolution would force tradeoffs that undermine readiness. In other words, they will not be able to conduct the training operations, the replacement of parts, the maintenance, all the things that go into making a ready military that is ready to fight. We are impacting them. With a continuing resolution, we are harming their ability to do that. Adding additional readiness funds later in the year would be too little, too late, just papering over our failure to give our troops the resources they need when they need it.

Readiness tomorrow does not replace readiness today. Every senior leader—uniform and nonuniform at the Department of Defense—has warned Congress about the negative impact of a continuing resolution on our men and women who are serving us in the military.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter has stated that "a continuing resolution is

a straitjacket" that "prevents us from fielding a modern, ready force in a balanced way." Secretary Carter said a continuing resolution "undercuts stable planning and efficient use of taxpayer dollars."

Commandant of the Marine Corps General Neller warned that a long-term continuing resolution "dramatically increases risk to an already strained fiscal environment and disrupts predictability and our ability to properly plan and execute a budget and a 5-year program."

Suppose you had a company or a corporation and that company—like most companies and corporations small and large—operate on a year-to-year basis. So you tell that company: Wait a minute. For the first 3 months of next year, you are not going to get any additional funds. You are not going to be able to plan. You are not going to be able to do what is necessary.

They wouldn't stay in business.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Richardson warned that a continuing resolution would lead to wasted taxpayer dollars. Under a continuing resolution, the Navy would be forced to break up its contract actions into small pieces. Admiral Richardson warned that as a result, the Navy would not be able to "take advantage of savings from contractors who could better manage their workload and pass on lower costs to the Navy. These redundant efforts drive additional time and cost into the system, for exactly the same output."

Army Chief of Staff General Milley made a similar warning about waste and inefficiency resulting from budgetary uncertainty. Have no doubt, what a continuing resolution does is causes budgetary uncertainty. It is just a fact. He said:

Things like multiyear contracts, developing long-term relationships with industry where they can count on us and so on—that becomes very difficult. And what ends up happening is the price per unit goes up. So it has built in inefficiency. It has built in cost overruns. It is an un-good situation. It is not good and it needs to end.

General Milley is right. This madness needs to end.

It is time for Congress to do its job. When it comes to doing our constitutional duty to provide for the common defense, there is no call for lazy short-cuts and shortchanging of our troops.

Let's pass a Defense authorization bill as soon as we get back. Let's pass a Defense appropriations bill that gives our troops the resources, predictability, and flexibility they need and deserve.

Next year, with a new President and a new Congress, let's go to work immediately on ending sequestration once and for all and returning to a strategy-driven defense budget. Let's work together on a Defense supplement that will serve as a downpayment on rebuilding military capacity, capability,

and readiness that have suffered under years of budget cuts and uncertainty.

This year, this Congress, let's do our jobs and pass Defense authorization and appropriations bills. This is what the American people expect of us, and it is what the men and women who serve and sacrifice on our behalf deserve from us.

Almost everybody I know—except those who don't tell the truth—did not predict the result of this Presidential election. What we are finding out—much to the dismay of some and to the surprise of almost all—is that the American people, particularly in some parts of the country, are very unhappy. One of the reasons of their unhappiness is that they believe they have a Congress that doesn't work for them. They believe their elected representatives no longer have their interests uppermost. When they see continued gridlock in Congress, of course the frustration level goes up and the approval rating goes down. I haven't met anyone who approves of Congress recently who wasn't paid staff or blood relatives.

So the fact is that when we kick the can down the road and do not provide the fundamental necessities for the most important obligation we have—to defend this Nation and provide the men and women with the training, equipment, readiness, and capabilities they need—then it is no wonder the American people hold us in such low regard.

So I urge my colleagues and I urge our leaders on both sides to take up the Defense authorization bill when we get back, and I think we can do that. Then let's take up the Defense appropriations bill. I have confidence in our appropriators. I don't agree with some of the things they have done, but they have carried out their duties. Why don't we move forward? Instead, for 3 months or more, we are going to put the military in a state of uncertainty—in limbo—and we will harm their ability to defend this Nation. That is not JOHN MCCAIN's view. It is the view of the leaders of the military to whom we entrust our men and women.

So I urge my colleagues to get going. Let's get the Defense authorization bill done. We could get the Defense appropriations bill done in a matter of hours.

Let's get those other appropriations bills done as well—those for the FBI, for the CIA, for our other intelligence agencies, and for those agencies of government that also are entrusted with the security of this Nation. Let's get something for them too. Let's not kick the can down the road. Let's do the people's work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as a longtime member of the Appropriations Committee, I strongly believe that we should have regular, yearlong appro-

priations, not continuing resolutions. I would like to remind my friend from Arizona that, by tradition, appropriations bills begin in the other body, in the House of Representatives. They have not yet sent over regular appropriations bills.

It was just reported in the last few hours that Donald Trump has told them not to have regular appropriations bills, but to have a continuing resolution until the end of March.

Frankly, the Senator from Arizona is right. I agree with him. We should have appropriations bills on all subjects. I am sorry the President-elect has decided that in his spare time he will also run Congress and will not allow full appropriations bills to be passed.

BANNON APPOINTMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, while we are on the subject of the President-elect, he has indicated some of the appointments he will make. Some, of course, will require advice and consent by this body, and I hope we will do that, even though this body has refused to advise and consent on the Supreme Court nomination now pending before it.

There are others he can appoint without being confirmed by the Senate. It is amazing that the President-elect, having said that he wants to bring the country together, that he wants to be a President for all of us, would then appoint to his inner circle, someone with the ear of the President, Stephen Bannon.

Let me just read part of an editorial in the Chicago Tribune.

"The problem is that Bannon, who will sit at the right hand of a president, also works as a conduit to hate and intolerance. Bannon has said Breitbart is 'the platform for the alt-right.' Yet the 'alt-right' is a repellent, nationalist political movement that breeds racism, anti-Semitism and misogyny. The alt-right miasma 'opposes feminism, diversity, gay rights, globalism, gun control and civil rights,' according to Baruch College professor Thomas Main, who is writing a book on the movement. At the fringes of alt-right is where you will find American neo-Nazis and the Klan, two groups evidently thrilled by Trump's victory."

Those aren't my words. Those are the words from the Chicago Tribune.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the RECORD the full editorial.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Chicago Tribune, Nov. 17, 2016]

EDITORIAL: STEPHEN BANNON: THE NEXT PRESIDENT'S WHISPERER

With just a week or so under his belt as president-elect, Donald Trump has spoken in public briefly, given a few interviews and bashed out some colorful tweets. Americans

still processing his stunning victory will have to wait a bit longer to get a full sense of the next president's priorities.

But already there's this: Trump has named Stephen Bannon, 62, his White House chief strategist.

Bannon, the political equivalent of a shock jock, was little known until he became Trump's campaign chief executive in August. He is a conservative media impresario whose resume includes Georgetown, Harvard, the Pentagon and Goldman Sachs. He's now the executive chairman of Breitbart News, whose popular website dabbles in the swamplands of the far right. A lot of bigoted ugliness swims out there in the so-called alt-right, and Bannon has let it fester on Breitbart.com.

Trump won as a populist insurgent who used bullying and intemperate language to fan his message. The strategy worked but also helped divide the country. Appointing Bannon as consigliere is not a good step toward unity. It agitates the not-my-president slice of the American populace. And it confuses Americans who are trying to give the president-elect a fresh start—but who also need to see evidence that Trump will abide his promise to be "president for all Americans."

When Trump takes office, Bannon—if he's still around—won't be the Treasury secretary or the attorney general or the secretary of state: leaders working largely in public. Bannon instead will play the role David Axelrod played for the nation's last novice president. His will be the whisper in President Trump's ear. His work product won't be what the White House proposes or what Congress passes. His work product will be what the president does. What the president says. What message the president projects to the country and the world.

We get what Trump is trying to do by appointing Bannon. The president-elect made two major picks early this week: He also chose Reince Priebus to be chief of staff, the Oval Office gatekeeper. Priebus, head of the Republican Party, was a shrewd selection. Someone in the White House needs political experience to guide Trump's agenda through Washington's thicket. Priebus is perfectly positioned to be the hour-by-hour liaison to his friend and fellow Wisconsinite, House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Priebus is nobody's bomb thrower. He's a member of the Normal Club. But that also pegs him as an establishment guy, making Trump vulnerable to accusations of being a sell-out. So to assuage the anti-establishment crowd, here comes Bannon, whose website was one of Trump's most vocal cheerleaders.

The problem is that Bannon, who will sit at the right hand of a president, also works as a conduit to hate and intolerance. Bannon has said Breitbart is "the platform for the alt-right." Yet the "alt-right" is a repellent, nationalist political movement that breeds racism, anti-Semitism and misogyny. The alt-right miasma "opposes feminism, diversity, gay rights, globalism, gun control and civil rights," according to Baruch College professor Thomas Main, who is writing a book on the movement. At the fringes of the alt-right is where you find American neo-Nazis and the Klan, two groups evidently thrilled by Trump's victory.

On the issue of Trump's presidency, we want to remain patient as well as vigilant. We've said in prior editorials that presidents get fresh starts and wide latitude to set their agendas. Bannon helped Trump get elected, which makes him more clever than the

Democratic operatives who backed Hillary Clinton, the losing presidential candidate. Maybe his primary White House role is to be a sop to supporters and that's all.

But Trump voters aren't the only Americans anxiously waiting for positive signals from the new administration. While Trump will never placate Democrats, there's another crucial group we'll call America's middle third who need to be assuaged. Many of them didn't vote for Trump but they may make the biggest difference in the success of his presidency: They'll either be won over or will bolt to the opposition. Like every president, Trump will calibrate many of his actions according to how far he can go without losing them.

That's always a tough balance. In today's America it's especially tough. By adding someone as notorious as Bannon to his team, the new president has more than sent the wrong signal. He also has risked alienating the vast swath of Americans who will determine whether his presidency succeeds or fails. And he's done it well before even taking the oath of office.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, everybody, whether we supported Donald Trump or not—and, obviously, I did not—wants to give any President a chance to bring this country together. Throughout the country, during this campaign, we have become terribly divided. Even in my own State of Vermont, we heard of some of these divisions.

I feel fortunate that Vermonters reelected me. I have never run negative campaign ads, and did not this time. I was opposed by somebody who ran a completely negative campaign. I think people reject negativity. There are so many positive aspects to America. We talk about making America great again, and there is no other country we would trade it for. What country would we trade our country for? None. We are a great nation. But what makes us great is our diversity and our ability to come together. That is what we should be doing.

I hope the President-elect will reconsider naming Stephen Bannon as his chief White House strategist and understand what kind of signal this sends to the country. We do not need more division. We certainly do not need people who might attack someone because of their religion. We need people who will realize the United States is an inclusive country, not an exclusive country. This is not the message we should send within our own country or throughout the world.

Mr. Bannon wants to continue making these horrible and offensive comments, as he has a First Amendment right to do at Breitbart News, but let us not have that be the example set from the White House, by the President of the greatest nation on Earth.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I believe Senator WARREN of Massachusetts will be joining me on the floor, and I ask unanimous consent that if she is here on the floor at the conclusion of my remarks that she be recognized next so that our remarks can be conjoined with one another.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the Chair.

WORKING ACROSS PARTY LINES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, one of the hallmarks of President-Elect Trump's campaign was his desire, often stated, to clean up Washington, to lift the dark hand of special interests off of the levers of government and, as he said it in his speeches, to drain the swamp here. I would like to assure the President-elect that on this side of the aisle we are very keen to work with him on a whole variety of reforms to control the role of big special interests, their lobbying apparatus, and their political machinery here in Washington.

I very much hope that President-Elect Trump will indeed choose to work with us. I hope he will bear in mind that although he won the electoral college, it appears now clear that Secretary Clinton actually won the popular vote and that she may have won the popular vote by as many as a million votes.

It is also worth noting that if 2012 is any prologue to 2016, it is likely that Democratic Members of Congress—of the House of Representatives—received more votes than Republican Members of Congress. The shift and the reason for Republican control of the House of Representatives has been the gerrymandering effort that has packed Democrats into very heavily saturated Democratic districts so that Republicans can create strong—but not massive—majority districts for themselves. I believe in the last Presidential election, States such as Pennsylvania and Ohio reelected Democratic Senators statewide, elected a Democratic President statewide, but then sent heavily Republican delegations to the House of Representatives because of that gerrymandering.

It may be a fluke of the way the California vote would have shaken out, but it would not surprise me if it turned out in this election that Democratic Senators and candidates for the Senate received a bigger popular vote than Republican Senators and candidates for the Senate. Those numbers are not in yet.

My point is that I hope President-Elect Trump will recognize that in a

divided Nation, it makes more sense and it will bind us together better if we try to work together across party lines rather than try to ramrod a hard-right partisan agenda through. There is no place I can think of—perhaps infrastructure, but few places where we are more willing to hear his ideas and work with him than on draining the swamp.

The environment here in Washington is obviously one that lends itself to very substantial political manipulation. In all of that political manipulation, most of the cards are with the big special interests. Indeed, corporate lobbying of Congress has been reviewed and measured as being more than all other lobbying of Congress combined by a ratio of 30 to 1. So if we are wondering where the power structure comes down here in this building, think about a 30-to-1 advantage for corporate lobbying over all other lobbying combined.

There are issues where I think we can work together if, in fact, President-Elect Trump wishes to drain the swamp. There are substantive issues. One of the things I have been concerned about has been the carried interest loophole, which is a quirk of the Tax Code that allows people who are hedge fund billionaires to pay a lower tax rate than a brick mason or a truck-driver does. That, to me, is not fair.

We have seen some reflections of this in studies that looked at, for instance, an enormous building in Manhattan in New York City. The building is so big that it has its own ZIP Code, and because the Internal Revenue Service calculates tax payments and income by ZIP Code, we can get a general sense of how much money the individuals in that building make and how much they pay in taxes. What we see when we look at that study is that the average income of the inhabitants of that building is well over \$1 million, but the tax rate they paid was actually in the low teens in terms of a percentage tax rate. And if you look at what the Department of Labor says about security workers and janitorial workers, we see that they pay more like a 20- to 30-percent tax rate in New York City. So what that leaves us with is a circumstance in which the hedge fund mogul coming back to his luxury apartment building in his limousine, as he steps out into the rain, is paying a lower tax rate than the doorman or the security official or the janitor working in that building. The doorman holding the umbrella over the head of the billionaire is probably paying a higher tax rate than the billionaire.

I can see why Donald Trump raised that issue on the campaign, and I can see why crowds responded to that. It is a disgrace in the Tax Code. We would love to work with him, but then we look at who his transition team is. The chiefs of his transition team are a whole slew of hedge fund and Wall

Street billionaires—the people getting out of the limo paying the low tax rates. When it comes time for Donald Trump to keep his promise on carried interest, it will be interesting to see if he can hold his own against the insiders around him who want to preserve this disgraceful tax loophole.

We want to work with him on infrastructure. We think there should be a big infrastructure bill. The civil engineers of this country give our infrastructure a D. Everybody who drives on our roads or crosses our bridges knows we need to invest in infrastructure, but the Koch brothers have already thrown down a gauntlet saying they will challenge the President-elect on that infrastructure plan. Will he have the strength to proceed, or will the insider lobbying political operation of the Koch brothers block him? It is another contest that remains to be seen between insider politics and the President-elect.

Finally, the biggest swamp thing of them all is the fossil fuel industry. The fossil fuel industry has more or less taken over the Republican Party in Congress. What remains of the Republican Party in Congress is a little bit like what remains of that unfortunate farmer in “Men in Black” whose body was occupied by the alien, who then walked around in the skin and the overalls of the unfortunate farmer. The fossil fuel industry is a special interest. It is the biggest swamp thing in the swamp. Will the President-elect be willing to take it on in any respect? That, too, remains to be seen.

There are a lot of very powerful creatures in the swamp. It is one thing to say you are going to drain it; it is another thing to actually take them on.

I am here to assure the President-elect that not just I but many Democrats would like to work with him toward responsible climate policies, notwithstanding the nefarious presence of the fossil fuel industry; toward an infrastructure bill, notwithstanding the ideological position of the Koch brothers; and on carried interest, notwithstanding the infiltration already of his transition team by Wall Street special interests.

With that, I yield the floor to my outstanding colleague from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, last week Hillary Clinton got about 1 million more votes than Donald Trump; yet here we are—Donald Trump won the Presidency. Across the Nation, everyone is wondering what happens next.

It has been barely a week, but we have already seen disgusting ideas emerging from Trump Tower: Put a

White supremacist in the White House; float a plan to register all Muslim Americans; draw up plans to round up millions of human beings and rip families apart across this Nation. It is sickening, and we will fight back. But, hey, at least he promised to shake up our corrupt political system, right? I mean, after all, when President-Elect Trump announced his campaign, he called out the politicians who were “controlled fully by the lobbyists, by the donors, and by the special interests.” When he accepted his party’s nomination at the Republican National Convention, he said, “When innocent people suffer, because our political system [. . .] has sold out to some corporate lobbyist for cash—I am not able to look the other way.” He promised that he would “not be controlled by the donors, special interests, and lobbyists who have corrupted our politics and politicians for far too long” and that he would “drain the swamp” in Washington, DC. Those are his words, repeated loud and repeated long during the campaign.

President-Elect Trump has now named most of his transition team. So how is he doing on his rock-solid, double-down promise to get rid of the special interests and the lobbyists? Big surprise. Trump is not “draining the swamp.” Nope. He is inviting the biggest, ugliest swamp monsters in the front door, and he is turning them loose on our government and on our economy. In just 1 week, the President-elect has elevated a slew of Wall Street bankers, industry insiders, and special interest lobbyists to run the show on his transition team. Let’s run through just a few examples.

The guy in charge of staffing the Federal Communications Commission was on Verizon’s payroll and has produced studies aimed at knee-capping the net neutrality rules.

The guy in charge of picking the team that will decide energy policy in a Trump administration is a lobbyist for the oil and gas industry.

The guy picked to staff up the Department of Agriculture is a “veteran food and agriculture lobbyist” whose firm has raked in millions representing the food industry.

The guy leading the transition for the Environmental Protection Agency has been paid by the oil industry and denies that climate change is real.

The guy heading up the transition team for the Social Security Administration is—you guessed it—a former lobbyist who spent much of his career working to cut and privatize the Social Security system.

The guy—and, by the way, we may have noticed a pattern here: almost all guys—working on transportation and infrastructure is a founding partner at a law firm that lobbies for the National Asphalt Paving Association.

The guy in charge of economic issues for the Trump transition team served

for 6 years as chief economist at Bear Stearns—the Wall Street firm that helped crash our economy in 2008, and he now runs a consulting firm for Wall Street clients.

Trump’s very first decision is to hand over the keys of government to the worst kind of DC insiders and special interests. It seems like all those promises to stand up for working people were just a giant con.

As the outrage has now spread, we have heard reports that Vice President-Elect Mike Pence has decided to remove all lobbyists from the transition team. Yeah, I will believe it when I see it. If we learned anything from this campaign, it is that Team Trump will make up things if it seems convenient. Last night we already heard another version of his story. It seems that lobbyists can come on board, but only if they drop their formal lobby registration when they join the team. Swamp monsters today, swamp monsters wearing clean shirts and ties for the transition team tomorrow, and swamp monsters once the transition is over. Putting a clean shirt on a swamp monster doesn’t change anything. They have already had ample opportunity to stuff transition plans with ideas that will be good for their well-connected clients, and they will be disastrous for everyone else.

Besides, even if the lobbyists finish up early and leave, the Trump transition team is still full of industry insiders seeking special deals for themselves and for their companies. This isn’t subtle, and you don’t have to take my word for it. Here is how Politico put it this morning: “A populist candidate who railed against shady financial interests on the campaign trail is now putting together an administration that looks like an investment banker’s dream.” In the same article, one historian said, “You would have to go back to the 1920s to see so much Wall Street influence coming to Washington.”

So what happened? How come the guy who spent the election tweeting “I’m not controlled by lobbyists or special interests” is stuffing his transition team full of lobbyists and special interests? Well, when you ask the President-elect about his flip-flop, he says he needs lobbyists on his team because “they know the system.” He said, “Everybody’s a lobbyist” in DC. That is literally the opposite of what he said during the campaign, and it is also not true. Many Americans, both inside and outside Washington, have plenty of expertise to serve the American public without being bought and paid for by special interests.

Americans are angry about a Federal Government that works for the rich and powerful and that leaves everyone else in the dirt. Donald Trump knows that. He talked a good game during the campaign, and he promised to end corruption. He promised to drain the

swamp. And after 1 week, we have seen what Donald Trump's promise means—nothing. His word, his promise to the American people, is worth nothing.

Well, Mr. President-Elect, let me be clear: I am ready to fight on behalf of the millions of Americans you have lied to. That includes the millions who voted for you and the millions who didn't.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE SCHISLER

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my Deputy Chief of Staff Stephanie Schisler, who is retiring this week after 41 years of service in the Senate. She has been working here longer than 99 of the current Members of the Senate, which you would never know by looking at her because she still looks amazingly youthful, but she and Senator LEAHY, our longest serving Senator today, both began their careers in the Senate in 1975. Her dedication to this institution and to serving our country is absolutely remarkable.

Stephanie is a well-known member of the Senate community, having worked for me as well as four other Senators—Richard Stone, a Democrat from Florida; Bob Kasten, a Republican from Wisconsin; a good friend of mine, Dirk Kempthorne, a Republican from Idaho; and Blanche Lincoln, a Democrat from Arkansas, before joining our office. She has a remarkable record.

Stephanie's bipartisan resume is a testament to her expertise and her skill, but also to her integrity. Stephanie is beloved by the entire Senate community, from fellow staffers to Capitol police officers, to folks who maintain the building. It seems as though she knows all of them, if you can believe that. She has built wonderful relationships on the Hill, which is one of the reasons she is so effective. No matter what you ask of her, Steph knows who to call and how to get the job done and done well. That includes everything from hanging animal mounts in my front office, such as a huge buffalo or bison head, which couldn't have been an easy proposition, but she figured out how to get it done. Now there is even a drone suspended from the ceiling in our conference room.

While Stephanie has always excelled at her job, she has also helped those around her succeed. She has an eye for

recognizing talent. For example, when she worked for Senator Kasten of Wisconsin, she hired a young man by the name of PAUL RYAN as an intern. Of course, today he is Speaker of the House. Stephanie has always been able to see the potential in people, and that is a great example. She has always worked very hard to help them to succeed. She has been a mentor and a surrogate mother to many staffers, not only in my office but in other offices and throughout her tenure working at the Senate.

I want to thank her husband Gordon and her children Nick and Leigh for supporting Stephanie during all those late nights and long weeks throughout her career.

Stephanie is truly a unique individual and an irreplaceable member of my team. I keep pleading for her not to retire, but so far it hasn't worked. I am not giving up, though. She is truly somebody who cannot be replaced.

While we will miss Steph, we are grateful for the positive impact she has had on so many lives with her amazing influence for good in the Senate. We thank her for her service to our country, and we wish her the best as she begins this new chapter in her life. We are so appreciative to have had Steph as part of our team, and we will truly miss her.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BANNON APPOINTMENT

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, I rise today to address the President-elect's selection of Stephen Bannon, a divisive figure and former head of the alt-right Web site Breitbart to serve as Chief Strategist and Senior Counsel to the President.

In the early hours of November 9, after it became clear that he had officially won the race for the White House, President-Elect Trump appeared before his supporters to deliver a victory speech. He said, "Now it's time for America to bind the wounds of division. . . . To all Republicans and Democrats and independents across this Nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people."

After a long and contentious campaign, it seemed to me that the Presi-

dent-elect implicitly acknowledged that some of the rhetoric he had used during the race had alienated and offended many of our communities. He said, "I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be the President for all Americans."

It is no secret that I did not support President-Elect Trump during the campaign, but despite the fact that I disagreed passionately with our President-elect about the best way to approach many if not most of the challenges facing our Nation, I truly believe that there are places where we can find some common ground. We both understand the need to rebuild our Nation's crumbling infrastructure and to send Americans back to work repairing our roads, bridges, and schools. Both President-Elect Trump and I support closing the carried interest loophole, which allows private equity and hedge fund managers to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. These are issues on which I look forward to working with the next administration, so one can understand why I was encouraged by President-Elect Trump's call for unity. Once an election is over and the heat of the campaign has subsided, the American people expect our leaders to come together to find common cause and get to work solving our Nation's problems.

I was disappointed when, just a few days later, I learned that the President-elect had selected former Trump campaign CEO Stephen Bannon to serve as his Chief Strategist and Senior Counsel, a position the President-elect described as an "equal partner" to his incoming White House Chief of Staff.

The selection of Mr. Bannon to serve at the very highest level of our government does not signal a willingness to set aside our differences and embrace unity—far from it. Before Mr. Bannon joined the Trump campaign, where he was widely credited as the chief architect of its most corrosive tactics, Mr. Bannon was the executive chairman of Breitbart News.

Breitbart News, for those who are not familiar with it, is a conservative Web site founded by the late Andrew Breitbart. Even from its inception, Breitbart was a bastion of far-right ideology whose writers and editorial editors unapologetically courted controversy. But the site took a darker turn shortly after Mr. Bannon took it over in 2012.

"I think anger is a good thing," Mr. Bannon is quoted as telling a gathering of conservative activists, and it shows. Mr. Bannon guided Breitbart away from more mainstream conservative opinion to instead traffic in an ideology of racism, misogyny, xenophobia, homophobia, and anti-Semitism. Even a former Breitbart editor, who has lamented the site's hard shift to the extreme right, described its comment section as "turning into a cesspool for white supremacist mememakers."

This Senator thinks it is important for the public to understand exactly how Mr. Bannon's Breitbart describes its fellow citizens. Here are just a few articles that Breitbart published under Mr. Bannon's direction.

"Gabby Giffords: The Gun Control Movement's Human Shield." Included in this article is the line, "Giffords is their human shield—the gun control representative who could do and say what she wanted without facing any real pressure to prove her claims were true."

Two weeks to the day after nine people were murdered at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, Breitbart published, "Hoist it High and Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims a Glorious Heritage." In the article, the writer asks: "Barack, you might just want to remind us again which state of the Union, north or south, your ancestors resided in during the traumatic years 1861–1865? Or did Kenya not have a dog in that fight?"

In "Political Correctness Protects Muslim Rape Culture," the author describes cases of sexual assault in Europe, but warns that "you won't hear much about it in U.S. mainstream media because the epidemic is a by-product of the influx into Europe of a million, mostly Muslim, migrants."

"Mexico is Sending us Colonists, Not Immigrants" is a story in which readers are warned that "Mexico sees Mexicans in the United States as strategic assets in every sense of that word. They are seen as extensions of the Mexican state and partners in Mexico's plan."

This is nasty stuff. This is vile. It comes all the way from the top, from Mr. Bannon himself. In July, Mr. Bannon wrote a piece for Breitbart, in which he accused his political opponents of a "plot to take down America" by focusing on the need to improve the relationship between law enforcement and communities of color. That was the plot to take down America.

The article opened with Mr. Bannon explicitly and baselessly linking the man responsible for shooting police officers in Dallas, TX, to the Black Lives Matter movement. Mr. Bannon wrote: "Five police officers are murdered in Dallas by a [hashtag] Black Lives Matter-type activist-turned-sniper." There is no question that the Dallas shooter was a troubled man who harbored hate in his heart, a man whom investigators determined was himself motivated by racist ideologies, but there is no evidence suggesting that the shooter was a member of Black Lives Matter, a movement born in opposition to violence and hate.

He was not an "activist-turned-sniper," a turn of phrase Mr. Bannon crafted to suggest that two roles exist along a continuum, to suggest that it is only a matter of time before the peaceful protesters take up arms.

It is bad enough that Mr. Bannon sought to fan the flames of fear, anxiety, and turn our communities against Americans peacefully exercising their first amendment rights. Mr. Bannon's article did not stop at impugning activists who protest officer-involved shootings. No. Mr. Bannon proceeded to cast suspicion upon an entire race. He wrote:

Here's a thought: What if the people getting shot by the cops did things to deserve it? There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent.

Wild conspiracy theories aside, there is a name for that kind of tactic. It is called a dog whistle. To some, such rhetoric may not appear overtly racist, and make no mistake, that is by design. Not every person who hears that kind of language understands that by saying that "some people are naturally aggressive and violent," Mr. Bannon is suggesting that Black people—after all the ones who were shot by the police—are naturally aggressive and violent.

But to the alt-right, to those who read his Web site, Mr. Bannon's meaning is all too clear. Now, Mr. Bannon does not always attempt to cloak his views. At times, connecting lines he draws are much clearer. In the very same article, Mr. Bannon suggested that efforts by the Obama administration to pursue gun safety measures in the wake of the Orlando shooting are nothing more than an effort to divert attention away from refugees. Never mind that refugees were not involved in the incident. Let's all remember that the tragedy at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, a shooting in which 49 people were murdered, and 53 others were wounded, was carried out by an American-born U.S. citizen.

Nonetheless, Mr. Bannon wrote: "In the wake of Orlando, the Obama administration, with Hillary Clinton cheering it on, intoned against guns and 'hate,' and is now back to importing more hating Muslims."

To suggest that members of a peaceful protest movement like Black Lives Matter were in league with a cold-blooded killer, that the sympathies of the President of the United States lie not with the victims of gun violence but instead with those who would seek to do us harm, to pit members of vulnerable communities against one another—LGBT people against refugees, peaceful protesters against the cops who rushed to shield them from gunfire—is abhorrent.

Regrettably, we have no reason to believe Mr. Bannon would not seek to deploy such tactics from the White House. After all, they featured prominently in the Trump campaign's final television ad. In the spot, the President-elect's voice warns that "those who control the levers of power in Washington" and "global special interests" don't have America's best interests at heart.

At the same time, images of George Soros, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein—all prominent Jews—flash on the screen. To those who may not know better, such an ad could seem innocuous, but, to me, its message is obvious. The ad's anti-Semitic overtones, which draw on an old and hateful conspiracy theory about Jews controlling banks and financial markets, were obvious to me. I called it a German shepherd whistle designed to be heard in some of the darkest remaining corners of our country and our world. Politics that rely on this type of innuendo—Stephen Bannon's brand of politics—has no place in a modern Presidential campaign, and it certainly has no place in the White House.

Let's be clear. The use of racially charged rhetoric and innuendo is repulsive. The very purpose of deploying dog-whistle politics in the context of a campaign is to attract the support of people who harbor hateful ideologies without offending the sensibilities of more mainstream voters.

Every Member of this body should condemn rhetoric that sows the seeds of discourse. It is our obligation, not just as Senators but as Americans, to stand up to Mr. Bannon's hateful, decisive brand of politics and reject it. We cannot change the fact that such strategy has played a role in this campaign, but moving forward, it is imperative that we not allow these corrosive tactics to become normalized. We cannot allow them to become a regular part of our politics.

If President-Elect Trump truly meant what he said during his victory speech, if he truly hopes to be President for all Americans, he will recognize that such tactics stand in the way of that goal and he will renounce them. The women and men the leader chooses to surround himself with show the public what kind of leader he will be. President-Elect Trump has a choice: Will he truly attempt to "bind the wounds of division" or will our next President seek counsel from a man who proudly traffics in hatred, half-truths, and pernicious innuendo? Will President-Elect Trump's administration open its doors to all people or will it seek to govern from exploiting old prejudices and pitting us against one another? The campaign is over, but the wounds inflicted during a long battle remain raw. It is time to set about the work of healing them.

I urge President-Elect Trump to begin that work by surrounding himself with people equal to the task. Mr. Bannon is not one of them. He should not serve in the next administration. I call on President-Elect Trump to appeal to America's better angels and to reject the dark politics represented by Stephen Bannon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, our Nation has gone through a difficult, bruising Presidential election. Normally, we would be making the pivot to healing those wounds, but this election has been particularly rough, and the wounds sustained during the campaign continue to haunt our Nation. Many groups of Americans across our country are frightened for the future, of being deported, of being targeted as Muslims, of resurgent racism toward African Americans, of anti-Semitism, of losing their right to marry the person they love.

Unfortunately, they have good reason to be afraid. We have seen a surge, a wave of hateful bigoted, racist, sexist attacks happening in communities across our country since the election. The divisive rhetoric and conduct of President-Elect Donald Trump's campaign over the past year and a half is responsible for unleashing this blight on our country. He has the responsibility to turn things around, to put an end to this division, and to start the healing.

That is why, earlier today, 10 of my colleagues in the Senate joined me to send a letter to President-Elect Trump, demanding that he stand up and condemn these verbal and physical attacks occurring around this country, that he denounce his own past campaign rhetoric that gave life to so many of these acts of hate and violence, and that he exclude proponents of hatred and discrimination from the ranks of his administration, including immediately firing white supremacist Steve Bannon as his Chief Strategist.

Here is what the text of the letter says:

Mr. President-Elect:

Your campaign conduct and Electoral College victory have unleashed a wave of verbal and physical assaults against our fellow Americans. In just the last six days, the Southern Poverty Law Center has documented hundreds of acts of discrimination and violence toward many of the ethnic and social groups you attacked in your campaign. These attacks are absolutely unacceptable. We condemn them. We stand united with our fellow citizens.

Unfortunately, these acts of hate have been enabled by your campaign strategy of promoting bigotry, racism, and sexism. It is the logical consequence of your campaign attacks on and discrimination aimed at Hispanics, African Americans, veterans, immigrants, women, Muslims, Jews, and individuals with disabilities. Millions of Americans see a President-elect who has chosen to knock them down rather than to lift them up. Your conduct has empowered too many Americans to act on their darkest impulses.

This is the wrong vision for America and the wrong path for your coming Administration. We call on you to change course. We urge you, as our future President, to join us in rejecting hate and embracing respect for every ethnicity, race and gender. We urge you to join us in fighting for a nation free of discrimination, where every child has the opportunity to thrive and contribute according

to his or her ability. We urge you to join us in fighting for our Constitutional vision of equality and opportunity and the vision in our Pledge of Allegiance of liberty and justice for all.

As you assume the mantle of leadership in office, it is your responsibility to put an end to the crimes of hate and prejudice sweeping our nation. These wounds to our national citizenry are of your making. It is your responsibility to rectify the damage. You have the power as President to move beyond the hate-filled rhetoric of your campaign.

We call on you to repudiate your campaign attacks against diverse communities of Americans.

We call on you to address the American people and demand that all Americans end these verbal and physical attacks and replace acts of hatred with acts of kindness.

We call on you to exclude the proponents of discrimination and hatred from the ranks of your Administration, and that includes immediately firing Steve Bannon as your Chief Strategist.

The letter concludes:

It is time for you to act boldly and powerfully to put the nation on a path of healing. For the sake of all Americans, we call on you to rise to the challenge.

In addition to myself, it is signed by Senator MAZIE HIRONO, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN, Senator SHERROD BROWN, Senator ED MARKEY, Senator BERNARD SANDERS, Senator AL FRANKEN, who spoke so eloquently a few moments ago, Senator RON WYDEN, Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, Senator-Elect CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, and Senator TOM CARPER.

I thank my colleagues who have appropriately said that at this moment—at this unusual moment in our history, in our time here in the 21st century—that we have a President-elect playing on hate and prejudice and bringing a white supremacist in as Chief Adviser is unacceptable.

Some will say that President-Elect Trump cannot himself be accountable for what is happening across our country, but they are wrong. His words and his conduct are directly connected to the harassment and the physical and verbal assaults that we are seeing.

I am going to share with you all the comments of the campaign and the acts of citizens in category after category to show how these are tied together—how, indeed, these verbal assaults and these physical assaults are motivated by and justified by the campaign of our President-elect—just to emphasize that it is time for our President-elect to take responsibility, to change course, to embrace the connectedness of our American communities, the vision of equality and opportunity in our Constitution, the vision of a nation with justice for all, and the fact that our President should be working to raise up all families—not raising up a few by tearing down the rest.

Let's start by looking at what Mr. Trump said about our Nation's Latino citizens. At the start of his campaign, Mr. Trump said:

When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending the best . . . they're sending people

with lots of problems and they're bringing those problems with them. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. . . . And some, I assume, are good people.

Later in the campaign he promised to build a wall—"a great, great wall on our southern border, and I will make Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words."

When discussing Judge Gonzalo Curiel, a U.S. district judge presiding over a lawsuit against Trump University—by the way, an American-born citizen—the President-elect said the judge couldn't be impartial and should be removed from the case because "this judge is of Mexican heritage."

Judge Curiel was born and raised in Indiana.

Mr. Trump's right-hand man, his designated Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, used his position at Breitbart News to continue attacks against Latinos. Under his leadership, Breitbart frequently used anti-immigrant slurs and published "war on Spanish" and nativist-appealing content in his quest to make his platform a platform for White nationalism.

It is important to note that even many Republicans and conservative commentators believe that Mr. Bannon is a man with unconscionable views and frightening ties to white supremacist movements.

John Weaver, a former top adviser to Governor John Kasich tweeted of Mr. Bannon's selection as Chief Strategist: "The racist, fascist extreme is represented footsteps from the Oval Office."

Ana Navarro, a Republican strategist, called Bannon: "White supremacist, anti gay, anti Semite, vindictive." Ana then said: "Be afraid, America."

Glenn Beck, known to all of us as a rightwing radio commentator—a very conservative commentator, a person who has attacked virtually every idea to help working America that comes from the blue side of the aisle—said Bannon is "terrifying" and said that he has helped to give voice to White nationalists.

Former KKK leader David Duke and the American Nazi Party have praised Bannon's elevation to the White House. So there should be no mistaking or sugar coating what precisely this individual, Steve Bannon, stands for.

Under his leadership, Breitbart became a leader in anti-Latino, nativist material—one headline after another attacking Hispanics here in America.

So when we look at what is happening right at this moment to Latinos today, what do we see? We see students in our schools taunting and bullying their classmates. At DeWitt Junior High School in Lansing, MI, White students formed a human wall and refused to let their Latino classmates into the school.

In Ventura, CA, a Latino mother reported seeing fifth graders at her child's school chanting: "Build a wall."

Latinos all across our Nation are being harassed and told they are going to be deported, they don't belong here in America, even if they were born here in America.

In Andover, MA, a group of white men in a car threw a water bottle at a young Hispanic woman and screamed: "Time to go back to your country"—insert expletive—"my man Trump is on top now and we don't want you here!"

In Southern California, a college student was accosted by a man who said:

I can't wait until Trump asks us to rape your people and send you back over the biggest damn wall we're going to build. Go back to hell.

Then he inserted a racist slur for a Mexican and then threw water in the young woman's face.

Walls all across the Nation are being spray painted with phrases such as: "Build the Wall Higher."

In the face of attacks such as these, it is hard to remember that we are, indeed, a nation of immigrants. Unless you are 100-percent Native American, you are the child, grandchild, great grandchild, or the descendant of immigrants. Your forefathers and foremothers came to our country and felt they had come to a place where they could thrive. We have those beautiful words carved into the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

It inspires all of us. Each one of us—again, unless we are 100-percent Native American—have an ancestor who came to the country and felt that moment of freedom and opportunity no matter where they had come from.

Latinos are not the only group of Americans suffering because of the rhetoric of the Trump campaign. African Americans have become a significant target in post-Trump America, as too many take their cues from our next President's words and actions towards that community—words like the ones President-Elect Trump used to talk about African Americans who work for him. He said:

I've got black accountants at Trump Castle and Trump Plaza. Black guys counting my money! I hate it. The only kind of people I want counting my money are short guys that wear yarmulkes every day.

He then went on to say:

I think the guy is lazy. And it's probably not his fault because laziness is a trait in blacks. It really is, I believe that. It's not anything they can control.

Those are the words of our President-elect.

When he talked about the Black Lives Matter movement on FOX News, he said:

I think they are trouble. I think they're looking for trouble.

He often shows a startling disconnect with the African-American community, generalizing that they all live in inner cities that he regularly describes as poverty-stricken war zones.

This disconnect started very early on in his real estate career when President-Elect Trump was publicly sued twice for discriminating against African Americans who were trying to rent apartments in his buildings.

Of course, we can't talk about Mr. Trump's—President-Elect Trump's—relations with the African-American community without bringing up his longstanding promotion and advocacy of the birther movement, which tried to delegitimize our country's first African-American President.

Those efforts go back to 2011, when Mr. Trump was considering a run for the White House and said on one talk show: "If he wasn't born in this country, which is a real possibility . . . then he has pulled off one of the great cons in the history of politics."

He went on and on and on—month after month—questioning the legitimacy of our President in office.

To his credit, on that particular point Mr. Trump has recanted himself, but he used it as a race card time after time after time to delegitimize our President—President Obama—because he is African American.

The views of President-Elect Trump's right-hand man, his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, aren't any better. Under Bannon's leadership, Breitbart created a news section titled "Black Crime."

Just 2 weeks after the Charleston massacre in which nine African-American churchgoers were slaughtered, Breitbart ran this headline. By the way, in that attack, the attacker used the Confederate flag as a symbol—a racist symbol—to justify attacking these nine individuals.

What did Steve Bannon do? He ran this headline: "Hoist It High And Proud: The Confederate Flag Proclaims A Glorious Heritage." In a lengthy July post on Breitbart, Bannon accused the left of a "plot to take down America" by fixating on police shootings of Black citizens. Well, the list goes on and on, but he proceeded to say: "There are, after all, in this world, some people who are naturally aggressive and violent." That is certainly a direct racist statement.

And what is the result we see today of all of this racism from our President-elect and from his Chief Strategist? Well, we have seen a startling rise in people's willingness to use the "N" word in public.

At a school in Maple Grove, MN, the boys bathroom was defaced by graffiti that included racial slurs such as the "N" word and porch monkeys, alongside pro-Trump messages such as "Trump Train" and "Make America Great Again."

Students from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse who were living off campus found the quote "Go Home" and the "N" word written on their front door.

A man in Knoxville, TN, woke up one morning to find his car vandalized with

the phrase—and I am paraphrasing—expletive deleted "U", insert "N" word, and then the word "Trump" spray-painted on his car.

We have seen incidents harkening back to a time in history of discrimination and segregation.

At a high school in Jacksonville, FL, an individual put up these signs: "Colored" and "Whites Only"—the time of Jim Crow in America, where African Americans were treated as second-class citizens—and a "Whites Only" sign was found on the door of a bathroom stall at a high school in Duluth, MN.

These are just a few of the incidents. There are the assaults as well, one incident after another of African Americans being assaulted. There is the softball field dugout in Wellsville, NY, where the phrase "Make America White Again" was spray-painted and the defacement of a wall in Durham, NC, where someone decided to write "Black lives don't matter and neither does your vote." There was a horrific incident in my State of Oregon in which an African-American woman was attacked in the parking lot of a grocery store in Hillsboro, OR. A group of three men threw a brick at her, broke her ribs, called her the "N" word, threatened to rape her, and they said: Now we finally have a President who feels how we feel.

It is hard to imagine how our President-elect, with his own racist commentary, his own past acts of discrimination, his own racist campaign, his own racist Chief Strategist, isn't at all connected to these events sweeping the country. They are directly connected. And that is why we are calling on the President-elect to change course. The election is behind us. Before the President-elect is 4 years of opportunities to improve the lives of Americans. Take the assaults of the past and make them the assaults of the past. Look to the vision of partnership to build a better America in the years ahead. Leave that past behind.

Martin Luther King, Jr., once said:

Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable. . . . Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and the passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

Let's make that the spirit of the next 4 years, where together we are dedicated to progress for all Americans toward reaching that goal of opportunity and equality and justice.

Another target has been our women across the country. Our President-elect repeatedly treated women as sexual objects. Women have worked so hard to be seen as equals in our society. Women have flown as astronauts. They have reached the heights in science. They have reached peak after peak in leadership across our country. They bring their insight and wisdom to this Chamber here in the U.S. Senate and in the House of Representatives 100 yards across Capitol Hill.

But our President-elect has seen it differently. Referring to the media, he said: "It doesn't really matter what they write as long as you've got a young and beautiful piece of"—insert a demeaning term for women. He declared that "You don't give a"—insert expletive—"if a girl can play a violin like the greatest violinist in the world. You want to know what does she look like."

Our President-elect derided a political opponent by commenting on her looks, saying, "look at that face! Would anybody vote for that? Can you imagine that, the next face of our President?"

During the campaign, our President-elect called a female lawyer disgusting or at some point in passing he called a female lawyer disgusting because she asked to take a medical break to pump breast milk for her 3-month-old daughter.

I think we are all aware of the comments he made towards FOX News debate moderator Megyn Kelly—words I choose not to repeat at this moment. And then he said pregnant women are an inconvenience for his business. And of course our President-elect was caught on tape bragging about sexually assaulting women, saying:

I'm just automatically attracted to beautiful—I just start kissing them. Just kiss. I don't even wait.

Then he went on to talk about groping the women and being able to get away with it because he is a star.

He has brought into the White House his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, who shares these views about women, putting up a headline: "There's No Hiring Bias Against Women. . . . They Just Suck At Interviews."

Another one said: "The Solution to Online 'Harassment' is simple: Women Should Log Off."

Here is another: "Would You Rather Your Child Had Feminism or Cancer?" as if women's rights are a disease.

We see that these comments and the conduct of the President-elect and the comments of his Chief Strategist have had an impact. Two men at a concert in Ohio threatened to "Donald Trump" a female security guard because she wouldn't let them into a restricted section of the venue. According to one teacher, a 10-year-old girl was taken home from school after a male classmate grabbed her private parts, and when asked why he did it, the boy said that if a President can do it, he can do it too. In Oklahoma City, a woman was chased on the highway because of her Hillary bumper sticker, while men in another car hurled sexual insults at her.

These are just a small number of the hundreds and hundreds of events happening across this country. Every Member of this body, every Member of the Senate can relate stories from people who have shared with them over

the past few weeks, stories from their constituents who have written to them to share the harassment they have suffered.

We have just seen a historic milestone. We have had, for the first time, a woman as the nominee of a major political party—and not only that, she got a lot more votes than did Donald Trump. The women's suffrage movement has come so far since the days when Elizabeth Cady Stanton said: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal" and that "the history of the past is but one long struggle toward equality." We have come a long ways in the few decades since Martin Luther King said that the moral arc of the universe is long but it bends towards justice. Across our country, citizens have worked to bend that arc in this vision of a nation that embraces opportunity for all—not opportunity only for the rich and powerful to have more opportunity, but opportunity for all, for every child to have the ability to contribute to this country.

My father, now deceased, was a mechanic. He never went to college. But he told me when I was in grade school: Son, if you go through the doors of that schoolhouse and you work hard, you can do just about anything here in America. That is the vision we want to strive toward, where the son of a mechanic, the daughter of a janitor, the child of a Hispanic couple or an African-American couple or a gay couple or a lesbian couple—where every child has the opportunity to thrive. To do that, we have to set aside these racist attacks, these sexist attacks.

Another target has been our Muslim-American community. For the last year and a half, they, like other groups of Americans, have been denigrated and insulted by President-Elect Trump and his campaign. His campaign has worked to fan the flames of Islamophobia. Take Mr. Trump's views on registering Muslim-Americans. When asked whether the United States should have a registry of Muslims, he said, "I would certainly implement that. Absolutely. . . . There should be a lot of systems, beyond databases. We should have a lot of systems." When the reporter followed by asking "Would Muslims be required to register?" he answered, "They have to be. They have to be."

Well, let me share with the President-elect that we are not a nation that discriminates because of one's religion. It is called freedom of religion. Our vision is opportunity for all. There were nations that discriminated based on religion. Those were European nations. That is why a lot of our forefathers came here—to escape that oppression and to have the freedom to thrive and to maintain the religious views they wanted to have, not what somebody else told them they had to

have, or to be imprisoned, or register them for discrimination because of their religious background.

So when any American attacks our Muslim-American brothers and sisters, we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder. And if any other religious group is attacked, we need to stand with them shoulder to shoulder and stand for the vision of opportunity and equality for all. That is what every Member of this Chamber should be coming down here to say—that when those groups are attacked, we will stand with them because that is not the vision of America. That is not the spirit of America. That certainly is 100 percent contrary to the vision of America.

Our President-elect tried to foment fear of Muslims seeking refuge in our Nation from war zones. He told a crowd in Minneapolis that allowing refugees into our country "will import generations of terrorism, extremism and radicalism into your schools and throughout your communities." This statement is so far diverged from the truth as to make it impossible to recognize where he got this notion. Every expert will tell you that if a terrorist wants to come into our Nation, the hardest path is to come as a refugee: You have to go to refugee camp, you have to be registered, you have to be vetted for years, and if you are male, you are probably not going to make it, but because the goal was to foment Islamophobia, this lie was repeated again and again. It is much easier to come into our country on a tourist visa, a business visa, a student visa, not a refugee settlement visa.

Our President-elect told the same crowd that refugees settling in Minnesota were "joining ISIS and spreading their extremist views all over our country. . . ."

Now there are reports from some connected with the transition team that the incoming administration is considering implementing a system for registering Muslim Americans, just as President-Elect Trump talked about, and using our country's shameful internment of Japanese Americans to justify this idea because it is a precedent. Let me be clear: Imprisoning fellow Americans as we did during World War II was a shameful and dark chapter and a mistake. We need to make sure we remember that it was a mistake and never use it as a precedent for action in the future.

Then, again, here we have our President-elect's Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, who has run headlines like, "Political Correctness Protects the Muslim Rape Culture" or "Immediately After Muslim Mayor Elected, London's Iconic Buses Proclaim, 'Glory to Allah.'" Mr. Bannon has personally suggested that we are in a global war against Islam.

So it is no wonder the rhetoric of our President-elect and the leader of the

White supremacist Web site is causing discrimination and confrontation with Muslim Americans around our country.

Some are being physically assaulted, like the woman at San Jose University who lost her balance and choked when a man attempted to rip off her headscarf or the Muslim student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus who reported having a knife pulled on her.

Then there are those who are being verbally abused and otherwise intimidated, including a woman riding the BART train in San Francisco who was accosted when another passenger called her a terrorist who should be deported, and a pickup truck that has been driving around Brooksville, FL, with writing on it that says: "All Muslims are Terrorists," "Deport them all," and "I hate Muslims." In Georgia, a Muslim teacher found a note left for her that said: "Headscarf isn't allowed anymore" and telling her to "hang yourself with it." That is the level of Islamophobia sweeping our Nation at this very moment, inspired by the rhetoric of our President-elect and his Chief Strategist, Steve Bannon, and it is unacceptable. It needs to stop.

As Robert Kennedy once said, "America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity—the very diversity which our heritage of religious freedom has inspired." We need to embrace that heritage, we need to cherish that heritage, and we need to strive to live up to the best instincts of our Nation, not the darkest impulses.

Yet another group that is feeling threatened is our LGBTQ community. I will note that Donald Trump in his campaign did not attack our LGBTQ community overtly, and he said on "60 Minutes" the other night, as the question of same-sex marriage came up, the question of same-sex marriage is "settled."

Actions speak as well as words, and of all the possible men and women he could choose as a running mate, he chose now-Vice President-Elect Mike Pence, the most anti-LGBTQ Governor in America. This individual is someone who has signed a draconian religious "liberty law" in Indiana that allows individuals and businesses to discriminate against the LGBTQ community. Our Vice President-elect supported conversion therapy to change people's sexual behavior. As a radio host, he gave a speech and declared marital equality would lead to "societal collapse."

Mr. Trump's Chief Strategist echoes much of this. One headline on Breitbart News said: "Dear Straight People: I'm Officially Giving You Permission to Say"—and then it goes on to list anti-LGBTQ slurs. Another headline that he put up on his Web site said: "Gay Rights Have Made Us Dumber, It's Time to Get Back in The Closet." Yet another headline said:

"Kids Raised By Same-Sex Couples Twice As Likely To Be Depressed, Fat Adults."

How has this kind of rhetoric impacted our Nation since the election? A gay couple in Ogden, UT, woke up to find their car vandalized with anti-gay slurs painted on the side. Rainbow flags, the symbol of the LGBTQ movement around the world, were burned in Rochester, NY. An individual in North Carolina found a note on their car that said:

Can't wait until your "marriage" is overturned by a real president. Gay families = burn in hell #Trump 2016.

Like so many of the other groups of Americans I have talked about, the LGBTQ community has struggled for a long time to be accepted, to be recognized as full members of our society, to not be discriminated against when they seek employment in our country, to have the same rights against discrimination that we adopted for race and gender and ethnicity in 1964. We have come a ways, but we haven't yet made it to the point that we have provided the same foundation against discrimination that we provided in 1964 to other groups.

So while Donald Trump himself did not attack the LGBTQ community, the person he chose as Vice President and the person he elevated to Chief Strategist for the White House very much have, and that is a powerful, powerful message that has unleashed attacks across this country.

As our next President, Donald Trump has the responsibility to put an end to the prejudice and to put an end to the hate crimes sweeping our Nation and to calm the fears and anxieties of millions of Americans who are frightened about their future in this country—about whether they will have an opportunity to contribute to this country, whether they will be fired from their job, whether their car will be vandalized, whether their children will be taunted and bullied, whether they will be attacked in a parking lot.

Across the Nation, thousands of people have been turning out to walk the streets and to protest. They are trying to send a message. Sometimes that message has gone off-track.

In Portland, OR, thousands turned out to send this message to our President elect: Put the hate speech and hate acts behind you. Don't bring White supremacists or deeply prejudiced individuals into your administration. Let's have a next 4 years that embraces all Americans and their opportunity to succeed. They are trying to send a message by walking with their feet from park to park, across bridges, through the streets.

Unfortunately, some anarchists decided to destroy the effectiveness of this protest by breaking windows and setting some fires. The organizers of these protests condemn the anarchists

and try to keep them out, and most of the protests have succeeded.

I ask for our President-elect, if you won't listen to those of us who are publicly asking you to change course, and if you won't listen to my colleagues who are privately calling you and saying to you and your team to change course, then listen to the people in the streets across America who are trying to peacefully convey the message that we are a diverse nation, with a fabulous vision of embracing people of every religion and every ethnicity and every race. Let's continue that tradition. Let's strengthen that tradition. Let's build on that tradition. That is the message all of us are trying to send.

I join my colleagues to repeat the requests we have made on the floor in Senate, the letter we sent to you, the message sent privately by many of my colleagues sitting across the aisle, the message sent by many of our leaders from civil rights groups and other organizations who have contacted the transition team, the message that has echoed with thousands and thousands of emails sent to Capitol Hill to ask us to help convey this message.

From every direction, Americans are reaching out and saying: End the hate speech. End the hate commentary. Bring people into your administration who believe in opportunity and justice for all. Change directions.

It is a time for leadership. It is time for our President-Elect Donald Trump to rise to the occasion and to help build a nation that provides the foundation for every American to thrive.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING ALASKA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as many of my colleagues know, I have been proud to associate myself with the work of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. I have been doing this for the many years I have been here in the Senate, and I have been privileged over the years to read the names of Alaska's fallen law enforcement officers. They have a candlelight vigil that occurs at that memorial every May. It is an extraordinarily powerful and moving vigil. From my seat, I am able to look out and see thousands of individuals, and directly in front of the stage they have the wives, husbands, parents, and children of those officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice. As I think of the families, individuals, and those who have

served and paid the ultimate sacrifice, it is very difficult to find words that express the depth of my gratitude for their service or the depth of my sorrow.

It is a great honor to be asked and a duty to demonstrate my solidarity with the thin blue line. I go each year hoping that I will not be invited back the next year because that would mean Alaska did not lose a law enforcement officer in the previous year. Unfortunately, I will be invited back to the 2017 ceremony because the year 2016, this year, I am sad to say has been a most difficult one for the law enforcement community in Alaska. This past autumn has been particularly difficult.

Since this body recessed at the end of September, 25 law enforcement officers have lost their lives in the line of duty—15 to gunfire. Firearms-related law enforcement fatalities are up 70 percent according to the Officer Down Memorial Page. This year we have to contend with a particular type of firearms-related fatality, the ambush shooting. This year, 2016, will go down in the annals of law enforcement as the year of the ambush shooting. From Stanislaus County, CA, to Canonsburg, PA; from New York City to Des Moines, IA; from Peach County, GA, to Palm Springs, CA, it seems no corner of the country is immune from this tragic trend. Unfortunately, Alaska is not immune from it either.

Just this last Saturday, on November 12, Anchorage police officer Arn Salao was dispatched on a call involving an individual who failed to pay a taxi fair, and as he pulled up to the scene, an individual opened fire on his patrol car. Officer Salao exited his car and began to return fire, but he was struck four times before the assailant was brought down by Officer Salao and his backup. It turns out—we have just learned this within the past day—that the perpetrator's gun was linked through ballistics to five homicides in Anchorage during this year of 2016.

Officer Salao has undergone two surgeries and he is expected to survive. On behalf of a grateful Senate, I will take this opportunity to recognize Anchorage Police Officer Arn Salao for his bravery and his heroism, and wish him Godspeed in his recovery.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the men and women of the Anchorage Police Department under the able leadership of Chief Chris Tolley. Chief Tolley is very proud of his team—and justifiably so—from the officers on the scene to the dispatchers who calmly managed the situation, to the investigators who pieced together the story.

Up in Fairbanks, to the north of Anchorage, we had a different outcome with a different ambush shooting. Sergeant Allen Brandt of the Fairbanks Police Department was not so fortunate. On the evening of Saturday, Oc-

tober 15, Sergeant Brandt gathered his four children, brought them together on his bed before he was going out to report for duty. That was ordinary for this sergeant—four young kids under the age of—I believe it is 8—all snuggling with their dad as he prepared to read a story, as he did each and every day. Unfortunately, nothing beyond that was ordinary about that particular evening. Sergeant Brandt had a premonition that he would get shot that evening, and he actually shared that with his family.

Sergeant Brandt was dispatched to a call of shots fired in downtown Fairbanks later that evening. He pulled up on the scene. He was shot six times by an assailant who took his gun and his patrol car, leaving Sergeant Brandt on the street to die. Hearing the gunfire, Brenda Riley rushed out of her home. It was late. It was cold. She was wearing a robe and slippers, and she literally held Sergeant Brandt in her arms while help arrived.

The sergeant was first taken to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, and then he was air-lifted to Alaska Regional Hospital in Anchorage. I had an opportunity to visit with him just hours after the shooting there at the hospital in Anchorage and had an opportunity to not only hear directly from Sergeant Brandt about the circumstances behind the shooting but to share his thoughts with his wife present as well as his best friend.

Sergeant Brandt was supposed to survive. His most serious injury was shrapnel to the eye. He had been shot multiple times in the legs, took a shot directly to his chest, and, fortunately, the bulletproof vest saved him, but shrapnel came up into his eye. At the time I saw him, he had a patch. He was quite concerned that he would lose his eyesight and, if he lost his eyesight, he was concerned that he wouldn't be able to continue to serve in the Fairbanks Police Department—a concern he said was very troubling.

The sergeant was released from the hospital. He returned home to Fairbanks to thank Mrs. Riley and to thank the Fairbanks community for their support. Eight days after he was released from the hospital, Sergeant Brandt went to the Fairbanks City Council. He went to speak before the council. It was actually the same day that the new mayor was being sworn in, new council members were being sworn in.

Sergeant Brandt wanted to thank the community of Fairbanks. A devout and humble man, Sergeant Brandt told the council that he has seen the hand of the Lord. Yet, he noted, we have many fine officers who have done greater and better things than I have. He said: Our officers do a very hard job and they need your support. Working weekends when their friends are working nights, sleeping during the day, the time that you miss with your family.

In Sergeant Brandt's words, officers do a hard job and most of the time thankless. He said: We need your support and not just when bad things happen.

He asked the council:

Can you imagine telling your kids before you go to work that you think you are going to be shot? That's what our police officers deal with every day. I just want you to know what life is like for a police officer.

Those were the words that Sergeant Brandt shared with the Fairbanks City Council.

Later that week, Sergeant Brandt returned to Anchorage for scheduled eye surgery. He was fighting to save his eyes, again, in hopes of returning to duty. Unfortunately, Sergeant Brandt died from complications of that surgery. His assailant has been charged with murder in the first degree.

Sergeant Brandt's final public utterance—that the law enforcement family needs the support of the community and not just when an officer has been shot—these words must resonate throughout this Nation. As we reflect on a tragic year about to close, it is my sincere hope this will be our national resolve in the year to come.

Like every other law enforcement officer, Sergeant Brandt knew the risks and his family knew the risks. In spite of those risks, his wife Natasha sent him out to work each and every day because the community needs people with Sergeant Brandt's selflessness, his courage, and his integrity.

So my thoughts today remain with Natasha Brandt and her four kids, who I hope will grow up to appreciate just how much of a hero and a role model their father was.

My thoughts also remain with Brenda Riley, who ran out of the house in her robe and slippers to come to the aid of an officer in distress, and with Phil McBroom of the North Pole Police Department, who is Allen's best friend, who stood watch with him there at the hospital and who maintained vigil and then cared for Allen's children, along with his own four kids, as well as with all of the men and women in law enforcement.

Once again, I join with my Senate colleagues in wishing Officer Salao a speedy recovery.

REMEMBERING EDWARD ITTA

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, it is following these sad and difficult comments that I continue my remarks this afternoon to pay tribute to a truly great Alaskan leader who lived a full and strong life.

Today I rise to honor the life of Edward Itta of Utqiagvik, AK, formerly known as Barrow. Mr. Itta passed away on November 6 after a very courageous battle with cancer.

It is hard for me to even share comments about Mr. Itta's life—Edward's

life—because he lived a life that was so remarkably full. As I look to the comments that I have prepared, it just doesn't seem appropriate to recognize Edward, using the formality we have here in the Senate, with just words.

Edward Itta was a visionary leader in our State. In many ways, like many Alaska Natives, he lived in two worlds—the traditional world of an Inupiaq whaling captain, as well as the past president of the association and vice chairman of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. I came to know Edward through his life as a whaling captain and how he helped to translate that into this modern world because he was very much a part of the modern world of business, government, and politics.

Edward Itta is probably best known for the two terms he served as mayor of the North Slope Borough, which is where many of us in Washington, DC, our Nation's Capital, came to know of and learn about Edward Itta and his leadership. He, as mayor, created the Healthy Communities Initiative to promote community-based activities. He also created the mayor's Youth Advisory Council, recognizing the need to encourage student leadership for our Next Generations, always focused on, again, a forward vision. He was deeply involved in policy discussions over how to balance oil and gas development in the Arctic with traditional values and the impact of climate change on his communities.

He came to Congress to testify before our committees. He was viewed as the Arctic expert, if you will, one who certainly had a Ph.D. in Arctic living. He spoke at just about every Arctic conference that I have participated in, as one, again, who could speak to his life as a whaling captain, as an Inupiaq, as a leader, as a father and husband but also a very strong businessman who was committed to leading his people into a modern-day world, while at the same time retaining ties to the land, to the waters that feed and sustain them.

Our former colleague Ken Salazar, who went on to serve as Secretary of the Interior, referred to Edward Itta as a giant of Alaska who opened his eyes to the wonders of the Arctic and its people.

There is a great book that is authored by Bob Reiss, entitled "The Eskimo and the Oil Man." It tells the story of how, as Shell was first seeking to explore opportunities in the Beaufort and the Chukchi Seas—some of the resistance that this oil company met as it dealt with the Native people in trying to gain consent and support for their activities in the Arctic and how this Eskimo, this Inupiaq visionary, helped to bring together the world of the traditional subsistence lifestyle and how it could be compatible with oil exploration and development in the Arctic. It is a book that once I had

completed, I didn't put away on a bookshelf to not read again. I keep it out because I continue to refer to it.

Edward was appointed in 2012 to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission by President Obama and did wonderful work within the Commission. In the business world, Mr. Itta was active in his regional corporation—the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation. He served on numerous subsidiary boards as well as his village corporation, UIC. Also, before taking on the role of mayor, Mr. Itta served in numerous management roles on the North Slope Bureau, including chief administrative officer and public works director. Locally he will be remembered for his leadership in building and maintaining community infrastructure, gravel sources, sewers, roads, airports and the like which were so essential to the survival in the far north.

Edward Itta played in so many worlds and in all of them successfully. Yet he never forgot where he came from or who he was. His family, his friends—so many of us who call him friend—recognize what he provided for so many. We will remember his great sense of humor, his infectious laugh. He loved to tell stories. He would walk around the community gathering—a gathering they call *Nalukataq*, and Edward would walk me around to every little family in this semicircle on the beach, introducing me to everyone from the elder down to the youngest grandchild and telling stories about all in between.

He was an amazing man. He had a passionate commitment to the values and traditions of the Inupiaq people. We will miss Edward Itta.

I had an opportunity to be there at the hospital in Barrow during the last few days Edward was on this Earth and had a chance to give a hug to his wife and to share my love and my support for a truly great Alaskan.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I understand that the majority leader is going to be coming on the floor, and I will be most happy to yield to him.

CONGRATULATING THE SENATOR FROM ALASKA

Mr. CARPER. While she is still here, I want to congratulate the Senator from Alaska and the chair of the Energy Committee on being named one of the recipients of the Jefferson-Lincoln Award this year in California and just say how proud I was to sit there in the audience and say that I know her and have the opportunity to work with her. So congratulations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if I can just say right back to my friend

that it was indeed a privilege and an honor to be recognized with the Jefferson-Lincoln Award, along with my colleague from Delaware.

Particularly at times when political heat and rhetoric can be amplified a little bit, I think it is important to recognize and know that colleagues from very different parts of the country, with different constituencies, and different political perspectives can come together, whether working on legislative agendas or just showing respect and appreciation for the good work they do. I have such respect and appreciation for my friend from Delaware. It was indeed a privilege to be recognized with him, and I thank him.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, most people are not familiar with the Jefferson-Lincoln Awards, but they are given out every year to different people, Democrats and Republicans, usually to people who are in public life. One of the recipients was Bob Mueller, a former FBI Director—and SAM FARR, who is stepping down from Congress after about 28 years there and a life of service. He succeeded Leon Panetta in Leon's House seat all those years ago.

They present these awards to people who want to get things done. That is pretty much it—people who use common sense, are collegial, work across the aisle, and just get things done. It was an honor to be there with my colleague and the Panettas as well. It was a great evening.

Mr. President, I am happy to yield the floor as soon as the majority leader comes.

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

OFFICER CODIE HUGHES AND SPECIAL AGENT
TATE JARROW

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I come to the floor maybe once a month when we are in session to talk about folks who are a part of the team at the Department of Homeland Security. There are about 225,000 of them. What I do every month is pick on a couple of them. We pick on a part of the Department of Homeland Security that maybe doesn't get a lot of attention.

Before the Presiding Officer leaves, I just want to say "Happy Thanksgiving" to him.

Tonight, if I can, in the time that I have, I will start off by—I have been doing this now for 2 years, coming to the floor and talking about people in the Department of Homeland Security who have done amazing things for all of us.

If you will recall, the Department of Homeland Security didn't even exist when I first came here in 2001. It was created on the heels of 9/11. We took about 22 disparate agencies and glommed them together. They all had something to do with Homeland Security. The Department has struggled at

times to try to be a coherent, collegial, productive organization. I think they are hitting their stride, and I am proud of the work they do.

There are more than 230,000 employees in the Department of Homeland Security around the country and around the world. They do some of the most difficult and some of the most diverse work that is done in the Federal Government, anything from protecting against cyber attacks—we have plenty of that going on—to helping communities recover from natural disasters. Unfortunately, we have a lot of that going on as well with FEMA helping out—to securing our borders, our ports of entry. The Department of Homeland Security faces great challenges as it carries out its mission of protecting all of us as we go about our daily lives.

As most people know, the U.S. Secret Service is charged primarily with protecting the President and the Vice President and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When I was a kid growing up, I thought that was all they did. As it turns out, there is a whole lot more that they do. It is a huge challenge, especially in a Presidential year like this when you have all these people running for President—mostly in the Republican Party, but some in our party too. As all the candidates are traveling around this Nation and going hither and yon, the Secret Service is trying to keep them and their families safe and doing it on a regular basis.

This part of their job becomes a lot harder during a Presidential election. The men and women of the Secret Service worked this year thousands of hours of overtime in this campaign cycle in order to provide protection for every candidate who needed it, whether Republican or Democrat. The Secret Service did this while continuing to perform other special protection duties, such as the massive task of securing the United Nations General Assembly.

In September, converging on New York City at the United Nations, we had leaders of over 100 different nations around the world, and the job of protecting them and keeping them safe fell largely—not entirely, but largely on the Secret Service. For many agents, this required significantly long hours and weeks at a time on the road and away from their homes, all while standing ready at a moment's notice to thrust themselves into harm's way should their duty require it.

I am enormously proud of the Secret Service in this election season. Their work to ensure our candidates' personal safety and protect them from harm also helps protect our democracy, ensuring that the American people have the final say on who will be our next President and next Vice President. The Secret Service agency is a critical part of ensuring the peaceful transition of power from one duly elected leader to the next.

For all these reasons it is urgent that the Congress do what it needs to do to ensure that the Secret Service agents who have worked so hard in recent months receive the pay that they have earned and deserve. The pay limit in current law prevents that from happening at the moment for those agents who are owed overtime compensation. I support efforts in this year's House and Senate appropriations bills to address that issue and to make our Secret Service agents whole. I'm hopeful that a fix to this problem can be included in any final spending bill that we take up during the final week of this year.

The demanding work done by the men and women of the Secret Service exemplifies the term "public servant," as they put their lives on the line every day to protect our President, Vice President, and the candidates for those offices, regardless of party or politics. Even during the busy Presidential campaign like the one we have just gone through, every division of the Secret Service, despite the added strains, continues to exceed expectations through their ongoing work.

While many of us know of the Secret Service's duty to protect the President, relatively few of us know of the important work done behind the scenes by countless others across the Secret Service, two of whom I am proud to highlight tonight.

One is called the Secret Service Uniformed Division, and they protect the White House and its grounds 24/7. They ensure that the people's house is secure for the President and their families, for their guests, staff, and visitors.

I have no idea how many people visit the White House every year, but I know it is in the hundreds of thousands, maybe more, maybe even in the millions—but a lot of people go there from all over the world and visit. One of the things that the Secret Service Uniformed Division does is help to make sure that when visitors go there, they are safe.

One uniformed division officer who has lived her entire life in the service of others is Codie Hughes. Officer Hughes joined the Secret Service 12 years ago.

Here is a photo of her with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary Mayorkas. As a uniformed officer with the White House branch, Officer Hughes is charged with securing one of the most iconic public buildings in the world, the White House.

In the past 3 years alone, she made more than 45 arrests while patrolling the area around the White House, including one person who was wanted by the FBI for previously making threats against law enforcement officers. Since 2013, Officer Hughes has helped save the lives of not one but three people who needed her help.

When a man collapsed in the White House before a meeting with the Presi-

dent, Officer Hughes administered CPR before the man was revived with a defibrillator.

Similarly, earlier this year, when Officer Hughes found a man collapsed on the street outside the White House without a pulse, she administered CPR until medics arrived.

And last year, most remarkably, when Officer Hughes happened upon two detectives in her hometown of Leesburg, VA, administering CPR to an unconscious man, she quickly identified herself as a Secret Service agent and offered to help. Along with the detectives, Officer Hughes administered CPR until the medics could respond.

This is her picture. As I said earlier, she is shown here with the Secretary of the Department, Jeh Johnson, who has done a great job, and the Assistant Secretary, Ali Mayorkas, who has also done a terrific job, and the fellow who has been the Director of the Secret Service for several years now, Joe Clancy, who by everybody's acknowledgment has done a very good job providing wonderful leadership. This photograph represents a time not long ago when she received the Secretary's award from the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. It is, I think, the highest honor that can be presented by the Secretary of the Department. It is the Exceptional Service Gold Medal for her "extraordinary bravery saving numerous lives both on and off duty." It is a well-deserved award for an exemplary public official. Codie, congratulations.

Officer Hughes currently serves as an instructor at the Secret Service training academy, teaching new agents how to respond to stressful situations while maintaining their composure at all times. I can think of few people better prepared to serve in this position than Codie Hughes.

When Officer Hughes is off duty, she continues her service as a volunteer with the Leesburg, VA, fire company. For 10 years she has worked on her own time to make a difference in her community and protect her neighbors during fires and other emergencies.

So to Codie, we say thank you for the example you have set for so many others at the Department of Homeland Security, in your community in Leesburg, and across our country. Thank you, Codie.

Another true public servant within the Secret Service is a fellow named Tate Jarrow, a special agent. Tate is pictured here to my left. He looks like a young fellow, but after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Special Agent Jarrow served 5 years as an Army infantry officer, achieving the rank of captain before joining the Secret Service.

Mr. President, as an old Navy guy, a retired Navy captain—he is an Army captain—I feel I should say "Navy salutes Army," and the Navy does salute

the Army. I like to say to people—I like to kid folks in the different services, and we take shots at one another in a fun-loving way, but I would say to my friends in the Army kidding me about the Navy, “different uniforms, same team.” So we are lucky that we are on the same team with this fellow.

Tate is a special agent in the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force. He has worked to protect millions of Americans from large-scale financial fraud. While fraud and counterfeit investigations are one of the Secret Service’s lesser known tasks, the growth, scope, and scale of cyber crimes makes Agent Jarrow’s work more important than ever.

After one of the largest data breaches in history compromised the information of nearly 100 million people, Special Agent Jarrow worked with forensic investigators and the FBI to track down the hackers and stop them from using the information to perpetrate a large-scale stock manipulation scheme. Special Agent Jarrow’s work brought to justice three men who not only stole this information but were stealing more than \$100 million using various illegal enterprises that preyed on innocent people around the world.

In another case, Special Agent Jarrow shut down a criminal enterprise that used investment fraud, credit card fraud, identity theft, and computer hacking to steal more than \$250 million—\$250 million—from some 600,000 Americans and thousands of other people around the world. His work helped put away the culprits, sending the ring leader to jail for 20 years or more.

Special Agent Jarrow has been described by his colleagues as “one of the most preeminent cyber investigators in the Federal Government.” That is really saying something, because we have some terrific ones in the NSA, or the National Security Agency, and in the Department of Homeland Security and elsewhere. So that is high praise.

While they say that Special Agent Jarrow is quiet, they say he is humble in person, and he is dogged. He is dogged in his pursuit of the bad guys. Unfortunately, there are plenty of them out there.

The American people, their information, and their hard-earned savings are all safer thanks to Tate’s efforts to go after the bad guys who prey on hard-working Americans online.

This October, about a month ago, Special Agent Jarrow was honored by Secretary Jeh Johnson, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with the Secretary’s Silver Medal Award for his work with the New York Electronic Crimes Task Force. Shortly after that, the Partnership for Public Service awarded Special Agent Jarrow with the Call to Service Award, one of its prestigious “Sammy” awards that go to talented Federal servants for outstanding service to us, the American people.

The Secret Service is full of women and men like Codie Hughes and Tate Jarrow, who have dedicated their lives to serving others on the job and off the job. The work done by them and others like them, especially over these past 18 months, and by thousands of men and women in the U.S. States Secret Service is a shining example of public service at its best. While many of us can get swept away in the politics of the day or the latest headlines and the last tweets, there are countless public servants across the Department of Homeland Security who wake up every morning, and they go to work on behalf of us, the American people.

Their dedication, their service, and their sacrifice continue to move our country forward. So, to Officer Hughes, to Special Agent Jarrow, and to all their colleagues at the U.S. States Secret Service, we thank you for your unwavering dedication, your long hours, tireless service to our President, to our Vice President, to their families, and really to the American people. All of us here in this Chamber and countless others around the country are better servants thanks to your hard work and shining example.

In closing, I should acknowledge the fact that, despite the excellent work I have detailed in these remarks, the Secret Service has faced its share of challenges in recent years. But this week the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security issued a new report praising a number of steps that the agency—the Secret Service—has been taking to make needed improvements. These improvements are thanks, in part, to the exceptional work of rank-and-file personnel like Officer Hughes and Agent Jarrow, and also to the strong leadership of Director Clancy, Secretary Johnson, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, and others who have been committed to ensuring that the Secret Service remains the finest protection agency in the world.

As I prepare to yield the floor and leave the building, I just want to take a moment to say, when a lot of American families gather on Thanksgiving Day across our country and enjoy a meal together—hopefully, a wonderful meal together with their parents and their moms and dads, their brothers and sisters, their children, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews—my hope is that when we give thanks, we will also remember to be thankful for the folks I talked about here today and the hundreds of thousands of people like them who are a part of the team at the Department of Homeland Security.

One of the reasons we have the freedom we do as a nation is because of their vigilance and commitment to duty. So I extend that on behalf of all of the Members of the Senate to the folks who serve us in the Department of Homeland Security and throughout this government and to the folks who

work in this building and who enable us by providing for Members and staff here in the Capitol and to the pages who are going to go home for a week or so and come back for maybe a week or so. We wish all of them a happy Thanksgiving, and we look forward to seeing all of you, including my friend the Presiding Officer in about 10 days.

With that, the majority leader is here. I am happy to yield the floor to him and wish him a happy Thanksgiving a few days in advance.

I yield the floor.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM “BILL” BISSETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to a man who has been a great advocate for the people of Kentucky and a man I am proud to call a friend. Mr. William “Bill” Bissett, who served for more than 6 years as the president of the Kentucky Coal Association, KCA, helped lead the effort in Kentucky to spread awareness regarding the devastation the coal industry has seen over the past several years—devastation wrought in many cases by wrongheaded government regulations and daunting challenges within the energy market.

Unfortunately for Kentucky, Bill recently left his position with the KCA, and starting November 1, he moved on to take his talents to the Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce as its new president and CEO. Bill’s departure is a great loss for the Commonwealth, and although he will certainly be missed, I wish him all the best in his new position.

As the people of Kentucky well know, the coal industry has not only supported and sustained life in the Bluegrass State for generations, it has also powered this Nation’s rise through the industrial revolution and through times of war to become the greatest country in the world.

Coal is forever intertwined with the history of Kentucky and the Nation, but recently, coal has been under attack. For the last 8 years, the current administration has waged a war on coal and a war on coal jobs. They would have us believe it is immoral to use coal, and they have pursued regulations that aim to close coal mines and shut down coal-fired power plants that exist in Kentucky and prevent new ones from being built.

Even in the face of this hostile environment, in 2010, Bill Bissett took on a difficult job that many would have shrank from and became the president of the KCA. Since then, he has been on the front lines fighting against government overregulation and overreach. And I have been proud to stand alongside Bill to defend Kentucky’s coal workers and their families against an administration dead set on waging a

war on coal, a war which has contributed to the closure of mines and an increase in unemployment.

Bill and I worked together in taking Kentucky's case for coal and for coal jobs to the EPA. When the EPA first held hearings on the set of regulations that would become the so-called Clean Power Plan—regulations that threaten to close down power plants in Kentucky and reduce jobs—Bill and I worked together in calling for them to hold listening sessions in Kentucky so EPA could hear from the people who would be most affected by its new rules.

When the EPA refused to come to Kentucky and only held hearings in States with little reliance on coal like California and Massachusetts, Bill and the KCA joined me in making sure our voices were heard. We convened our own hearings in Pikeville, where coal miners and Kentuckians with jobs reliant on the coal industry spoke about how EPA's proposed regulations would impact them. We also took our case directly to the EPA in Washington, DC, when it conducted one of its listening sessions on the so-called Clean Power Plan, which threatens to cut more coal jobs in Kentucky and increase electricity prices in the State by double digits.

These are just a few highlights of Bill's tenure with KCA. Before coming to KCA, Bill worked as chief of staff/senior vice president for communications at Marshall University, his alma mater. Prior to that he served as vice president of public relations for Charles Ryan Associate, CRA, an integrated marketing firm. During his time at CRA, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Friends of Coal campaign. Bill and his wife, Lara, are devoted parents to two daughters, Molly and Maggie.

From the beginning of his tenure at KCA to the very end, Bill Bissett worked with great energy and enthusiasm on behalf of Kentuckians who work in the coal industry. He was a great advocate for coal miners. Kentucky's loss is truly Huntington's gain, and I wish Bill well in his future endeavors with the regional chamber of commerce and beyond. On behalf of the thousands of Kentuckians touched by Bill's work, I want to thank him for his service to the Bluegrass State and his advocacy to preserve our history and heritage. He is always welcome back in Kentucky, where he has many friends.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA YU

Mr. DURBIN. Earlier this year, Linda Yu, one of Chicago's most respected and well-liked broadcasters, announced that she will anchor her final newscast next Wednesday, November 23, 2016.

For more than 37 years, Linda Yu has reported the news in Chicago and set a high bar for those who follow. Linda is

one of the special ones. She has an outstanding ability to connect with her viewers, which has ingratiated her to Chicagoans. A viewer once told her that "when things go wrong, you make me feel safe." That's what Linda Yu means to Chicago. She is a comfort to a city during difficult times and a trusted voice. Linda is the consummate professional, class act, and trailblazer. As the first Asian American to anchor a news broadcast in Chicago, Linda has become a role model for children aspiring to the newsroom, regardless of race or gender. That is quite a legacy.

Linda's story is a uniquely American story. Born in Xian, China, Linda moved to Hong Kong with her family when she was only 2 years old. Three years later, they immigrated to the United States, living in Pennsylvania and Indiana, before settling in California. In 1968, Linda Yu graduated from the University of Southern California with a bachelor of arts in journalism. Shortly after, she began her career at the ABC-owned affiliates KTLA-TV and KABC-TV in Los Angeles, before moving to what became her home away from home, Chicago, IL. In 1979, Linda joined Chicago's WMAQ-TV. Five years later, she joined ABC 7's 4 p.m. newscast. And for the next 32 years, it was the No. 1 newscast. How is that for a winning streak?

Among her accolades, Linda Yu earned five Chicago Emmy Awards. Her first came in 1981, for a special newscast on the assassination attempt on President Reagan. One year later, Linda received her second Emmy for her report and coverage of a construction accident in Chicago's downtown loop. In 2005, Linda was honored by the Chicago chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences with the prestigious Silver Circle, honoring her for 25 years of outstanding contributions to Chicago broadcasting. Linda also received the National Gold Medal from the National Conference of Community and Justice for her documentary "The Scars of Belfast."

Linda Yu has had an amazing career and is an extraordinarily accomplished professional. In her spare time, she volunteers at the Chinese American Service League, the March of Dimes, Asian Human Services and Juvenile Protective Association. She also cofounded the Chicago Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association. But her proudest accomplishment is her family. The mother of a daughter, Francesca, and a son, Bryan, Linda now plans on spending more time with them and writing her next book. Her first book, a memoir, "Living and Working in America, 15 lessons," published in Chinese, is a guide to help young Chinese woman in the global workplace. Her next book will focus on stories of prominent Asian woman entrepreneurs and political and cultural leaders in America.

When Linda broke the news to her colleagues that she was "moving on" from ABC 7, she made sure not to use the word "retire" because she couldn't imagine retirement. So let me be clear, this is not the final chapter for Linda Yu. She will continue to write and be a role model for her community and countless young women around the world.

I want to congratulate Linda Yu on her distinguished career and thank her for giving so much to the people of Chicago. She will truly be missed. I wish Linda and her family all the best.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-58, concerning the Department of the Air Force's and Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$21.1 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-58

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$11.5 billion.
Other \$ 9.6 billion.
Total \$21.1 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Seventy-two (72) F-15QA Aircraft.
One hundred and forty-four (144) F-110-GE-129 Aircraft Engines.

Eighty (80) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II).

Eighty (80) Digital Electronic Warfare Suites (DEWS).

Eighty (80) M61A "Vulcan" Gun Systems.

Eighty (80) Link-16 Systems.

One hundred and sixty (160) Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS).

Three hundred and twelve (312) LAU-128 Missile Launchers.

Eighty (80) AN/APG-82(V)1 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars.

One hundred and sixty (160) Embedded GPS/Inertial Navigation Systems (INS) (EGI).

Eighty (80) AN/AAQ-13 LANTIRN Navigation Pods w/ Containers.

Eighty (80) AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pods w/ containers (MDE Determination Pending).

Eighty (80) AN/AAS-42 Infrared Search and Track Systems (IRST) (MDE Determination Pending).

Two hundred (200) AIM-9X Sidewinder Missiles.

Seventy (70) AIM-9X Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Eight (8) AIM-9X Special Training Missiles.

Twenty (20) CATM AIM-9X Missile Guidance Units.

Twenty (20) AIM-9X Tactical Guidance Kits.

Two hundred and fifty (250) AIM-120C7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Five (5) AIM-120C7 Spare Guidance Kits.

One hundred (100) AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM).

Forty (40) AGM-88 HARM CATMs.

Two hundred (200) AGM-154 Joint Standoff Weapons (JSOW).

Eighty (80) AGM-84L-1 Standoff Strike Anti-Ship Missiles (Harpoon).

Ten (10) Harpoon Exercise Missiles.

Two hundred (200) AGM-65H/K (Maverick) Missiles.

Five hundred (500) GBU-38 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) Guidance Kits.

Five hundred (500) GBU-31 (VI) JDAM Guidance Kits.

Two hundred and fifty (250) GBU-54 Laser JDAM Guidance Kits.

Two hundred and fifty (250) GBU-56 Laser JDAM Guidance Kits.

Five hundred (500) BLU-111B Bombs.

Five hundred (500) BLU-117B Bombs.

Six (6) MK-82 Inert Bombs.

One thousand (1,000) FMU-152 Joint Programmable Fuses.

Non-MDE include:

ACMI (P5) Training Pods, Reece Pods (DB-110), Conformal Fuel Tanks (CFTs), Identification Friend/Foe (IFF) system, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG), ARC-210 UHF/VHF radios, LAU-118(v)1/A, LAU-117-AV2A, associated ground support, training materials, mission critical resources and maintenance support equipment, the procurement for various weapon support and test equipment spares, technical publications, personnel training, simulators, and other training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (X7-D-SAC and X7-D-YAB) and Navy (QA-P-AAB).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc.. Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: Nov 17, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Qatar—F-150A Aircraft with Weapons and Related Support

The Government of Qatar requested to purchase seventy-two (72) F-15QA multi-role fighter aircraft and associated weapons package; the provision for continental United States based Lead-in-Fighter-Training for the F-15QA; associated ground support; training materials; mission critical resources and maintenance support equipment; the procurement for various weapon support and test equipment spares; technical publications; personnel training; simulators and other training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program value is \$21.1 billion.

This proposed sale enhances the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country and strengthening our strategically important relationship. Qatar is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Persian Gulf region. Our mutual defense interests anchor our relationship and the Qatar Emiri Air Force (QEAF) plays a predominant role in Qatar's defense.

The proposed sale improves Qatar's capability to meet current and future enemy air-to-air and air-to-ground threats. Qatar will use the capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this aircraft, equipment, training, and support services will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Boeing Corporation of Chicago, IL. The Purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor. Additional contractors include:

Astronautics Corporation of America, Arlington VA.

BAE Systems, Arlington, VA.

Elbit Systems of America, Fort Worth, TX.

General Electric Aviation of Cincinnati, OH.

Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ.

Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, TX.

L3 Communications, Arlington, TX.

NA VCOM, Torrance, CA.

Raytheon, Waltham, MA.

Rockwell Collins, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Teledyne Electronic Safety Products, Thousand Oaks, CA.

UTC Aerospace Systems, Charlotte, NC.

Implementation of this sale requires the assignment of approximately 24 additional U.S. Government and approximately 150 contractor representatives to Qatar.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-58

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. This sale involves the release of sensitive technology to Qatar. The F-15QA weapons system is classified up to SECRET. The F-15QA aircraft uses the F-15E airframe and features advanced avionics and other technologically sensitive systems. The F-15QA contains the General Electric F-110-GE-129; an AN/APG-82(V)1 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar; internal and external electronic warfare and self-protection equipment; identification, friend or foe (IFF) system; operational flight program; and software computer programs.

2. Sensitive and classified (up to SECRET) elements of the proposed F-15QA include hardware, accessories, components, and associated software: AESA radar, Digital Electronic Warfare Suite (DEWS), Missile Warning System (MWS), Non-Cooperative Threat Recognition (NCTR), Advanced Display Core Processor (ADCP) II, the AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER targeting system, Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS), Infrared Search and Track system (IRST), APX-114/119 IFF, Link-16 Datalink Terminals, ARC-210 UHF/VHF, DB-110, EGI, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG), and associated air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons. Additional sensitive areas include operating manuals and maintenance technical orders containing performance information, operating and test procedures, and other information related to support operations and repair. The hardware, software, and data identified are classified to protect vulnerabilities, design and performance parameters and other similar critical information.

3. The AN/APG-82(V) 1 is an AESA radar upgrade for the F-15. It includes higher processor power, higher transmission power, more sensitive receiver electronics, and synthetic aperture radar, which creates higher-resolution ground maps from a greater distance than existing mechanically scanned array radars. The upgrade features an increase in detection range of air targets, increases in processing speed and memory, as well as significant improvements in all modes. The highest classification of the radar is SECRET.

4. DEWS provides passive radar warning, wide spectrum radio frequency jamming, and control and management of the entire electronic warfare (EW) system. It is an internally mounted suite. The commercially developed system software and hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. The system is classified SECRET when loaded with a U.S. derived EW database.

5. The AAR-57(v)2 uses electro-optical sensors to warn the aircrew of threatening missile launch and approach which is integrated within DEWS. This system detects and performs data hand-off so countermeasures can be automatically dispensed. The system, hardware components and software, are classified up to SECRET.

6. The ADCP II is the F-15 aircraft central computer. It serves as the hub for all aircraft subsystems and avionics data transfer. The hardware and software are classified SECRET.

7. The SNIPER (AN/AAQ-33) targeting system is UNCLASSIFIED and contains technology representing the latest state-of-the-art in electro-optical clarity and haze and low light targeting capability. Information on performance and inherent vulnerabilities is classified SECRET. Software (object code) is classified CONFIDENTIAL. Overall system classification is SECRET.

8. The LANTIRN (AN/AAQ-13) is a navigation pod and provides high-speed penetration and precision attack assistance in all flying

conditions. The pod uses a terrain-following radar and a fixed infrared sensor to display an image of the terrain in front of the aircraft on a heads-up display. System components, countermeasures and vulnerabilities are classified up to SECRET. Overall system classification is SECRET.

9. The AN/AAS-42 IRST system is a long-wave, high resolution, passive, infrared sensor system that searches and detects heat sources within its field of regard. The AN/AAS-42 is classified CONFIDENTIAL, components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL, and technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

10. A combined transponder interrogator system is UNCLASSIFIED unless Mode IV or V operational evaluator parameters, which are SECRET, are loaded into the equipment.

11. An advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links is used for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. The terminal hardware, publications, performance specifications, operational capability, parameters, vulnerabilities to countermeasures, and software documentation are classified CONFIDENTIAL. The classified information to be provided consists of that which is necessary for the operation, maintenance, and repair (through intermediate level) of the data link terminal, installed systems, and related software.

12. JHMCS is a modified HGU-55/P helmet that incorporates a visor-projected Heads-Up Display to cue weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. This system projects visual targeting and aircraft performance information on the back of the helmet's visor, enabling the pilot to monitor this information without interrupting his field of view through the cockpit canopy. This provides improvement for close combat targeting and engagement. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

13. The AN/AVS-9 NVG is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, and technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

14. The ARC-210 UHF/VHF secure radios with HAVE QUICK II is a voice communications radio system that can operate in either normal, secure, or jam-resistant modes. It can employ cryptographic technology that is classified SECRET. Classified elements include operating characteristics, parameters, technical data, and keying material.

15. The DB-110 is a tactical airborne reconnaissance system. This capability permits reconnaissance missions to be conducted from very short range to long range by day or night. It is an under-the-weather, podded system that produces high resolution, dual-band electro-optical and infrared imagery. The DB-110 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

16. Embedded GPS INS (EGI) is a navigation platform that combines an inertial sensor assembly with a fixed reception pattern antenna (FRPA) GPS receiver and a common Kalman filter. The EGI system is the primary source for position information. The EGI is UNCLASSIFIED. The GPS crypto variable keys needed for highest GPS accuracy are classified up to SECRET.

17. Software, hardware, and other data and information, which is classified or sensitive, is reviewed prior to release to protect system vulnerabilities, design data, and performance

parameters. Some end-item hardware, software, and other data identified above are classified at the CONFIDENTIAL and SECRET level. Potential compromise of these systems is controlled through management of the basic software programs of highly sensitive systems and software-controlled weapon systems on a case-by-case basis.

18. The following munitions are part of the F-15QA configuration:

19. AIM-9X Sidewinder missile is an air-to-air guided missile that employs a passive infrared target acquisition system that features digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. The AIM-9X tactical and captive air training missile (CATM) guidance units are subsets of the overall missile. The AIM-9X is overall classified CONFIDENTIAL; major components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL. However, technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

20. The AIM-9X is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-128 guided missile launcher. The LAU-128 provides mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-128 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

21. AIM-120C7 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high- and low-flying and maneuvering targets. The AMRAAM is classified CONFIDENTIAL; major components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL. However, technical data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

22. The AIM-120C7 is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-128 guided missile launcher. The LAU-128 provides the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-128 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

23. Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) is an air-to-ground weapon with a guidance tail kit that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather "smart" munitions. With the addition of a laser guidance nose kit, the JDAM provides a capability to engage moving targets. The GPS-only guided JDAMs are GBU-38/31 (500 and 2000lbs respectively) and the Laser/OPS guided JDAMs are GBU-54/56 for the 500 and 2000lbs variants. The JDAM in UNCLASSIFIED; technical data for JDAM is classified up to SECRET. Overall system classification is SECRET.

24. JDAMs use the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS. Countries approved for GPS PPS will be provided Group Unique Variable (GUV) keys or unique country keys.

25. The AGM-154 is a family of low-cost standoff weapons that are modular in design and incorporate either a sub-munition or a unitary warhead. Potential targets for Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW) range from soft targets, such as troop concentration, to hardened point targets like bunkers. AGM-154C is used by the US Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, and allows aircraft to attack well-defended targets in day, night, and adverse weather conditions. AGM-154C is a penetrator weapon that carries a BROACH warhead and pay load.

26. AGM-154 uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System

(PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS.

27. The AGM-84L-1 Harpoon is a non-nuclear tactical weapon system currently in service in the U.S. Navy and in 28 other foreign nations. It provides a day, night, and adverse weather, standoff air-to-surface capability. Harpoon Block II is an effective Anti-Surface Warfare missile.

28. AGM-84L-1 uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) Precise Positioning System (PPS), which provides for a more accurate capability than the commercial version of GPS. The following Harpoon components being conveyed by the proposed sale that are considered sensitive and are classified CONFIDENTIAL include: IIR seeker, INS, OPP software and, missile operational characteristics and performance data. The overall system classification is SECRET.

29. The AGM-65H/K Maverick is an air-to-ground close air support missile with a lock on before launch day or night capability. The H model uses an optical device guidance system that has the capability to penetrate haze and provides high contrast and longer range target identification. The K model uses the same guidance with a heavyweight penetrator warhead. Maverick hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. The SECRET aspects of the Maverick system are tactics, information revealing its vulnerability to countermeasures, and counter-countermeasures. Manuals and technical documents that are necessary for operational use and organizational maintenance are classified CONFIDENTIAL. Performance and countermeasure design are SECRET. Overall system classification is SECRET.

30. The AGM-65 is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-117 guided missile launcher. The LAU-117 provides the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-117 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

31. The AGM-88 High Speed Anti-Radiation Missiles (HARM) weapon system is an air-to-ground missile intended to suppress or destroy land or sea-based radar emitters associated with enemy air defenses and provides tactical air forces with a kinetic countermeasure to enemy radar-directed, surface-to-air missiles, and air defense artillery weapons systems. Destruction or suppression of enemy radars denies the enemy the use of air defense systems and therefore improving the survivability of our tactical aircraft. General capabilities, performance characteristics and support requirements are classified up to CONFIDENTIAL. The overall system classification is SECRET.

32. The AGM-88 is launched from the aircraft using a LAU-118 guided missile launcher. The LAU-118v I/A provides the mechanical and electrical interface between missile and aircraft. The LAU-118 system is UNCLASSIFIED.

33. M61A1 20mm Vulcan Cannon: The 20mm Vulcan cannon is a six barreled automatic cannon chambered with 20x120mm ammunition with a cyclic rate of fire from 2,500-6,000 shots per minute. This weapon is a hydraulically powered air-cooled gatling gun used to damage/destroy aerial targets, suppress/incapacitate personnel targets and damage or destroy moving and stationary light materiel targets. The M61A1 and its components are UNCLASSIFIED.

34. Qatar is both willing and able to protect United States classified military information. Qatari physical and document security standards are equivalent to U.S. standards. Qatar demonstrated its willingness and

capability to protect sensitive military technology and information released to its military in the past. Qatar is firmly committed to its relationship with the United States and to its promise to protect classified information and prevent its transfer to a third party. This sale is needed in furtherance of USG foreign policy and national security interests by helping to improve the security of a vital partner in the CENTCOM AOR.

35. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware or software source code in this proposed sale, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of systems with similar or advance capabilities. The benefits to be derived from this sale in the furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, as outlined in the Policy Justification, outweigh the potential damage that could result if the sensitive technology were revealed to unauthorized persons.

36. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Qatar.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-21, concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$10.1 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-21

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$ 6.3 billion.
Other \$ 3.8 billion.
TOTAL \$10.1 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Thirty-two (32) F/A-18E aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines.

Eight (8) F/A-18F aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines.

Eight (8) spare F414-GE-400 engines and Twenty-four (24) engine modules.

Forty-one (41) AN/APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars.

Forty-four (44) M61A2 20mm Gun Systems.
Forty-five (45) AN/ALR-67(V)3 Radar Warning Receivers.

Two hundred and forty (240) LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers.

Forty-five (45) AN/ALE-47 Airborne Countermeasures Dispenser Systems.

Twelve (12) AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pods.

Forty-eight (48) Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS).

Forty-five (45) AN/ALQ-214 Radio Frequency Counter-Measures Systems.

Forty-five (45) AN/ALE-55 Towed Decoys.

Forty-eight (48) Link-16 Systems.

Eight (8) Conformal Fuel Tanks.

Fourteen (14) AN/ASQ-228 AT/FLIR Systems.

Non-MDE includes: ARC-210 radio (aircraft), Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems, AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG), Launchers (LAU-115D/A, LAU-116B/A, LAU-118A), Command Launch Computer (CLC) for Air to Ground Missile 88 (AGM-88), ANAV/MAGR GPS Navigation, Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS), aircraft spares, Aircraft Armament Equipment (AAE), support equipment, aircrew/maintenance training, contractor engineering technical service, logistics technical services, engineering technical services, other technical assistance, contractor logistics support, flight test services, storage and preservation, aircraft ferry, Repair of Repairable (RoR), support systems and associated logistics, training aides and devices, spares, technical data Engineering Change Proposals, avionics software support, software, technical publications, engineering and program support, U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistic support services.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (KU-P-SBG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc. Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 17, 2016.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

The Government of Kuwait—F/A-18E/F Super Hornet Aircraft with Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested to purchase thirty-two (32) F/A-18E aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines; eight (8) F/A-18F aircraft, with F414-GE-400 engines; eight (8) spare F414-GE-400 engines and twenty-four (24) engine modules; forty-one (41) AN/APG-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radars; forty-four (44) M61 A2 20mm Gun Systems; forty-five (45) AN/ALR-67(V)3 Radar Warning Receivers; two hundred and forty (240) LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers; forty-five (45) AN/ALE-47 Airborne Countermeasures Dispenser Systems; twelve (12) AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Advanced Targeting Pods; forty-eight (48) Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing Systems (JHMCS); forty-five (45) AN/ALQ-214 Radio Frequency Counter-Measures Systems; forty-five (45) AN/ALE-55 Towed Decoys; forty-eight (48) Link-16 Systems; eight (8) Conformal Fuel Tanks; and fourteen (14) AN/ASQ-228 All-LIR Systems. Also included in the sale are ARC-210 radio (aircraft); Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) systems; AN/AVS-9 Night Vision Goggles (NVG); Launchers (LAU-115D/A, LAU-116B/A, LAU-118A); Command Launch Computer (CLC) for Air to Ground Missile 88 (AGM-88); ANAV/MAGR GPS Navigation; Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS); aircraft spares; Aircraft Armament Equipment (AAE); support equipment; aircrew/maintenance training; contractor engineering technical service; logistics technical services; engineering technical services; other technical assistance; contractor logistics support; flight test services; storage and preservation; aircraft ferry; Repair of Repairable (RoR); support systems and associated logistics; training aides and devices; spares; technical data Engineering Change Proposals; avionics software support; software; technical publi-

cations; engineering and program support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistic support services. The estimated total program cost is \$10.1 billion.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that has been, and continues to be, an important force for political and economic progress in the Middle East. Kuwait is a strategic partner in maintaining stability in the region. The acquisition of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will allow for greater interoperability with U.S. forces, providing benefits for training and possible future coalition operations in support of shared regional security objectives.

The proposed sale of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will improve Kuwait's capability to meet current and future warfare threats. Kuwait will use the enhanced capability to strengthen its homeland defense. The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft will supplement and eventually replace the Kuwait Air Force's aging fighter aircraft. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this aircraft into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be The Boeing Company, St. Louis, Missouri; Northrop Grumman in Los Angeles, California; Raytheon Company in El Segundo, California; and General Electric in Lynn, Massachusetts. Offsets agreements associated with this proposed sale are expected; however, specific agreements are undetermined and will be defined during negotiations between the purchaser and contractor. Kuwait requires contractors to satisfy an offset obligation equal to 35 percent of the main contract purchase price for any sale of defense articles in excess of three million Kuwait Dinar, (approximately \$10 million USD).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of contractor representatives to Kuwait on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery of the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft and provide support and equipment familiarization.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-21

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F/A-18E/F Super Hornet is a single and two-seat, twin-engine, multi-mission fighter/attack aircraft that can operate from either aircraft carriers or land bases. The F/A-18 fills a variety of roles: air superiority, fighter escort, suppression of enemy air defenses, reconnaissance, forward air control, close and deep air support, and day and night strike missions. The F/A-18E/F Weapons System is classified SECRET.

2. The AN/APO-79 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar System is classified SECRET. The radar provides the F/A-18 aircraft with all-weather, multi-mission capability for performing air-to-air and air-to-ground targeting and attack. Air-to-air modes provide the capability for all-aspect target detection, long-range search and track, automatic target acquisition, and tracking of multiple targets. Air-to-surface

attack modes provide high-resolution ground mapping navigation, weapon delivery, and sensor cueing. The system component hardware (Antenna, Transmitter, Radar Data Processor, and Power Supply) is UNCLASSIFIED. The Receiver-Exciter hardware is CONFIDENTIAL. The radar Operational Flight Program (OFP) is classified SECRET. Documentation provided with the AN/APO-79 radar set is classified SECRET.

3. The AN/ALR-67(V)3 Electric Warfare Countermeasures Receiving Set is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The AN/ALR-67(V)3 provides the F/A-18F aircrew with radar threat warnings by detecting and evaluating friendly and hostile radar frequency threat emitters and providing identification and status information about the emitters to on-board Electronic Warfare (EW) equipment and the aircrew. The OFP and User Data Files (UDF) used in the AN/ALR-67(V)3 are classified SECRET. Those software programs contain threat parametric data used to identify and establish priority of detected radar emitters.

4. The AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System is classified SECRET. The AN/ALE-47 is a threat-adaptive dispensing system that dispenses chaff, flares, and expendable jammers for self-protection against airborne and ground-based Radio Frequency and Infrared threats. The AN/ALE-47 Programmer is classified CONFIDENTIAL. The OFP and Mission Data Files used in the AN/ALE-47 are classified SECRET. Those software programs contain algorithms used to calculate the best defense against specific threats.

5. The AN/ALQ-214 is an advanced airborne Integrated Defensive Electronic Countermeasures (IDECM) programmable modular automated system capable of intercepting, identifying, processing received radar signals (pulsed and continuous) and applying an optimum countermeasures technique in the direction of the radar signal, thereby improving individual aircraft probability of survival from a variety of surface-to-air and air-to-air RF threats. The ALQ-214 was designed to operate in a high-density Electromagnetic Hostile Environment with the ability to identify and counter a wide variety of multiple threats, including those with Doppler characteristics. Hardware within the AN/ALQ-214 is classified CONFIDENTIAL.

6. The Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Combined Interrogator/Transponder (CIT) with the Conformal Antenna System (CAS) is classified SECRET. The CDT is a complete MARK-XIIA identification system compatible with (IFF) Modes 1, 2, 3/A, C4 and 5 (secure).

7. The Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS) is a modified HGU-55/P helmet that incorporates a visor-projected Heads-Up Display (HUD) to cue weapons and aircraft sensors to air and ground targets. In close combat, a pilot must currently align the aircraft to shoot at a target. JHMCS allows the pilot to simply look at a target to shoot. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED; technical data and documents are classified up to SECRET.

8. The AN/AAQ-33 SNIPER Pod is a multi-sensor, electro-optical targeting pod incorporating infrared, low-light television camera, laser range-finder/target designator, and laser spot tracker. It is used to provide navigation and targeting for military aircraft in adverse weather and using precision-guided weapons such as laser-guided bombs. It offers much greater target resolution and imagery accuracy than previous systems. The AN/AAQ-33 is UNCLASSIFIED.

9. The Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is SECRET. JMPS will provide mission planning capability for support of military aviation operations. The JMPS will be tailored to the specific releasable configuration for the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

10. The AN/AVS-9 NVG is a 3rd generation aviation NVG offering higher resolution, high gain, and photo response to near infrared. Hardware is UNCLASSIFIED, and technical data and documentation to be provided are UNCLASSIFIED.

11. The AN/ALE-55 towed decoy improves aircraft survivability by providing an enhanced, coordinated onboard/off-board countermeasure response to enemy threats. When threat libraries are installed, the AN/ALE-55 is classified SECRET.

12. Link-16 is a secure data and voice communication network. The system provides enhanced situational communication awareness, positive identification of participants within the network, secure fighter-to-fighter connectivity, and secure voice capability. It can be classified up to CONFIDENTIAL.

13. The LAU-127E/A Guided Missile Launchers is designed to enable F/A-18 aircraft to carry and launch missiles. It provides the electrical and mechanical interface between the missile and launch aircraft as well as the two-way data transfer between missile and cockpit controls and displays to support preflight orientation and control circuits to prepare and launch the missile. The LAU-127E/A is UNCLASSIFIED.

14. ANAV Global Positioning System (GPS) is a 24-channel Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) based pulse-per-second GPS receiver built for next generation GPS technology.

15. Command Launch Computer (CLC) is an electronics subsystem installed on the airframe to interface with the AGM-88 NBIC HARM Missile. The CLC and associated software package are compatible with all AGM-88 A/B/C missiles. The CLC receives target data from the missile and onboard avionics, processes the data for display to the Screw to the appropriate display, determines target priority, and collects aircraft data for pre-launch hand-off to the AGM-88 HARM missile.

16. The AN/ASQ-228 Advanced Targeting Forward-Looking Infrared (ATFLIR) is a multi-sensor, electro-optical targeting pod incorporating thermographic camera, low-light television camera, target laser range-finder/laser designator, and laser spot tracker developed and manufactured by Raytheon. It is used to provide navigation and targeting for military aircraft in adverse weather and using precision-guided munitions such as laser-guided bombs.

17. A determination has been made that the Government of Kuwait, can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the classified and sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government.

18. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

19. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to express my frustration with the inaction of the Federal Communication Commission due to political reasons.

The FCC's Chairman, Tom Wheeler, was forced to cancel a vote during their open meeting due to the inaction of one acting commissioner. That vote would have implemented a program to help rural Americans receive wireless broadband internet. I see no reason for the Commission to delay a vote, on a noncontroversial policy that would infuse universal service funding to the most high-cost rural communities across the country.

I regularly hear from Oregonians in rural counties that it is clear high costs are preventing private sector broadband investment in parts of rural Oregon. The FCC must fulfill its responsibility to provide a lifeline to rural communities and a connection to the global economy. Wireless cell service and broadband internet spur economic opportunity, improve public safety, and increase educational outcomes for rural Americans. Any delay causes these rural communities to wait even longer for help.

For these reasons, I am putting a hold on any confirmation vote for Jessica Rosenworcel to be a commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission.

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK AND TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I am proud to be a steadfast ally of the LGBT community. This week is Transgender Awareness Week, during which we seek to raise the visibility of transgender and gender nonconforming people and to bring awareness to the issues this community faces, from prejudice and discrimination to acts of violence that have claimed too many lives.

Eighteen years ago, Rita Hester, an African-American transgender woman was murdered in Boston, MA. Rita's death ignited fear in the transgender community. Her murder also sparked the founding of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. On November 20, we remember Rita and the all too many transgender individuals who have lost their lives to hate-based violence.

Sadly, the fear that the transgender community feels has not subsided in the last 18 years. For the transgender community, and even more so for transgender women of color, the fear of violence is still all too real. In 2015, at least 21 transgender individuals in the United States were victims of fatal violence. This year, we have already reached that same number of transgender deaths attributable to violence, reflecting more such deaths than in any other year in which advocates have kept records. This is both saddening and maddening.

Too many of these victims' stories go untold, but through the Transgender Day of Remembrance, many of these

individuals silenced by violence get a small voice. This day is a reminder that no person's life is worth less than another's because of who they are or whom they love. We must continue to do all we can to stop the marginalization of the transgender community, to stop the discrimination, and to stop the violence.

In 2009, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. It was the first Federal law to provide civil rights protections for transgender people, and it was a step in the right direction. But it has not been enough to stop the ongoing discrimination and violence against the transgender community.

We still have work to do and need as many voices as possible convey that message. This week in particular, but every week as well, we must remember all the transgender individuals who have lost their lives to violence at home and abroad and continue to work towards a more inclusive society, free of violence and discrimination.

HONORING MICHAEL G. SAURO

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator JAMES LANKFORD and myself, it is my honor to pay tribute to the life and sacrifice of Department of Army civilian employee Michael G. Sauro who died 1 day after his 40th birthday on October 19, 2016, of wounds received from encountering hostile enemy fire near Kabul, Afghanistan.

The son of Michael and Christine Sauro, Mike was born on October 18, 1976 in Chambersburg, PA. He graduated from Savanna High School in Savanna, IL, and went on to graduate with his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in Normal, IL.

"Whether it be sports, or his friends, or his family, he always went at it 100 percent," recalled a fellow Savanna High School graduate, "He was very committed to the U.S. and service members, making sure they had what they needed to do their job." He was passionate about life and was always willing to step in and help. His infectious smile will be remembered by everyone that knew and loved Mike.

Mike began his Federal civilian service in December of 1999 and spent his career working for the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, OK, and at its satellite locations at Fort Riley, KS, and Schofield Barracks, HI.

While at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, he led the effort and was instrumental in revisions of the hazardous materials course. He worked to deliver the most robust training course available at over 50 locations in and outside the continental United States. Mike was the liaison between McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and the satellite training locations helping to ensure that the mission was

accomplished. McAlester Army Ammunition Plant coworkers fondly remember him for his "sunny disposition as well as his genuine kindness."

Mission always came first for Mike. Regardless of the complexity of the task, he quickly comprehended requirements of the task and aggressively accomplished them in a professional, timely manner. He deployed three times—the first time in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the second in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and the third to support the mission to train, advise and assist Afghan forces. Mike's dedicated service and expertise made a difference around the world and saved lives. He is a testament to the values of the Defense Ammunition Center, the U.S. Army Combined Services Command, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the U.S. Army.

Mike is survived by his parents Michael and Christine Sauro, his brother and sister-in-law Ben and Sarah Sauro, his sister and his brother-in-law Brienne and Lance Matthews, and their children, Dakota and William.

Today we remember Michael G. Sauro, an American hero who gave his all for his country. Our Nation lost a great American, son, grandson, brother, uncle, and friend. Mike's service and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS AHMUTY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Chris Ahmuty as he retires from the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin after 24 years of advocacy and leadership. Since 1992, Chris has dedicated his professional and personal life to creating a stronger and more equal Wisconsin.

Chris was born in New York City and spent his childhood and adolescent years in Derby, NY. Growing up, Chris's grandfather, Frederic P. Lee, played a significant role in shaping his future. Based in Washington, Frederic was an active contributor to the political reform movement in Montgomery County, MD, throughout the 1940s and 1950s. Frederic's commitment to public service and family values had a tremendous impact on Chris, eventually leading him into a career in advocacy.

Chris's career with the ACLU did not begin with a full time job, but rather a volunteer position. After moving to Milwaukee to attend graduate school, Chris held a variety of jobs, including a position at the Milwaukee County Historical Society. However, following in his grandfather's political footsteps, he began to spend his free time volunteering for the ACLU. Soon after, in 1982, he became the executive assistant to the ACLU Wisconsin executive director, Eunice Edgar.

Founded in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union continues its mission to preserve individual rights and lib-

erties. Since becoming executive director of the Wisconsin chapter in 1992, Chris has personally embodied this mission both in his work and in the community.

Over the course of his tenure, the Wisconsin chapter has grown from 4 full-time employees to 12, including 2 full-time staff attorneys. According to those who work most closely with him, Chris's leadership style is rooted in his familial values and strong belief in the importance of civil liberties. He recognizes that change will not occur over a single day or week, but over a long period of time with the help of perseverance, patience, and a strong will. Chris is a staunch advocate who has fought to end racial segregation in schools, uphold a woman's right to choose, and preserve every individual's First Amendment rights. Under his leadership, ACLU Wisconsin also fought hard to challenge the State's voter ID laws, which threaten to disenfranchise or discourage Wisconsin voters. Chris has spent his career giving a voice to those who might otherwise not be heard.

Chris's commitment to the people of Wisconsin goes beyond the impact he has had at the ACLU. He has served on advisory committees for the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and on the Legal and Policy Committee of the Wisconsin Relay of Electronic Data, helping develop privacy standards for Wisconsin healthcare. Lastly, Chris has served on the board of the Milwaukee Turners for over 10 years as a way of honoring his German heritage and helping mold the next generation of leaders.

For the many years I have known Chris, he has been a respected leader, a passionate advocate, and a cherished friend. His patience, character, and drive make him a wonderful ally and a fearless protector of the rights of all Wisconsin residents. Although he is retiring from the ACLU, I know he will continue to spend his days fighting for equality.

I am so pleased to join with others in expressing gratitude for his leadership and recognizing his accomplishments. I wish him and his partner, Bob, all the best in the next chapter of their lives together.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN R. HEIMANN

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the extraordinary service of the Honorable Stephen R. Heimann, as he retires from the Bartholomew County Circuit Court after 25 years of distinguished service.

Born in Monroeville, in Allen County, IN, he graduated from Wabash College and the Indiana University School of Law and ran a successful private law practice for 10 years.

Since his appointment to the bench in 1991, Judge Heimann has embodied

the most dignified ideals of our judiciary, dutifully demanding of himself the same high standards of conduct that he enforces and maintains for the community. The legacy he leaves goes beyond the thousands of orders and decisions he has rendered and extends to the way he treats others.

Judge Heimann's contributions have made a difference in the local community and in legal circles. His involvement has included performing in the local "Dancing with the Stars" competition to raise money for charity, facilitating interfaith Christian and Muslim dialogue, delivering a keynote speech before the NAACP, providing marriage preparation counsel to young couples, and numerous other leadership roles on the boards of nonprofit organizations. He has also served the State's judiciary by chairing its board of law examiners, judicial ethics and professionalism, judicial education, and judges and lawyers assistance program boards.

The Honorable Stephen R. Heimann has served the people of Bartholomew County and State of Indiana with great integrity, honesty, and professionalism. We are incredibly grateful for his leadership and service, and we wish him well in retirement with his wife, Ann, children Andrew and Emily, and granddaughter Nora.

RECOGNIZING BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF BROWNSBURG, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Brown Elementary School of Brownsburg, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Opened in 1997, Brown Elementary School currently serves 680 students. Brown Elementary School prides itself on having a welcoming environment for students and various programs like Learning Lab, which provides students struggling academically with extra support in reading and math in a small group setting.

Brown Elementary School's effectiveness can be found, in part, in its willingness to meet the educational needs of each individual student. The school began implementing the professional learning communities model during the 2011–2012 school year, which allows teachers to work on target areas to improve students' performance, con-

tributing to their academic success. This interactive model allows teachers to share resources and ask questions to ensure the curriculum is being met across grade levels.

Brown Elementary School also benefits from the parent support group, which takes an active part in enhancing student learning and achievement. Through the group, approximately 15 to 40 parent volunteers come to school daily to help support the efforts by teachers and assist with student learning.

I am proud to recognize Brown Elementary School principal Dr. Casey Smitherman, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Brownsburg community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Brown Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Cathedral High School of Indianapolis, IN, for being named as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Founded in 1918, Cathedral High School is a Holy Cross School and one of the oldest and largest Catholic high schools in Indiana. It is one of the top-performing schools in the State. Among the school's strengths is its diversity, with students enrolled from more than 160 grade schools, who live in nine central Indiana counties, and come from neighborhoods across Indianapolis.

Cathedral High School provides a faith-based holistic education centered on its mission to "transform a diverse student body to have the competence to see and courage to act." This is evident through the school's rigorous academic program to ensure all students are challenged to their highest ability, and staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character.

Indicators of Cathedral's academic success are illustrated through the success of its students on Indiana's graduation qualifying exams for math and

English. The school saw a 98.3 percent passage rate on Indiana's graduation qualifying exam for math and English. Additionally, 100 percent of Cathedral graduates were accepted to institutions of higher learning.

I am proud to recognize Cathedral High School principal David L. Worland, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Indianapolis community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Cathedral High School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING GEIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF FISHERS, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Geist Elementary School of Fishers, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Geist Elementary School, GES, which was built in 2004, serves approximately 780 students from kindergarten through fourth grade. GES is part of Hamilton Southeastern School District, which now has five National Blue Ribbon schools. GES was recognized, in part, for its exceptional academic program, and it prides itself on providing students with an education that meets the interests, abilities, and needs of all students, while also empowering them to reach their full potential.

GES has received an A grade by the State of Indiana since 2004. GES has distinguished itself through inquiry and project-based learning, in which lessons are built around key questions, and students take ownership of their learning. For example, students participate in a schoolwide inquiry project, Geist Marketplace, where students from different grade levels partner together to create a business. The project promotes collaboration and entrepreneurship, allowing students to create, market, and sell their products. In addition, they learn to pay their debts and hold an event that is open to the local community, where residents can purchase the products made by the students. Ultimately, students can provide proceeds to local charities.

GES parents, faculty, and staff work together to provide a positive learning

environment to ensure students develop strong character, while achieving academic excellence and getting involved in the community.

I would like to recognize Geist Elementary School principal Christi Thomas, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Fishers community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Geist Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING LEXINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF LEXINGTON, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Lexington Elementary School of Lexington, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Lexington continuously aims to bridge the gap between students from diverse economic backgrounds. In 2008, Lexington implemented a schoolwide support and service model, which allowed extra funding for tutors and a more personalized approach to ensure individual student success.

Lexington Elementary prides itself on a rigorous curriculum designed to maximize student exposure to core concepts that are essential for academic growth and success. Each grade level has specific programs designed to tailor that grade's needs. In the primary grades, Lexington uses the Burst reading program to provide students with foundational skills they need to read independently.

Lexington Elementary School's positive and nurturing atmosphere ensures all students are treated with respect. Students help lead the way through initiatives like Lexington's Project Words of Wisdom, where, every morning, students share motivational ideals, such as being kind to others, during the schoolwide morning announcements.

Lexington Elementary School's approach and dedication to student achievement has been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community. Students also

benefit from programs in the local community. The Scott County Family YMCA offers a before and afterschool program with nearly 50 percent of the Lexington student population. This partnership offers homework assistance, enrichment activities, and exercise opportunities.

Lexington Elementary School is a stellar example of the benefits that result from dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong community partnerships in education.

I am proud to recognize Lexington Elementary School principal Charles Rose, who was leading the school at the time of the nomination, current principal Nick South, as well as the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Lexington community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Lexington Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING NORTHPOINT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GRANGER, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Northpoint Elementary School of Granger, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2010, Northpoint Elementary School continues to demonstrate academic excellence and works to meet the individual needs of its students through various strategies and assessments. Northpoint demonstrates an interactive method to learning and embodies a triangle of success approach that develops a strong connection between the school, parents, and teachers.

Northpoint Elementary School's staff, students, and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character including academic excellence and service to others. Teachers and support staff not only mentor students academically but also focus on nurturing students' social and emotional needs. Programs to help students are provided before, during, and after school, including an antibullying program that is taught to students and reinforced regularly.

Northpoint Elementary School is an example of how dedication, motivation, collaboration, and strong family engagement in education benefits both students and the local community. Students participate in various programs, including giving back to families in need by donating gifts during the holidays and supporting local homeless shelters.

Northpoint students come from various backgrounds. With a diverse student body, Northpoint has created an inclusive atmosphere to ensure every student is treated with respect.

I am proud to recognize Northpoint Elementary School principal Diane L. Wirth, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Granger community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Northpoint Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH RIPLEY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF VERSAILLES, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize South Ripley Junior High School of Versailles, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

South Ripley Junior High School has distinguished itself as a top-performing school in Indiana. For the last 4 years, South Ripley Junior High School has been named a Four Star School and an A rated school. In 2016, South Ripley was named a national School to Watch for its high performance on State standardized tests and overall academic excellence.

The school's philosophy of education is built upon the expectation of success in all students. South Ripley Junior High School focuses on helping each student develop individual success academically and personally. To that end, the core curriculum supports college and career readiness to develop the skills students need in everyday life, such as problem-solving, as well as reading and writing effectively. In addition, South Ripley's faculty and staff continuously work with students to meet their social, emotional, and academic needs and help students develop strong character.

I am proud to recognize South Ripley Junior High School principal Destiny Rutzel, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Versailles community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate South Ripley Junior High, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF ZIONSVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize Union Elementary School of Zionsville, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Union Elementary School opened at its current location in 2007 and currently serves over 600 students. Union Elementary prides itself on creating a nurturing and collaborative learning environment, where teachers, students, and teachers work together so that all students can reach their potential. Teachers utilize a wide variety of assessment practices to measure student progress, make instructional decisions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of academic programs.

Union Elementary School seeks to ensure students are enriched both during and after school. The school has an outdoor classroom, which includes native Indiana wildflowers, a butterfly garden, and vegetable gardening space, allowing creativity to go beyond the traditional classroom. Students are offered various extracurricular activities, including foreign language clubs, art enrichment, engineering club, a kids fitness program—Fit Kidz—and a drama club.

Union Elementary maintains a high standard for academic excellence, which can be attributed to the success of a rigorous curriculum, innovative instructional practices, and a highly qualified and dedicated staff. Faculty works closely with parents to ensure their children are receiving a quality education. Parents are encouraged to be an active part in their child's learning from serving as field trip chaperones to volunteering in the classroom. Union Elementary School's dedication to student achievement and

positive atmosphere have been key to its success. The school's staff and families work together to teach and foster values that develop strong character and better the community.

I am proud to recognize Union Elementary School principal Jennifer Raycroft, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Zionsville communities well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Union Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WEST CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF CARMEL, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize West Clay Elementary School of Carmel, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

West Clay Elementary opened in August 2006, with a mission to provide opportunities for all students to realize their potential. Every year since its inception, West Clay has been named an Indiana Four-Star School based upon high achievement results on standardized tests.

West Clay strives to provide a quality education to students through the tireless work of its dedicated staff, who serve in various leadership roles, such as school committee chairs. West Clay's mindset is on constantly striving to improve through reflection and staff development.

West Clay students, parents, and staff work closely together to give back to the community through philanthropic initiatives led by the parent teacher organization, PTO, and student government. Their efforts support organizations such as Riley Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association, the Humane Society, and Gleaner's Food Bank. Over the last decade, the students and staff of West Clay have helped raise over \$60,000 which resulted in the donation of countless supplies to local organizations.

West Clay works to provide students with a positive learning environment to support their social, emotional, and academic needs. For example, West

Clay has many student support services, including an instructional coach, who partners with staff to develop appropriate programs that will enhance student learning and will ensure that students are challenged, while at the same time supported in an effort to enable students to reach their potential. These staff members play an integral part in determining student learning needs through analyzing data and gauging students' interests.

I am proud to recognize West Clay Elementary School principal Jennifer Szuha, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Carmel community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate West Clay Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

RECOGNIZING WESTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF GREENFIELD, INDIANA

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Weston Elementary School of Greenfield, IN, for being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

Established in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has recognized schools that have demonstrated a vision of educational excellence for all students, regardless of their social or economic background. Since its inception, this program has offered the opportunity for schools in every State to gain recognition for educational accomplishments in closing the achievement gaps among students.

Weston Elementary consistently has distinguished itself as a top-performing school, was named an Indiana Four Star School in 2013 and 2016, and has been named an A school by the State each of the past 5 years.

Weston's success can be attributed to the school's goal of continuously looking for ways to provide a well-rounded education to students. The school emphasizes problem-solving and assignments that allow students to demonstrate their work and thought process. In addition to core subjects, students are exposed to physical education, art and music, and several classes participate in daily exercise led by prerecorded video segments from the Indianapolis Colts. Weston also offers students Weston Fit, an after-school fitness club that promotes healthy eating and staying physically active.

Weston also prides itself not only on its academics but fostering a supportive environment that offers programs to promote emotional, social, and cultural wellness. Weston utilizes a

fulltime social worker, who provides class lessons on topics of bullying and character education, with an expectation that students will treat their classmates with respect and develop strong social skills.

Weston's students, faculty, and staff work together to ensure every child succeeds, and faculty partners with parents to encourage family engagement and parent involvement in school-sponsored activities.

I am proud to recognize Weston Elementary School principal Shane Bryant, the entire staff, the student body, and their families. The effort, dedication, and value you put into education has led not only to this prestigious recognition, but will benefit you and the Greenfield community well into the future.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I congratulate Weston Elementary School, and I wish the students and staff continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL RYAN BODGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to thank and congratulate my defense fellow, Air Force Lt. Col. Ryan Bodge, on a successful year serving in my office. The expertise and experience that Ryan brought to my team was invaluable, and he will certainly be missed after he leaves.

Prior to his assignment as a defense fellow, Ryan served as the commander of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Bagram Air Field, BAF, in Afghanistan. He led a blend of more than 500 coalition and contract personnel responsible for the defense of 36,000 personnel, a 27-kilometer perimeter, and the Air Force Central Command's busiest airfield with more than \$3.5 billion in combat assets to include two specialized teams: Fly Away Security and Tactical Security Element personnel. His squadron was Tactical Control to Task Force Solid, responsible for the Bagram Ground Defense Area.

Ryan was born and raised in Cold Spring, NY, and he enlisted in the Air Force in 1992. He served as an F-16 and A-10 aircraft weapons load crew team chief and then in a special duty as a professional military education instructor. In 2003, Ryan commissioned to become an officer after successfully completing officer training school. He has served as a flight commander, convoy commander, officer in charge of training and resources, operations officer, high-risk response leader, major command, USAF, staff officer and two-time squadron commander. Ryan has deployed in support of the following missions: Southwest Asia, Operation Iraqi, and Enduring Freedom, as well as Resolute Support and now Freedom's Sentinel. He has served on the Air Education and Training Command

Security Forces staff as an executive officer and chief of force protection programs and technology.

Ryan's humble character rarely does justice to his accomplishments and accolades. However, he does speak very proudly of his wife, Tiffany, from Valdosta, GA, and their son, Garrett. Military families are true testaments of both strength and pride. They are constantly challenged by deployments, changes in duty stations, and uncertainties. These hurdles create resiliency which the Bodge family patriotically embodies. Ryan's family are his pride and joy and will equally be missed by our office team.

While we will miss having Ryan in our Capitol Hill office, I know that he will be moving on to greater things. I want to again thank Ryan and his family for their service to our great Nation and congratulate him on his promotion.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEREMIAH KENNEDY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize veteran Jeremiah Kennedy for his years in service in the U.S. Navy. Mr. Kennedy was inspired by his grandfather, the late Jerry Kennedy, who was also in the Navy during Vietnam and played a role in his decision of which branch to join.

Mr. Kennedy joined the Navy and left for boot camp in June of 2007. He then went on to an advanced training course to become an aviation ordnanceman, responsible for loading and building fighter jets with bombs and missiles, as well as maintaining all of the equipment that is used to transport those bombs and missiles from the magazines to the flight deck.

As an aviation ordnanceman, Mr. Kennedy was stationed aboard the nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS *George Washington*, which was sent out to replace the USS *Kitty Hawk*, an aircraft carrier located in Yokosuka, Japan. There, he remained in a forward deployed status, subject to being deployed anywhere in the world within 72 hours upon the President's request. Mr. Kennedy was stationed overseas in Japan, as well as nine other different countries, and he considers the chance to experience different ways of life and traditions a truly incredible opportunity. After 5 years of service, Mr. Kennedy was honorably discharged from the Navy in June of 2012.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Kennedy for his dedication and service to our country. •

TRIBUTE TO DAN O'MALLEY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I want to recognize Detective Dan O'Malley who has served Lewis and

Clark County sheriff's office proudly for 18 years. In his work as patrolman, a narcotics officer with the Missouri River drug task force, and detective with the criminal investigation bureau, he has made our communities a safer place to live.

Currently, he is assigned to the domestic violence multidisciplinary team, where he works tirelessly to protect women and children from violent crimes and domestic violence.

In addition to his duties with the sheriff's office, Detective O'Malley serves as a liaison for the Lewis and Clark County drug treatment court. Dan dedicates countless hours assisting those struggling with substance abuse issues and increasing their likelihood of successful rehabilitation. He continually goes above and beyond to provide the guidance and leadership people desperately need to overcome life's challenges and he does it with great compassion and empathy. His efforts have saved lives, families and have protected our communities.

His commitment and dedication to protecting and serving our community and his compassion to help others in need is second to none. This past July, Detective O'Malley was named Montana's "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" by the Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association for his exemplary service. We are blessed to have officers like Dan O'Malley serving the people of Montana. Each day, he looks forward to taking on new challenges, making our community a safer and better place for us all. As a proud father of four, I know he understands the importance of integrity, honor, and commitment. •

TRIBUTE TO ALBERT WADE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Albert Wade of Yellowstone County. Albert, a Pearl Harbor survivor and a pilot of the B-17 Fortress, who is celebrating his 98th birthday this month. We celebrate our independence and freedom, because of people like Albert, who selflessly put himself in harm's way for his country.

In 1939, Albert was one of the first six men appointed to form the original Army Air Corps, and was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese bombers attacked. During the attack, his entire fleet of the B-17 Flying Fortress was shot down, and unknown to anyone at the time, Albert was the only survivor. It wasn't until 4 and a half weeks later, Albert says, that the American Red Cross found his then paralyzed body at the Russian Aid Station and brought him home.

Albert has been offered the Purple Heart many times; however, he continues to turn it down, saying that he is just a regular person. Albert went on to marry the love of his life, Louise, and has two children, Maggie and Del. Albert has dedicated his life to his family and has started several businesses,

written several books, and became a pastor.

On September 23, 2012, Albert, along with nearly 100 veterans of the Second World War, were honored in Washington, DC, through the Honor Flight Program.

Albert embodies the kind of selflessness at the core of Montana's strong legacy of service. I am proud to honor this brave man for his service to his community and to our country.●

RECOGNIZING GEOTEMPS, INCORPORATED

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 30th anniversary of an important business to Nevada, Geotemps, Inc. I am proud to honor Geotemps' significant contributions to the mining industry in the State of Nevada, throughout our Nation, and across the globe. I am extremely proud of Geotemps' years of success and am grateful for how it has benefitted the Silver State.

In 1986, Lyle Taylor of Reno, NV, created Geotemps to help increase Nevada's growing economic force. Recognizing that one of Nevada's greatest assets is its hard-working citizens, the Taylor family worked tirelessly to create an enterprise that would provide hard-working Nevadans with opportunities for success in critical industries. For 30 years, Geotemps has fulfilled these aspirations and produced positive results for Nevada.

Geotemps has provided the Nevada mining industry with reliable individuals across the State, while keeping the business within the Taylor family. Lyle Taylor's son, Lance, has led the company into a new generation of labor services. With offices in four Nevada counties, four States, and two countries, Geotemps remains a small business that produces big results. Much of Nevada's success lies in small businesses like Geotemps, and our State has truly benefited from the hard work and dedication of Geotemps' employees.

Over the course of three decades, Geotemps has demonstrated strong dedication to the great State of Nevada's mining industry. Without the determination and persistence of its founders and entire staff, Nevada would not have experienced the excellent growth we see today.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in congratulating Geotemps on its 30th anniversary. This institution has advanced Nevada's mining industry, and I am honored to recognize this important milestone. I wish Geotemps well in all of its future endeavors and in creating greater opportunities in Nevada.●

REMEMBERING JUNIUS FOY GUIN, JR.

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Judge Junius

Foy Guin, Jr., of Russellville, AL, who passed away on November 8, 2016. He will be long remembered for his service to our Nation, his contributions to the legal community, and his dedication to both kindness and fairness in the courtroom.

Judge Guin was born in Russellville and graduated from Russellville High School in 1940. He went on to earn his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Alabama. Judge Guin took time off of school to serve as an infantry first lieutenant in World War II. During his service, he was sent to Camp Swift near Austin, TX, where he met and married his wife. After the war, he returned to the University of Alabama to complete his law degree and subsequently joined his father's private law practice from 1948 to 1973.

As an attorney, Judge Guin served on the Alabama State Bar Commission, the Board of the Alabama Law Institute, and the Alabama Supreme Court's advisory commission. He was also the first chairman of the judicial commission, which is now the judicial inquiry commission.

Judge Guin began his career in public service when he was nominated by President Richard Nixon to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. He was confirmed by the Senate on April 10, 1973, and assumed senior status on February 3, 1989.

In addition to his professional achievements, Judge Guin was named Citizen of the Year for Russellville in 1973. He served as an elder and chairman of the foreign missions committee of the North Highlands Church of Christ in Russellville, as well as the West End Church of Christ and Palisades Church of Christ in Birmingham. Judge Guin also enjoyed playing golf, valued music and traveling the world, and always loved cheering on the Crimson Tide.

I offer my deepest condolences to Judge Guin's wife, Dorace, and his children Jan, Judy, Jay, and David, as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I join all of their loved ones as they celebrate his many life accomplishments and mourn his loss.●

REMEMBERING JOAN TRIMBLE TOOLE

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of an exceptional Montanan and member of the Greatest Generation, Joan Trimble Toole. Joan passed away peacefully 1 year ago today at the age of 92 in Helena, MT. Her tireless dedication to public service set a tremendous example that we should all strive to achieve. Joan's footprint on policy and progress in Montana is remarkable; however, if she were here today, I suspect she would tell you that nothing made her prouder than being a grandma to 25 grand-

children and 17 great-grandchildren. Joan always put her family first, but her commitment to improving Montana communities didn't lag far behind.

I recently had an opportunity to read a letter that Joan sent to Eleanor Roosevelt in 1942. Joan was 19, and the United States was fully engaged in World War II. In one of her earliest attempts to serve her country, Joan desperately wanted to join the war effort. Unfortunately, she still had a year remaining to complete her college degree. Joan found herself in a bit of a bind and sought the advice of the First Lady. She wrote, "... I would like very much to leave college at the mid years to volunteer for some sort of service that will take up all my time and preferably take me away from home. I do not care about uniforms and really would like to drive an ambulance on foreign duty so that I could feel I was actually in contact with the people who need help." Mrs. Roosevelt responded a few weeks later and stressed the need for Joan to stay in school and finish her degree. Undiscouraged and always resolute, Joan still managed to contribute to the war effort. She may not have driven ambulances abroad like she wanted, but she found a different way to serve by helping track German submarines as she concluded her studies.

It is clear that Joan possessed an extraordinary penchant for service at an early age and a drive to go beyond contemporary norms to fight for her beliefs, her country, and her friends and neighbors. Fortunately for Montana, Joan moved to our great State in 1949. Joan would go on to spend the majority of the next 75 years living in Montana. She raised a family and fought to make Montana a better place as a political activist. She championed the causes that still to this day make Montana the best State to live in and raise a family. She cared deeply about all Montanans' right to a clean and healthy environment and to a quality public education. Perhaps, most notably, she cared deeply about the importance of expanding the role of women in politics in Montana and beyond.

In 1954, along with friends Laura Nicholson and Harriett Meloy, Joan founded the Montana League of Women Voters, a group that proved to be instrumental in the formation of Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention and to the passage of a new State constitution in June of 1972. The 1972 Montana Constitution includes a provision that states, "All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment." Joan was so incredibly proud that Montana's Constitution guaranteed citizens the right to a clean and healthful environment. She brought it up all the time although she typically failed to mention the part

where her activism played a critical role in securing the language.

For the rest of her life, nothing could deter Joan's dedication to protecting Montana's landscape and education system. She served on the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation, lobbied for the Office of Public Instruction during legislative sessions, and shared her expertise with numerous political campaigns and ballot initiatives. Joan volunteered for nonprofit environmental organizations, libraries, schools, the Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters. For decades, Joan was a fixture in Montana politics, fighting for progressive causes across the State. If there was an opportunity to advocate for change or improve her community, Joan always showed up.

Throughout my 8 years in Montana Senate, it was not unusual to glance up to the senate gallery and see Joan sitting in the front row. She usually had a grandchild or two in tow, as she always went to great lengths to teach her grandchildren the importance of public service and significance of always showing up. She would beam as her grandchildren took in the scene and processed the importance of being involved. She knew that her last calling in life was to pass her experiences, stories, and wisdom onto the next generation.

Even in her last few years, as it grew increasingly difficult for her to get around, I saw Joan at most of the events I held in Helena. She would give me a hug and thank me for my work before venturing off to find who she really came to see: my wife, Sharla.

A year later, we still miss Joan every time we pass through Helena. Montana lost an incredible leader and an irreplaceable voice. As we move forward and aim to tackle the challenges facing our Nation, we must remember the lessons we learned from Joan. We must ask ourselves how we can step up and serve our country, like Joan did in her letter to Eleanor Roosevelt. We must take action to advocate for our beliefs, like Joan did when she founded the Montana chapter of the League of Women Voters. Finally, we must always show up, like Joan did until the last days of her life.

RECOGNIZING HOLLY CLEGG

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses come in many different shapes and sizes. No matter their shape or size, one thing remains the same: small businesses are the brainchild of passionate individuals who seek to make their life and the lives of those in their community a better place. In this spirit, I would like to recognize Holly Clegg of Baton Rouge, LA, who took her passion for cooking and healthy eating and turned it into a business that has grown over the past 20-plus years.

From an early age, Holly had a keen interest in cooking. Her passion and entrepreneurial spirit drove her to start her own catering company while she was still in high school. As a student at Tulane University in New Orleans, Holly continued to perfect her passion through various cooking classes at the university. Upon graduation, she attended the Cordon Bleu Cooking School in London and then Cordon Bleu in Paris. Following this formal training, Holly would marry unique Louisiana cuisine to the benefits of healthy eating in order to help people dealing with prevalent diseases and also launched and self-published a line of cookbooks. In 1993, after a local retail shop decided to stop selling cookbooks, Holly trailblazed her own road to success by promoting her first cookbook of the "trim&TERRIFIC" book series. Shortly after, she partnered with various organizations to develop cookbooks for heart patients, cancer patients, and arthritis patients. Having sold over 1 million cookbooks, her success has helped her gain notoriety, and she has appeared on various national media outlets to share her message of healthy eating.

During the month of October, in which we recognize and celebrate women-owned small businesses, I find it fitting to honor a female entrepreneur like Holly Clegg for capturing her God-given talent and building a business that has benefited so many. Her entrepreneurial spirit and a commitment to her passion has helped Holly share tasty recipes all across the country and help everyday Americans struggling with crippling diseases to eat better while still enjoying the many flavors of Louisiana cuisine.

Congratulations, Holly, and thank you for harnessing your talent and being a role model for all women entrepreneurs. Holly is just one of the many examples of female entrepreneurs taking their interests and talents and cultivating them into successful business opportunities, and for this, we honor her as Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING GENUSA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, one of Louisiana's best kept secrets is that our cuisine encompasses far more than oysters, gumbo, and boudin balls. In fact, Louisiana is home to a wide variety of culinary perspectives, often passed down from generation to generation, including this Small Business of the Week, the family-owned and operated Genusa's Italian Restaurant in Monroe, LA.

After spending years dreaming of sharing their Italian family recipes with friends and neighbors, Cherry and Francis Genusa took the entrepreneurial leap and opened their namesake restaurant in 1967. Using the

original recipes passed down from Francis's mother and aunt, the couple offered up authentic Italian dishes to the Monroe community. For several years, Genusa's Italian Restaurant remained a hidden gem as Cherry and Francis did all the cooking, cleaning, table-waiting, and general management. This was in addition to raising their three children—Rachel, Ann, and Francis—who initially helped by rolling out meatballs and eventually were entrusted with more responsibilities.

Over the years, Genusa's Italian Restaurant became a Monroe favorite and has enjoyed such success that it outgrew the original small kitchen and single dining room. Today Genusa's Italian Restaurant has grown to employ several Monroe locals who serve a dedicated clientele and also host celebratory occasions in their multiroom establishment. And Rachel, Ann, and Francis, who now run the restaurant continue with their family's tradition of growing their own herbs and tomatoes for their signature red sauce.

Congratulations to the Genusa family for nearly 50 years of small business success, and with that, I would like to formally recognize Genusa's Italian Restaurant as Small Business of the Week.●

RECOGNIZING HEALTHY IMAGE

• Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the path to small business success is different for each person, and every so often, one will stumble across an idea that fulfills a niche, which then benefits both the entrepreneur and the surrounding community. As we continue to celebrate National Women's Small Business Month, I would like to recognize Healthy Image of Lake Charles, LA, as Small Business of the Week for its impressive work in helping neighboring businesses grow and succeed.

As a marketing director for a healthcare organization in the Lake Charles area, Kristy Armand recognized the demand for a local marketing agency that catered to medical groups. An entrepreneur at heart, Kristy jumped at the opportunity to utilize her experience in health care and marketing to develop her own small business. Kristy enlisted the help of Christine Fisher, an intern with whom she had worked nearly a decade before, and together the women behind Healthy Image landed their first client in 2002. Five years later, Barbara VanGossen joined the growing business as a partner and the creative director, and within 1 year, Healthy Image outgrew its original location, moved to a new office, and hired several more employees.

During this period, the Healthy Image team worked closely with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center, SBDC, at McNeese State University to provide marketing tips, financial consulting, and business advice

with local entrepreneurs. Today, Healthy Image is made up of a team of specialists who provide an array of business services, including advertising, event planning, graphic design, social media, and branding to over 100 clients.

The success of Healthy Image has earned Kristy, Christine, and Barbara recognition on the national level. In 2013, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce selected Healthy Image as one of its distinguished Blue Ribbon Award winners with the title of being one of the "Top 100 Small Businesses in the Country."

I would like to congratulate the inspiring team at Healthy Image and wish them the best in their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING THE PAPER MARKET

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisianians have a long history of embracing life and celebrating when the occasion calls for it. In particular, the city of Monroe is home to a paper and party supply store that provides all celebratory essentials. As the holiday season quickly approaches, I would like to recognize The Paper Market of Monroe, LA, as this week's Small Business of the Week.

Amy Robinson has always been a celebration enthusiast, and from Mardi Gras to Christmas to crawfish season, she has found several reasons to celebrate every season in Louisiana. In 2010, Amy had an off-the-wall idea to track down the owner of her favorite local paper product shop to see if they would be interested in selling their profitable small business. After months of negotiating, Amy and her husband, Brian, became the proud owners of the popular local stationery store and set out with a new vision to create within the space a place in which members of the Monroe and West Monroe communities could come to plan their celebrations.

Today, The Paper Market embodies Amy's personal motto to "celebrate everything" and is regionally renowned for providing specialized party supplies for all occasions, in addition to carrying a wide variety of home decor and gift lines with a Louisiana flair. Amy has also employed an in-house graphic designer to provide a one-stop-shop for her customers' celebration-planning needs.

As we continue to celebrate National Women's Small Business Month, it is my honor to recognize Amy Robinson, her entrepreneurial efforts, and The Paper Market of Monroe for being selected as Small Business of the Week. Congratulations, Amy, Brian, and the entire Paper Market team. Thank you for your commitment to serving your community, and I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING SOPHI P CUPCAKES

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, Louisiana is known for many great things, not least of which is our unique and delicious cuisine. Whether it is a crawfish boil in the spring or the first fall gumbo pot, our family traditions often center around food. In that spirit, I would like to recognize Sophi P Cupcakes LLC in Lafayette, LA, for sharing a unique take on a traditional dessert in the Acadiana region.

Jennifer Melancon studied the art of pastry for several years before she and her husband, Dustin, decided to open Lafayette's first cupcake-centered bakery, otherwise known as a cupcakery. Combining Jennifer's skill and Dustin's business sense, the Lafayette natives launched Sophi P Cupcakes in 2010. Almost immediately, Sophi P Cupcakes became a community favorite and later that year was recognized as the 2010 "Best New Business" by the Better Business Bureau of Acadiana. One year later, Jennifer and Dustin were awarded the 2011 "Rising Young Business Leader" by the Junior Achievement of Acadiana. Over the next few years, Sophi P Cupcakes continued to grow and succeed and in 2015 expanded their operation to launch multiple Sophi P Express coolers across the campus of the couple's alma mater, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Jennifer and Dustin are now focused on the future of Sophi P's and have their eyes set on expanding their business across Louisiana and the Nation.

While hard work and thoughtful planning have played a major role in their success, there is no doubt that Jennifer's leadership as the head pastry chef and owner has helped cement Sophi P's as a local favorite in Acadiana. Catchy cupcake names such as "the Dude" and "Chocolate Thunder" match the "sophisticated to punk" theme that is the inspiration behind the cupcakery. With treats made daily with fresh ingredients and a mission revolving around customer service and appreciation, it is no wonder that Sophi P's is a great success as part of the cupcake craze sweeping the Nation.

During the month of October, when we celebrate women-owned small businesses, I want to especially congratulate Jennifer for her role in making Sophi P Cupcakes the resounding success that it is today. Her exceptional culinary skill and artistic mind has helped Sophi P Cupcakes become one of Acadiana's favorite places for sweet treats. Her passion is an example to all aspiring female entrepreneurs, and I applaud her for tapping into her talent and embarking on the endeavor of owning a small business with her husband.

Congratulations to Jennifer, Dustin, and the entire team at Sophi P Cupcakes on being named Small Business of the Week. I look forward to your continued confectionary success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:34 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4511. An act to amend the Veterans' Oral History Project Act to allow the collection of video and audio recordings of biographical histories by immediate family members of members of the Armed Forces who died as a result of their service during a period of war.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

At 2:56 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 845. An act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish in the Federal Register a strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in National Forest System trail maintenance, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5392. An act to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the Veterans Crisis Line.

H.R. 6007. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to include consideration of certain impacts on commercial space launch and reentry activities in a navigable airspace analysis, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7530. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the export to the People's Republic of China of items not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7531. A communication from the Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Review of Foreign Ownership Policies for Broadcast, Common Carrier and Aeronautical Radio Licensees under Section 310(b)(4) of the Communication Act of 1934, as Amended" ((FCC 16-128) (GN Docket No. 15-236)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 14, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7532. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telemarketing Sales Rule Fees" (RIN3084-AA98) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 6, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7533. A communication from the Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and

Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision to the Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management" (RIN0660-AA32) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 13, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7534. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Arbitration Procedures" (RIN2140-AB24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7535. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Enhanced Emergency Order Procedures" (RIN2137-AF26) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7536. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Expanding the Use of Excess Flow Valves in Gas Distribution Systems to Applications Other Than Single-Family Residences" (RIN2137-AE71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 21, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7537. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) 2017-2021"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7538. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Commercial Driver's License Requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) and the Military Commercial Driver's License Act of 2012" (RIN2126-AB68) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7539. A communication from the Regulatory Ombudsman, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to Implement Grants Provisions of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act" (RIN2126-AB91) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 31, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7540. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (RIN2700-AE29) received during ad-

journment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7541. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9954-04) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7542. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prothioconazole; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9953-71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7543. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iron oxide yellow; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9953-21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7544. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Di-n-butyl Adipate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9954-58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7545. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clomazone; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9953-88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7546. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2-Pyrrolidinone, 1-butyl-; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9953-82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7547. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9953-87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7548. A communication from the Administrator of the Specialty Crops Program, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket

No. AMS-SC-16-0050) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7549. A communication from the Acting Director of Program Development and Regulatory Analysis, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Equipment Contract, RUS Contract Form 395 for Telecommunications and Broadband Borrowers" (RIN0572-AC29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7550. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Presidential Aircraft Recapitalization (PAR) program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7551. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS)/TRICARE: Refills of Maintenance Medications Through Military Treatment Facility Pharmacies or National Mail Order Pharmacy Program" (RIN0720-AB64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7552. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13712 of November 22, 2015, with respect to Burundi, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7553. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938 with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7554. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualified Financial Contracts Recordkeeping Related to Orderly Liquidation Authority" (RIN1505-AC46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7555. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendments to the Export Administration Regulations: Update of Arms Embargoes on Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, and Recognition of India as Member of the Missile Technology Control Regime" (RIN0694-AH07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7556. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of

Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Commercial Packaged Boilers" (RIN1904-AD16) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7557. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Certain Commercial and Industrial Equipment: Test Procedure for Commercial Water Heating Equipment" (RIN1904-AD18) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7558. A communication from the Conservation Policy Specialist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights" (RIN1018-AX36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7559. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Nebraska; Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program" (FRL No. 9955-25-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7560. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan; South Coast Air Quality Management District; Control of Oxides of Nitrogen Emissions from Off-Road Diesel Vehicles" (FRL No. 9954-78-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7561. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Procedure 2—Quality Assurance Requirements for Particulate Matter Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems at Stationary Sources" ((RIN2060-AT15) (FRL No. 9955-20-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7562. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ocean Disposal; Designation of a Dredged Material Disposal Site in Eastern Region of Long Island Sound; Connecticut" (FRL No. 9955-13-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7563. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule" ((RIN2050-AG70) (FRL No. 9947-26-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7564. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Export-Import Revisions" ((RIN2050-AG77) (FRL No. 9947-74-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7565. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Arizona; Revised Format for Materials Incorporated By Reference" (FRL No. 9948-55-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7566. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality Plan; Georgia; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS" (FRL No. 9955-32-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7567. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; KY Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 1-hour NO2 NAAQS" (FRL No. 9955-19-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7568. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Full Program Adequacy of Washington's Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permitting Program" (FRL No. 9928-27-Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; NH; Rules for Reducing Particulate Emissions" (FRL No. 9953-83-Region 1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Act Redesignation Substitute for the Dallas-Fort Worth 1-hour Ozone and 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Areas; Texas" (FRL No. 9953-93-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7571. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Air Act Redesignation Substitute for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria 1997 8-hour Ozone Nonattainment Area; Texas" (FRL No. 9953-89-Region 6) received

during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7572. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Preconstruction Permits Issued Under the Clean Air Act" ((RIN2060-AS56) (FRL No. 9954-88-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7573. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 9953-41)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7574. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Arizona; Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan; Reconsideration" (FRL No. 9955-17-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7575. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Approval of Substitution for Transportation Control Measures" (FRL No. 9954-36-Region 6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7576. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels, Texas, project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7577. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Unified Listing Team, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding Ten Species and Updating Five Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BB82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7578. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removal of *Solidago alboblosa* (White-haired Goldenrod) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants" (RIN1018-BA46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7579. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Recovery and State Grants, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and

Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassifying the Columbia River Distinct Population Segment of the Columbian White-Tailed Deer as Threatened With a Rule Under Section 4(d) of the Act" (RIN1018-BA30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 15, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7580. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of the 36-month Non-payment Testing Period Rule" (RIN1545-BM01) (TD 9793) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7581. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Programs: Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Revisions to Part B for CY 2017; Medicare Advantage Bid Pricing Data Release; Medicare Advantage and Part D Medical Loss Ratio Data Release; Medicare Advantage Provider Network Requirements; Expansion of Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Model; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements" (RIN0938-AS82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7582. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Applicability of Section 411(b)(5)(B)(i) to Implicit Interest Pensions Equity Plans" (Notice 2016-67) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 8, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7583. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; CY 2017 Inpatient Hospital Deductible and Hospital and Extended Care Services Coinsurance Amounts" (RIN0938-AS70) (CMS-8062-N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7584. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: CY 2017 Part A Premiums for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlement" (RIN0938-AS71) (CMS-8063-N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7585. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program: Medicare Part B Monthly Actuarial Rates, Premium Rate, and Annual Deductible Beginning January 1, 2017" (RIN0938-AS72) (CMS-8064-N) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office

of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7586. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program: Covered Outpatient Drug; Delay in Change in Definitions of States and the United States" (RIN0938-AT09) (CMS-2345-IFC) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7587. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sections 4375 and 4376—Insured and Self-Insured Health Plans Adjusted Applicable Dollar Amount for Fee Imposed by sections 4375 and 4376" (Notice 2016-64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7588. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the amendment of a designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2016-1355); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7589. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report prepared by the Department of State on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7590. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (P.L. 107-243) and the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (P.L. 102-1) for the June 10, 2016–August 9, 2016 reporting period; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7591. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-519, "Extension of Time to Dispose of 1300 H Street, N.E., and Approval of Amended Term Sheet Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7592. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-520, "Fort Dupont Ice Arena Programming Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7593. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-521, "Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Temporary Amendment Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7594. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7595. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3376-EM in the State of Louisiana having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7596. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2016 Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7597. A communication from the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7598. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the six-month period from April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7599. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 21-522, "Closing of Public Streets and Dedication of Land for Street and Alley Purposes in and abutting Squares 3953, 3954, 4024, 4025, and Parcel 143/45, S.O. 14-20357, Act of 2016"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7600. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the restating of the Commission's fiscal year 2015 balance sheet; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7601. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7602. A communication from the Executive Director of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7603. A communication from the Deputy Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Titanium Dioxide and Listing of Color Additives Subject to Certification; [Phthalocyaninato (2-)] Copper" (Docket No. FDA-2016-F-0821) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2016; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7604. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting,

pursuant to law, a report entitled "Evaluation Findings—Performance Improvement 2014-2015 Report"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7605. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2016 Report to Congress on Health IT Progress: Examining the HITECH Era and the Future of Health IT"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7606. A communication from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, As Amended By the Every Student Succeeds Act—Accountability and State Plans" (RIN1810-AB27) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7607. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Trademark Classification Changes" (RIN0651-AD12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 4, 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7608. A communication from the Policy Officer, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Army National Military Cemeteries" (RIN0702-AA60) received during adjournment of the Senate on November 10, 2016; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7609. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wireless Emergency Alerts; Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System" ((FCC 16-127) (PS Docket No. 15-91 and PS Docket No. 15-94)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 14, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7610. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Suncoast Super Boat Grand Prix; Gulf of Mexico, Sarasota, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0418)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7611. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Black Warrior River, Mile 338.8 to 341.9; Tuscaloosa, AL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0576)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7612. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Houma Navigation Canal miles 23 to 23.5, Dulac, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00)

(Docket No. USCG-2016-0650)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7613. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Hudson River, Edgewater, NJ" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0648)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7614. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Navy UNDET, Apra Outer Harbor, GU" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0555)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7615. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tennessee River 385.0-387.0; Scottsboro, AL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2016-0467)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7616. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designating the Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River Stock of Beluga Whales as a Depleted Stock Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)" (RIN0648-BF55) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7617. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Appalachian High Country Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC25) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2016; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-216. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1011

Whereas, national forest lands are the largest single source of water in the United States and, in some regions of the west, contribute nearly 50% of the overall water supply; and

Whereas, the unhealthy state of these forests has resulted in catastrophic wildfires that are threatening the reliability, volume

and quality of water for tens of millions of Americans; and

Whereas, severe drought and record-breaking wildfire seasons have highlighted the need for the implementation of a process that would require and provide for the United States Forest Service to accelerate restoration work in our national forests, which would protect critical headwaters and make forest lands more resilient against prolonged dry conditions, insect infestation and fire; and

Whereas, failure to take quick action will result in a continued increase in the frequency and intensity of destructive wildfires, impacting the nation's water resources for decades at considerable cost to stakeholders and United States taxpayers; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, on June 4, 2015, Representative Bruce Westerman introduced H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act. The bill passed in the House on July 9, 2015 and was transmitted to the Senate, where it died in committee; and

Whereas, the Resilient Federal Forests Act expedites and improves forest management activities through a collaborative process, resulting in the protection of water resources.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representative concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-217. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to small unmanned aircraft systems; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, In the western United States, water is a vital and scarce resource, the availability of which has and continues to circumscribe growth, development, economic well-being, and environmental quality of life; and

Whereas, The wise use, conservation, development, and management of our water resources is critical to maintaining human life, health, safety, and property; and

Whereas, The western United States is currently experiencing serious drought conditions that are predicted to worsen; and

Whereas, Agricultural irrigation uses a significant amount of water, making the agricultural sector one of the most important sectors to examine when considering water conservation; and

Whereas, Even modest improvements in agricultural water use can result in significant amounts of water not being depleted regionwide, which can then be utilized elsewhere; and

Whereas, Precision agricultural management studies have shown that farmers can reduce the amount of water, fertilizer, and pesticide needed by their fields by utilizing high-resolution, high-quality remotely sensed imagery to guide their application efforts of water, fertilizer, and pesticide; and

Whereas, Small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) have the capability to quickly provide expansive, high-resolution, and high-quality remotely sensed imagery that can measure specific bands in the solar spectrum, such as the thermal infrared band, which allows farmers to better understand and manage their water use; and

Whereas, The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is currently in the process adopting rules for the usage of sUAS in agricultural management; and

Whereas, Flights of sUAS, for the purposes of precision agricultural management, could occur safely at low altitudes, in rural areas removed from other air traffic and human populations, and in accordance with the FAA's proposed guidelines; and

Whereas, Small unmanned aircraft systems have been used in precision agricultural management in Japan for a decade, successfully optimizing and monitoring the management of 2.5 million acres of farmland, 40 percent of which are rice fields, without any significant reported incidents; and

Whereas, Several University of California campuses and the California State University system are developing precision agriculture applications with sUAS to help save water and improve crop and environmental monitoring. For example, the Mechatronics Embedded Systems and Automation Lab at the University of California, Merced, has developed numerous innovations for precision agricultural management with sUAS; and

Whereas, Flights of sUAS also have the capacity for detecting invasive plant species that deplete high amounts of water such as yellow star thistle, arundo, tamarisk, and cheatgrass, which serve no agricultural purpose and removal of which would help in water conservation efforts; and

Whereas, The use of sUAS is an emerging technology and has great promise for the development of models that forecast and predict economic impacts of droughts and meteorological phenomena: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That, due to the severity of the drought gripping the western United States, the California Legislature respectfully requests the President of the United States and the United States Secretary of Transportation, more specifically the FAA, to allow for the operation of sUAS by farmers and rangeland managers pursuant to emergency rules adopted by the administration before the FAA rules for sUAS are finalized. The emergency rules should be based on the proposed FAA rules for sUAS that were released in February 2015 and that incorporate all of the following:

(a) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation be applicable to counties located in the western portion of the United States that are projected to be in drought during the current growing season, as defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's Seasonal Drought Outlook.

(b) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation allow Farmers to contract with sUAS flight service providers to execute missions on their behalf in the airspace overlying lands that they own or control under the proposed FAA rules for sUAS.

(c) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operations that allow universities and government agencies seeking to operate or procure providers for sUAS missions for drought-related research or precision management applications be given expedited approval.

(d) That the emergency FAA rules for sUAS operation also allow farmers and

rangeland managers to use sUAS imagery to detect highly water-depletive invasive species on their land or public lands that they manage; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

POM-218. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to federal transportation funding; to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, California's transportation infrastructure is aging and in serious need of repair with the state facing a \$59 billion shortfall to bring the existing state highway system to a state of good repair over the next decade and with California cities and counties facing a \$78 billion shortfall in restoring their own systems over the same period; and

Whereas, California motorists spend \$17 billion annually in extra maintenance and car repair bills, more than \$700 per driver, due to the state's poorly maintained roads; and

Whereas, Freight, transportation is critical to the economic vitality of the United States and robust investment in safe and efficient transportation facilities and infrastructure is essential to promoting strong economic growth in California and throughout the nation; and

Whereas, California has the most extensive, complex, and interconnected freight system in the country, including a system of seaports stretching from the City of Humboldt to the City of San Diego, six international land ports of entry along the United States-Mexico border, and a vast network of freight rail lines and truck routes which enable the state to serve as the nation's gateway to international trade; and

Whereas, California's freight network moves 1.8 billion tons of goods, valued at more than \$2 trillion, throughout the state; the vast majority of which travels to destinations beyond the state's borders; and

Whereas, Freight shipments into, out of, and within California, are projected to grow approximately 180 percent by the year 2040; and

Whereas, California's freight system is responsible for the creation of 800,000 freight jobs and stimulates the creation of millions of other jobs throughout the economy; and

Whereas, Expansion of public transportation is a key element of California's strategy to improve mobility while meeting critical greenhouse gas reduction targets; yet the California Transit Association reports that the state's public transit agencies face a 10-year \$72 billion capital and operating shortfall; and

Whereas, In December 2015, the United States Congress passed, and President Barack Obama signed, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), which represents the first long-term federal transportation bill in more than a decade; and

Whereas, The FAST Act provides California and other states with long-term certainty and stability in financing transportation projects by providing marginal increases in most existing highway and transit programs, as well as \$2.1 billion annually in new freight investment; and

Whereas, The FAST Act still falls short of the level of investment needed to rebuild California's and the nation's infrastructure because the United States congress has not raised the federal fuel excise tax that traditionally has funded transportation since 1993, and meanwhile, the tax has lost more than 55 percent of its purchasing power and Congress has been unable to agree on an alternative to restore that funding gap: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature commends Congress and the President of the United States for enacting the FAST Act to provide stability and reliability in federal transportation funding over the next five years; and be it further,

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to fully fund the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program at a level of \$525 million in the 2017 fiscal year to provide additional critical transportation investment in California and elsewhere; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges Congress and the President to work together to finally find a long-term, sustainable funding solution to restore the lost purchasing power of the federal fuel excise tax, and provide California and the rest of the country with the resources needed to rebuild its infrastructure, invest in its people through good, well-paying jobs, and restore our economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-219. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1014

Whereas, through federal land management planning and associated guidelines, federal agencies are recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas; and

Whereas, these administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent congressional intent and lack full and appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analyses; and

Whereas, the identification of these de facto wilderness areas has resulted in significant restrictions on public access and recreation, paralyzing restrictions on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to manage wildlife and potentially catastrophic restrictions on vegetation and habitat improvement projects, including fire management activities; and

Whereas, the conservation of wildlife resources is the trust responsibility of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, and this responsibility extends to all lands within Arizona to ensure abundant wildlife resources for current and future generations; and

Whereas, the designation of Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas has resulted in the erosion of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's ability to comply with its federal mandate to proactively recover threatened and endangered species; and

Whereas, according to federal land management agency guidelines, an administratively recommended wilderness area must be managed to “protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for wilderness recommendation” in perpetuity or until Congress takes action to formally designate the area as a wilderness area; and

Whereas, allowable activities within administratively recommended wilderness areas will be left to the discretion of federal staff and deciding officers, resulting in even greater restrictions and limitations than those formally vetted and designated by Congress; and

Whereas, congressionally designated wilderness provides clearer guidance for management and coordination with this state, specific processes for wildlife management exemptions and direction for collaboration via existing state agreements and guidelines; and

Whereas, administratively recommended wilderness areas circumvent the spirit of NEPA and congressional intent and lack transparency; and

Whereas, with the implementation of federal land management plans, recommended wilderness areas constitute a significant and immediate change in management without a fully disclosed impact analysis required by NEPA; and

Whereas, the federal land management plans lack full NEPA disclosure of potential impacts to this state and the public, assurances protecting this state's ability to proactively manage wildlife and fulfill its public trust responsibility, including specific management activities, and analyses of the cumulative impacts of further loss of public lands that provide for multiple-use and wildlife-related recreational and economic opportunities; and

Whereas, the areas being recommended as wilderness were not included within the original wilderness designations with purposeful intent by Congress; and

Whereas, the subsequent expansion of previously designated wilderness is an overreach of the federal agencies and disingenuous to the public, subverting original collaboration, coordination, negotiation and agreements; and

Whereas, the federal agency planning documents suggest that no significant management action or recommendation to Congress will take place before further NEPA analyses are completed. Within the recently released Prescott and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest recommended wildernesses, the United States Forest Service indicates that these areas are simply preliminary administrative recommendations and that further NEPA analyses are necessary. However, in transmittal letters, the United States Forest Service states that “the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the . . . Forest's Revised Resource Management Plan contains the NEPA analysis necessary to support a legislative proposal.” This is an egregious lack of transparency.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States act to prohibit federal agencies from recommending and identifying Arizona's public lands as wilderness areas without express congressional consent.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of

Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-220. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to establishing drinking water standards for certain chemicals; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 384

Whereas, Decades after the United States Navy used an unregulated contaminant in firefighting training on two former Bases, Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster, in Montgomery and Bucks Counties, chemicals are appearing in elevated levels in public and private water wells; and

Whereas, The chemicals, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are used in a variety of products such as fabric, carpets, nonstick cookware and firefighting foam; and

Whereas, PFOS and PFOA are “extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation processes,” according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA also states, “The toxicity, mobility and bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential adverse effects for the environment and human health”; and

Whereas, A growing body of science has established associations between PFOS and PFOA and a range of health effects including a variety of cancers; and

Whereas, The chemicals were first discovered in local public water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in a health advisory that took several public water wells offline; and

Whereas, On Thursday, May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduced the amount considered safe in drinking water. In the worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits; and

Whereas, The new recommended levels have resulted in officials from the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Municipal Authority and Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships and an estimated 80 private wells; and

Whereas, While the Senate of Pennsylvania acknowledges the current efforts of the EPA and the Department of Defense (DOD) as well as the Department of Environmental Protection to provide bottled water to local residents, more needs to be done to fully address this situation: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wage the President, the Congress of the United States and the EPA to expeditiously determine if a Federal drinking water standard should be issued for PFOSs and PFOAs that can be enforced in the same manner as lead and arsenic; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to work with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take all necessary action to ensure that the communities of Horsham, Warminster and Warrington Townships in Montgomery and Bucks Counties have safe drinking water and to direct the EPA and the DOD to use all their resources

to discover the extent of the contamination, provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and provide assistance to residents and military personnel who have been impacted by the water contamination from these former military installations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to consider the appropriation of additional funds to the EPA and DOD to address this issue; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress, to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania, to the United States Environmental Protection Agency and to the United States Department of Defense.

POM-221. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Iowa supporting the federal renewable fuel standard; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION 118

Whereas, in accordance with the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-58, as amended by the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-140, the United States has demonstrated its commitment to the long-term policy of increasing the domestic production of clean renewable fuels according to a renewable fuel standard, referred to as the “RFS”; and

Whereas, the RFS is the one of the single most successful energy policies in our nation's history; and

Whereas, the RFS is a federal policy that requires a minimum percentage of motor fuel sold in our nation to contain renewable fuels; and

Whereas, under the RFS, renewable fuels have access to a retail market in the face of a vertically integrated petroleum market; and

Whereas, the RFS represents a congressional promise to American biofuels producers, farmers, communities, and investors that the blend levels of the RFS will increase each year; and

Whereas, this congressional policy supporting the RFS will continue to build the long-term capacity of the renewable fuels industry and will encourage the development of new types of clean fuels; and

Whereas, the RFS helps support over 73,000 jobs in agriculture, biofuels production, and associated businesses in Iowa; and

Whereas, the renewable fuels industry in Iowa helps pay \$5 billion in wages annually to this state's employment force; and

Whereas, renewable fuels create additional markets for Iowa farmers with more than 47 percent of Iowa's corn supply supporting ethanol production: Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the Iowa Senate calls upon the Congress of the United States, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, and this country's future President of the United States and administration, to continue to support the RFS in order to encourage American energy production and to strengthen rural communities; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to the members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

POM-222. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to take all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the United States Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

Whereas, On the night of July 17, 1944, two transport vessels loading ammunition at the Port Chicago naval base on the Sacramento River in California were suddenly engulfed in a gigantic explosion, the incredible blast of which wrecked the naval base and heavily damaged the town of Port Chicago, located 1.5 miles away; and

Whereas, Everyone on the pier and aboard the two ships was killed instantly—some 320 American naval personnel, 200 of whom were African American enlisted men; and another 390 military and civilian personnel were injured, including 226 African American enlisted men; and

Whereas, The two ships and the large loading pier were totally annihilated and an estimated \$12,000,000 in property damage was caused by the huge blast; and

Whereas, This single, stunning disaster accounted for nearly one-fifth of all African American naval casualties during the whole of World War II and was the worst home-front disaster of the war; and

Whereas, The specific cause of the explosion was never officially established by a Court of Inquiry, in effect clearing the officers-in-charge of any responsibility for the disaster and, insofar as any human cause was invoked, laying the burden of blame on the shoulders of the African American enlisted men who died in the explosion; and

Whereas, Following the incident, many of the surviving African American sailors were transferred to nearby Camp Shoemaker where they remained until July 31, 1944, when two of the divisions were transferred to naval barracks in Vallejo near Mare Island and another division returned to Port Chicago to help with cleaning up and rebuilding the base; and

Whereas, Many of these men were in a state of shock, troubled by the vivid memory of the horrible explosion; however, they were provided no psychiatric counseling or medical screening, except for those who were obviously physically injured; none of the men, even those who had been hospitalized with injuries, were granted survivor leaves to visit their families before being reassigned to regular duties; and none of these survivors were called to testify at the Court of Inquiry; and

Whereas, Captain Merrill T. Kinne, Officer-in-Charge of Port Chicago, issued a statement praising the African American enlisted men and stating that “the men displayed creditable coolness and bravery under those emergency conditions”; and

Whereas, After the disaster, white sailors were given 30 days’ leave to visit their families—according to survivors, this was the standard for sailors involved in a disaster—while only African American sailors were ordered back to work the next day to clean and remove human remains; and

Whereas, After the disaster, the preparation of Mare Island for the arrival of African American sailors included moving the barracks of white sailors away from the loading area in order to be clear of the ships being loaded in case of another explosion; and

Whereas, The survivors and new personnel who later were ordered to return to loading

ammunition expressed their opposition, citing the possibility of another explosion; the first confrontation occurred on August 9, 1944, when 328 men from three divisions were ordered out to the loading pier; the great majority of the men balked, and eventually 258 were arrested and confined for three days on a large barge tethered to the pier; and

Whereas, Fifty of these men were selected as the ringleaders and charged with mutiny, and on October 24, 1944, after only 80 minutes of a military court, all 50 men were found guilty of mutiny—10 were sentenced to 15 years in prison, 24 sentenced to 12 years, 11 sentenced to 10 years, and 5 sentenced to 8 years; and all were to be dishonorably discharged from the Navy; this was the largest mass mutiny trial in the United States to this day; and

Whereas, After a massive outcry the next year, in January 1946, 47 of the Port Chicago men were released from prison and “exiled” for one year overseas before returning to their families; and

Whereas, In a 1994 investigation, the United States Navy stated that “there is no doubt that racial prejudice was responsible for the posting of only African American enlisted personnel to loading divisions at Port Chicago”; and

Whereas, In the 1994 investigation, the United States Navy, prompted by Members of Congress, admitted that the routine assignment of only African American enlisted personnel to manual labor was clearly motivated by race; and

Whereas, The United States Congress reduced the death benefit to those killed in Port Chicago from \$5,000, the normal amount given, to \$3,000, simply because the sailors were African American; and

Whereas, In many cases, families of sailors killed in the disaster were never told they were entitled to consideration for the death of their relative; and

Whereas, In 2009, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine Memorial site was designated as part of the National Park Service; and

Whereas, Despite the gross injustice faced by these sailors, only one of the men charged with mutiny was given a pardon by President Clinton in 1998: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take all necessary action to restore honor to, and rectify the mistreatment by the United States Military of, any sailors who were unjustly blamed for and convicted of mutiny after the Port Chicago disaster, which occurred in the town of Port Chicago, California, in 1944; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate further urges the President and the Congress of the United States to take action to ensure that the treatment of sailors by the United States Military after the Port Chicago disaster is rectified by providing for the full exoneration of all those who were wrongfully court-martialed and having the military records of those involved cleared of any wrongdoing or discharge references that were other than honorable, regardless of whether those sailors are alive or deceased; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-223. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California urging the

passage of H.R. 4745, the Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, Millions of ratepayer and taxpayer dollars are spent monitoring and overseeing spent nuclear fuel each year and millions of dollars more are programmed to be spent on settlement payments related to nuclear waste disposition; and

Whereas, Much of the spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste currently stored is at sites that are vulnerable to natural disasters and located near large metropolitan centers; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Energy concluded in 2013 that a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste will not be available until 2048, at the earliest; and

Whereas, The President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future recommended that efforts be made to develop a permanent disposal site for spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste; and

Whereas, The spent nuclear fuel at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, a decommissioning site, should be promptly and safely moved to a consolidated storage site, as recommended by the President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future, and as would be advanced by H.R. 4745, the Interim Consolidated Storage Act of 2016, which would give priority for storage to high-level nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuel located on a site without an operating nuclear reactor: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the passage of H.R. 4745 and supports the development and passage of complementary legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully urges the United States Department of Energy to implement the prompt and safe relocation of spent nuclear fuel from the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station to a licensed and regulated interim consolidated storage facility; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the Secretary of Energy.

POM-224. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain rules for existing electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2016

Whereas, The Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the cost of new regulations on the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final rules in the Federal Register regulating greenhouse gas emissions from existing electric utility generating units, also known as the Clean Power Plan; and

Whereas, the EPA has issued a proposed federal plan that will be imposed on existing electric utility generating units in the State of Arizona if the State of Arizona does not adopt its own plan implementing the Clean Power Plan regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan exceeds the agency's legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interferes with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties like regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes resources away from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health and safety in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while also protecting the public health and safety; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant and affordable domestic energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and enhance the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA's final Clean Power Plan impedes the ability of this state to oversee its own electricity supply and transmission system; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan will have adverse impacts on the customs, culture, history, heritage and economies of this state and local communities.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens.

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111(d) of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions from existing electric utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend this state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the

Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona.

POM-225. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 parts per billion; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1007

Whereas, on October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona will have great difficulty in implementing this new ozone concentration standard due to factors that are outside of this state's control, including its proximity to California, extreme heat and intense summer sunshine; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the new ozone concentration standard, the EPA reported that 358 counties in the nation would violate a standard of 70 ppb based on monitoring data from 2011 through 2013; and

Whereas, nonattainment area designations will limit economic and job growth by restricting new and expanded industrial and manufacturing facilities, imposing emission "offset" requirements on new and modified major sources of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions, constraining oil and gas extraction and raising electricity prices for industries and consumers; and

Whereas, low-income and fixed-income citizens will bear the brunt of higher energy costs and utility bills; and

Whereas, air quality continues to improve, and nitrogen oxide emissions are already down to 60% nationwide since 1980, which, after adjusting for economic growth, implies a 90% reduction in emission rates from the relatively uncontrolled 1990 rates for nitrogen oxide-emitting sources; and

Whereas, average ozone concentrations have decreased significantly in both urban and rural areas over the past two decades in response to state and federal emission control programs; and

Whereas, instead of giving states enough time to meet the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb through ongoing emission reduction programs, the EPA moved the goalpost by imposing a lower standard; and

Whereas, reinstating the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb would provide for continued air quality improvement throughout the nation as emission reduction programs under EPA regulations are implemented.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-226. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona

urging the United States Congress to enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1015

Whereas, the Stopping EPA Overreach Act seeks to prevent the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from exceeding its statutory authority in ways that were not contemplated by the United States Congress; and

Whereas, in the Stopping EPA Overreach Act, the State of Arizona urges Congress to find that;

(1) The EPA has exceeded its statutory authority by promulgating regulations that were not contemplated by Congress in the authorizing language of the statutes enacted by Congress;

(2) The EPA was correct not to classify greenhouse gases as pollutants prior to 2009;

(3) No federal agency has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases under current law; and

(4) No attempt to regulate greenhouse gases should be undertaken without further congressional action; and

Whereas, the Stopping EPA Overreach Act should clarify that federal agencies do not have the authority to regulate climate change or global warming, thereby voiding certain EPA rules, and requires the Administrator of the EPA to provide an analysis of any regulation, rule or policy that describes its impacts on employment, and jobs in the United States before proposing or finalizing that regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, any federal agency seeking to promulgate a regulation, rule or policy should be required to provide the cost-benefit analysis and peer-reviewed science that were used in proposing the regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, penalties should be imposed for knowingly providing false information as support for a proposed regulation, rule or policy; and

Whereas, the people of Arizona fully support the Stopping EPA Overreach Act,

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress enact the Stopping EPA Overreach Act,

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-227. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 parts per billion; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1007

Whereas, on October 1, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to 70 ppb; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona will have great difficulty in implementing this new ozone concentration standard due to factors that are outside of this state's control, including its proximity to California, extreme heat and intense summer sunshine; and

Whereas, before the implementation of the new ozone concentration standard, the EPA

reported that 358 counties in the nation would violate a standard of 70 ppb based on monitoring data from 2011 through 2013; and

Whereas, nonattainment area designations will limit economic and job growth by restricting new and expanded industrial and manufacturing facilities, imposing emission "offset" requirements on new and modified major sources of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds emissions, constraining oil and gas extraction and raising electricity prices for industries and consumers; and

Whereas, low-income and fixed-income citizens will bear the brunt of higher energy costs and utility bills; and

Whereas, air quality continues to improve, and nitrogen oxide emissions are already down to 60% nationwide since 1980, which, after adjusting for economic growth, implies a 90% reduction in emission rates from the relatively uncontrolled 1990 rates for nitrogen oxide-emitting sources; and

Whereas, average ozone concentrations have decreased significantly in both urban and rural areas over the past two decades in response to state and federal emission control programs; and

Whereas, instead of giving states enough time to meet the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb through ongoing emission reduction programs, the EPA moved the goalpost by imposing a lower standard; and

Whereas, reinstating the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb would provide for continued air quality improvement throughout the nation as emission reduction programs under EPA regulations are implemented.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Environmental Protection Agency reinstate the previous ozone concentration standard of 75 ppb.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-228. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to oppose the implementation of certain rules for existing electric utility generating units; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1016

Whereas, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is a federal law designed to protect air quality nationwide; and

Whereas, jurisdiction to implement the CAA lies primarily with the states; and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted the CAA, mandating comprehensive state and federal regulations for both stationary and nonstationary sources of pollution; and

Whereas, while Americans support efforts to improve air quality, such efforts should be carefully balanced to ensure that the cost of new regulations on the economy do not exceed potential benefits; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2015, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published final rules in the Federal Register regulating greenhouse gas emissions from existing electric utility generating units, also known as the Clean Power Plan; and

Whereas, the EPA has issued a proposed federal plan that will be imposed on existing electric utility generating units in the State of Arizona if the State of Arizona does not adopt its own plan implementing the Clean Power Plan regulating greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan exceeds the agency's legal authority to require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired electric generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interferes with the electric system of Arizona; and

Whereas, addressing greenhouse gas emissions under Section 111(d) is a discretionary duty of the EPA as outlined in the CAA; and

Whereas, devoting resources to discretionary duties like regulating greenhouse gas emissions takes resources away from nondiscretionary duties that are better suited to protect the public health and safety in the near term; and

Whereas, it is important to Arizona's economy to have a diverse energy portfolio that provides reliable and affordable electric service to Arizona residents and businesses while also protecting the public health and safety; and

Whereas, fossil fuels, including coal and natural gas, provide an abundant and affordable domestic energy source that is important to Arizona's economy and enhance the availability and reliability of electric service; and

Whereas, the EPA's final Clean Power Plan impedes the ability of this state to oversee its own electricity supply and transmission system; and

Whereas, the EPA's Clean Power Plan will have adverse impacts on the customs, culture, history, heritage and economies of this state and local communities.

Wherefore, your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that exceed the EPA's legal authority under Section 111(d) of the CAA and interfere with the prerogative of Arizona to regulate electricity and ensure an affordable and reliable supply of electricity for its citizens.

2. That the United States Congress oppose the implementation of rules for existing electric utility generating units that do not recognize the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions for existing units under Section 111(d) of the CAA.

3. That the United States Congress exercise oversight over the EPA to ensure that the primary role of states in establishing and implementing plans to achieve emissions reductions from existing electric utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the CAA is respected.

4. That the Governor and the Attorney General of the State of Arizona take appropriate actions to uphold this state's responsibilities with respect to the CAA and defend this state against overreaching regulations.

5. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Arizona and the attorney General of the State of Arizona.

POM-229. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1008

Whereas, on April 13, 2015, Representative Bill Shuster introduced H.R. 1732, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act; and

Whereas, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act protects landowners from intrusive government regulation and ensures the protection of personal property; and

Whereas, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act came in response to efforts by the Obama Administration, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Clean Water Rule, which vastly expands the federal government's ability to regulate waterways; and

Whereas, the final rule became effective on August 28, 2015; and

Whereas, the final rule is far too broad, allowing the federal government to regulate everything from puddles of rainwater to agricultural irrigation systems; and Whereas, the final rule allows waters that have traditionally been off limits to federal regulation to be subject to the rulemaking process of the EPA and the Clean Water Act; and

Whereas, the customs, cultures and economic well-being of our local communities, as well as important historic and cultural aspects of our local heritage, are being ignored, which adversely affects the lives and jobs of the people of the United States and devastates local and state economies; and

Whereas, the State of Arizona is one of 27 states that have brought legal challenges against the Clean Water Rule and successfully obtained a nationwide stay barring the rule's enforcement; and

Whereas, if passed by Congress, the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act would require the EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop a new rule that takes into consideration all public comments received on the matter as well as input received from state and local governments. Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-230. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 12

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state,

or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances both the WEP and GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress. Therefore be it

Resolved that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them. Be it further

Resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the

Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-231. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii requesting the Hawaii sister-state committee to review and consider the establishment of a state/province relationship between the State of Hawaii of the United States of America and the Province of Aklan of the Republic of the Philippines; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

Whereas, the State of Hawaii is actively seeking to expand its international ties and has an abiding interest in the developing goodwill, friendship, and economic relations between the people of Hawaii and the people of Asian and Pacific countries; and

Whereas, as part of its effort to achieve this goal, Hawaii has established a number of sister-state relationships with provinces in the Pacific region; and

Whereas, because of the historical relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines, there continue to exist valid reasons to promote international friendship and understanding for the mutual benefit of both countries to achieve lasting peace and prosperity as it serves the common interests of both countries; and

Whereas, there are historical precedents exemplifying the common desire to maintain a close cultural, commercial, educational, and financial bridge between ethnic Filipinos living in Hawaii with their relatives, friends, and business counterparts in the Philippines, such as the previously established sister-city relationship between the City and County of Honolulu and the City of Cebu in the Province of Cebu; and

Whereas, similar state-province relationships exist between the State of Hawaii and the Provinces of Cebu, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, and Isabela, where cooperation and communication have served to establish exchanges in the areas of business, trade, education, agriculture and industry, tourism, disaster preparedness, beach restoration, sports, health care, social welfare, and other fields of human endeavor; and

Whereas, a similar state-province relationship would reinforce and cement this common bridge for understanding and mutual assistance between ethnic Filipinos of both the State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan has vast fertile land resources, fishery and fabric industries, the world renowned Boracay Island, and Aklan State University; and

Whereas, the major industries of the Province of Aklan are agriculture, including sugarcane, corn, coconut, and rice; tourism; pina fabric; and materials for mats, pots, bags, fans, and décor; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan is emerging as a technological center in the Central Philippines with its growing business process outsourcing and other technology-related industries; and

Whereas, the Province of Aklan is a top international tourist destination in the Republic of the Philippines, making the province much like Hawaii: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, That there is authorized and established a sister-state/province relationship, as advised by the Hawaii Sister-State Committee, between the

State of Hawaii and the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines; and be it Further

Resolved, That the Governor or the Governor's designee is requested to keep the Legislature fully informed of the process in establishing the sister-state/province relationship and involved in its formalization to the extent practicable; and be it further

Resolved, That the Province of Aklan be afforded the privileges and honors that Hawaii extends to its sister-states and provinces; and be it further

Resolved, That if by June 30, 2020, the sister-state/province relationship with the Province of Aklan has not reached a sustainable basis by providing mutual economic benefits through local community support, the sister-state/province relationship shall be withdrawn; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's Congressional Delegation, President of the Republic of the Philippines through its Honolulu Consulate General, Governor and Provincial Board of the Province of Aklan, Republic of the Philippines, Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Director of the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Chairperson of the Hawaii Sister-State Committee.

POM-232. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to continue to take action to prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty or other similar treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1013

Whereas, United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 2117, which was adopted on September 26, 2013, "[c]alls for Member States to support weapons collection, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, as well as physical security and stockpile management programmes by United Nations peacekeeping operations where so mandated"; and

Whereas, the UN Arms Trade Treaty strives to place a global ban on the import and export of small firearms, affecting all private gun owners in the United States, and to implement an international gun registry on all private guns and ammunition; and

Whereas, Senator James Inhofe introduced an amendment to the budget in 2013 that would prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty "[t]o uphold Second Amendment rights and prevent the United States from entering into the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty," which passed on a 53-46 vote.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress continue to take action to prevent the United States from entering into the UN Arms Trade Treaty or other similar treaties that would interfere with the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-233. A memorial adopted by the Senate of the State of Arizona urging the members of the United States Congress from the

State of Arizona to officially recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1001

Whereas, Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities in the Middle East are being subjected to systematic and violent persecution at the hands of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other terrorist groups; and

Whereas, these people are being murdered, kidnapped, sexually abused, tortured and victimized in other ways that violate the laws of their own nations, the international community and the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Convention); and

Whereas, the victims of this brutal persecution are being specifically targeted based on their religious or ethnic affiliation with the intent to facilitate the annihilation or forced migration of communities with longstanding ties to their region; and

Whereas, the Convention defines “genocide” as killing members of a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, causing them serious bodily or mental harm, intentionally enforcing living conditions designed to cause the partial or total physical destruction of the group, preventing births within the group or transferring the children of the group to another group with the intent to destroy the group in total or in part; and

Whereas, the Convention holds that genocide is a crime that governments are obligated to prevent and for which perpetrators are to be held responsible; and

Whereas, the United States Commission on Religious Freedom, the Hudson Institute for Religious Freedom, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, Pope Francis, Hillary Clinton and many other organizations and religious and political leaders have called on the United States to recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has introduced House Concurrent Resolution 75, Senate Resolution 340 and at least five other bills designed to recognize the genocide and facilitate expedited support and aid for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East; and

Whereas, the designation of the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide has real, practical policy implications and can help expedite various solutions to the crisis; and

Whereas, the Members of the Senate of the State of Arizona officially recognize the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East as genocide.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, prays:

1. That each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona cosponsor legislation similar to House Concurrent Resolution 75, support other congressional efforts to aid victims of the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and encourage the United States government to take greater concrete action to end the genocide.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-234. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona

urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and the United States Congress to secure the safe release of Robert Levinson from Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2010

Whereas, it is a time-honored tradition that the United States of America strives to ensure that all United States citizens held captive overseas are returned safely to their families and loved ones; and

Whereas, Robert Levinson honorably served the United States as a law enforcement officer in both the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas, Robert Levinson was taken captive on the Kish Island in Iran on March 9, 2007; and

Whereas, several Americans who have been held captive in Iran were recently released, but Robert Levinson was not among them; and

Whereas, it is a duty and obligation of the United States to Robert Levinson and his family to ascertain his whereabouts and secure his safe release.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the United States Secretary of State and all public officials under their charge follow the policy of the United States as stated in United States Senate Concurrent Resolution 16:

It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) [T]he Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran should immediately . . . cooperate with the United States Government to locate and return Robert Levinson; and

(2) [T]he United States Government should undertake every effort using every diplomatic tool at its disposal to secure [his] immediate release.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-235. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to women's reproductive health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 19

Whereas, January 22, 2016, marks the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which acknowledged that every woman has a fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions and decide whether to end or continue a pregnancy, and is an occasion that deserves recognition; and

Whereas, The 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, making access to abortion safe and legal, has greatly improved the health of women and families; and

Whereas, *Roe v. Wade* has been the cornerstone of women's remarkable strides toward equality in the past four decades, and reproductive freedom is critical to a woman's ability to participate fully in the social, political, and economic life of the community; and

Whereas, California is committed to protecting the public health and welfare of all its residents, and recognizes that access to reproductive health services, including fam-

ily planning and prenatal care, supports individuals and their families by ensuring that babies are planned, wanted, and healthy; and

Whereas, California recognizes the importance of Planned Parenthood as one of California's largest providers of women's preventive and reproductive health care services, operating 115 community-based health centers across the state, which provide more than 1.6 million patient visits a year; and

Whereas, Planned Parenthood provides comprehensive health care services to women and men, which may include well-woman examinations, birth control, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, pregnancy tests, life-saving cancer screenings, sex education, prenatal care, primary care services, and abortion services; and

Whereas, Nationwide, during 4.6 million health center visits in 2013, Planned Parenthood provided services, including nearly 400,000 Pap smear tests, 500,000 breast examinations, 1.1 million pregnancy tests, 3.6 million provisions of birth control information and services, and 4.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted illnesses (including HIV), to approximately 2.7 million patients, almost 80 percent of whom were living with incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

Whereas, By providing millions of women with access to contraceptive services, public funding of Planned Parenthood helps women to avoid an estimated 516,000 unplanned pregnancies each year nationwide; and

Whereas, A sudden defunding of Planned Parenthood's health centers by federal or state governments would put patients across California, particularly members of underserved communities, at a significant disadvantage relating to their general health care because Planned Parenthood is often the only source of health care services for so many Californians; and

Whereas, Violence against abortion providers and laws that create barriers to abortion endanger the lives of both men and women; and

Whereas, Reports have found that threats of harassment, intimidation, and violence against women's health clinics have doubled since 2010, and as recently as November 27, 2015, a Planned Parenthood clinic was the target of a heinous act of domestic terrorism which resulted in the deaths of three people and nonfatal injuries to nine others; and

Whereas, The State of California stands in strong support of *Roe v. Wade* and the work of Planned Parenthood, and of women's reproductive health, and respects the principle that each woman has a fundamental right to make decisions regarding her pregnancy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the President of the United States and Congress to express their support for access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including the services provided by Planned Parenthood and a woman's fundamental right to control her own reproductive decisions, and to strongly oppose efforts to eliminate federal funding for Planned Parenthood; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-236. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of California requesting the

United States Congress to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 and that the President of the United States sign the legislation; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 86

Whereas, The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (the act) would make available needed psychiatric, psychological, and supportive services for individuals with mental illness and families in mental health crisis; and

Whereas, The act would enhance crisis response services, increase mental health workforce, promote early intervention for mental illness, and support integration of mental health, substance use, and primary care; and

Whereas, Mental illness affects all segments of society, and can have a devastating effect on the lives and families it touches, especially if left untreated; and

Whereas, Nearly 10 million Americans have serious mental illness, but millions are going without treatment as families struggle to find care for their loved ones; and

Whereas, The act has wide bipartisan support and recently passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce by a vote of 53-0: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate of the State of California requests the Congress of the United States to pass the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016 (H.R. 2646), and further requests President Barack Obama to sign that legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-237. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to EpiPen; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, Millions benefit from lifesaving drugs and devices, including Americans with allergies that can be treated by epinephrine; and

Whereas, Last year, doctors wrote 3.6 million prescriptions for EpiPen, which stops allergic reactions by quickly and safely injecting epinephrine; and

Whereas, In 2007 Mylan NV purchased the rights to EpiPen and immediately began raising its price. In 2008 and 2009, Mylan raised the price by 5 percent, and at the end of 2009 it raised the price by another 19 percent. From 2010 to 2013, Mylan imposed a series of 10-percent price hikes. And from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the second quarter of 2016, Mylan raised EpiPen prices 15 percent every other quarter; and

Whereas, A pack of two EpiPen devices now has a list price of over \$600, an increase of 548 percent since Mylan began selling the drug, according to Truven Health Analytics; and

Whereas, The formula of EpiPen did not change, and it is no more effective in protecting against allergic reactions in 2016 than it was in 2007; and

Whereas, During the same time, Mylan began an aggressive marketing and lobbying effort to increase demand for EpiPen, which included the passage of federal and state leg-

islation. The United States Congress passed the School Access to Emergency Epinephrine Act in 2013 to provide an incentive to states to boost the stockpile of epinephrine at schools. A number of states, including California, passed laws requiring public schools to have epinephrine. In 2010, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changed its recommendations so that two EpiPen devices be sold in a package instead of one and that they be prescribed for at-risk patients, not just those with confirmed allergies; and

Whereas, The rising cost of EpiPen has implications for taxpayers. Over half of California's children are insured through Medi-Cal, therefore the taxpayers are paying a large share of the cost of this medication; and

Whereas, Mylan has an effective monopoly that it is using to maximize profit because there is no equivalent generic competitor; and

Whereas, Patients who have to pay retail prices are being forced to buy EpiPen abroad, where it is cheaper, and are resorting to other devices that deliver epinephrine, including do-it-yourself syringes; and

Whereas, Even some ambulance providers in California have stopped the use of EpiPen to treat allergic shock and instead are drawing from a vial and injecting epinephrine by syringe. First responders in Seattle have developed such a kit and have sold them to public health agencies in five other states. There is a demonstration project in New York called "Check and Inject New York" that trains first responders to use syringe epinephrine kits in place of EpiPen to save money; and

Whereas, After recent widespread criticism, Mylan said it would expand access and increase benefits to programs that it uses to help consumers pay less, but those changes do not alter the prices that insurers and employers pay. Those institutions will still face the brunt of the impact from the price hikes; and

Whereas, Offering copayment assistance and free product to consumers is part of the standard playbook for manufacturers of expensive drugs. Efforts by drug makers to shield consumers from the out-of-pocket costs associated with the rapidly increasing cost of their medications ignores the fact that insurance companies bear the brunt of these unreasonable price increases, which results in higher premiums for all consumers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature declares unnecessary and unexplained increases in pharmaceutical pricing is a harm to our health care system that will no longer be tolerated because the system cannot sustain it; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the United States Food and Drug Administration to reconsider its denial of approval for generic alternatives to EpiPen; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to investigate the impact that Mylan's monopoly has had on the price hikes for EpiPen; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Congress and President of the United States to take action to limit the unrestrained ability of drug manufacturers to increase prices based only on what the market can bear rather than on providing a fair return on investment; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the

President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and to the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-238. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California relative to blood donations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, Since 1983, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA), an agency under the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), had prohibited the donation of blood by any man who has had sex with another man (MSM) at any time since 1977; and

Whereas, In December 2015, based on recommendations from the NHS Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability, the FDA promulgated revised regulations to allow an MSM to donate blood only if he has not been sexually active for the past 12 months. Despite these recent steps toward a policy change, a double standard still exists under the policy as revised because it still treats gay and bisexual men differently from heterosexual men; and

Whereas, California law prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender-related appearance and behavior; and

Whereas, Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and Spain have adopted blood donor policies that measure risk against a set of behaviors, sexual and otherwise, rather than the sex of a person's sexual partner or partners; and

Whereas, The FDA currently does not allow gay and bisexual men in committed relationships to donate blood because, while one partner may be monogamous, that individual cannot guarantee that the other partner is monogamous. The FDA does not apply this same logic to heterosexual relationships, which in effect discriminates against gay and bisexual men; and

Whereas, The FDA is in the process of again reevaluating and considering updating its blood donor deferral policies as new scientific information becomes available, including the feasibility of moving from the existing time-based deferrals related to risk behaviors to alternate deferral options, such as the use of individual risk assessments; and

Whereas, A 12-month deferral policy for gay and bisexual men to donate blood is overly stringent given the scientific evidence, advanced testing methods, and the safety and quality control measures in place within the different FDA-qualified blood donating centers; and

Whereas, The American Public Health Association has stated that no specific scientific rationale is provided to justify the 12-month deferral policy. The technology can identify within 7 to 10 days with 99.9 percent accuracy whether or not a blood sample is HIV-positive, and the chance of the blood test being inaccurate within the 10-day window is about 1 in 2,000,000; and

Whereas, The General Social Survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago estimates that 8.5 percent of men in the United States have had at least one male sex partner since 18 years of age, 4.1 percent of

men report at least one male sex partner in the last 5 years, and 3.8 percent report a male sex partner in the last 12 months; and

Whereas, An estimated 45.4 percent of men (54 million) in the United States are eligible to donate blood, but only 8.7 percent of eligible men actually do. There are 15.7 million donations of blood per year made by 9.2 million donors, yielding approximately 1.7 donations per donor; and

Whereas, The Williams Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law estimates that, based on the population of eligible and likely donors among the MSM community, lifting the federal lifetime deferral policy on blood donation by an MSM would result in 4.2 million newly eligible male donors, of which 360,600 would likely donate, generating 615,300 additional pints of blood. Applying national estimates to the California population, the Institute further estimates that lifting the ban on MSM blood donations would add an additional 510,000 eligible men to the current blood donor pool, of which 43,917 would likely donate, resulting in an additional 74,945 donated pints in California; and

Whereas, One hundred fifteen members of the Congress of the United States sent a letter to the FDA Commissioner, Dr. Robert M. Califf, M.D., urging him to finally put an end to this outdated blood donation policy and update it to reflect science, not fear; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the California State Legislature calls upon the President of the United States to encourage the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to adopt policies to repeal the current discriminatory donor suitability policies of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding blood donations by men who have had sex with another man and, instead, direct the FDA to develop science-based policies such as criteria based on risky behavior in lieu of sexual orientation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-239. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to protest and take action to fully restore the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1009

Whereas, the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center (Cherrybell) serves the entire southern portion of Arizona covering the counties of Pima, Santa Cruz and Cochise. Currently, Southern Arizona is facing a potential economic downfall due to the initial decision made by the United States Postal Service (USPS) Board of Governors to close Cherrybell; and

Whereas, more than 1.8 million people and 23,197 businesses use the Cherrybell postal services. According to USPS officials, over 3 million pieces of mail go through Cherrybell each day as it is the 15th largest facility serving the 33rd largest population area in our nation. The processing and sorting oper-

ations at Cherrybell that are proposed to be moved to Phoenix affect approximately 280 jobs in Southern Arizona; and

Whereas, Southern Arizona, which includes both the Tohono O'odham nation and Pasqua Yaqui tribal lands, encompasses the California and Arizona border at Yuma south to Nogales, across to Douglas and Bisbee in Cochise County and the military installations located at Fort Huachuca and Davis Monthan, depends on the Cherrybell Post office; and

Whereas, Southern Arizona is home to many military veterans who depend on the USPS both for timely delivery of medical prescriptions and for employment, as the USPS employs more veterans than any entity other than the United States Department of Defense; and

Whereas, in an extensive community survey conducted in 2015, 84% of individuals and 86% of businesses reported a noticeable delay in mail delivery due to the partial closure of Cherrybell; and

Whereas, Tucson City Council Member Richard Fimbres went on record opposing the closure of Cherrybell and requested that the Council work directly with Tucson's congressional delegation and community members to frame a campaign to protect the vital jobs at Cherrybell; and

Whereas, Pima County Recorder F. Ann Rodriguez objects to the closure of Cherrybell and firmly believes that, due to the higher number of voters each year on the permanent early voting list, this change will clearly impact the activities of the state and county elections officials in Arizona and will cause a detrimental impact to voters. The information provided to the public by the USPS is based entirely on economic considerations with no apparent regard for the impact of the change on the fundamental right of all citizens to vote and, in particular, the significant additional detrimental impact to Native American voters in the region; and

Whereas, the people of Arizona applaud the efforts of United States Representative Martha McSally and the other members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation, including Representatives Trent Franks, Ann Kirkpatrick, Matt Salmon, Paul Gosar, Ruben Gallego, Kyrsten Sinema and Raul Grijalva, who have asked for more detailed and complete information regarding the proposal Cherrybell closure; and

Whereas, thousands of people have written letters and signed online petitions urging the USPS Board of Governors not to close Cherrybell.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States protest the proposed closing of the Tucson Postal Processing and Distribution Center and take any action necessary to fully restore operations of this vital postal facility.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-240. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to act to increase the number of United States Customs and Border Protection personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1006

Whereas, the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is one of the world's

largest law enforcement organizations and is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the United States while facilitating lawful international travel and trade; and

Whereas, as the world's first full-service border entity, CBP takes a comprehensive approach to border management and control, combining customs, immigration, border security and agricultural protection into one coordinated and supportive activity; and

Whereas, the need to increase the number of CBP personnel in the Tucson sector along the border between the United States and Mexico is critical to increasing border safety and security as well as to ensuring economic stability in our border communities; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel who work at the ports of entry in Arizona will enhance the economic stability in our border communities and will increase border security between the United States and Mexico; and

Whereas, an integrated approach to securing the border and increasing economic stability along the border and in our border communities is important to residents living along the border and in our border communities; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona will allow increased commercial traffic and will result in increased economic growth and stability for Arizona; and

Whereas, all of the benefits of increased economic stability in Arizona can be realized if the workload capacity at each port of entry is increased, which would result in less congestion and delay; and

Whereas, increasing the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona should be part of the infrastructure improvements that are occurring at the ports of entry; and

Whereas, the establishment of a safe and secure border is a crucial component of national security.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That, in order to secure the border between the United States and Mexico, to enhance the safety and security of people and their property in the currently unsecure regions of the border and to increase economic growth and stability for the residents of Arizona, the United States Congress act to increase the number of CBP personnel at the ports of entry in Arizona.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-241. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to appropriate \$248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits the improvements of this project will have on the nation's economy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, The inclusion of \$248 million in funding for Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill is proposed by the President's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget; and

Whereas, This funding will ensure completion of the project, which will improve domestic supply chains, strengthen our national security, reduce the port's carbon footprint, and facilitate economic growth, not only for the County of Imperial and for California, but for the entire nation; and

Whereas, The Obama Administration's 2015 budget included a \$98,062,000 investment in Calexico West Land Port of Entry Phase 1. This first phase of the expansion project is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2018. Phase 2 will consist of the balance of the project, including additional sitework, an expanded pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, and six additional northbound privately owned vehicle inspection lanes; and

Whereas, The completion of this project guarantees the economic activity of the border will not be lost. On an average day, more than 15,000 to 20,000 privately operated vehicles and nearly 20,000 pedestrians enter the United States through the Calexico Land Port of Entry; and

Whereas, The United States' goods and private services trade with Mexico totaled an estimated \$583.6 billion in 2015, with exports totaling \$267.2 billion and imports totaling \$316.4 billion; and

Whereas, Mexico is currently our second largest goods trading partner with almost \$72 billion in two-way trade of goods during 2015, with goods exports that totaled \$26.8 billion and goods imports that totaled \$45 billion; and

Whereas, Ninety-nine percent of trade between California and Mexico is carried by trucks, and the Calexico East Port of Entry serves nearly all of the international truck traffic crossings in the County of Imperial, with a total trade value of over \$12 billion in 2012; and

Whereas, The San Diego Association of Governments 2050 Comprehensive Freight Gateway Study projects that the nearly two million trucks that crossed the California-Mexico border in 2007 will increase to nearly five million trucks in 2050; and

Whereas, Traffic congestion and delays at the borders of the Counties of San Diego and Imperial cost the economies of the United States and Mexico an estimated \$8.63 billion in gross output and more than 73,900 jobs in 2007; and

Whereas, The collaboration between federal, state, and local agencies is essential for the development of border infrastructure projects and security; and

Whereas, The United States General Accountability Office and the United States Department of Homeland Security estimate that \$6 billion in border infrastructure is needed to fulfill their mission of preventing unlawful entry and smuggling while facilitating legitimate trade and tourism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the legislature of the State of California respectfully urges Congress to appropriate \$248 million in funding to complete Phase 2 of the Calexico West Land Port of Entry reconfiguration and expansion project in order to realize the benefits the improvements of this project will have on the nation's economy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-242. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to enact the Diné College Act of 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1017

Whereas, this state and the Navajo Nation maintain a government-to-government relationship, and the Navajo people residing in this state are citizens of both Arizona and the Navajo Nation; and

Whereas, in 1968, the Navajo Nation established Navajo Community College, which later became Diné College, to provide access to higher education to the Navajo people; and

Whereas, Diné College's flagship campus is located in Tsaile, Arizona, and there are community campuses in Tuba City, Chinle and Window Rock; and

Whereas, Diné College has dual credit agreements with school districts and schools throughout Arizona, including Red Mesa Unified School District #27, Chinle Unified School District #24, Ganado Unified School District, St. Michaels High School, Window Rock Unified School District #8, Many Farms High School, Kayenta Unified School District, Piñon Unified School District #4, Greyhills Academy High School, Tuba City High School, Leupp Schools, Inc. and Phoenix Union High School District; and

Whereas, this state provides support to Diné College through its Navajo Nation, Diné College-State of Arizona funding compact, the tribal college dual credit funding program and Proposition 301 monies; and

Whereas, the United States Congress passed the Navajo Community College Act, the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978 and the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2008, which collectively provide for maintenance, operation and construction funding for Diné College; and

Whereas, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick introduced the Diné College Act of 2015 "to fulfill the United States Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher education needs of the Navajo people and to clarify, unify, and modernize prior Diné College legislation," and Diné College has requested that Senator Jeff Flake introduce a United States Senate companion bill; and

Whereas, this state stands in support of the passage of the Diné College Act of 2015.

Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the Congress of the United States enact the Diné College Act of 2015.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the Governor of the State of Arizona, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-243. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the federal government to ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under the law in removal proceedings by providing government-funded attorneys, trained in immigration law, to all indigent children seeking an immigration remedy and urging the federal government to first hear cases involving children that have legal counsel and to immediately halt cases brought against unrepresented immigrant children until lawyers are made available to represent them; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that a

person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, thereby ensuring that he or she will receive a fundamentally fair, orderly, and just judicial proceeding before being deprived of his or her freedom; and

Whereas, Former Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Jack H. Weil, a senior official in the United States Department of Justice; asserted in a deposition that he has trained toddlers in immigration law and can afford them a fair hearing without the toddler being represented by legal counsel; and

Whereas, The assertion made by Judge Weil is contemptible and offensive to our country's Fifth Amendment constitutional mandate to provide all with due process under the law; and

Whereas, Due process cannot be guaranteed in an adversarial immigration removal proceeding without legal representation; and

Whereas, Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, states that "Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution." Accordingly, children escaping from violence in other countries, whether unaccompanied or accompanied by a parent, are not "illegal" when they come to the United States in search of asylum; and

Whereas, The protections of Article 14 have been incorporated by the United States Congress into domestic law, which now protects all asylum seekers, including children, by prohibiting the federal government from returning to their home countries persons who have fled persecution due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group; and

Whereas, It is our nation's legal and moral obligation to open our arms to children who fear harm in their country of origin and to foreign-born children in the United States who cannot be reunified with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment and who are therefore eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status or any other immigration remedy; and

Whereas, Respect for due process requires that all indigent children seeking asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, or other immigration remedies in defense of deportation be afforded government-funded competent immigrant counsel; and

Whereas, According to a study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, the foremost authority on federal immigration enforcement data, unrepresented children were ordered to leave the United States in 86 percent of cases, whereas represented children were ordered to leave the United States in only 16 percent of cases; and

Whereas, As demonstrated by the same study, the provision of legal representation would improve the integrity of the immigration court system, because children without legal representation fail to appear in court and therefore are ordered removed in absentia in 75 percent of cases. By comparison, children with legal representation do consistently appear in court and are therefore ordered removed in absentia in only 3 percent of cases; and

Whereas, The federal government is denying indigent immigrant children in California their rights to a fair trial under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution because the federal government does not provide these children with legal representation in immigration court. These children therefore face the threat of deportation to violent and dangerous conditions where they may face persecution, violence, or even death; and

Whereas, Human Rights Watch filed an amicus brief in the case of *J.E.F.M. v. Lynch*, a nationwide lawsuit on behalf of thousands of children who are challenging the federal government's failure to provide the children with legal representation in deportation hearings, arguing that the failure of the United States government to appoint lawyers to represent immigrant children facing deportation violates their basic rights under international law; and

Whereas, The California Attorney General has engaged in efforts to close the legal services gap for unaccompanied immigrant children across California and joined an amicus brief in *J.E.F.M. v. Lynch*.

Whereas, Since January 2014, at least 83 deportees, including children, from the United States, were reported murdered upon their return to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, which remain three of the most violent countries in the world; and

Whereas, There are currently over 13,800 children in California that are not represented by legal counsel in immigration court; and

Whereas, California has a duty to protect the welfare of children within our state, including immigrant children; and

Whereas, California values immigrant children and has made this clear through legislative enactments, including Assembly Bill 540 (2001), Assembly Bills 130 and 131 (2011); commonly referred to as the California Dream Act, Senate Bill 1064 (2012), Senate Bill 873 (2014); commonly referred to as the Unaccompanied Minors Program, Senate Bill 1210 (2014), commonly referred to as the California DREAM Loan Program, and Senate Bills 4 and 75 (2015), commonly referred to as the Health4All Kids Act; and

Whereas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status under Section 1101(a)(27)(J) of Title 8 of the United States Code is immigration relief that relies on a state's interest in the welfare of children and provides for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status where a state court determines that reunification with one or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or similar basis found under state law and that it would not be in the child's best interest to return to his or her home country; and

Whereas, California makes an annual \$3 million investment to ensure that unaccompanied minors receive the legal representation that they need to pursue Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and other immigration relief; and

Whereas, California passed Senate Bill 873 (2014) and Assembly Bill 900 (2015) to ensure that California courts issue the predicate orders necessary for children to apply for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; and

Whereas, California is disadvantaged when California's children are denied their rights under the United States Constitution, including their right to due process; and

Whereas, California has a strong interest in ensuring that the children living in this state are not unfairly deported. Schools are disrupted when children are pulled from classes, communities are thrown into disorder when families are torn apart, the health and welfare of these children are put at risk; and the state is denied the potential societal and economic contributions of these children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the federal government to take action to remedy this injury to the State of California, through appropriate measures within the

United States Department of Justice, the United States Department of Homeland Security, and the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and ensure that immigrant children are afforded due process under the law when they are fighting to remain in the United States of America, by providing government-funded attorneys, trained in immigration law, to all indigent children fighting deportation and seeking an immigration remedy; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of California urges the federal government to rearrange its dockets to first hear the cases of children who have legal representation and to immediately halt cases it is pursuing against unrepresented immigrant children until lawyers are made available to represent them; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-244. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reimburse the state of Louisiana for state-expended dollars used to comply with federal mandates related to illegal immigration including but not limited to education, medical care, welfare, and law enforcement services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 219

Whereas, pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, the federal government has the authority to regulate immigration; and

Whereas, the federal government has forced states to comply with federal mandates that require states to provide various essential services to illegal immigrants including but not limited to education, medical care, welfare, and law enforcement, with little to no reimbursement of state-expended costs; and

Whereas, the federal government historically has failed to adequately control the influx of undocumented immigrants into this country; and

Whereas, the failure of the federal government to adequately control the borders, in addition to the imposition of huge mandated but unreimbursed costs to the state of Louisiana, has led to blatant inequities in terms of exploitation of undocumented laborers and abuse of wage, safety, and child labor laws, as well as lowering wage levels for Louisiana's working poor; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana has been severely affected by the impact of state budgetary cutbacks; and

Whereas, the costs incurred by the state of Louisiana in addressing illegal immigration are increasing and continuing to burden the limited resources of the state; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature created the Task Force on Illegal Immigration (task force) by House Resolution No. 175 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature to study and report the fiscal, medical, nutritional, educational, judicial, criminal, penal, and economic impact of federal mandates on the state of Louisiana relative to illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the purpose of the task force was to provide useful and critical information

and statistical data to guide the efforts of Louisiana's private and public sectors in addressing the concerns of Louisiana residents regarding illegal immigration; and

Whereas, during the task force meeting held on October 22, 2015, task force members were presented with statistical data and information on the fiscal impact on the state of Louisiana associated with providing essential services to undocumented immigrants. Estimated dollar amounts were provided by the following state agencies:

(1) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections presented information on the impact of incarcerating illegal immigrants in Louisiana state correctional institutions including incarceration and probation and parole costs. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana is approximately three million two hundred ninety thousand dollars (\$3,290,000) annually out of the state general fund.

(2) The Department of Education presented information on the impact on the Louisiana school system relative to the enrollment of non-United States citizens and data on the number of English Language Learners (ELL) for Louisiana public and charter schools for K-12. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana for one public school district is approximately three million dollars (\$3,000,000) annually.

(3) The Department of Health and Hospitals presented information regarding federally mandated Medicaid services for undocumented workers including Medicaid eligibility requirements for unborn children and the costs attributed to illegal immigration on Louisiana's medical systems as a whole. The estimated cost to the state of Louisiana is approximately sixteen million one hundred thousand dollars (\$16,100,000) annually, assisting nearly five thousand (5,000) individuals with unverified immigration status.

(4) The Department of Children and Family Services presented information on the eligibility of non-United States citizens for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Based on testimony, public assistance was provided to a population of five thousand three hundred ninety-nine (5,399) non-United States citizens through Louisiana's SNAP program with a total cost to the state of Louisiana of fifty-five million dollars (\$55,000,000) in administrative costs, with an undetermined amount attributed to illegal immigrants.

Whereas, the state of Louisiana in conjunction with local governments expends approximately nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to educate each student in Louisiana every year; and

Whereas, federal limitations on the disclosure of immigration status of public school children hinders the determination of the financial impact of illegal immigration on the Louisiana public school system as a whole; and

Whereas, the annual costs associated with illegal immigration have burdened the state of Louisiana and its residents with expenses for law enforcement, healthcare, education, incarceration, and other essential services, and such costs have gone uncompensated by the federal government; and

Whereas, the costs associated with providing services to illegal immigrants should never be borne by the state of Louisiana because federal law controls the enforcement of illegal immigration; and

Whereas, the United States government should take immediate action to reimburse the state of Louisiana for estimated expenses

that the state incurs annually as a result of the federal government's policies and mandates related to illegal immigration. Therefore, be it

Resolved That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to reimburse the state of Louisiana for the state dollars expended annually to provide essential services including but not limited to the education, welfare, medical care, law enforcement, and incarceration of illegal immigrants; and be it further

Resolved That the house of representatives of the legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to remove any impediments with respect to disclosure of immigration status of public school children such that the financial impact of illegal immigration on the public school system in this state can be accurately determined; and be it further

Resolved That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-245. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to rename any federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property that bear the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, The Confederate States of America and its secessionist movement were rooted in the defense of slavery; and

Whereas, Using the names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America for federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property only deepens the pain of those living under the legacy of slavery; and

Whereas, The United States of America continues to struggle with racial equality and tolerance; and

Whereas, The continued use of names of elected or military leaders of the Confederacy in public places is offensive to Americans who treasure the United States as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all; and

Whereas, The horrific shooting deaths of nine African Americans attending church in South Carolina have once again raised the searing issue of racial violence and intolerance; and

Whereas, The ensuing images of the killer wrapping himself in the Confederate flag points to the continued use of that emblem of cruel oppression as a way to further demean, offend, and wound whole segments of our society; and

Whereas, The use of Confederate leaders' names in public schools, buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property in California only serves to further the discriminatory agenda of current sympathizers of the ideology of the Confederate States of America, and is antithetical to California's mission of racial equality and tolerance; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully urges the Congress and the President of the United States to rename any federal buildings, parks, roadways, or other federally owned property that bear the

names of elected or military leaders of the Confederate States of America; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-246. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the United States Congress to lift an existing prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds for the purpose of conducting that research; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, Every day, gun violence destroys lives, families, and communities; and

Whereas, From 2002 to 2013, inclusive, California lost 38,576 individuals to gun violence, of which 2,258 were children; and

Whereas, In 2013 alone, guns were used to kill 2,900 Californians, including 251 children and teenagers, and hospitalized another 6,035 Californians for nonfatal gunshot wounds, including 1,275 children and teenagers; and

Whereas, There were over 350 recorded mass shootings in the United States in 2015; and

Whereas, Since 1996, Congress has adopted annual policy riders, known as the "Dickey Amendment" and "Rehberg Amendment" that effectively prohibit the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other agencies under the federal Department of Health and Human Services from conducting publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence or its effects on public health; and

Whereas, The author of the original Dickey Amendment, former Representative Jay Dickey (R-AR), has stated repeatedly that he regrets offering the amendment and thinks it should be repealed; and

Whereas, Despite Representative Dickey's comments and President Obama's executive action in 2013 directing the CDC to resume gun violence research, Congress has provided no funding, and the restrictive language remains in place; and

Whereas, Since 1996, the federal government has spent \$240 million per year on traffic safety research, which has saved 360,000 lives since 1970; and

Whereas, During the same period there has been almost no publicly funded research on gun violence, which kills the same number of people every year; and

Whereas, Recently, 110 Members of the Congress of the United States signed a letter urging the leadership of the House of Representatives to end the longstanding ban on federal funding for gun violence research, and over 2,000 doctors in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia did the same; and

Whereas, Although Members of Congress may disagree about how best to respond to the problem of gun violence, we should be able to agree that a response should be informed by sound scientific evidence; and

Whereas, Whether it is horrific headline-generating massacres or unseen violence that occurs every day—the innocent child gunned down in crossfire, the mother murdered during a domestic dispute, or the young life cut tragically short during the heat of a petty argument—the call to action is now clear; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That a comprehensive evidence-based federal approach to reducing and preventing gun violence is needed to ensure that our communities are safe from gun violence; and be it further

Resolved, That federal research is crucial to saving lives, having driven policy to save lives from motor vehicle accidents, sudden infant death syndrome, lead poisoning, and countless other public health crises; and be it further

Resolved That the Legislature urges the Congress of the United States to promptly lift the prohibition against publicly funded scientific research on the causes of gun violence and its effects on public health, and to appropriate funds to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other relevant agencies under the federal Department of Health and Human Services to conduct that research; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-247. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to direct the American Legion to expand its membership eligibility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2009

Whereas, according to the American Legion, the organization was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. As the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, the American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and providing support to fellow servicemembers and veterans; and

Whereas, the American Legion limits membership eligibility to those who have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during the World War I era, World War II era, Korean War era, Vietnam War era, Lebanon/Grenada era, Panama era or Persian Gulf War era and who have been honorably discharged or are still serving; and

Whereas, all honorably discharged military veterans deserve the opportunity to participate in the American Legion.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress direct the American Legion to expand its membership eligibility to include all honorably discharged military veterans.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-248. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to direct the appropriate federal agencies to secure the borders of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 1012

Whereas, the United States is in the midst of a border crisis; and

Whereas, the sheriffs serving along the borders of the United States are in the epicenter of this crisis; and

Whereas, the porous borders of the United States have resulted in the smuggling of contraband and illegal drugs, the exploitation of human beings and the infiltration of subversives bent on doing harm to this country; and

Whereas, federal law mandates border security; and

Whereas, the quality of life normally enjoyed by the citizens of the United States is being jeopardized by an insecure border, which enables transnational criminals and their accomplices to prey on the citizens of the United States; and

Whereas, border security must be a standalone priority for the federal government; and

Whereas, violence against public officials, law enforcement and rival drug and human trafficking groups in Mexico continues to escalate and cross international boundaries; and

Whereas, the reduction of the federal government's prosecution of the criminal element places the citizens of the United States in harm's way, leaving the burden on local governments to bear the costs associated with the apprehension, prosecution and incarceration of this criminal element; and

Whereas, elected sheriffs have a statutory duty to protect and secure the freedoms and liberties of United States citizens and must do so with or without the help of their federal law enforcement partners and policymakers; and

Whereas, working with limited budgets and staffing, sheriffs along the southwestern border of the United States and sheriffs across the nation struggle to find ways to enhance the quality of life and safety of those they serve and to deter those who cross our borders to promote their criminal activities; and

Whereas, local governments are cognizant of the need to bring relief to United States citizens who are impacted by the lack of border security; and

Whereas, without aggressive prosecution of all of those who breach the border and commit criminal acts, the border will continue to serve as an open opportunity for the criminal element to exploit by entering the United States to prey on this country and its citizens.

Wherefore, Your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of Representatives concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress direct the appropriate federal agencies to do the following:

(a) Fully secure all of the borders of the United States,

(b) Fully reimburse sheriffs for the costs associated with the housing of illegal aliens who are being charged with state crimes.

(c) Return to the original guidelines as set forth in Operation Streamline for the prosecution of persons crossing the United States border illegally.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-249. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Colorado concerning re-

storing the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange exposure for United States Vietnam veterans through the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 16-002

Whereas, During the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed approximately 22 million gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over the Republic of Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; and

Whereas, These herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked to a number of serious and disabling illnesses affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the federal "Agent Orange Act of 1991" to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam, which amended Title 38 of the United States Code to presumptively recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; and

Whereas, Presumptive status provides expedited claims processing for access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with such illnesses as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's Disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, respiratory cancers, soft tissue carcinomas, and other diseases yet to be identified; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Adjudication Manual, more commonly known as the M21-1 Manual, originally allowed the presumption to be extended to all veterans who had received the Vietnam Service Medal; and

Whereas, In a February 2002 revision to the M21-1 Manual, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) added a requirement that the veteran prove that he or she had set foot on the land or entered an internal river or stream, which means that since 2002 the VA has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who served in the waters off of the Vietnamese coast or in bays and harbors and who cannot furnish documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy and Marine veterans to acquire VA benefits; and

Whereas, Personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne and waterborne toxins that did not merely drift offshore in the air, but also washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas, Warships positioned off the Vietnamese shore routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water, and a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, concentrated and enhanced dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; and

Whereas, This study was conducted by the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs after it found Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from Agent Orange-associated diseases than did Vietnam veterans from other branches of the military, and when the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention studied specific cancers among Vietnam veterans, it, too, found a higher incidence of certain cancers among United States Navy veterans; and

Whereas, Additional studies, including those conducted by the Institute of Medicine, show plausible pathways for Agent Orange to have entered the South China Sea via contaminated dirt and debris from rivers and streams; and

Whereas, The 2009 "Institute of Medicine (US) Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides (Seventh Biennial Update)" recommended that veterans who served on ships off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam not be excluded from the presumption of exposure; and

Whereas, Herbicides containing TCDD/dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas, House Resolution 969 and identical companion bill Senate 681, the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015", were introduced, respectively, in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 6, 2015, by Representative Christopher Gibson, and on March 19, 2015, by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand in the U.S. Senate; and

Whereas, More than 30 national veterans service organizations support the Congressional House and Senate legislation entitled "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015"; and

Whereas, Various agencies of the federal government have recently demonstrated awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through participation and funding of the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin "hot spots" in Vietnam; and

Whereas, The United States Congress should reaffirm the nation's commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans by directing the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to properly administer the federal "Agent Orange Act of 1991" and by passing House Resolution 969 and identical companion bill Senate 681, the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015", under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam includes service on the offshore waters; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly, hereby respectfully encourage the United States Congress to restore the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States veterans who served on the waters off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam; and

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama; Vice President and President of the Senate Joe Biden; Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan; Chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in the House of Representatives; Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs; and to each member of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

POM-250. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow funds for the burial of qualified Filipino-American veterans in national and state veterans cemeteries to cover the costs of transporting the remains of Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines and for funeral and burial services in the Philippines; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, during World War II, the Philippines was a Commonwealth of the United

States, and, for four years, nearly 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the United States and Allied forces to defend and reclaim the Philippine Islands from foreign aggression; and

Whereas, these valiant Filipino soldiers fought, suffered, and died in some of the bloodiest battles of World War II, defending beleaguered Bataan and Corregidor, and thousands of them became prisoners of war, enduring the infamous Bataan Death March and years of captivity; and

Whereas, the sacrifices of these Filipino soldiers played a vital role in the Allied victory in the Pacific as their numerous guerrilla actions provided United States forces with time to build and prepare for the Allied counterattack; and

Whereas, these Filipino soldiers fought side-by-side with United States forces to secure their island nation as the strategic base from which the final effort by Allied forces to bring an end to World War II was launched; and

Whereas, the United States promised these Filipino soldiers pay and benefits for their military service under the United States Armed Forces and for their oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States; however, soon after the war ended, legislation was passed that wrongfully took away the benefits and recognition they had earned; and

Whereas, because these World War II veterans had suffered a great wrong, and recognizing that for those with family in the Philippines the return of their remains to the Philippines is a profound and fervent wish, the Legislature in 2003 enacted Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, requiring the Office of Veterans' Services to pay up to \$2,500 for the transport of their remains to the Philippines and funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and

Whereas, funding, however, has not been provided to fulfill this statutory requirement; and

Whereas, in the early 2000s, the United States also enacted legislation requiring the Veterans Administration to pay the full cost of burials at national and state veterans cemeteries to the survivors of these World War II veterans; however, this legislation failed to address coverage of the costs of transport to and services in the Philippines to be with their loved ones; and

Whereas, though many years have transpired since World War II, the words of United States President Harry S. Truman in 1946 remain the honest truth: "I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of Philippine Army veterans."; and

Whereas, for the small number of World War II Filipino-American veterans who are still living, this moral obligation of the United States should extend to fulfilling their wish for a resting place in the Philippines among their loved ones, for this is an entitlement that they have clearly sacrificed for and earned; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the Senate concurring, that Congress is urged to amend federal law to allow funds for the burial of qualified Filipino-American veterans in national and state cemeteries to cover the costs of transporting the remains of eligible Filipino-American veterans of World War II to the Philippines and for funeral and burial services in the Philippines; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the

President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, President of the United States Senate, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

POM-251. A concurrent memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona urging the United States Congress to adopt legislation similar to the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2006

Whereas, thousands of veterans have been exposed to Agent Orange and other chemical agents during the course of their service to the United States; and

Whereas, today, many of the children and grandchildren of veterans are suffering serious health issues that are related to the veterans' exposure to chemical agents; and

Whereas, the people of the United States owe it to their veterans to better understand the impacts of these exposures in order to guarantee that the children and grandchildren of veterans receive appropriate treatment; and

Whereas, the full effects of exposure to dangerous chemicals such as Agent Orange is still unknown, and a national research center is needed to further study the impact these exposures have on veterans, their children and their grandchildren; and

Whereas, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 is a critical step in protecting the veterans of the United States.

Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

1. That the United States Congress adopt legislation similar to H.R. 1769 and S. 901, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015, that would establish in the United States Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces of the United States that are related to that exposure.

2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.

POM-252. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to immigration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-253. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to refugees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

POM-254. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Guam expressing unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; requesting that the President of the United States support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and requesting that the United States Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 1869. A bill to improve Federal network security and authorize and enhance an existing intrusion detection and prevention system for civilian Federal networks (Rept. No. 114-378).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3087. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-379).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2580. A bill to establish the Indian Education Agency to streamline the administration of Indian education, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-380).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 2643. A bill to improve the implementation of the settlement agreement reached between the Pueblo de Cochiti of New Mexico and the Corps of Engineers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-381).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2717. A bill to improve the safety and address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams to prevent flooding on Indian reservations, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-382).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 3218. Designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1221 State Street, Suite 12, Santa Barbara, California, as the "Special Warfare Operator Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Louis 'Lou' J. Langlais Post Office Building".

H.R. 4887. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23323 Shelby Road in Shelby, Indiana, as the "Richard Allen Cable Post Office".

H.R. 5150. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3031 Veterans Road West in Staten Island, New York, as the "Leonard Montalto Post Office Building".

H.R. 5309. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 401 McElroy Drive in Oxford, Mississippi, as the "Army First Lieutenant Donald C. Carwile Post Office Building".

H.R. 5356. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14231 TX-150 in Coldspring, Texas, as the "E. Marie Youngblood Post Office".

H.R. 5591. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 810 N US Highway 83 in Zapata, Texas, as the "Zapata Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 5676. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6300 N. Northwest Highway in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Officer Joseph P. Cali Post Office Building".

H.R. 5798. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Davis Street in Evanston, Illinois, as the "Abner J. Mikva Post Office Building".

H.R. 5889. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Chalan Kanoa VLG in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as the "Segundo T. Sablan and CNMI Fallen Military Heroes Post Office Building".

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Mark D. Acton, of Kentucky, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2022.

*Robert G. Taub, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2022.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3472. A bill to require the Bureau of the Census to conduct a survey to determine income and poverty levels in the United States in a manner that accounts for the receipt of Federal means-tested benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3473. A bill to increase outdated death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty, to expand the scope of eligible beneficiaries, to codify tax treatment, to change offset requirements, to harmonize death gratuities across Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3474. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3475. A bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. COONS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3476. A bill to waive recoupment by the United States of certain bonuses and similar benefits erroneously received by members of the Army National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3477. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the

treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3478. A bill to require continued and enhanced annual reporting to Congress in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom on anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, the safety and security of European Jewish communities, and the efforts of the United States to partner with European governments, the European Union, and civil society groups, to combat anti-Semitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 3479. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow unpopulated census tracts that are contiguous to low-income communities to be treated as low-income communities under the new markets tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SASSE:

S. 3480. A bill to make an alien who applies for naturalization using a false identity ineligible for citizenship and to require the completion of the Historical Fingerprint Enrollment Program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3481. A bill to address payment for claims relating to certain provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 3482. A bill to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in Utah, to authorize construction of projects in connection therewith, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND
SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 616. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. Res. 617. A resolution designating November 27, 2016, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COATS, and Mr. DONNELLY):

S. Res. 618. A resolution commending and congratulating the Chicago Cubs on their 2016 World Series victory; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 619. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and

celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 689

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 689, a bill to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

S. 1042

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Atlantic planning areas.

S. 1559

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1559, a bill to protect victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and dating violence from emotional and psychological trauma caused by acts of violence or threats of violence against their pets.

S. 1567

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1567, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for a review of the characterization or terms of discharge from the Armed Forces of individuals with mental health disorders alleged to affect terms of discharge.

S. 1714

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1714, a bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1831

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1831, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 2196

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2196, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the non-application of Medicare competitive acquisition rates to complex rehabilitative wheelchairs and accessories.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

S. 2373

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2373, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 2748

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2748, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, and other programs, including physician assistant education programs, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 2823

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2823, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the section 45 credit for refined coal from steel industry fuel, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the first manned landing on the Moon.

S. 2977

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2977, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on the production and importation of opioid pain relievers, and for other purposes.

S. 3111

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3111, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the 7.5 percent threshold for the medical expense deduction for individuals age 65 or older.

S. 3115

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Is-

land (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3115, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to a national pediatric research network.

S. 3147

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3147, a bill to support educational entities in fully implementing title IX and reducing and preventing sex discrimination in all areas of education.

S. 3188

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the incentives for biodiesel.

S. 3241

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3241, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reaffirm the United States historic commitment to protecting refugees who are fleeing persecution or torture.

S. 3244

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3244, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to clarify the treatment of pediatric dental coverage in the individual and group markets outside of Exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3281, a bill to extend the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

S. 3391

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3391, a bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act.

S. 3405

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3405, a bill to transfer certain items from the United States Munitions List to the Commerce Control List.

S. 3414

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3414, a bill to condition assistance to the West Bank and Gaza on steps by the Palestinian Authority to end violence and terrorism against Israeli citizens.

S. 3438

At the request of Mr. HELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3438, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a major medical facility project in Reno, Nevada.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3447, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a memorial honoring the helicopter pilots and crew members of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 3464

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3464, a bill to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

S. RES. 615

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 615, a resolution expressing support for the designation of November 16, 2016, as "American Special Hockey Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3473. A bill to increase outdated death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal civilian employees killed in the line of duty, to expand the scope of eligible beneficiaries, to codify tax treatment, to change offset requirements, to harmonize death gratuities across Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Death Gratuities Equity Act of 2016. I am joined by Senators CARDIN and WARNER in support of this bill.

Congress required the Office of Personnel Management to study and report back on death gratuities and funeral expenses given to families of Federal employees killed in the line of duty. OPM provided its report in 2012, and what it found deeply disturbed me. Across the board the numbers were wildly different. Some families would get a \$10,000 death gratuity with \$800 for funeral expenses. Those funeral expenses were then deducted from the lump sum death gratuity. The \$800 allotment for funeral expenses had not been updated in 50 years, and the \$10,000 amount has not been updated in 20 years.

This report really struck a nerve with me. If you are working hard every day for your country and you are killed in doing that duty, your country should do all it can to thank you. I think that's a pretty reasonable request. So I worked with OPM and the administration to create this legislation here today.

My home State of Maryland has one of the highest numbers of Federal employees. Marylanders are called to service, and we proudly represent team USA at home and around the world. In 1998, when Al Qaeda bombed the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killing twelve Americans, Maryland lost two of its own that day, Julian Bartley Sr. and his son, Jay. Since then, I have fought tooth and nail for his family and all the families who lose loved ones while serving America. We were able to finally get them the compensation they deserved in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014.

But families shouldn't have to worry about whether or not Congress will take action, and they shouldn't have to fight for years on end to recognize the sacrifice made by their loved ones. We need to recognize that sacrifice now and secure it for the future. The families of all Federal employees across the country need to know that we have their backs should the worst come to pass.

This bill does five things. First, it creates a standard minimum payment of \$100,000 across all departments for any federal civilian employee killed in the line of duty. Second, it gives up to \$8,800 for funeral expenses, and those expenses are in addition to the death gratuity, not taken away from it. Third, it makes it the law that these death and funeral gratuities cannot be taxed. Fourth, it ties these amounts to an automatic cost-of-living adjustment, so that we don't have to do this again in the future. And fifth, it now covers all federal employees, not just those killed abroad.

This bill also now covers more kinds of Federal service employees who are eligible for death gratuities and funeral expenses. Brave people like firefighters, dedicated post office employees, diligent census workers, and bright

young stars like interns, Job Corps students, and Peace Corps volunteers. These people and their families would all be covered and protected under this bill.

I am very pleased with this plan to standardize civilian death gratuities. There's been too much disparity across departments for too long. Federal employees who are killed in the line of duty deserve to be recognized by their government for their sacrifice. Their families deserve certainty and a uniform policy they can rely on if the worst should happen to their loved ones. These hardworking employees are wearing the USA team jersey every day. This bill lets them know the government is on their side, that their service is valued, and that everyone is equal under the law.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3474. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize COPS grantees to use grant funds to hire veterans as career law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3474

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. PRIORITIZING HIRING AND TRAINING OF VETERANS.

Section 1701(b)(2) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd(b)(2)) is amended by inserting "including by prioritizing the hiring and training of veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code)" after "Nation".

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. PAUL):

S. 3475. A bill to delay the amendments to rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to address a pending change to privacy protection contained in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. But before I proceed to the details, the sometimes wonky details of what we actually do here legislatively, let me just start by speaking to concerns I have heard. As early as this morning, on my train ride down from Wilmington, DE, in the halls here in Congress, by email, text, and by phone from friends from my State of Delaware and all over the country, folks are concerned about what this election means and about whether we can work together in ways

that defend the fundamental liberties on which this country rests.

I wish to start by remarking that Senator WYDEN and I are on the floor today talking about a bill that we have crafted and we are introducing in partnership with other Senators—with Senators MIKE LEE, STEVE DAINES, and AL FRANKEN who represent, literally, the farthest edges of this Chamber in terms of ideology. If you look at the top five issues on which we agree, we agree on relatively little. But as a group of Republicans and Democrats, we have agreed to work together to restrain an attempt—frankly, initiated by the current Department of Justice—to modify the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure in a way that we are concerned implicates or invades our Fourth Amendment constitutional protections. I hope those who watch what happens on this floor find encouragement in the fact that Republicans and Democrats before this election's outcome had come together to craft this bill, this approach, and to move forward in a way that shows the bipartisan commitment to protecting our constitutional liberties remains alive and well in this Chamber.

Let me briefly address what it is I am talking about because I think it has serious and far-reaching implications for the privacy of ordinary Americans. These rules, the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, govern the procedures for investigation and prosecution of individuals within our American criminal justice system, and it is essential that these rules strike a careful balance, giving law enforcement the tools they need to investigate crimes and keep us safe while also protecting Americans' constitutional rights to freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, our rights to privacy.

Earlier this year on April 30, the Supreme Court approved changes to the Federal rules that would shift this balance, potentially greatly expanding the scope of search warrants. Neither the Senate nor the House held a hearing or a markup in the relevant committees to make these changes. The body of government closest to the people has failed to weigh in at all on an issue that immediately and directly impacts our constituents' rights. If we in the Congress do nothing, the proposed rule changes will go into effect December 1 of this year.

While the proposed changes are not necessarily good or bad, they are serious, and they present significant policy concerns that I think warrant careful consideration and debate. I wish to quickly outline two of them today.

One change would allow any magistrate judge in any district in America to issue a warrant for information outside that magistrate's district if the location of the information that law enforcement is seeking has been concealed. This change ensures investigators have a jurisdiction to go to where

they can seek a warrant, particularly for cyber information that is concealed and where it is impossible to know the district in which the attack originated.

Another change would allow a judge to issue a warrant for information on devices located in five or more judicial districts. While the Department of Justice argues this change will improve the efficiency of investigations by eliminating the need to seek multiple warrants to reach all the devices that are suspected of being the same cyber criminal network, this represents a sweeping change to how search warrants are traditionally reviewed, issued, and executed.

I think all Americans should want criminal investigations to proceed quickly and thoroughly, but I am concerned these changes could remove important judicial safeguards by allowing one judge—one judge—to decide on a search that would give the government the ability to search and possibly alter hundreds or even thousands of computers owned by innocent Americans across the country.

These changes would also incentivize investigators to forum shop—to seek a multijurisdictional warrant from the official most likely to approve a sweeping search. So, in October, a bipartisan group of 23 Members of Congress wrote Attorney General Lynch to request more information about these changes to Rule XLI, and we are still waiting for a response. With so many complex questions unanswered, it is important the Department of Justice and this body have time to carefully answer these questions. So today we are introducing legislation that gives Congress that time, and Senators DAINES, LEE, and FRANKEN have joined Senators WYDEN and me to delay these changes until July 1 of next year.

We all want to ensure the American people are kept safe from cyber hackers and online criminal activity. We all want law enforcement to have the tools they need to keep us safe, but our desire for safety and our desire for an efficient criminal justice system should not require us to forfeit our fundamental constitutional rights to privacy and protection from searches and seizures.

Let me now yield the floor to my friend and colleague Senator WYDEN, who has been such a tireless, effective, and engaged advocate on exactly these issues.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I thank Senator COONS for his work, his very thoughtful statement, and I particularly appreciate his emphasizing the fact that this effort began long before November 8. This has been a bipartisan effort for some time, with Democrats and Republicans across the political spectrum saying: Look, the country

wants policies that make us safer and protect our liberties, and if we are not careful, we are going to get policies that don't do much of either and in fact set us back.

I very much appreciate what my colleague is doing. It is a simple proposition that Senator COONS advances today; that is, when you are talking about a monumental change—one judge with one warrant making it possible to hack thousands of computers—this is not just a modest alteration in the way business is done in Washington, DC, this is an enormous public policy shift. The idea the Congress—without even one hearing, without even one debate, without even one opportunity for Members to weigh in formally, in my view just defies common sense and our responsibilities. I very much appreciate what my colleague is doing.

Suffice it to say, this was important before the election, but right now, when we have scores of Americans wondering about the very future of the core constitutional protections they rely on, the bill Senator COONS is offering makes it clear those basic values and the sanctity of the courts and due process and the rule of law are not going to be values that are going to be set aside because of what happened on November 8, and there are going to be Democrats and Republicans working together in the Senate.

I remember when Senator PAUL, who has made very valuable contributions on this and other issues, began to discuss some of these matters with me on the Select Committee on Intelligence. We, in effect, said: It is almost like we have a Ben Franklin caucus around here. Ben Franklin famously said: Anyone who gives up their liberty to have security doesn't deserve either. It seems to me my colleague is picking up on those principles.

Mr. President and colleagues, I will be brief. The Coons bill addresses the cold fact that without urgent action this month, the government is going to have unprecedented authority to hack into the personal phones, computers, tablets, or whatever devices Americans use. This would be a massive expansion of government hacking and surveillance powers, a vast expansion of Executive power. To do it without even a congressional debate would be just a monumental mistake. What ought to be done, as Senator COONS has suggested, is allowing the Congress and the American people to have a chance to weigh in on the very substantial constitutional questions surrounding government hacking.

I sit on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. I think having joined before 9/11, I am now, I believe, the longest serving member in history, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, and we can tell you there is no question it is a dangerous world. Go into the Select

Committee on Intelligence, and it becomes pretty clear there are a lot of people out there who do not wish the people of our great country well. It is obvious, as my colleague from Delaware has noted, that law enforcement faces very substantial challenges because technology is constantly evolving. So we want to make it clear, those of us who are supporting the Coons bill, that we don't take a backseat to anyone in giving our agents the tools they need to demonstrate that security and liberty are not mutually exclusive. We can have both.

That is why I wrote section 102 of the Freedom Act, which actually expanded the government's ability to move when there was an emergency. We have had a lot of discussions about our ability to protect our country in the event of an emergency situation. That was a provision that I added and I felt particularly strongly about because I wanted to amplify on what my colleague has said; that we are interested in both liberty and security and in coming up with policies that are compatible.

What we have seen, and why the Coons review is so important, is that too often government agencies have cast too wide a net and swept up information from millions of Americans instead of focusing on the real threats—the criminals, the terrorists, the hackers. Our point with respect to this review bill is that our job consists of more than just having a “trust us” policy from the Justice Department. Our job is to ask the tough questions.

My late father was a journalist. That is what he said. Nobody wants to ask the tough questions. It takes more time and it makes people uncomfortable, but that is what we are supposed to do, and particularly right now, when so many Americans are concerned about the threats to their liberty and the security of our personal information. What Senator COONS is talking about this morning is a more important check on the executive branch than we have had to debate in the past. That is why my colleague's work is so timely this morning.

This change would also effectively—if it were to go through in its current form, Rule 41—turn innocent victims of computer attacks into the victims of additional government hacking. Again, this was alarming before November 8, but now we need to consider the prospect of an administration led by someone who openly said he wants the power to hack his political opponents exhibited by the Russians.

It is troubling how little the Congress knows about how the government currently uses its hacking authority and what it plans to do with expanded powers under Rule 41. Is it going to clean all the botnets in the world, like the one that recently attacked the Internet backbone company? If that is the case, what is the software going to

look like? This kind of good-guy hacking is risky, incredibly risky, even when you have individuals with the best of motivations in your corner.

As Senator COONS indicated, we put together a letter late in October, before the election. This is a theme Members are going to hear. Before the election, many of these concerns were raised, and we said to Attorney General Lynch that we have some basic questions, such as: How does the government intend to prevent forum shopping by prosecutors seeking court approval to hack into Americans' devices? How is the government going to prevent collateral damage to innocent Americans' devices of electronic data when it remotely searches devices such as smartphones or medical devices?

What the latest numbers indicate is that a major source of cyber attacks are our wonderful medical facilities. The questions we asked in that October 27 letter speak to that. We want to know whether the government intends to use its new authority to search and "clean" American computers? How is the government going to maintain a chain of custody when searching or removing evidence from a device? How is the government going to notify Americans who are the subject of remote government searches?

I am very troubled by the language in the current proposal, which suggests the notice process will be very different than what Americans have traditionally thought about in kind of the physical world with respect to notice.

The Coons bill is important business because we have not yet, our bipartisan group of 23, gotten answers to these questions. We are going to keep trying to learn more about why it might or might not be necessary for the government to have the authority.

I will wrap up this discussion with Senator COONS—which I thank him for leading—by way of saying that I have issued warnings before on the floor and have seen what happens when those warnings aren't heeded. I just want to say this morning that I believe if the Senate fails to stand up for our constituents now and do what Senator COONS is talking about, which is our job—vigorous oversight, asking the hard questions, getting the facts about new technological questions that are evolving—I believe there are going to be problems with Rule 41.

I believe there are going to be problems at hospitals, at power grids, at major American institutions and that if we do nothing, except what Congress does best—which is nothing—and let this go through, I think our constituents are going to come back when there are problems, and they are going to say to each of us: What were you thinking? Why did you vote to allow policies that would permit hacking in this fashion?

Colleagues are going to say: Gee, we didn't vote at all.

They are going to say: You didn't vote at all? You must have had some meetings.

Well, we didn't have any meetings. We didn't have any debates. We didn't have any discussion.

Then they are going to say: You allowed mass hacking by just kind of dropping the ball and saying you have other stuff to do?

I think the American people are going to react very badly if that is, in fact, what happens.

So I commend Senator COONS. He consistently comes to the floor and appeals across the aisle. I so appreciate it. I hope we will see action on the Senator's very thoughtful bill. I am proud to be a cosponsor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, as someone who spent over a decade in the private tech sector, I know firsthand the challenges our country faces when it comes to cyber criminals. Technology has made it easier than ever for bad actors to steal identities, distribute malware, and commit a whole host of other crimes, all from behind the computer screen. Law enforcement is facing tremendous challenges in tracking and stopping these criminals.

The fact is, our law enforcement policies need to be updated to reflect the reality of the 21st century, but these policy changes need to be made through a process that is transparent, effective, and one that protects our civil liberties.

The changes to rule XLI of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure would allow the government to hack an unlimited number of Americans' computers—including innocent victims' computers—with a single warrant. This rule change was approved behind closed doors at the Department of Justice. Fundamental changes to the way we allow law enforcement to execute searches need to be made through a process that is fully transparent to the American people. We cannot give the Federal Government a blank check to infringe upon our civil liberties.

If Congress does not act, this rule change will automatically go into effect December 1. This bill simply delays the rule change. It is a delay which will allow Congress to consider new law enforcement tools through a process they deserve. I urge my colleagues to join my colleagues in delaying this rule.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 616—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following reso-

lution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 616

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (referred to in this preamble as the "CDC"), in the United States—

(1) nearly 30,000,000 individuals have diabetes; and

(2) an estimated 86,000,000 individuals aged 20 years and older have prediabetes;

Whereas diabetes is a serious chronic condition that affects individuals of every age, race, ethnicity, and income level;

Whereas the CDC reports that Hispanics, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native American adults are disproportionately affected by diabetes and suffer from the disease at rates that are much higher than the general population of the United States;

Whereas an individual aged 20 years or older is diagnosed with diabetes every 19 seconds;

Whereas approximately 4,660 individuals in the United States aged 20 years or older are diagnosed with diabetes each day;

Whereas the CDC estimates that approximately 1,700,000 individuals in the United States aged 20 years and older were newly diagnosed with diabetes in 2012;

Whereas a joint study carried out by the National Institutes of Health and the CDC found that in the United States during 2008 and 2009, an estimated 18,436 youth were newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and 5,089 youth were newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes;

Whereas according to the CDC, the prevalence of diabetes in the United States increased by more than 400 percent between 1980 and 2014;

Whereas the CDC reports that 27.8 percent of individuals with diabetes in the United States have not been diagnosed with the disease;

Whereas in the United States, more than 12 percent of adults aged 20 years and older and 25.9 percent of individuals aged 65 years and older have diabetes;

Whereas as many as 1 in 3 adults in the United States will have diabetes in 2050 if the present trend continues;

Whereas after accounting for the difference of the average age of each population, data surveying individuals aged 20 years or older in the United States between 2010 and 2012 indicates that 7.6 percent of non-Hispanic whites, 13.2 percent of non-Hispanic blacks, 12.8 percent of Hispanics, and 9.0 percent of Asian Americans suffered from diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas after accounting for the difference of the average age of each population, data surveying Hispanic individuals aged 20 years or older in the United States between 2010 and 2012 indicates that 8.5 percent of individuals of Central and South American descent, 9.3 percent of individuals of Cuban descent, 13.9 percent of individuals of Mexican descent, and 14.8 percent of individuals of Puerto Rican descent suffered from diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas according to the American Diabetes Association, in 2012, the United States spent an estimated \$245,000,000,000 on cases of diagnosed diabetes;

Whereas the American Diabetes Association reports that 20 percent of the funds that the United States spent on health care in 2012 went towards caring for individuals with diabetes;

Whereas a study carried out by Mathematica Policy Research found that total expenditures for individuals with diabetes receiving benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) in fiscal year 2005 comprised 32.7 percent of the budget for the Medicare program in that fiscal year;

Whereas according to the CDC, in the United States in 2010, diabetes was the seventh leading cause of death and contributed to the death of more than 234,051 individuals;

Whereas as of November 2016, a cure for diabetes does not exist;

Whereas there are successful means to reduce the incidence or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes;

Whereas with proper management and treatment, individuals with diabetes live healthy, productive lives; and

Whereas individuals in the United States celebrate American Diabetes Month in November: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of American Diabetes Month, including—

(A) encouraging individuals in the United States to fight diabetes through public awareness of prevention and treatment options; and

(B) enhancing diabetes education;

(2) recognizes the importance of early detection, awareness of the symptoms, and understanding the risk factors of diabetes, including—

(A) being over the age of 45 years;

(B) having a specific racial and ethnic background;

(C) being overweight;

(D) having a low level of physical activity;

(E) having high blood pressure; and

(F) having a family history of diabetes or a history of diabetes during pregnancy; and

(3) supports decreasing the prevalence of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes in the United States through increased research, treatment, and prevention.

SENATE RESOLUTION 617—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 27, 2016, AS “DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY”

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. PERDUE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 617

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on the roads and highways needs to drive in a safer manner to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle accidents;

Whereas according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves as many as 15,000 lives each year; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is the busiest highway traffic day of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms to alert their drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, and to publicize the importance of the day

through use of the Citizens Band Radio Service and at truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their congregations to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving;

(E) motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

(F) all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates November 27, 2016, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 618—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON THEIR 2016 WORLD SERIES VICTORY

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COATS, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 618

Whereas, on November 2, 2016, the Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series with an 8-7 victory over the Cleveland Indians;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in Game 7 at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs came back from a 3-1 World Series deficit to win 3 thrilling games in a row and became World Series Champions for the first time in 108 years;

Whereas all 25 players on the World Series roster of the Chicago Cubs should be congratulated, including Albert Almora Jr., Jake Arrieta, Javier Baez, Kris Bryant, Aroldis Chapman, Chris Coghlan, Willson Contreras, Carl Edwards Jr., Dexter Fowler, Justin Grimm, Kyle Hendricks, Jason Heyward, John Lackey, Jon Lester, Miguel Montero, Mike Montgomery, Anthony Rizzo, Hector Rondon, David Ross, Addison Russell, Kyle Schwarber, Jorge Soler, Pedro Strop, Travis Wood, and Ben Zobrist;

Whereas, in addition to the World Series roster, all Chicago Cubs players who contributed to the 2016 regular season should be congratulated, including Jake Buchanan, Trevor Cahill, Jeimer Candelario, Gerardo Concepcion, Tim Federowicz, Jason Hammel, Ryan Kalish, Munenori Kawasaki, Tommy La Stella, Brian Matusz, Joe Nathan, Spencer Patton, Felix Peña, Joel Peralta, Neil Ramirez, Clayton Richard, Joe Smith, Matt Szczur, Adam Warren, and Rob Zastryzny;

Whereas the front office, the clubhouse, and all supporting staff and team members of the Chicago Cubs should be congratulated;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs won an incredible 103 games during the regular season, which earned the team the best record in Major League Baseball;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs overcame the American League winning the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, which gave the Indians home field advantage for the World Series;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs had 7 players selected to the 2016 Major League Baseball All-Star Game, who should be congratulated, including Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist, Kris Bryant, Addison Russell, Dexter Fowler, Jake Arrieta, and Jon Lester;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs infield of Anthony Rizzo, Ben Zobrist, Kris Bryant, and Addison Russell were the first foursome to start an All-Star Game since 1963 and the second one ever;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs bounced back from a disappointing loss in the 2015 playoffs to win the National League Championship pennant for the first time since 1945;

Whereas Chicago Cubs outfielder Dexter Fowler became the first African-American Chicago Cubs player to play in a World Series and went on to hit a lead-off home run in Game 7 of the World Series;

Whereas Chicago Cubs catcher Miguel Montero hit a grand slam in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series and drove in the final, winning Chicago Cubs run in the 10th inning of Game 7 of the World Series;

Whereas Chicago Cubs shortstop Addison Russell tied the single-game record for runs batted in (referred to in this preamble as “RBI”) for a World Series game after he batted in 6 runs in Game 6 of the World Series, including a grand slam in the third inning;

Whereas Chicago Cubs catcher David Ross, in the final game of his 15-year Major League Baseball career, hit a home run in Game 7 of the World Series;

Whereas Kyle Schwarber, after severely injuring his knee during the third game of the regular season, recovered through perseverance and determination and was added to the World Series roster, where, in one of the greatest sports comeback stories of all time, he—

(1) hit .412 and had a .500 on-base-percentage in the World Series; and

(2) following a 17-minute rain delay, ignited the 10th inning rally in Game 7 of the World Series with a lead-off single;

Whereas Chicago Cubs second baseman Javier Baez and pitcher Jon Lester were corecipients of the National League Championship Series Most Valuable Player Award, after—

(1) Javier Baez hit .318 in the 6-game National League Championship Series, stole 2 bases, including home plate, and made a number of incredible defensive plays; and

(2) Jon Lester had a 1.38 earned run average in 2 starts against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the National League Championship Series, allowing just 2 runs over 13 innings and striking out 9 batters;

Whereas Chicago Cubs utility man and Eureka, Illinois, native Ben Zobrist received unanimous support for and won the World Series Most Valuable Player Award, the first Chicago Cub ever to win the award, after—

(1) hitting .357 in the World Series;

(2) driving in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning of Game 7 with an RBI double; and

(3) leading the Chicago Cubs to an eventual World Series win;

Whereas Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo and outfielder Jason Heyward received Gold Glove Awards for their 2016 defensive accomplishments;

Whereas Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo and pitcher Jake Arrieta received Silver Slugger Awards for their 2016 offensive accomplishments;

Whereas Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant received the 2016 National League Hank Aaron Award for his offensive accomplishments and is a candidate for the 2016 National League Most Valuable Player Award after having been unanimously named the 2015 National League Rookie of the Year;

Whereas Chicago Cubs pitchers Kyle Hendricks and Jon Lester were candidates for the 2016 National League Cy Young Award,

following pitcher Jake Arrieta having received the 2015 National League Cy Young Award;

Whereas Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon was a candidate for the 2016 National League Manager of the Year Award, after having received the 2015 National League Manager of the Year Award;

Whereas Chicago Cubs President of Baseball Operations Theo Epstein joined the Chicago Cubs front office in 2011 and succeeded in building a World Series Champion team;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs fell short in the 2015 National League Championship Series, fueling a determination—

(1) to return to the playoffs; and

(2) to win a World Series in 2016;

Whereas Chicago Cubs fans followed the triumphs of the 2016 season by tuning into games called by Chicago Cubs television broadcasters Len Kasper and Jim Deshaies and Chicago Cubs radio broadcasters Pat Hughes and Ron Coomer;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs played 3 excellent teams in the 2016 postseason that deserve congratulations for their achievements, including—

(1) the San Francisco Giants in the National League Division Series;

(2) the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League Championship Series; and

(3) the Cleveland Indians in the World Series;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs won their first World Series since 1908, filling people in Chicago and Chicago Cubs fans everywhere with pride;

Whereas the Chicago Cubs showed extraordinary steadiness, teamwork, focus, and love of the game in proving again to be an organization of great character, determination, and heart, a reflection of the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois;

Whereas on November 4, 2016, an estimated 5,000,000 fans gathered in Chicago to fly the W flag and celebrate the Chicago Cubs victory in the largest parade and rally in United States history; and

Whereas the Chicago Cubs are the 2016 World Series champions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Chicago Cubs on their—

(A) 2016 World Series championship title; and

(B) outstanding performance during the 2016 Major League Baseball season;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, management, and support staff of the Chicago Cubs and the operations staff of Wrigley Field, the dedication and persistence of whom made victory possible;

(3) congratulates—

(A) the city of Chicago;

(B) the entire Chicagoland area;

(C) Chicago Cubs fans everywhere;

(D) the mayor of the City of Chicago, the Honorable Rahm Emanuel;

(E) Chicago Cubs Chairman, Mr. Tom Ricketts, and the Ricketts family;

(F) Chicago Cubs President of Baseball Operations, Mr. Theo Epstein;

(G) Chicago Cubs Executive Vice President and General Manager, Mr. Jed Hoyer;

(H) Chicago Cubs President of Business Operations, Mr. Crane Kenney; and

(I) Executive Vice President of Community and Government Affairs and Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Michael Lufrano; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Chicago Cubs Chairman, Mr. Tom Ricketts;

(B) Chicago Cubs President of Baseball Operations, Mr. Theo Epstein; and

(C) Chicago Cubs Manager, Mr. Joe Maddon.

SENATE RESOLUTION 619—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 619

Whereas, from November 1, 2016, through November 30, 2016, the United States celebrates National Native American Heritage Month;

Whereas National Native American Heritage Month is an opportunity to consider and recognize the contributions of Native Americans to the history of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans are descendants of the original, indigenous inhabitants of what is now the United States;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimated that, in 2010, there were more than 5,000,000 individuals of Native American descent in the United States;

Whereas Native Americans maintain vibrant cultures and traditions and hold a deeply rooted sense of community;

Whereas Native Americans have moving stories of tragedy, triumph, and perseverance that need to be shared with future generations;

Whereas Native Americans speak and preserve indigenous languages, which have contributed to the English language by being used as names of individuals and locations throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress has consistently reaffirmed the support of the United States of tribal self-governance and self-determination and the commitment of the United States to improving the lives of all Native Americans by—

(1) enhancing health care and law enforcement resources; and

(2) improving the housing and socioeconomic status of Native Americans;

Whereas the United States is committed to strengthening the government-to-government relationship that the United States has maintained with the various Indian tribes;

Whereas Congress has recognized the contributions of the Iroquois Confederacy and the influence of the Iroquois Confederacy on the Founding Fathers in the drafting of the Constitution of the United States with the concepts of—

(1) freedom of speech;

(2) the separation of governmental powers; and

(3) the system of checks and balances between the branches of government;

Whereas, with the enactment of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1922), Congress—

(1) reaffirmed the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Native American governments; and

(2) recognized the important contributions of Native Americans to the culture of the United States;

Whereas Native Americans have made distinct and important contributions to the United States and the rest of the world in many fields, including the fields of agriculture, medicine, music, language, and art;

Whereas Native Americans have distinguished themselves as inventors, entrepreneurs, spiritual leaders, and scholars;

Whereas Native Americans have served with honor and distinction in the Armed Forces and continue to serve in the Armed Forces in greater numbers per capita than any other group in the United States;

Whereas the United States has recognized the contribution of the Native American code talkers in World War I and World War II, who used indigenous languages as an unbreakable military code, saving countless lives in the United States; and

Whereas the people of the United States have reason to honor the great achievements and contributions of Native Americans and their ancestors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of November 2016 as “National Native American Heritage Month”;

(2) recognizes the Friday after Thanksgiving as “Native American Heritage Day” in accordance with section 2(10) of the Native American Heritage Day Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–33; 123 Stat. 1923); and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National Native American Heritage Month and Native American Heritage Day with appropriate programs and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5110. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2873, to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5111. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3471, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5110. Mr. ALEXANDER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2873, to require studies and reports examining the use of, and opportunities to use, technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models to improve programs of the Department of Health and Human Services, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Expanding Capacity for Health Outcomes Act” or the “ECHO Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA.**—The term “health professional shortage area” means a health professional shortage area designated under section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e).

(2) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREA.**—The term “medically underserved area” has the meaning given the term “medically underserved community” in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p).

(4) **MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATION.**—The term “medically underserved population” has the meaning given the term in section 330(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(b)).

(5) **NATIVE AMERICANS.**—The term “Native Americans” has the meaning given the term in section 736 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293) and includes Indian tribes and tribal organizations.

(6) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(7) **TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL.**—The term “technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building model” means a distance health education model that connects specialists with multiple other health care professionals through simultaneous interactive videoconferencing for the purpose of facilitating case-based learning, disseminating best practices, and evaluating outcomes.

(8) **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

SEC. 3. EXAMINATION AND REPORT ON TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED COLLABORATIVE LEARNING AND CAPACITY BUILDING MODELS.

(a) **EXAMINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall examine technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models and their impact on—

(A) addressing mental and substance use disorders, chronic diseases and conditions, prenatal and maternal health, pediatric care, pain management, and palliative care;

(B) addressing health care workforce issues, such as specialty care shortages and primary care workforce recruitment, retention, and support for lifelong learning;

(C) the implementation of public health programs, including those related to disease prevention, infectious disease outbreaks, and public health surveillance;

(D) the delivery of health care services in rural areas, frontier areas, health professional shortage areas, and medically underserved areas, and to medically underserved populations and Native Americans; and

(E) addressing other issues the Secretary determines appropriate.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In the examination required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult public and private stakeholders with expertise in using technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models in health care settings.

(b) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and post on the appropriate website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a report based on the examination under subsection (a).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include findings from the examination under subsection (a) and each of the following:

(A) An analysis of—

(i) the use and integration of technology-enabled collaborative learning and capacity building models by health care providers;

(ii) the impact of such models on health care provider retention, including in health professional shortage areas in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iii) the impact of such models on the quality of, and access to, care for patients in the States and communities in which such models have been adopted;

(iv) the barriers faced by health care providers, States, and communities in adopting such models;

(v) the impact of such models on the ability of local health care providers and specialists to practice to the full extent of their education, training, and licensure, including the effects on patient wait times for specialty care; and

(vi) efficient and effective practices used by States and communities that have adopted such models, including potential cost-effectiveness of such models.

(B) A list of such models that have been funded by the Secretary in the 5 years immediately preceding such report, including the Federal programs that have provided funding for such models.

(C) Recommendations to reduce barriers for using and integrating such models, and opportunities to improve adoption of, and support for, such models as appropriate.

(D) Opportunities for increased adoption of such models into programs of the Department of Health and Human Services that are in existence as of the report.

(E) Recommendations regarding the role of such models in continuing medical education and lifelong learning, including the role of academic medical centers, provider organizations, and community providers in such education and lifelong learning.

SA 5111. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3471, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Mobility Safety Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. PERSONAL SELECTIONS OF AUTOMOBILES AND ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT.

Section 3903(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “Except” and inserting “(1) Except”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary shall ensure that to the extent practicable an eligible person who is

provided an automobile or other conveyance under this chapter is given the opportunity to make personal selections relating to such automobile or other conveyance.”.

SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY FOR THE AUTOMOBILES ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) **COMPREHENSIVE POLICY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a comprehensive policy regarding quality standards for providers who provide modification services to veterans under the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(b) **SCOPE.**—The policy developed under subsection (a) shall cover each of the following:

(1) The Department of Veterans Affairs-wide management of the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(2) The development of standards for safety and quality of equipment and installation of equipment through the automobile adaptive equipment program, including with respect to the defined differentiations in levels of modification complexity.

(3) The consistent application of standards for safety and quality of both equipment and installation throughout the Department.

(4) In accordance with subsection (c)(1), the certification of a provider by a manufacturer if the Secretary designates the quality standards of such manufacturer as meeting or exceeding the standards developed under this section.

(5) In accordance with subsection (c)(2), the certification of a provider by a third party, nonprofit organization if the Secretary designates the quality standards of such organization as meeting or exceeding the standards developed under this section.

(6) The education and training of personnel of the Department who administer the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(7) The compliance of the provider with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) when furnishing automobile adaptive equipment at the facility of the provider.

(8) The allowance, where technically appropriate, for veterans to receive modifications at their residence or location of choice, including standards that ensure such receipt and notification to veterans of the availability of such receipt.

(c) **CERTIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS AND THIRD PARTY, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**—

(1) **CERTIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS.**—The Secretary shall approve a manufacturer as a certifying manufacturer for purposes of subsection (b)(4), if the manufacturer demonstrates that its certification standards meet or exceed the quality standards developed under this section.

(2) **CERTIFICATION OF THIRD PARTY, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may approve two or more private, nonprofit organizations as third party, nonprofit certifying organizations for purposes of subsection (b)(5).

(B) **LIMITATION.**—If at any time there is only one third party, nonprofit certifying organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of subsection (b)(5), such organization shall not be permitted to provide certifications under such subsection until such time as the Secretary approves a second third party, nonprofit certifying organization for purposes of such subsection.

(d) **UPDATES.**—

(1) **INITIAL UPDATES.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall update Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1173.4, or any successor handbook or directive, in accordance

with the policy developed under subsection (a).

(2) **SUBSEQUENT UPDATES.**—Not less frequently than once every 6 years thereafter, the Secretary shall update such handbook, or any successor handbook or directive.

(e) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary shall develop the policy under subsection (a), and revise such policy under subsection (d), in consultation with veterans service organizations, the National Highway Transportation Administration, industry representatives, manufacturers of automobile adaptive equipment, and other entities with expertise in installing, repairing, replacing, or manufacturing mobility equipment or developing mobility accreditation standards for automobile adaptive equipment.

(f) **CONFLICTS.**—In developing and implementing the policy under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) minimize the possibility of conflicts of interest, to the extent practicable; and

(2) establish procedures that ensure against the use of a certifying organization referred to in subsection (b)(5) that has a financial conflict of interest regarding the certification of an eligible provider.

(g) **BIENNIAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary updates Veterans Health Administration Handbook 1173.4, or any successor handbook or directive, under subsection (d), and not less frequently than once every other year thereafter through 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation and facility compliance with the policy developed under subsection (a).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the implementation plan for the policy developed under subsection (a) and any revisions to such policy under subsection (d).

(B) A description of the performance measures used to determine the effectiveness of such policy in ensuring the safety of veterans enrolled in the automobile adaptive equipment program.

(C) An assessment of safety issues due to improper installations based on a survey of recipients of adaptive equipment from the Department.

(D) An assessment of the adequacy of the adaptive equipment services of the Department based on a survey of recipients of adaptive equipment from the Department.

(E) An assessment of the training provided to the personnel of the Department with respect to administering the program.

(F) An assessment of the certified providers of the Department of adaptive equipment with respect to meeting the minimum standards developed under subsection (b)(2).

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AUTOMOBILE ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT PROGRAM.**—The term “automobile adaptive equipment program” means the program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to chapter 39 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.**—The term “veterans service organization” means any organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 4. APPOINTMENT OF LICENSED HEARING AID SPECIALISTS IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **LICENSED HEARING AID SPECIALISTS.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENT.**—Section 7401(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “licensed hearing aid specialists,” after “Audiologists.”

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Section 7402(b)(14) of such title is amended by inserting “, hearing aid specialist” after “dental technologist”.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—With respect to appointing hearing aid specialists under sections 7401 and 7402 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), and providing services furnished by such specialists, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) a hearing aid specialist may only perform hearing services consistent with the hearing aid specialist's State license related to the practice of fitting and dispensing hearing aids without excluding other qualified professionals, including audiologists, from rendering services in overlapping practice areas;

(2) services provided to veterans by hearing aid specialists shall be provided as part of the non-medical treatment plan developed by an audiologist; and

(3) the medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs provide to veterans access to the full range of professional services provided by an audiologist.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In determining the qualifications required for hearing aid specialists and in carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall consult with veterans service organizations, audiologists, otolaryngologists, hearing aid specialists, and other stakeholder and industry groups as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter during the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the following:

(A) Timely access of veterans to hearing health services through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(B) Contracting policies of the Department with respect to providing hearing health services to veterans in facilities that are not facilities of the Department.

(2) **TIMELY ACCESS TO SERVICES.**—Each report shall, with respect to the matter specified in paragraph (1)(A) for the 1-year period preceding the submittal of such report, include the following:

(A) The staffing levels of audiologists, hearing aid specialists, and health technicians in audiology in the Veterans Health Administration.

(B) A description of the metrics used by the Secretary in measuring performance with respect to appointments and care relating to hearing health.

(C) The average time that a veteran waits to receive an appointment, beginning on the date on which the veteran makes the request, for the following:

(i) A disability rating evaluation for a hearing-related disability.

(ii) A hearing aid evaluation.

(iii) Dispensing of hearing aids.

(iv) Any follow-up hearing health appointment.

(D) The percentage of veterans whose total wait time for appointments described in subparagraph (C), including an initial and follow-up appointment, if applicable, is more than 30 days.

(3) **CONTRACTING POLICIES.**—Each report shall, with respect to the matter specified in paragraph (1)(B) for the 1-year period preceding the submittal of such report, include the following:

(A) The number of veterans that the Secretary refers to non-Department audiologists for hearing health care appointments.

(B) The number of veterans that the Secretary refers to non-Department hearing aid specialists for follow-up appointments for a hearing aid evaluation, the dispensing of hearing aids, or any other purpose relating to hearing health.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2016, at 11:55 a.m.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee On Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 17, 2016, at 2 p.m., in room SH-219 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sophia Vogt and Emily Douglas, legislative fellow in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Major—Lieutenant Colonel-select—Chavis, our defense fellow, be granted the privileges of the floor for the rest of this session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2873

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2873 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the Alexander substitute amendment No. 5110 be agreed to, that there be up to 30 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, and following the use or yielding back of that time, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on the bill, as

amended, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TOM STAGG FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 2754.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2754) entitled "An Act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Fannin Street in Shreveport, Louisiana, as the 'Tom Stagg Federal Building and United States Courthouse'.", do pass with amendments.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and the House title amendment. I further ask unanimous consent that the motions be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

R.E. THOMASON FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5873 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5873) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 511 East San Antonio Avenue in El Paso, Texas, as the "R.E. Thomason Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5873) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PRESCRIBED BURN APPROVAL ACT OF 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be discharged from further consideration of S. 3395 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3395) to require limitations on prescribed burns.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3395) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3395

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Prescribed Burn Approval Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NATIONAL FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM.—The term "national fire danger rating system" means the national system used to provide a measure of fire danger according to a range of low to moderate to high to very high to extreme.

(2) PRESCRIBED BURN.—The term "prescribed burn" means a planned fire intentionally ignited.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 3. LIMITATIONS ON PRESCRIBED BURNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall not authorize a prescribed burn on Forest Service land if, for the county or contiguous county in which the land is located, the national fire danger rating system indicates an extreme fire danger level.

(b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may authorize a prescribed burn under a condition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary coordinates with the applicable State government and local fire officials.

(c) REPORT.—At the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing—

(1) the number and locations of prescribed burns during that fiscal year; and

(2) each prescribed burn during that fiscal year that was authorized by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b).

VETERANS MOBILITY SAFETY ACT OF 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3471 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3471) to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements

in the provision of automobiles and adaptive equipment by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Moran amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5111) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 3471), as amended, was passed.

AMENDING TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT AVAILABILITY PAY TO EMPLOYEES OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION'S AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4902 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4902) to amend title 5, United States Code, to expand law enforcement availability pay to employees of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4902) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, REFORM, AND ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 453, S. 434.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 434) to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, to prevent conflicts of interest relating to contractors providing background investigation fieldwork services and investigative support services, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 434) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 434

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Security Clearance Accountability, Reform, and Enhancement Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, REFORM, AND ENHANCEMENT

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of agency background investigations.

Sec. 103. Review and update of position designation guidance.

TITLE II—PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH CONTRACTORS

Sec. 201. Definitions.

Sec. 202. Limitation on contracting to prevent organizational conflicts of interest.

TITLE I—SECURITY CLEARANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, REFORM, AND ENHANCEMENT

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term “agency” has the meaning given the term in Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103), or any successor thereto;

(2) the term “appropriate agency” means—
(A) in the case of a prime contractor for a covered contract, the agency with which the prime contractor entered the covered contract; or

(B) in the case of a subcontractor for a covered contract, any agency on whose behalf the subcontractor is performing work under the covered contract;

(3) the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(4) the term “background investigation” means any investigation required for the purpose of determining the—

(A) eligibility of a covered individual for logical and physical access to federally controlled facilities or information systems;

(B) suitability or fitness of a covered individual for Federal employment;

(C) eligibility of a covered individual for access to classified information or to hold a national security sensitive position; or

(D) fitness of a covered individual to perform work for or on behalf of the United States Government as a contractor employee;

(5) the term “covered contract” means a contract to conduct background investigations—

(A) between an agency and a prime contractor;

(B) between a prime contractor and a subcontractor, if the prime contractor has a contract with an agency; or

(C) between subcontractors, if one of the subcontractors has a contract with a prime contractor that has a contract with an agency;

(6) the term “covered individual” means an individual who—

(A) performs work for or on behalf of an agency; or

(B) seeks to perform work for or on behalf of an agency;

(7) the term “covered misconduct” means misconduct affecting the integrity of a background investigation conducted by or for an agency with investigative authority to conduct background investigations, including—

(A) falsification of any information relating to a background investigation; or

(B) other serious misconduct that compromises the integrity of a background investigation;

(8) the term “prime contractor” means an individual who enters into a contract with an agency; and

(9) the term “subcontractor” means an individual who has contracted with a prime contractor or with another subcontractor to perform a contract on behalf of an agency.

SEC. 102. ACCOUNTABILITY OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN MISCONDUCT AFFECTING THE INTEGRITY OF AGENCY BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) MISCONDUCT BY FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(1) UNFIT FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.—If an agency determines that an employee of the agency has engaged in covered misconduct, the employee shall be found unfit for Federal employment.

(2) FITNESS DETERMINATIONS.—An agency shall make a determination under paragraph (1) in accordance with any statutory, regulatory, or internal agency procedures applicable to investigating alleged misconduct by employees of the agency.

(3) PROHIBITION ON REEMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—If an agency determines under paragraph (1) that an individual is unfit for Federal employment, the individual shall not be appointed to or continue to occupy a position, as an employee of any agency, that requires its occupant to perform background investigations.

(b) MISCONDUCT BY EMPLOYEES UNDER CONTRACT.—

(1) INELIGIBILITY FOR PERFORMANCE OF WORK UNDER A COVERED CONTRACT.—If an appropriate agency, prime contractor, or subcontractor determines that an individual performing work under a covered contract has engaged in covered misconduct, the individual shall be ineligible to perform background investigations under a covered contract.

(2) MANDATORY DISCLOSURE.—A covered contract shall include a provision requiring a

prime contractor or subcontractor to disclose to each appropriate agency any allegation of covered misconduct by an employee of the prime contractor or subcontractor not later than 24 hours after the prime contractor or subcontractor discovers the alleged covered misconduct.

(3) INVESTIGATION OF COVERED MISCONDUCT.—

(A) CONTRACTOR INVESTIGATION.—A covered contract shall include a provision requiring that, not later than 5 business days after the date on which a prime contractor or subcontractor discloses an allegation under paragraph (2), the prime contractor or subcontractor shall refer the allegation of covered misconduct to the agency for investigation.

(B) AGENCY INVESTIGATION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit an appropriate agency from conducting its own investigation into an allegation of covered misconduct.

(4) PROHIBITION ON REEMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—If an appropriate agency determines, based on an investigation conducted under paragraph (3), that an individual is ineligible to perform work under a covered contract under paragraph (1), the individual shall be prohibited from performing background investigations under any covered contract.

(5) MODIFICATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, any covered contract that is in effect and was entered into before the date of enactment of this Act shall be modified to include the provisions required under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report providing—

(1) the number of individuals determined to be—

(A) unfit for Federal employment under subsection (a); or

(B) ineligible to perform work under a covered contract under subsection (b); and

(2) details of the covered misconduct that resulted in each determination described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 103. REVIEW AND UPDATE OF POSITION DESIGNATION GUIDANCE.

(a) GUIDELINES.—

(1) INITIAL REVIEW AND UPDATE OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall review and, if appropriate, update the guidance the President issues to assist agencies in determining—

(A) position sensitivity designation; and

(B) the appropriate background investigation to initiate for each position designation.

(2) REVIEWS AND REVISIONS OF POSITION DESIGNATIONS.—Not less frequently than every 5 years, the President, acting through relevant agencies (as determined by the President) and in accordance with the guidance described in paragraph (1), shall review and, if necessary, revise the position designation of positions within agencies.

(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after completing a review under subsection (a)(2), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) any issues identified in the review; and

(2) the number of position designations revised as a result of the review.

(c) NO CHANGE IN AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section limits or expands the authority of any agency to designate a position as sensitive or as requiring its occupant to have access to classified information.

TITLE II—PREVENTING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH CONTRACTORS

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(1) the term “agency” means—

(A) an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

(B) a military department (as defined in section 102 of title 5, United States Code);

(C) an element of the intelligence community (as that term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(D) the United States Postal Service; and

(E) the Postal Regulatory Commission;

(2) the term “background investigation fieldwork services” means the investigatory fieldwork conducted to determine the eligibility of an individual for logical and physical access to federally controlled facilities or information systems, suitability or fitness for Federal employment, eligibility for access to classified information or to hold a national security sensitive position, or fitness to perform work for or on behalf of the Federal Government as a contractor or employee, including—

(A) interviews of the individual, the employer of the individual, former employers of the individual, and friends, family, and other sources who might have relevant knowledge of the individual; and

(B) reviews of—

(i) educational and employment records;

(ii) criminal and other legal records; and

(iii) credit history;

(3) the term “background investigation support services” means the clerical, administrative, and technical support services provided to various functions critical to the background investigation process, including—

(A) initial processing and scheduling of investigative requests;

(B) information technology and information technology support;

(C) file maintenance;

(D) imaging or copying of investigation documents; and

(E) mail processing; and

(4) the term “quality review process” means performing the final quality review of a background investigation to ensure investigative, administrative, and other required standards have been met before the completed background investigation is delivered to the adjudicating agency.

SEC. 202. LIMITATION ON CONTRACTING TO PREVENT ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, after the date of enactment of this Act, a contract may not be entered into, and an extension of or option on a contract may not be exercised, with a contractor to conduct a quality review process relating to background investigation fieldwork services or background investigation support services if the contractor is performing the services to be reviewed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 2016 AS “NATIONAL BLADDER HEALTH MONTH”

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 604.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 604) expressing support for the designation of November 2016 as “National Bladder Health Month.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 604) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 29, 2016, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 617, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 617) designating November 27, 2016, as “Drive Safer Sunday.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 617) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON THEIR 2016 WORLD SERIES VICTORY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 618, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 618) commending and congratulating the Chicago Cubs on their 2016 World Series victory.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 618) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2016, THROUGH MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, November 18, at 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday, November 22, at 11 a.m.; Friday, November 25, at 11 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 25, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, November 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of Proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the first rollcall vote following the Thanksgiving recess will occur at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 29, on passage of S. 2873, the ECHO Act.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

HEROIN AND PRESCRIPTION DRUG EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for allowing me to speak briefly. I rise to talk about an issue that is affecting every State represented in this body; that is, this heroin and prescription drug epidemic.

Unfortunately, opioids is an issue that is very much present in my home State of Ohio right now. We have seen over the last 48 hours, 10 overdoses in one rural county in North Central Ohio, Seneca County. We are told that already in Lucas County in the Toledo area there have been 150 overdoses in the last few weeks of this month, heading toward, unfortunately, what will be a record.

This issue is affecting families, it is tearing apart families, it is affecting communities, it is causing crime. Pretty much every county in Ohio tells me that the No. 1 cause of crime now is the heroin, prescription drug, opioid issue. A lot of thefts are being reported because of it but also other crimes which result from people being torn apart from their families, from their community, from their jobs based on this addiction.

I come to the floor to talk about a report that was issued today by the U.S. Surgeon General. This report is about addiction in America. I applaud the Surgeon General for putting it out there. It is an 11-page report. If you haven't had a chance to look at it yet, I hope you will. I hope it will raise awareness around our country of this issue.

It talks about something incredibly important as to how we approach it, which is that addiction is a disease and should be treated as such. As the Surgeon General says, this is not a moral failing but rather it is like other diseases—something that actually changes your brain and creates a problem that must be dealt with through treatment and longer term recovery just as would be the case of other diseases. I think that alone is a significant finding by the Surgeon General, to help us come up with the right policies to address it but also raise awareness in communities around the country.

The first chapter of this report talks about something this Chamber has spent a lot of time on, which is the importance of prevention and education.

It talks about the need to look at this from a science perspective. It talks about the need to look at it in terms of longer term recovery. That summary in the first chapter is again something I would commend everybody to read just to sort of bring you up to speed, if you haven't been, on the importance of this issue and importance of addressing it.

The next chapter focuses on the science behind addiction. This is consistent with a conference we had in Washington, DC, almost a year ago now—Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself—in anticipation of proposing legislation in this area. We brought in experts from all over the country to talk about the science behind addiction, why it happens, how it happens. As was indicated earlier, that was something that led us to focus on the fact that addiction is a disease. It is something that impacts the brain. The brain responds to chemical substances in certain ways for certain people, and that addiction is something that has to be addressed through, again, treatment and longer term recovery.

The legislation we came up with after this, by the way, is called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. That legislation was passed late in the summer. It is now in the process of being implemented by the administration. I encourage the Surgeon General, with his great 11-page report, to also focus on implementing this legislation as soon as possible, including in this area of treating it as a disease.

The next chapter talks about a key component, which is prevention and education. It talks about the need for us to use evidence-based techniques around the country. Again, this legislation—the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, also known as CARA—focuses on this and starts a national awareness campaign to make this link between prescription drugs and heroin. Sadly, many people who are on heroin—probably four out of five people who are addicted to heroin—started with prescription drugs. Sometimes it was because of an accident or an injury where someone was prescribed a painkiller that was addictive that then led to the addiction and then led to the use of heroin as a less-expensive and sometimes more accessible alternative to it.

I think that issue of prevention and education is incredibly important. The take-back programs on pharmaceuticals is also important. The anti-drug coalitions supported in our legislation are also important. This is all part of how to get people from falling into this funnel of addiction, which is to do a much better job of explaining the problem and understanding the link particularly between prescription drugs and these other opioids.

The next chapter talks about how we treat addiction. This talks about the

need for us to get people out of the criminal justice system and into treatment. Our legislation helps in that as well by providing funds for diversion programs to ensure that people who are addicted are not simply locked up but are also given the opportunity to be able to get into a treatment program and into a longer term recovery program.

The next chapter of this report also talks about recovery. CARA is the first legislation to actually fund recovery. I think we need to do even more in this area, but we certainly learned again from conferences in Washington, DC, over the last few years, that the success rate is increased dramatically where you have not just a short-term treatment program but a longer term program of recovery, where people are surrounded by those who support them, and specifically sober housing arrangements and other ways to support people with a supportive environment rather than going back to the old gang or the old family or the old environment. Again, the report today does a good job of talking about that and the importance of it.

The Surgeon General has a fashion for this, a commitment to it, and I applaud him for that. I do hope again that he focuses on this legislation. We have now passed it with the support of the administration. The President has signed it. The report does not mention the legislation, but it is consistent with every aspect of this report today.

This report, I hope, will raise awareness nationally, as I said, but I hope it also raises awareness of the need to move very quickly to put in place the grant programs that need to be there to help on prevention, education, treatment, and recovery, help our law enforcement community and other first responders to be able to get access to Narcan—this miracle drug that reverses the effects of an overdose—help to provide the training, help to ensure we do have more drug take-back programs around the country. These Federal programs need to be put in place right away to allow the Federal Government to be a better partner with State and local government and with our communities and with our families to be able to reverse the tide on this issue that has, unfortunately, gripped my State and so many other States around the country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Surgeon General on this issue. Again, I commend this report today to your attention. I hope we will be able as a Congress to continue to provide the funding, as we have in the short-term spending that is in effect right now. We provided funding to ensure this legislation can be set up so we can stand up these programs and get this started. We need to continue that effort and, I think, redouble our efforts, including passing additional legislation as it becomes apparent it is needed.

One piece of legislation I hope we move on, in addition to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, is legislation to try to stop some of these synthetic drugs from coming into our communities. Carfentanil, fentanyl, and U-4 and other synthetic heroins are coming in increasingly from overseas—China, India, and other places. They come by mail. There is a way for us to be able to reduce that simply by requiring that those who send products by mail have the same requirements you would have if you were FedEx or UPS or a private carrier—to know where it is coming from and what is in it and where it is going and have that information being provided in advance electronically. Based on law enforcement officials, that will help us to be able to stem the tide of these poisons coming into our communities and infecting our families, our children.

These are all issues this Congress has taken up over the last 6 months with legislation, with specific programs, and I hope we can continue to fund that now, to get the administration to set

up these programs, and to ensure that we are in a position to respond as new dangers arise, as we have seen with synthetic heroin coming from overseas.

I thank the Presiding Officer for giving me time today to talk about this. Again, I commend this report today by the Surgeon General to be able to increase awareness and to ensure that every community in America is armed with the facts and the information to be able to push back and to help save lives and restore lives of those addicted.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 619, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 619) recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and

celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 619) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:07 p.m., adjourned until Friday, November 18, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MRS. JUANITA C. HAYES

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Juanita C. Hayes for her years of service to the communities of the greater San Diego area.

Mrs. Hayes is a vital member of our local societies and is well-known in the public relations sector of San Diego. Prior to working at the San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), she owned a consulting business for eighteen years. With her own company, she helped to coordinate successful, high profile events such as the 1985 Presidential/Vice Presidential Inaugural Gala, the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, San Diego's Super Bowl XXXII Radio City Productions, and the National Republican Conventions of 1988, 1992, and 1996. Mrs. Hayes additionally dedicated time in public service as the Chief of Staff to former California State Assemblywoman Tricia Hunter.

In addition to her success in private enterprises, Mrs. Hayes has provided decades of mentorship to nonprofit organizations, civic groups, and other small business owners in the San Diego region. She has held crucial community leadership positions, such as the Chief Executive Officer of the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, where membership grew by over one hundred businesses during her tenure. As she joined SDG&E in 2005, she also became the Director of Outreach and Development for the College of Business Administration at the California State University San Marcos.

Mrs. Hayes has spent the last eleven years with SDG&E, focusing on critical infrastructure and energy programs to maintain reliability for the thousands of customers it supplies. Now retiring as Public Affairs Manager, I commend Mrs. Juanita C. Hayes for her decades of service to the community, and send best wishes to her and her husband, Dr. Ash Hayes, as they enjoy her new retirement in San Marcos, California.

RECOGNIZING THE UNTERRIFIED DEMOCRAT ON ITS 150TH YEAR OF CIRCULATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a small-town newspaper in my district, the *Unterrified Democrat*, on their 150th Anniversary. The *Unterrified Democrat* began publication in Osage County, Missouri on July 3, 1866.

The *Unterrified Democrat* was founded by southern Democrat Colonel Lebbeus Zevely. His inspiration to publish the newspaper was to showcase his opposition of the political ideology of his day. While Colonel Zevely may have been a southern Democrat that did not mean that he was a Confederate supporter. Colonel Zevely firmly believed in preserving the Union. The Colonel was known to be a stubborn man and therefore was given the nickname, *Unterrified Democrat*. From this nickname, came the name of the newspaper.

The *Unterrified Democrat* was passed down through multiple generations of the Zevely family. In 1969, the Zevely family sold the newspaper to Norman and Jane Troesser. Then in 1979, the *Unterrified Democrat* was purchased by Bradley H. Lockenvitz. In 1980, Ralph and Jerry Voss purchased the *Unterrified Democrat*. Ralph and Jerry Voss had bought the Osage County Observer in 1969 and with the purchase of the *Unterrified Democrat* merged the two newspapers together.

When the Voss family purchased the *Unterrified Democrat* there was some consideration to changing the name as there were occasional discussions about if the newspaper had political leanings. Ultimately, the decision was made to continue on with the *Unterrified Democrat* name as the Osage County residents were familiar with that name. According to Jerry Voss, the name *Unterrified Democrat* has pizzazz that creates interest and recognition.

In 1978, Ralph Voss decided to become a public servant and run for the local judge. For twenty-three years, he served on the bench. In 2003, Ralph returned to working at the newspaper. During his time as judge, Jerry ran the *Unterrified Democrat*. To this day, the Voss family works together to stuff the newspaper with advertising inserts. Ralph and Jerry's grandchildren help with the delivery of papers to the local businesses.

As a successful small business and a staple of the Osage County community I ask you to join me in recognizing the *Unterrified Democrat* as they celebrate their 150th year of circulation.

TRIBUTE TO BEV AND REV. DEAN BAER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bev and Rev. Dean Baer on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Their lifelong commitment to each other truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment

grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Bev and Rev. Dean Baer on their 50th wedding anniversary. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Bev and Rev. Dean Baer on this momentous occasion.

HONORING LIEUTENANT GENERAL PETE TAYLOR, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant General Pete Taylor, U.S. Army, Retired, of Belton, Texas, for his dedication to our country while serving over 33 years in the Army. LTG Taylor exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country and has more than earned our admiration and respect. He is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

LTG Taylor has more than 33 years of Senior Executive experience as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. He has led organizations at every level, culminating with his appointment as Commanding General of III corps at Fort Hood, Texas. For his service and actions in combat, LTG Taylor has been awarded two Distinguished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars and two Army Commendation Medals for valor. LTG Taylor has focused his career on leading, training, planning, operations, and crisis management.

After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1993, LTG Taylor continued to dedicate his time to worthy causes. His leadership skills have been invaluable throughout his post-military career.

LTG Taylor served as one of five congressionally appointed members on the Overseas Basing Commission, is founder and the current chairman of The Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, and founded and served as chairman of the Military Child Education Coalition. From 2006 to 2010, LTG Taylor assisted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the development and implementation of their influenza pandemic response plan as well as the ongoing testing and refinement of that plan through training drills and exercises, which paid great dividends in the successful response to H1N1 in 2009.

I commend LTG Taylor's selfless service to his community and nation. His dedication to our country and community reflects the best values of central Texas. I join his family and friends in saluting his great work and dedication to our country.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING MRS. VIVIAN DOTSON JONES ON HER ATTAINMENT OF "DIAMOND SOROR" STATUS FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY INCORPORATED

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Vivian Dotson Jones on her attainment of "Diamond Soror" status for 75 years of service to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She has dedicated years of service to the Alpha Iota chapter at Lincoln University and the entire Jefferson City community.

In 1941, Vivian was initiated into Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Alpha Zeta Chapter at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma. Vivian has been an active member of the Alpha Zeta Chapter and throughout the years has held the office of Sergeant at Arms, Corresponding Secretary, Hospitality Chair, Meditation Chair, and chapter representative to local organizations. Numerous young ladies have been positively impacted by Vivian's outstanding service to the undergraduate chapter, Alpha Iota at Lincoln University. Vivian has served as undergraduate advisor to the Alpha Iota Chapter for more than 20 years.

On June 30, 1921, Vivian was born in Cleveland, Ohio. During her childhood, her father was a Baptist preacher and with that moved his family to different places including Indiana, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Vivian graduated from Langston University with a Bachelor of Science degree in English. While attending college in Oklahoma, Vivian met and married her husband, Lucius. They had two children, Vivian E. and Lucius D. Vivian, Lucius, and their children enjoyed going to the movies, taking family vacations, and spending time together as a family.

In 1948, Vivian and Lucius moved to Jefferson City and Lucius started his career at Lincoln University. Eventually, Lucius became the print shop director and in 2010 the print shop was named the Lucius Jones Print Shop. Vivian worked for DeVerne L. Calloway, who was the first black female state legislator in the state of Missouri for six years. In 1969, Vivian started her career as secretary for Lincoln University's president, Dr. Walter Daniel. Vivian went on to work for three more presidents, two interim presidents, a chief executive officer, and an acting president. After 20 years of committed work, Vivian retired in 1989.

Vivian has also been committed to her community by serving on the local and state chapters of the Parent Teacher Association, has held office on the Missouri Parent Teacher Board of Managers, and mentored students at Jefferson City High School. Vivian has enjoyed her membership at Second Baptist Church and served as the church clerk for 25 years.

During Vivian's years of service with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, she has inspired countless young ladies to become more effective members of the sorority. Her legacy will continue to live on through the lives she has impacted through mentoring and teaching.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Mrs. Vivian Dotson Jones on this momentous occasion of attaining "Diamond Soror" status for 75 years of service to the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PROVIDING THE MILITARY COMMUNITY AT FORT DRUM WITH COLLEGE PROGRAMMING

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and to recognize Jefferson Community College as it celebrates a 30 year partnership with Fort Drum, during which, it has provided the Fort Drum community with access to important college programming. Located in Watertown, New York, the college first began offering courses to members of the Fort Drum community and their families in 1986, developing a strong partnership that has continued to grow over the years.

It is imperative that we not only support our military members, but that we support their families as well, and one way we can do this is by providing the resources and community backing they need and rightly deserve. This partnership between Jefferson Community College and Fort Drum shows the dedication our region has to the Fort Drum community, as well as our commitment to growth through educational opportunities. This partnership has a proven record of success in enabling our military personnel and their families to achieve their long and short term goals, and serves as an important example for similar communities across the country.

Congratulations to Jefferson Community College for continuing your commitment to education and to our military members and their families. I want to wish the staff, faculty, and students of Jefferson Community College continued success in the future.

HONORING MR. LARRY HORSTDANIEL, A KOREAN WAR VETERAN CELEBRATING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BARBERSHOP

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a veteran and small businessman in my district, Mr. Larry Horstdaniel as he celebrates his 63rd Anniversary as a barber and serving the Jefferson City community. Along with his entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Horstdaniel served valiantly in the Korean War.

After growing up in Westphalia, Missouri, Mr. Horstdaniel attended Moler Barber School in St. Louis, MO. In the 1950's he moved to Jefferson City, Missouri and began working as

a barber. In 1971, Mr. Horstdaniel opened his own barber shop at 224 Madison Street, Jefferson City, Missouri. He has been located in the same location since 1971 and has become a staple of the local community. Mr. Horstdaniel says that he only does two things, "cut hair and grass." At the age of 88 years old, he continues to work most of the week, but does take Wednesdays off, to mow his lawn, and also Sundays.

In 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon visited Mr. Horstdaniel for a haircut and to honor him for his service in the Korean War. Mr. Horstdaniel was awarded a Korean War Service Medal from Governor Nixon for his sacrifice to our nation.

Mr. Horstdaniel says that his favorite aspect of his job is that he gets to meet a variety of people with great stories and backgrounds. He says that, "Each day is different. It's what keeps me here. The politicians in town are what have kept me in business over the years." When asked what Mr. Horstdaniel's secret to life is, he said, "Drink two scotches every evening before your meal, and you'll live to be 100!" He also stated that he has just a few years left working in the barbering industry, as he plans to retire when he is 90 years old.

As an honorable veteran of our armed forces, a successful businessman and a cornerstone of our community, I ask you to join me in recognizing Mr. Larry Horstdaniel as he celebrates this 63rd Anniversary of his business.

TRIBUTE TO JULIA AND DARWIN WILLIAMS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Julia and Darwin Williams on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Julia and Darwin were married on September 4, 1966, and now reside in Villisca, Iowa. Their lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa's values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

ON THE PASSING OF GEORGE H. WEDGWORTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of my good friend, George H.

Wedgworth. A leader and icon of the Florida agricultural industry, George's contribution to the Glades community cannot be overstated and will be felt for generations to come.

In 1960, George founded the Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida. During his more than 50 years as the organization's leader, George grew the Cooperative into the single largest employer in Belle Glade, Florida. Today, as a result of George's leadership and vision, the Cooperative, along with its partner, Florida Crystals Corporation, own the largest sugar refining company in the world, accounting for 6 million tons of refined sugar capacity and net sales of \$4 billion annually.

George's professional success led him to be named Sugar Man of the Year in 2005. But his success and impact in our community was not limited to the sugar industry. Throughout his long career, George was president and director of numerous organizations, including the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, and the Florida and Belle Glade Chambers of Commerce. In the 1950s he also founded the Florida Celery Exchange. His contributions to the agricultural industry led to his introduction into The Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1994 and to being named one of Florida's "Most Influential Men" by Florida Trend magazine.

For those that had the pleasure of knowing George, they know all about the impact he had in his community. George grew up in the Glades and is as much a part of its history as the sugar cane that is grown there. Moving from Mississippi to Belle Glade, Florida with his family when he was 2, George went on to graduate from Belle Glade High School. Leaving the area for only a short time to attend Michigan State College, now Michigan State University, where he earned a degree in agricultural engineering, he returned to the Glades and lived much of his life in the same one-story concrete block house his mother, Ruth, built in 1941.

Mr. Speaker, in an interview speaking about the Glades, George once remarked, "I've never had the desire to go anywhere else." That was the kind of man George was; a man who grew up in the Glades and through hard work and dedication went on to positively transform the fabric of our community. George H. Wedgworth will be remembered as a titan of Florida agriculture, but more importantly he will be remembered as a pillar of the community that he loved. His legacy will live on for generations to come, and he will be dearly missed.

HONORING VISITATION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH
ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY AND
VISITATION INTER-PARISH
SCHOOL ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and Visitation Inter-Parish School

in Vienna, Missouri. The parish will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary on June 17, 2017 and the school will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary in 2018.

Reverend John Goeldlin, a Catholic missionary priest, became the first priest to provide Catholic services to the community during the mid-1850's. In the year 1859, the community of Vienna came together for its first Catholic worship service. Then in 1867, the first official Catholic church was built for the parishioners of Vienna. Vienna, Missouri is a small town with around 614 residents and they were thankful for a parish in their community. As the congregation began growing, a new church was built in 1885 to accommodate the additional parishioners. Reverend John Fugel was assigned in 1896 to lead the church and would remain the priest at Blessed Virgin Mary Parish for the next 40 years. In 1903 the first county Catholic newspaper, called the Home Adviser, was founded by Reverend Fugel. Starting in 1904 and finishing in 1909, Reverend Fugel led the parishioners in building a new Catholic church. This structure is still being used today. On September 8, 1909, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish was dedicated by the parishioners and Reverend Fugel. Currently, Reverend Matthew Flatley is the parish priest.

For the children in the surrounding community, education was important so the first Visitation Inter-Parish School was established in 1893. The parishioners of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish celebrated the opening of their new Catholic school building in 1926. To ensure its students would have a solid Catholic education, in 1953, the parish decided to build a convent for the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood who would teach the children. Throughout the years, Visitation Inter-Parish School has helped shape the lives of more than 1,000 students. The Visitation Inter-Parish School will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary in 2018.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and Visitation Inter-Parish School on this momentous occasion of their 150th and 125th Anniversaries. The historic past and promising future of support, love, and encouragement that the church and school have provided to the community will not be forgotten.

HONORING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
SHIRLEY STEPHENSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Private First Class Shirley Stephenson, of Salado, Texas, for her selfless dedication and service to our nation while serving under the Women's Army Corps and her continued, unparalleled contributions to her community. I'm honored to award her a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

PFC Stephenson entered the service in Houston, Texas in June 1959 where she would begin serving her country. Since her honorable discharge, PFC Stephenson has

become a pillar in her community and has served and contributed in ways that exemplify the highest standards of service.

Throughout PFC Stephenson's life, she has served on multiple boards and community organizations, such as the Harker Heights Parks and Recreation Board, the KPLE Christian Broadcasting Corporation Board and the Hope Pregnancy Centers Board. While dedicating her time to these institutions, she also served as the President of the Fort Hood Retired Officers' Wives Club, a Goodwill Ambassador to the Killeen Chamber of Commerce and served as the President of the Chisholm Trail American Business Women Association.

PFC Stephenson is both soldier and committed activist. She has worked on numerous political, organized county conventions, and served as President of the Central Texas Republican Women from 2008 through 2010.

PFC Stephenson's hard work and service has not gone unnoticed. Along with her being honored by Governor Perry as a Yellow Rose of Texas, she's received the Chisholm Trail ABWA, Salado, Woman of the Year and Hall of Fame award, as well as the Vietnam Service Award in May 2016.

I commend Private First Class Shirley Stephenson's selfless service to her community and nation. Her commitment to excellence and citizenship reflect the best values we hold as Americans. I join her family, friends and colleagues in saluting her great work and dedication to our country.

HONORING MR. HENRY F. MOZELL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life outstanding service of Mr. Henry F. Mozell who passed away on Monday August 8, 2016.

Mr. Mozell was born in Dover, North Carolina on Christmas Day, 1936. Immediately after moving to the Bay Area in 1955 Mr. Mozell started his legend of service by serving in the United States Military. During his time of service in the Navy, he also took it upon himself to enroll at Laney College in Oakland and grew to love and appreciate his community.

After completing his studies at Laney College, Mr. Mozell decided to study Urban Studies at the University of California.

It was known that the time he spent at the University of California had a profound influence on his dedication to giving to communities in need.

CONGRATULATING KAMERON
GOETZ

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kameron Goetz—a distinguished high school student from Coulee City,

Washington, and a committed advocate for our nation's veterans. Kameron was named a Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) finalist for his speech during the 2016 "National Public Speaking II" competition. Earlier this year, Kameron contacted my congressional office and shared a copy of the speech he had delivered to the FBLA. I encourage all of my colleagues to read this speech, which details the life and service of Kameron's grandfather, David Wayne Long, who volunteered for the U.S. Army following his high school graduation and served honorably in the Vietnam War. For his service, Mr. Long was awarded numerous military awards and medals, including the Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman's badge, Bronze Star, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, as well as three Purple Hearts for wounds received in combat. Following his discharge from the U.S. Army, Mr. Long settled down in Washington, started a family, and became a successful businessman. However, as is far too common, Mr. Long returned from the war with wounds that cannot be seen by the naked eye and suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) for much of his civilian life. Tragically, on February 3, 2014, David Wayne Long took his own life after a decades-long battle with PTSD.

Mr. Long's story is one that we hear far too often, as too many of our brave men and women serving in the Armed Forces return home from the battlefield and are faced with the mental wounds and memories from their time at war. Our veterans have made great sacrifices to ensure the rights and freedoms of all Americans are protected and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. However, we must ensure that our nation's service-members receive the best care and treatment available, and we must also dedicate ourselves to supporting causes and organizations that are working tirelessly to assist our country's heroes as their own personal health battles continue. Kameron's speech, as well as his dedication to helping our nation's troops and veterans, has inspired me and many people around the country to give back and volunteer for efforts that help the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, past and present, who have sacrificed so much in service to our country. The speech Kameron gave to FBLA is truly moving and his ongoing commitment to support our veterans should serve as an example for all Americans. I would like to thank Kameron and his family for their dedicated service and patriotism. I am honored to be able to include his remarks in the RECORD.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY KAMERON GOETZ—FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA—NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING II COMPETITION, 2016

A little over two centuries ago a nation of men rose up, and threw off the yoke of oppression that had been thrust upon them by a far away monarch. In acquiring their freedom and breaking their bonds, many men laid down their lives. Today, it is because of their sacrifice that we are free. But this freedom must be continually fought for in order to keep it. As members of FBLA, we strive to develop character, prepare for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism. At a minimum, every citizen of the United States should have similar goals. However, some have set

and achieved much higher goals, while consequently paying a higher price. Today, I am going to tell you of one such person, and of the price he paid.

There was a small town farm boy who grew up right here in Washington State. You could call him the "All-American Kid." He was a hard worker, a good student, and an exceptional athlete. Once this All-American Kid graduated from high school, he was faced with an All-American decision. Join the Army or follow his mother's advice to settle down and get married to his high school sweetheart. As much as he wanted to please his mother, he chose the Army. He quickly adapted to his new life, becoming an excellent soldier—1st in his class at Basic Training. Once his training was complete, the All-American Kid was shipped off to a far away war, in a far away land, called Vietnam.

In the sweltering jungles of Southeast Asia, he came face to face with the monsters of war. He saw things that no man, let alone any boy, should ever see. Then he came home. The All-American Kid had a Bronze Star on his chest for valor, the physical scars of three separate combat wounds, and the demons that accompanied the atrocities he had witnessed. He was a hero, but was not treated as such. As he stepped back onto U.S. soil for the first time in months, the All-American kid was spit on and berated. He was called a "butcher," a "rapist," and a "baby killer."

The All-American rushed past the names and moved on. The demons he brought back with him were pushed deep down, far away. He settled down, got married, started a family, and became a successful businessman. Life was great on the outside. But on the inside, everything was much worse. His demons had never left him. For years they clawed, and ripped, and tore away at his very soul. And he fought, and he fought, and he fought back with everything he had. Finally, after years of fighting, he lost the fight. On February 3, 2014, my grandfather, David Wayne Long, the All-American Kid, succumbed to his demons. He committed suicide.

58,000 men and women lost their lives under a Vietnam sky. An additional 100,000 came home, only to take their lives under their own roofs. Every day, twenty-two veterans kill themselves. With that number, we are losing 8,000 veterans a year. They are all suffering from the same common disease. This disease is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or more commonly known as PTSD. PTSD won't let you move on from what you have seen, heard, or done in traumatic circumstances. It eats at you, slowly deteriorating your very will to live. It cannot be cured, it cannot be stopped. But it can be treated. Foundations such as the Wounded Warrior Project are dedicated to helping men and women of the United States Armed Forces, past and present, recover from the physical and mental wounds of war. Specifically for those suffering with mental afflictions, the people at WWP take them in and simply love on them. They make them feel appreciated. Now this is key, because one of the worst fears for every soldier is not the fear of death. It is the fear that they will come home and the people, who they would have died for on a daily basis, do not care.

The Wounded Warrior Project can't help veterans alone. They need support, and they need partners. We need to be that support, and we need to be those partners, because it is the men and women who have served our country for generations that have upheld our freedom. I am ready to stand up and give

back. Rise up with me. Let's all give back. Let's give back to those who gave.

HONORING MILLER COUNTY SHERIFF BILL ABBOTT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Miller County Sheriff Bill Abbott on his upcoming retirement. As a native and resident of Miller County, I also happen to be one of Sheriff Abbott's constituents. Sheriff Abbott is retiring from his position in December 2016. Sheriff Abbott has dedicated more than sixteen years of service to Miller County residents since his appointment to office on April 6, 1999. The enthusiasm Sheriff Abbott has for his job hasn't been lost over the years he has served. Even with that enthusiasm, Sheriff Abbott realizes that it is time for a change.

As a Miller County resident, Sheriff Abbott has remained committed to his county, the people who reside in the county, and the state of Missouri. He comes from a family of public servants, some of whom served in law enforcement and his mother, Kathryn, who worked in the dispatch office. He credits his success as Miller County Sheriff to the support he has received from his family and community members. Sheriff Abbott's goal when he attained the position was to restore the public trust in the sheriff's office.

Around 640 square miles are encompassed within the Miller County Sheriff's Department jurisdiction. Sheriff Abbott currently has eight road officers covering that area day and night and, additionally, has two detectives that also contribute their time to road work. There have been some difficult cases during his time as sheriff, including seven infant deaths in just a year and a half time span. While there have been some tough cases, there were also many good moments as well. Under Sheriff Abbott's leadership, several positive changes in the jail and courthouse have occurred. Throughout the updates at the jail and courthouse, Sheriff Abbott was committed to using vendors from the Miller County area. It was important to him to keep everything local. Sheriff Abbott attributes the successes of the sheriff's office to the good staff and continuing support from the community.

With this retirement, Sheriff Abbott will be able to enjoy more time with his wife, Linda, and their children, Gayle, Gwen, Chad, and Courtney. He will also undoubtedly treasure the extra moments he can spend with his fifteen grandchildren. I know Sheriff Abbott is also looking forward to working more with the cattle that he and his son own.

I ask you to join me in recognizing Sheriff Bill Abbott for his more than sixteen years of service to the Miller County Sheriff's Department, the residents of the county, and the entire state of Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO JANICE AND RICK
STONE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Janice and Rick Stone of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 6, 2016.

Janice and Rick's lifelong commitment to each other, their daughter and their grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be in Washington, D.C. on November 14, 2016, because my flight from Oregon was delayed because of maintenance issues. If I had been present I would have voted in favor of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act, and H.R. 2669, the Anti-Spoofing Act of 2016.

H.R. 985 allows producers of concrete masonry to collaborate on a coordinated research and education program to develop and improve markets for concrete masonry products. The bill authorizes the Department of Commerce to oversee the board administering the program. If I had been present I would have voted for the bill.

H.R. 2669 expands current consumer protections to prohibit the transmission of inaccurate caller-ID information over text messages or Voice-over-Internet (ViOP) calls. Under current law, only voice calls are protected from inaccurate caller-ID information. Additionally, the bill requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to provide consumers with information to help identify scams that are perpetrated using inaccurate caller-ID information. If I had been present I would have voted for the bill.

TEXAS AGRICULTURE MEMORIAL
DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the first annual Texas Agricultural

Memorial Day, a day we remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made by our state's farmers and ranchers as they provide food and clothing for Texas families. Texas Governor Greg Abbott designated November 21st as Texas Agriculture Memorial Day, which will be observed annually. The inaugural ceremony will be held on November 21, 2016 in the Auditorium of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas.

Every year, there will be a nomination and application process to add names of honorees to the memorial for three categories—memorial, honor and memorial service. The memorial list is for those who have lost their life while engaged in agricultural-related pursuits. The honor list is for those who have had a severely debilitating accident while engaged in agricultural-related pursuits. The memorial service list is for those who lost their life in a non-agricultural accident and had an active role in an agricultural operation.

John Paul and Heather Dineen from Waxahachie, Texas envisioned the annual Texas Agricultural Memorial Day and organized the inaugural ceremony. Ten years ago, the Dineen family lost their five-year-old son, Johnny, in an agriculture accident. They are committed to sharing their story and advocating for safety awareness and education. Working alongside Governor Abbott and the Texas Farm Bureau, their hard work and vision culminated in the creation of the Texas Agriculture Memorial Day.

REVEREND DOCTOR JULES SMITH
AND REVEREND IDA SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Doctor Jules Smith and his wife Reverend Ida Smith for their service and dedication to their community and the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church.

As devoted servants of the Lord, Reverend Doctor Smith has served the Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church with faith, devotion, and integrity since 1986. Under his leadership and Ida by his side, the church has grown from 33 members to over 1500 and serves 42 multi-faceted ministries to meet the needs of every age group. Prior to joining Rising Star Church, Reverend Doctor Smith served as Assistant Pastor at Unity Baptist Church in the Bronx, New York and as Sunday School Radio Commentator and Associate Pastor at Union Baptist Church in Denver.

Reverend Ida Smith serves as First Lady and Associate Minister at Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend Ida has inspired many throughout her work, serving on several missionary tours to Canada; Caribbean Islands; Burkina Faso, West Africa; Nassau, Bahamas; Lagos, Nigeria; and China.

Together, they also serve in various leadership capacities across a variety of local and national organizations including the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Colorado, Salem Baptist District Association, Baptist Min-

isters Conference of Metro Denver, International Association of Ministers' Wives and Widows, RSMBC Spiritual Stars Women's Ministry, and the American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains. In addition, they have both received numerous awards, citations and commendations in both the secular and Christian communities.

I extend my deepest appreciation to Reverend Doctor Jules Smith and Reverend Ida Smith for their service and dedication to the Rising Star Church congregants and our community.

RECOGNIZING SEA ROAD SCHOOL
AS A 2016 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sea Road School in Kennebunk, Maine for its selection as a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School.

Every year, the Department of Education selects Blue Ribbon Schools from across the country to celebrate excellence in teaching and learning. Sea Road School is one of 329 public and private elementary, middle, and high schools honored in 2016, the culmination of a long process of nomination and application focused on its record of sustained student achievement.

Sea Road School is an Exemplary High Performing School. The commitment that requires from the entire community cannot be overstated. But we also know that the true measure of a school is not based on test scores alone. It's in the devotion of educators, who endeavor to understand how each child learns best. It's in the willingness of students to discover their strengths and follow their passions. It's in the support and engagement of parents and community members who know the incalculable value of a strong start for our kids.

Mr. Speaker, Sea Road School is a community dedicated to fostering scholarship and compassion in each child who walks through its doors, and I'm proud to see it so deservedly recognized on a national level. I commend Principal Stephen Marquis, Superintendent Kathryn Hawes, and all the educators, staff, parents, and students who have worked to build this success. Keep it up

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IBEW LOCAL 129

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 129 of Lorain, Ohio. This is an incredibly significant centennial milestone of labor history in northern Ohio.

Since 1916, IBEW Local 129 has served northern Ohio with distinction, providing the highest quality of electrical work and providing power to the residents of the Lorain-Elyria area. Its members continue to dedicate their careers to the advancement of wages, benefits and working conditions for all electrical workers.

The history of this organization dates back to March 1, 1916 when the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 129 was chartered in Elyria, Ohio. The founding eleven brothers were: Henry Therman, H.R. Ward, Gus Pallas, A.J. Miller, I.W. Horton, Ray Ward, J.W. Bareholmen, John Keishair, F.A. Lawrence, A.E. Gramholz and C. Pallas.

Beginning wages were roughly \$0.12/hour—which was far greater than an unorganized laborer in those days.

In 1917, IBEW Local 627 Lorain was formed under the leadership of Organizer Boyle from Local 129. By the time 1930 rolled around, the membership numbers and work available to the two locals was not what either had anticipated. After much deliberation and negotiation, Local 129 of Elyria absorbed Local 627 of Lorain and, under one banner became the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 129 of Lorain, Ohio.

The skilled men and women of IBEW Local 129 have contributed their time and talents to many notable projects including: The National Tube Company, Fruehauf Trailer Plant at Avon Lake, United States Steel, The Ford Manufacturing Plant, local commercial developments like O'Neil's Shopping Center, Lorain County Schools, Lorain and the surrounding area hospitals, American Shipbuilding, Cleveland Electric Illuminating, and B.F. Goodrich, to name a few.

IBEW founder Henry Miller envisioned a union of electrical workers banded together toward the goal of improved safety, wages and working conditions for the brotherhood. A century later, his legacy stands tall through the brothers and sisters of Local 129. We offer our heartiest congratulations to IBEW Local 129 in celebration of its rich history and thank you for working to illuminate our world over the last 100 years

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF SPECIALIST DONALD SCHLIESSER

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service and achievements of an esteemed and valued citizen of Cedar Park, Texas. Specialist Donald Schliesser has dedicated himself to serving his community and is an embodiment of the Army values of honor, loyalty, and selfless service. He is deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

SPC Schliesser enlisted in the Army in June 1957. After nine years of combined Active and Reserve service as a military radio operator, he left the Army and worked in the civilian sector as a financial planner. He concluded his successful career after 42 years, and en-

joyed the next few years in retirement traveling our great nation with his wife. Choosing to be closer to their son, SPC Schliesser and his wife moved to Cedar Park, Texas.

Throughout SPC Schliesser's life, he has demonstrated his deep commitment to selfless service time and time again. In 2007, and again in 2015, SPC Schliesser decided to come out of retirement to serve on the Bond Advisory Task Force to review and recommend potential bond projects to the City Council. His efforts helped establish Cedar Park's infrastructure to accommodate its massive growth. Being an avid pilot, he served in the Contra County Sheriff's Air Posse. Applying his skills learned from the Army, he assists in emergency communications as an amateur radio operator. In 2011, he led the effort to raise \$225,000 in community donations for the Cedar Park Veterans Memorial. Citizens like SPC Schliesser are essential to making cities like Cedar Park, TX great places to live.

Though humble about his military service, Specialist Schliesser has remained dedicated to serving his community and honoring the military. I commend him for his work and am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA).

Since 1956, the NFLPA has served as a strong advocate and defender of the players that make the National Football League (NFL) a world class product. As professional athletes, the players train and compete at the highest level.

The service you provide to your members is incredibly important. In fact, the NFLPA helps ensure the best interests of its players by negotiating a strong Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), ensuring the terms of the CBA are met, negotiating strong retirement and insurance benefits, and enhancing the image of players and their profession on and off the field.

As an avid Denver Broncos fan, the players are valuable and important to our city, the Broncos organization and the sport of football. Our committed Broncos players have brought three Super Bowl Championships home to the city of Denver. The players have always been active in our community and continue to make our city proud.

I want to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and commend the players union for the representation it provides to the talented and hardworking football players of the NFL.

WELCOME MEERA ANUSHA SARASWATI TEPPARA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to congratulate my former Chief of Staff Dino Teppara and his wife, Vatsala, on the birth of their daughter. Meera Anusha Saraswati Teppara was born at 11:10 p.m. on Sunday, October 9, 2016, in South Carolina. Meera weighed six pounds and fourteen ounces and measured 19 inches long. She is the second child for the happy couple and I look forward to watching her grow as she is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to her wellbeing and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Meera's grandparents, Vijay and Vasanti Alsi of Vienna, Virginia, and Dilip and Gita Teppara of Columbia, South Carolina. Congratulations to the entire Alsi and Teppara families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy

HONORING MS. PATRICIA MARIE JONES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and invaluable service of Ms. Patricia Jones, who passed away August 5, 2016.

Patricia Marie Jones was born on September 3, 1944 in Vallejo, California to Booker T. and Mildred Jones. At a young age the family relocated back to its homeland of Heidelberg, Mississippi where Patricia graduated from Southside High School at the top of her class.

After her high school graduation, Patricia moved back to the Bay Area and enrolled at Vallejo Junior college. Patricia earned her Associates Degree. Understanding the power of education, Patricia transferred to San Francisco State University where she would earn her Bachelor's Degree two years later in Journalism. She then enrolled into University of California, Berkeley and in 1973 earned her Master's Degree in City Planning.

Patricia had a distinguished career in public service that included local, state and federal service. She served in the city of Richmond as the city planner, the assistant to the City Manager for External Affairs and Assistant Director of Housing Development. She also served as a Board member of the East Bay Community Foundation. Most recently Patricia served as Assistant Executive Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, a regional planning agency representing nine counties in the Bay Area.

Patricia was committed to excellence known for her work ethic, integrity, creativity and fierce determination. She excelled at everything she did.

Patricia was also a world traveler and over the years had visited Africa, Asia, Europe,

South America and Cuba. She lived a full life and inspired all those around her to do the same.

But no matter her accomplishments, Patricia always put family first; she always made time for them no matter the time of day or size of the problem. She leaves to honor her memory, brothers Terry and Kenneth Jones, along with her many nieces and nephews.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District remembers the extraordinary life of Ms. Patricia Jones. Her contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area. I join her loved ones in celebrating her incredible life and offer my most sincere condolences.

LAURA TOBEY, NATURAL GROCERS BY VITAMIN COTTAGE, PREMIUM PANELS INC., WANCO INC., COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION AND GENE AND DEE MILSTEIN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laura Tobey with Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Premium Panels Inc., Wanco Inc., Community First Foundation, and Gene and Dee Milstein for being honored by the Arvada Economic Development Association for their outstanding contributions to the Arvada community.

Laura Tobey is posthumously recognized with the "Community Champion Award". Through her vision, enthusiasm and leadership, Laura was instrumental in the redevelopment of the blighted buildings in Olde Town Arvada. Today this area of Arvada is a thriving retail and commercial district. Her significant impact on the community will be felt for years to come.

Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage is recognized as "Retailer of the Year". Their capital investment of \$750,000 to the property at 77th and Wadsworth Boulevard created improvements to the façade and interiors including opening an interior walkway to all tenants. I commend Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage on their mission is to provide shoppers with an affordable, healthy lifestyle as well as empower them to take control of their own wellbeing.

Premium Panels Inc. is recognized as the "Outstanding Small Business" for their \$3.1 million capital investment in a building in the Arvada Tech Center allowing the company to remain in Arvada and double their workforce. Premium Panels provides high quality metal roofing panels for commercial and residential roofing.

Wanco Inc. is recognized with the "Outstanding Large Business Award" for their \$8.6 million expansion of a 95,000 square foot building which resulted in the retention of the existing facility and 200 new jobs. Wanco was established in 1984 and is the leading manufacturer of highway safety and traffic control products.

Community First Foundation is recognized with the "Community Partnership Award" for

their \$1 million grant to Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Health Sciences building in Arvada. This investment in the RRCC will improve the quality of education for students and create positive change within the community. Community First Foundation is a grant making public charity dedicated to identifying and solving broad community problems. Gene and Dee Milstein are recognized with the "Lloyd J King Entrepreneurial Spirit Award".

Gene and Dee are the founders and owners of Applewood Seed Company which has been in business for more than 50 years. Applewood Seed Company is a premier commercial and wholesale supplier of wildflower, garden flower, native grass and herb seed. I commend them on their commitment to innovation, their community and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honor to recognize each of the Arvada Economic Development Association award recipients for their professionalism, investment in the community, and their dedication to making Arvada a thriving world class city.

IN RECOGNITION OF SER METRO-DETROIT FOR THEIR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize SER Metro-Detroit, a nonprofit organization that offers workforce training and skills development to the greater Detroit community. SER promotes self-sufficiency and upward mobility through its literacy, education and employment initiatives, and has played a key role in creating the vibrant metropolitan Detroit workforce that exists today.

SER Metro-Detroit was founded in 1971 as a non-profit organization to provide skills training and placement services for employers in the private sector. Since its establishment, the organization has expanded its offerings to include youth outreach and education programs, as well as further developing its workforce placement program. Today, SER Metro-Detroit offers targeted programs for adults and youth to train program participants and place them into private sector employment. The programs include apprenticeship placements for qualified individuals, as well as financial and employment coaching that better prepares trainees for entry into the workforce.

SER has provided southeast Michigan residents with the skills and training they need to succeed in the global workforce. Additionally, it has created a pool of skilled workers that possess the training expertise that is in demand in the workplace. As a result, well-paying skilled manufacturing and skilled trade jobs are returning to Michigan, and the region has benefited from this economic revitalization. SER Metro-Detroit's comprehensive offering of education, training and employment opportunities has proven successful in helping to alleviate the economic difficulties that many families in southeast Michigan faced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing SER Metro-Detroit for its

workforce development initiatives. It has had a positive impact on the lives of thousands of Metro Detroit residents and been a catalyst for the economic rejuvenation of the region.

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ELIJAH KING, JR., U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Command Sergeant Major Elijah King, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired, who served his country in the Army for 30 years and continues to serve his fellow soldiers and his community following his retirement. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

A native son of Tuskegee, Alabama, CSM King enlisted in the U.S. Army in August of 1977. Along with serving in Korea and Germany, he is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2007 as Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. During his service in the U.S. Army, CSM King was a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including the prestigious Legion of Merit and three Bronze Star Medals for his service in combat.

This brave soldier is also a committed citizen. Following his military career, he continued to support the military and community through positions in various services such as the Co-Chairman of the Fort Hood Retired Council and the Chairman of the Central Texas Area Veterans Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Killeen Branch NAACP, Board of Directors KISD Communities in Schools, and Military Child Education Coalition. CSM King's work has improved the quality of life in central Texas in immeasurable ways.

CSM King's motto is "Old Soldiers never die and I refuse to fade away." As evidenced from the respect and admiration that his fellow soldiers and colleagues have for him, along with lasting effect on the community he loves, CSM Elijah King stands true to his word and will never fade away. I'm grateful that heroes like him call central Texas home.

UNITED IN BLUE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the incredible sacrifices that our law enforcement officers have made in order to protect us and keep our communities safe. Although acts of heroism are displayed every day by the proud men and women in blue across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it is the extraordinary sacrifices of officers in our sister

state of Louisiana that I am compelled to highlight today.

On July 17th, 2016, Corporal Montrell Jackson and Officer Matthew Gerald with the Baton Rouge Police Department and Deputy Brad Garafola with the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Parish Office were shot and killed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Sergeant Bruce Simmons and Corporals Chad Montgomery and Nicholas Tullier were also injured in the same shooting. These men were not just protectors; they were fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons. We are in awe of their courage, and we are indebted to them for their service and sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed a frightening trend in this country. I have never seen this level of disrespect and injustice towards our law enforcement on such a large scale. Even though these anti-police sentiments are only harbored by a small, unappreciative, and sometimes hateful minority, we must speak louder in defense of those who protect us.

Ultimately, if we do not unite as a nation by showing unwavering and unequivocal respect for proud institutions like our police, then we are inviting further unconscionable acts. We must work harder than ever, in the memory of these officers, to assure that we make America safe again. Despite this tragedy, there is still ample reason for hope. In this time of grief, in the wake of these heinous acts, law enforcement agencies across the country have banded together with the Baton Rouge community in order to show their support for the families and friends of these officers.

Later this week, Mississippi Gulf Coast law enforcement agencies are partnering with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Blue Team to host a special charity event titled "United in Blue" for the fallen and wounded officers from Baton Rouge. All proceeds will rightfully go to support the families and wounded officers.

Above all else, on behalf of your brothers and sisters in South Mississippi, I would like to thank every man and woman in law enforcement in South Louisiana. And I would like to thank all law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders for their service to our country. Our nation stands proudly behind you.

JESSE AND JESSICA SWIFT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesse and Jessica Swift for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Jesse and Jessica Swift serve the community as educators at Bell Middle School, are avid cyclists, and are active in many community events including the Golden Bike Cruise, Golden Gallup, Golden Giddyup, and the Back2Basics Cyclocross races. Jessica coaches a girls' ICE soccer team, and Jesse coaches the Bell Mountain Bike Club.

In addition to being active community members, the Swifts exemplify courage and grace, and are an inspiration to the community. In

May of 2015, they were attacked in a home invasion. Jesse and Jessica fought back against the intruders and later worked with the Golden Police Department to bring the criminals to justice. As highly admired teachers, the Swifts have inspired thousands of students and their families by their personal story and their passion for knowledge.

I congratulate Jesse and Jessica Swift for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank them for their continued commitment to the people and students they serve.

RECOGNIZING MARION HALEY

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of an extraordinary man and fellow Northeast Georgian, First Lieutenant Marion Holman Haley.

First Lieutenant Haley grew up on a farm in Elberton, Georgia and graduated from Rabun Gap Junior College. He shares his birthday with his beloved wife, Sara Vincent Haley.

In 1942, First Lieutenant Haley entered World War II as a bombardier and flew 50 combat missions over Italy, Northern Africa, and France in a B-17 bomber using one of the first Norden bombsights.

As a member of the Army Air Corps, First Lieutenant Haley was recognized for his exceptional ability as a bombardier by receiving 10 Air Medals for his combat missions in World War II.

Our nation owes a tremendous amount of gratitude to First Lieutenant Haley for his service and courage. He is a true American hero.

I am proud to represent First Lieutenant Haley in Congress, and I am grateful for his bravery in protecting our freedom.

As a member of the Air Force Reserves, the lives of our service members and veterans is very near to my heart. We have Mr. Marion Holman Haley to thank for his service to the greatest nation in the world.

First Lieutenant Haley represents a legacy that deserves our gratitude and respect, and I honor him on his 100th birthday. Happy Birthday Lieutenant Haley.

IN RECOGNITION OF TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, INC., ON ITS OUTSTANDING WORK AND 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. on its outstanding work and its exceptional service on the date of its 75th Anniversary Dinner. The Tuskegee Airmen were courageous individuals who served the United States with dignity during World War II while pioneering efforts to improve racial equality.

The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of young men and women who volunteered to become America's first African-American military airmen during World War II. These individuals distinguished themselves through an exemplary combat record, as well as their bravery and sacrifice. Approximately 1,000 pilots and 15,000 ground personnel served in thousands of combat sorties during the war, earning a record of distinction that persists to this day. The Tuskegee Airmen's record of service also broke down barriers and was instrumental in President Harry S. Truman's decision to desegregate the United States Armed Forces in 1948.

The Tuskegee Airmen were instrumental in helping the United States win the Second World War while furthering racial equality and equal opportunity. These brave men and women stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of the American ideals of bravery. The work of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. is critical to preserving the historic legacy of these individuals, and I congratulate them on the organization's success in raising awareness of the importance of their contribution to American progress. Events like the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.'s 75th Anniversary dinner are critical to keeping their legacy alive, and it is my hope that the group continues to build on its record of success to preserve the memory of these men and women and their historic accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. The organization has worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen for future generations and raise awareness about their role in American history.

TRIBUTE TO SUE AND DENNIS NANCE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sue and Dennis Nance of Shenandoah, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sue and Dennis' lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

GOLDEN HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Golden High School Interact Club for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

The Golden High School Interact Club is a Rotary-sponsored service organization serving the greater Golden community. The 72 high-school members tackle important community issues through hands-on service projects. Locally, they participated in the Neighborhood Rehab Project Day of Service, helped raise money for schools by volunteering at fun-runs, assisted Golden Rotary to provide lunch and fellowship to senior residents, raked leaves for Golden residents, championed a food drive, and participated in a chili cook-off.

For an international effort, they held a car-wash that generated \$2,000 to purchase two ShelterBoxes, which provide safe housing to families in disaster situations around the world. Out of 36 other clubs, the Rotary District identified the Golden group as the most outstanding Interact Club.

I congratulate the Golden High School Interact Club for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank all the members for their continued commitment to the people and families they serve.

CELEBRATING MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT HALVERSON, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Major General Robert Halverson, retired, who served in the United States Army for 39 years and continues to work for his country and community following his retirement. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

MG Halverson, of Georgetown, Texas, began his active duty career upon graduation from Colorado State University. After 15 years he left active duty service and entered the U.S. Army Reserves and transferred to the Texas National Guard in October of 1985. In 1998, he was promoted to Major General and took command of the 49th Armored Division.

During his time in service, MG Halverson acquired a long list of accomplishments and awards, including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and more. He also successfully commanded the first Active and Reserve Component integrated headquarters to serve in Bosnia.

Along with his Army National Guard service, MG Halverson continued his life of service in the State of Texas, where he served in the Governor's Division of Emergency Manage-

ment and as a Deputy Insurance Commissioner for Safety. Following his retirement from military service in March 2002, MG Halverson continued to serve as a mentor for other National Guard Division and Brigade Commanders and Staff.

MG Halverson's skills as a strategic leader have improved every organization he's associated with. His commitment to community and his role as a mentor and friend to his colleagues make him a valuable asset to improving the quality of life in the Lone Star State.

I commend Major General Robert Halverson's selfless service to both the United States Army and his nation. His patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best values of Central Texas. I join MG Halverson's friends, family, and colleagues in celebrating his outstanding achievements.

SHIVAM ALBEE SHINES WITH SCHOOL PROJECT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shivam Albee of Sugar Land, TX for his enthusiasm about government and in particular Congress.

Shivam has expressed a keen interest in how our government works. He and his parents recently visited Washington, DC with stops in their congressional office and our nation's Capitol building. As a result of his trip, he completed a school report on how Congress operates. His eagerness to learn and contribute to our representative democracy is heartwarming and gives us hope for our future leaders. America is at its best with an engaged and active citizenry. We hope more students and young leaders emerge as they become adults.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, thank you Shivam Albee for reminding us of the importance of youthful enthusiasm. We are proud of his hard work and look forward to his future success.

TRIBUTE TO PAM AND CHARLIE MANNING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pam and Charlie Manning of Glenwood, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 20, 1966 in Gary, Indiana.

Pam and Charlie's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, and their grandchild, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING THE AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY

HON. NIKI TSONGAS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, every November 11th, we stop to recognize the brave men and women who have served our country in our armed forces. Having just marked Veterans Day, I would like to recognize one group of extraordinary servicemembers in particular, the United States Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society, or AFEES.

Since the United States military first began using airplanes in foreign wars, members of the United States Air Forces have been forced to eject, crash land, or abandon their aircraft in an occupied country or territory. Once downed, these airmen had to evade capture by enemy forces, oftentimes while suffering from critical injuries.

Of the downed aircrew members that were captured, many escaped from the enemy who were holding them in captivity. Many times, downed servicemembers were aided in their escape and evasion by resistance organizations in those occupied countries. Thousands of brave, ordinary people took extraordinary risks at huge costs to both them and their families to help these brave Americans and help them return home.

In 1964, the United States Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society was created by the downed aircrew members who evaded capture. Today, AFEES includes downed aircrew members and people who directly aided them in escape and evasion and has more than 600 members, including members from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

I am proud to represent one brave AFEES member, the group's President, John Katsaros of Haverhill, Massachusetts. Today, I would like to recognize the United States Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society and the achievements made by its members: to never accept captivity and to constantly strive for their freedom. Thank you for your service and for the inspiration you are to all of us.

GENE CHILD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gene Child for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

For decades, Gene has dedicated his time, resources, and abilities to preserving our community's history. He co-founded the Golden

Landmarks Association to save the Astor House from demolition, assisted in converting the old Presbyterian Church into the Foothills Art Center, and helped move the Guy Hill School from the former Mitchell Elementary site to the Clear Creek History Park, then helped restore it. Even now he cares for the chickens that live in History Park. Gene and his beloved Arlene were part of the effort to create the 12th Street Historic District in 1984.

I congratulate Gene for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank him for his continued commitment to the people and families he serves.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MESSIAS TEMPLE CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Messiah Temple Church. It is my honor and privilege to recognize the contributions Messiah Temple Church has made to our community.

Established in 1941 by John T. Elder and Sister Laura Elder, the Ypsilanti Messiah Temple Church is dedicated to building a permanent sanctuary for people of the community to have a place to connect with each other, and strengthen their faith. Messiah was built on a principle that welcomed people of all walks of life, giving positions of leadership not common within the Church for its time. In 1949 after the passing of Elder John T. Elder, his widowed wife, Sister Laura Elder, was elected as Church Pastor and remained until her retirement in 1974, demonstrating that this Church would celebrate the diversity of Ypsilanti, and lead by progressive example. Jesse Ross was then chosen to serve as pastor, and personally led the congregation to its new permanent home on Harriet Street in 1984. Pastor Ross continued to serve until his death in 1991, when Harry Grayson was selected to continue the proud tradition of service and leadership. Today we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Messiah Temple Church, as well as the 25th anniversary of Suffragan Bishop Grayson's appointment. Providing strong leadership within the community has long been the cornerstone of Messiah Temple Church, and the tradition continues as the church looks forward to the next 75 years of serving the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in gratitude to honor the 75th anniversary of Messiah Temple Church. For seventy-five years now, Messiah Temple has displayed an immense passion and deep devotion for improving the lives of its members, and also the people of Ypsilanti, and we wish them many more years of success.

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IBEW LOCAL 8

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 8 of Toledo, Ohio. This is an incredibly significant milestone of labor history in Northwest Ohio.

Since 1891, IBEW Local 8 has served northwest Ohio with distinction, providing the highest quality of electrical work and providing power to the residents of Northwest Ohio. Its members continue to dedicate their careers to the advancement of wages, benefits and working conditions for all electrical workers.

IBEW Local 8's skilled technicians are committed to building our communities forward. The deep history of IBEW Local 8 shows that the Toledo Chapter was one of the first-ever locals chartered in the United States, established at the founding of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers nationally.

The skilled men and women of IBEW Local 8 have contributed their time and talents to many notable projects in Northwest Ohio. Committed to quality workmanship, their skills have been critical to the development of industry throughout our region.

IBEW founder Henry Miller envisioned a union of electrical workers banded together toward the goal of improved safety, wages and working conditions for the brotherhood. A century later, his legacy stands tall through the brothers and sisters of Local 8. We offer our heartiest congratulations to IBEW Local 8 in celebration of its rich history and thank you for working to illuminate our world over the last 125 years.

DANA STEINER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dana Steiner for receiving the Golden Mayor's first-ever Goldmine Award, an honor recognizing the achievement and contributions of the students or faculty of the Colorado School of Mines.

Dana Steiner, a senior at the School of Mines designed and implemented a community service project for the Mines Class of 2020, encouraging further collaboration between the university and city of Golden. Throughout the spring and summer, she identified projects benefiting city government departments, schools, civic organizations, the faith community, and individual residents. On August 20th, she successfully organized approximately 900 incoming students at more than 25 Golden locations in and around Golden, for more than 1,000 hours of community service. Dana is a senior majoring in Biochemical and Chemical Engineering who is also involved in the Society of Women Engi-

neers; an ally of Out in Science, Technology, Engineering; a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority, Advocates Against Violence and for Education, the Ethics Bowl team, and Lead Peer Mentor.

I congratulate Dana for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank her for her contributions to the community.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL
ROBERT L. TONEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Rear Admiral Robert L. Toney, USN, (Retired). With his passing on November 4, 2016, we honor his faithful service to our nation.

Rear Admiral Robert L. Toney had a distinguished naval career that spanned 34 years. He was commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy in 1957. Over the course of his career he has held several commands including Naval Base San Francisco, Logistics Group One, Maritime Defense Command and Director of Logistics and Security Assistance of U.S. Pacific Command.

He received numerous honors and decorations including the Defense Meritorious Medal, the Navy Meritorious Service Medal with Oakleaf Cluster, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

His commitment to education and self-improvement was showcased through his commitment to personal study. Early in his life he earned a B.A. in Social Sciences from Chico State University. He was also a Graduate of the National and International Security Course from Harvard University and received Honorary Doctorate Degrees in Humane Letters from Golden Gate University, and National University.

Admiral Toney retired from the Navy in 1994 after 34 years of distinguished service. In his retirement he continued to show his commitment to this country by devoting the remainder of his life to community service.

From 1991 to 1996, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Admiral. Toney also served as the Executive Vice President of Business Development of F.E. Jordan and Associates, Interim President of The Bay Area Urban League, Chairman of the Board of Alternative, Inc., Director of Bank of the West, Director of Levine-Fricke-Recon Advisory Board, Director of Junior Achievement of the San Francisco Bay Area, and as a member of Chico State University's President Advisory Board.

Throughout his military and civilian business careers, Admiral Toney was one of those rare individuals whose ethic of hard work and devotion to duty made a difference. He was a role model to all who served with him.

Rear Admiral Robert L. Toney, USN, (Retired) will be remembered as one of our finest naval officers, a role model, devoted husband to his wife, Flore, who predeceased him, and to his family.

On a personal note, Admiral Toney and I had a chance to get to know each other when I was in the California legislature in the 1990's. He became a consistent supporter of my political efforts and always encouraged me to fight the good fight. I respected Admiral Toney's wise counsel and was proud to call him my friend.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes the legacy of Rear Admiral Robert L. Toney, USN, (Retired). His contributions have truly impacted countless lives throughout the Bay Area and our Country. I join all of Rear Admiral Robert L. Toney's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life and offer them my most sincere condolences.

IRON COUNTY'S NEW AMTRAK STATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a historic day in the Arcadia Valley. Today, Iron County opens its new Amtrak Station and welcomes the Texas Eagle to begin regular service from Arcadia to the USA.

Led by the group "Our Town Tomorrow," the communities of Arcadia, Ironton and Pilot Knob have worked since 2011 to revive the old train stop and resurrect rail service. They've navigated a complicated process.

The members of "Our Town Tomorrow"—September Bennett, Joan Duncan, Carol Kelsheimer, Pam Sherrill, and Judy Schaaf-Wheeler—have worked with other community leaders to establish a vision for the Arcadia Valley and to bring the train to town. I applaud them for their community spirit and determination to improve the quality of life in the place they call home.

Starting today, Arcadia joins St. Louis and Poplar Bluff as the only three stops the Texas Eagle makes in Missouri.

It is my hope the Amtrak Station will signal a new era of prosperity for Iron County. It is my great honor to represent the good folks of the Arcadia Valley and join them in celebration as I recognize their accomplishment today before the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO PAT AND RAY LAW

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Pat and Ray Law of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 19, 1966 at the Church of God of Prophecy in Council Bluffs.

Pat and Ray's lifelong commitment to each other and their three daughters, 22 adopted children, 40 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As

Pat and Ray reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHIGAN TECH RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S GROUNDBREAKING ADVANCEMENTS IN TECHNOLOGY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of the Michigan Tech Research Institute on the date of its 10th anniversary celebration. Located in Ann Arbor as a division of Michigan Technological University, MTRI has driven advancements in sensor and information technology to help solve critical problems in a variety of fields.

Michigan Tech Research Institute was founded in October 2006 with the goal of utilizing Michigan Tech's resources and expertise to transform research findings into commercial products with real-world applications. The institute has focused on using technology to better understand natural and manmade environments. Today, MTRI supports 64 researchers in over 17,000 square feet of space and has drawn support from federal, industry and universities across North America.

MTRI has leveraged cutting-edge academic research to create solutions to real-world problems. Its work on mapping coastal wetlands in the Great Lakes region has been used by federal, state and local agencies to better manage and conserve the environment in these areas. Additionally, MTRI has been able to map the spread of algal blooms in Lake Erie, which has allowed researchers and environmental groups to better understand and combat the spread of this environmental phenomenon. It has also collaborated with federal government agencies like DARPA on defense applications of its research.

MTRI has served as a model of collaboration between the public, private and non-profit sectors. By bringing key stakeholders and experts together to tackle environmental, infrastructure and national security challenges, the institute has created breakthroughs in a variety of fields while supporting basic and applied research initiatives. This multidisciplinary approach will continue to be useful for addressing problems at the cross-section of different fields and disciplines, and MTRI's consistent revenue and sponsorship growth is a testament to the success of its organizational model.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the success of the Michigan Tech Research Institute. It is my hope that the organization will continue to build on its track record of success and innovation.

BETTY AND HAROLD PAYTE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betty & Harold Payte for receiving the Golden Mayor's Award for Excellence.

Betty and Harold Payte are role models and community activists for healthy living. Both in their mid-eighties, they are thoughtful, caring, and inclusive leaders who have attracted a large and loyal following to their weekly community "walk and talks" through Golden. In all weather and all seasons, for people of all ages and abilities, with residents from all over the metropolitan area, the Paytes share their joy in moving through Golden's beautiful outdoor environment. Betty roams up and down the line of walkers to make sure everyone has a walking partner and to see if anyone needs extra encouragement. Harold, a humorous storyteller, usually serves as "sweep" at the back of the group with slower-paced walkers; the Paytes encourage all of us to live full, joyful, healthy lives.

I congratulate Betty & Harold Payte for being the recipient of this well-deserved honor by Mayor Marjorie Sloan, and I thank them for their continued commitment to the people and families they serve.

RECOGNIZING THE MAINE MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge and honor the important work of the Maine Marine Trades Association. For five decades, this organization has educated boat builders and marine businesses in best practices, with particular focus on worker safety and the preservation of the natural resources upon which the industry and the people of Maine depend.

Under Executive Director Susan Swanton's able leadership, the Maine Marine Trades Association has promoted growth and cooperation, influencing many aspects of the marine industry through job development and successful partnerships with the Maine Departments of Labor, Environmental Protection, and Marine Resources, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and many other state and national organizations.

Originally run completely by volunteers, the Maine Marine Trades Association maintains a strong tradition of volunteer participation. Such is the norm in my state. People pull together to get things done, and Maine's long and rich tradition of boating, fishing, and boat building is part of our rich heritage.

Living on an island 12 miles off the coast of Maine, every ferry trip to or from the mainland takes me past pleasure craft, fishermen, boatyards, and marinas. And, with my District Congressional Office located on Portland Harbor's

working waterfront, reminders of the economic and cultural impact of this industry surround me.

I am proud of and grateful for the Maine Marine Trades Association's commitment not only to protecting and enhancing a way of life in Maine, but to promoting an important, time-honored means of making a living.

HONORING COLONEL OTIS EVANS,
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Otis Evans, U.S. Army, retired. COL Evans answered the call to defend our great nation for 27 years and continues to dutifully serve his community of Killeen, Texas in civilian life. An exemplary serviceman and citizen, it is my honor to award COL Evans with the Congressional Veterans Commendation.

A distinguished military graduate from Prairie View A&M University, COL Evans commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and began his military career flying aero-medical evacuation aircraft in Vietnam. In high-risk situations ranging from enemy fire to extreme weather, COL Evans remained steadfastly loyal to his fellow soldiers, refusing to abort a mission without the wounded aboard his aircraft. Relying on the Good Lord for strength, COL Evans' leadership, dedication, and bravery saved the lives of many. For his service and bravery in combat, COL Evans was awarded the Silver Star, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star, the Combat Medical Badge, and the Master Aviator Badge. After twelve years of flying, COL Evans transitioned to Health Care Operations, and later to Health Care Administration, concluding his career at Walter Reed Medical Center.

COL Evans' service and sense of duty did not culminate with his military service. Upon returning to the great state of Texas, COL Evans dedicated his civilian life to the uplifting and betterment of his community, serving on the Killeen City Council, the Central Texas Council of Governments, and as President of the Killeen, Texas Branch, NAACP. Alongside his involvement in these and numerous other organizations, COL Evans has remained committed to honoring his fallen brothers in arms, assisting in the planning of the 2009 Fort Hood shooting memorial.

COL Evans' patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of Central Texas. He is a hero who has devoted his life to defending our freedoms abroad and serving his community at home. I join his wife, Rosalind, his children, and grandchildren in wishing him the best in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE AMERICAN ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ITS PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Arab American Chamber of Commerce for its economic and trade development efforts. The Chamber has served the Michigan community well, and we wish them continued success in helping to build a vibrant and diverse economy for our region and state.

Founded in 1992, the American Arab Chamber of Commerce has worked to support the Arab American business community through its networking and development efforts. The Chamber facilitates delegations between Michigan and U.S.-based companies and those in the Middle East. It also provides information and resources regarding opportunities in the Middle Eastern market. As the largest Arab American business organization in the United States, the Arab American Chamber of Commerce has attracted numerous corporate sponsors in its effort to build economic bridges between different cultures.

The Commerce's activities have not only led to increased business opportunities among companies in the Arab American community, but its efforts to promote greater economic ties have also improved intercultural dialogue between the Arab American community and its partners. It is great to see the positive impact the Chamber has had in building bridges and promoting greater cultural understanding between Arab American businesses and the community at large. It is my hope that the organization continues to play a leadership role in creating lasting bonds between different cultures and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Arab American Chamber of Commerce for its economic and trade development efforts. The Chamber has served the Michigan community well and is committed to work toward success moving forward.

CONGRATULATING EL COMERCIO
DE COLORADO

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate El Comercio de Colorado on their award-winning editorial excellence.

El Comercio de Colorado is a bilingual newspaper which has served Colorado and the Denver area since 1999 with articles about international, national and local news topics of importance to our community. El Comercio de Colorado has embodied leadership in the Hispanic printed media industry. In recognition of their quality publications, the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP) has pre-

sented El Comercio de Colorado with four Gold José Martí Publishing Awards.

El Comercio de Colorado was noted as having the number one Classified Ads section in the nation during the 34th edition of the José Martí Publishing Awards. For industry leading distinction, the sports section was awarded two gold awards for content and design, as well as cartoonist Angonoa, whom received gold for outstanding work. El Comercio de Colorado's also received honorable mentions for editorial content, photography, illustrations and design.

I would like to congratulate President Manuel Tejada and Editor Eva Tejada, as well as the entire staff at El Comercio de Colorado on a job well done. These awards show El Comercio de Colorado's unwavering commitment to quality publications and the Hispanic printed media community.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA AND NEIL
GOOS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda and Neil Goos of Glenwood, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 7, 1966 at First Christian Church in Glenwood.

Linda and Neil's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, and their grandchildren truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

DR. CONNIE ALMEIDA WINS MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Connie Almeida of Fort Bend County, TX for being awarded the Mental Health Professional of the Year Award by the Texas Crisis Intervention Team.

As Fort Bend County's Behavioral Health Director, Dr. Almeida received this award thanks to her significant strides in working with local law enforcement to improve responses to the mental health community. She's been consistently working to improve the way Fort Bend County responds to mental health crises and issues by speaking with the government, community groups, mental health providers, law enforcement and the courts. Her goal is to

improve the conditions for those with mental illness and addictions that come into contact with Fort Bend County courts.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Connie Almeida for receiving the Mental Health Professional of the Year Award. We are very thankful for all her hard work to progress the services and systems for those with mental illnesses.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TAYLOR
CONSERVATORY FOUNDATION
AND THE SUCCESS OF ITS 10TH
ANNUAL SWEET HARVEST GALA

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taylor Conservatory Foundation for its conservation initiatives in Southeast Michigan. The organization has contributed to a more sustainable and livable southeast Michigan that benefits both residents and visitors.

The Taylor Conservatory Foundation was incorporated in 2005 to protect and preserve the natural environment and promote the arts and sciences while creating more sustainable public spaces. Since its inception, the organization has maintained the Taylor Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a park containing a garden that is open to the public. The Taylor Conservancy Foundation also promotes community garden development and sponsors educational programs to raise awareness about the effects and importance of conservation on the environment. In addition, the foundation hosts a variety of community events, including a summertime Music & Arts in the Gardens series to promote community development while furthering the organization's sustainability goals.

Michigan's environmental heritage is fundamental to its identity and economic health, and it is critical that we continue to safeguard it for future generations. The Taylor Conservancy Foundation, through its conservation work and efforts to raise public awareness of environmental issues, has played an important role in protecting the environment and public spaces in the State of Michigan. Its efforts have been critical to providing education about environmental issues and ensuring that southeast Michigan residents remain well-informed about the social, educational and environmental needs of our country. The growth and development of the Taylor Conservancy Foundation is a testament to the positive impact the group has had on the wider Michigan community, and it is my hope that it continues to further its mission of upholding conservation and sustainability of the environment in Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the growth and success of the Taylor Conservancy Foundation. The organization continues to play a leading role in addressing environmental conservation through its initiatives.

HONORING SERGEANT FRANK
THOMPSON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Frank Thompson, for his dedication and service to our country. SGT Thompson's extraordinary commitment to community and service reflects the best values of Central Texas. He is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veterans Commendation.

SGT Thompson was born in the small town of Troy, Texas, where he later attended A&M University. At the start of World War II, SGT Thompson left college to serve his country in the U.S. Army. In July 1943, SGT Thompson served in the South Pacific with H. Co, 172nd Infantry 43rd Division. His unit received five Distinguished Unit Citations, and for his service, SGT Thompson received the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with 3 Bronze stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with 1 Bronze star, the Combat Infantry badge, and the Good Conduct Medal.

SGT Thompson is a highly respected citizen involved in a number of different organizations, which exemplifies his commitment to community and nation. After returning from the war, SGT Thompson followed in the footsteps of his grandfather, J.Q. Thompson, who was instrumental in the founding of the town and school system in Troy. SGT Thompson joined the Troy Masonic Lodge where he served as the secretary for 38 years, and was recognized for being a Mason for 60 years in 2007. SGT Thompson also served on the first Troy City Council, the Bank of Troy Board of Directors, and was a Charter Member of the Troy Volunteer Fire Department.

With admiration and deep respect, we pay tribute to SGT Thompson for his sacrifices for our country and the lasting impact he has had on his community and beyond. Dedicated public servants like him make Central Texas a great place to live.

IN TRIBUTE TO MAHMOUD
OTHMAN ATTA

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and work of Mahmoud Othman Atta a highly-respected leader in the Muslim and interfaith community, veteran, husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Mahmoud Othman Atta died on November 9, 2016 at the age of 80.

Mr. Atta was born in the Palestinian territories and moved to Milwaukee at age 16 with his dual-citizen father. He graduated from West Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended two years of technical college and was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving as a medic. After his military service Mr. Atta returned to the Palestinian territories, where he married his wife, Intisar and had two chil-

dren. He later returned to Milwaukee with his family in the mid-1960s.

He is regarded as the Milwaukee area's first de-facto imam, leading prayers and religious services in homes, though he never held the title full time. Local Muslims hailed from various homelands, speaking different languages and Mr. Atta bridged those divides through communal worship. He organized classes to teach Arabic, the language of the Qur'an so that everyone would be able to pray and read the Holy Book together.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was one of the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's seven founding members. Mr. Atta guided Milwaukee's Muslim community and the Islamic Society of Milwaukee in the 1970s, when an estimated 200 Muslims lived in the city. He helped lead fundraising for the purchase of its main center on the city's south side and served on the society's first board of trustees, a position he held for about a decade.

Mahmoud Othman Atta was a natural leader. He saw the value in reaching across racial and religious lines, joining interfaith organizations and Muslim-Christian dialogue groups. He was respected for his character and his knowledge. Mr. Atta would open his home to a stranger; realizing how it felt like to be alone without family, so he always had a soft spot in his heart for students or individuals who were coming from overseas.

Mr. Atta worked as an engine technician at Briggs & Stratton for about 25 years, retiring in 1990 after suffering his first stroke. Mr. Atta had been in declining health in recent years and suffered a stroke while he and his wife spent several months in the Palestinian areas. He returned to the Palestinian territories every year or two, where his large family is well-known. About 1,000 people there have attended visitations spread over three days, after his death.

Mahmoud Othman Atta is survived by his wife Intisar; 2 sons Othman and Ihsan; 2 daughters, Janan and Bayan; and 12 grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, Milwaukee has experienced a profound loss with the passing of Mahmoud Othman Atta. He had an attachment to Milwaukee, and he loved the Midwestern lifestyle. Today, I thank him and his family for their immeasurable achievements, I mourn his loss and I salute his legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present in the House Chamber for certain roll call votes on Monday, November 14th through Wednesday, November 16th. Had I been present on these days, I would have voted 'aye' on roll calls 575, 576, 577, 578 and 'nay' on roll calls 579 and 580.

**DR. KELLY J. ZÚÑIGA NAMED CEO
OF HOLOCAUST MUSEUM HOUSTON**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga of Sugar Land, TX for being named the chief executive officer of the Holocaust Museum Houston.

Dr. Zúñiga was brought to the Holocaust Museum Houston as executive director to expand outreach and enhance programming to expand the museum's reach throughout the community. Her experience and success have brought the museum forward, making her the obvious choice for the CEO position. Dr. Zúñiga has more than 25 years' experience in building, managing and leading fundraising teams that focus on the successful completion of capital and endowment campaigns. In 2012, she was also named as one of "Houston's Most Influential Women of 2012" by Houston Woman magazine. She is a true leader.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga for being named CEO of the Holocaust Museum Houston. We are confident she will expand her success as the new CEO.

**TRIBUTE TO JUDY AND JOHN
CLARK**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Judy and John Clark of Clarinda, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 19, 1966.

Judy and John's lifelong commitment to each other, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

**IN RECOGNITION OF AMY AND
DAN LOEPP FOR BEING NAMED
EDWARD H. McNAMARA GOOD-
FELLOW OF THE YEAR**

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community service and stewardship of Amy and Dan Loepp, the recipients of

the 2016 Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year award. Amy and Dan have been dedicated in the efforts to improve the greater Detroit area through their involvement in non-profit groups and local charities.

Since 1914, the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit has provided aid to children in the greater Detroit metropolitan area. Detroit Goodfellows donates and distributes holiday gift boxes to needy children that includes toys, books and warm clothing. Additionally, the group donates shoes for children who cannot afford proper footwear and provides dental care to those individuals who do not have access to it. Detroit Goodfellows also gives grants to children to attend summer camps, including the Detroit Fire Department Camp and the Detroit Police Department's "Explorers" program.

Detroit Goodfellows honors individuals who have demonstrated commitment to the Detroit community through its Edward H. McNamara Goodfellow of the Year award. This year, Amy and Dan Loepp were named recipients of this award for their service to the community. Dan Loepp is the current president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and oversaw the relocation of 3,000 Blue Cross employees into downtown Detroit, providing an economic boost to the surrounding region. His wife, Amy, cofounded Impact100 Oakland County, an organization that awards grants to nonprofit organizations in Oakland County. Both Amy and Dan have also been strong supporters of various philanthropic organizations in the greater Detroit area.

Amy and Dan embody the values of charity and community that Detroit Goodfellows represent. Their selfless actions and innovative initiatives on behalf of the Detroit community have contributed to the well-being of the city while creating a more decent life for countless children in need. They have been tireless advocates on behalf of the region, and it is my hope that they continue to be involved in initiatives to improve the southeastern Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit, as well as Amy and Dan Loepp. They have provided services critical to the well-being of countless Michigan children and their families

**CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
CORPORAL ROBERTO VASQUEZ**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Corporal Roberto Vasquez. The embodiment of the U.S. Marine Corps' values of honor, courage, and commitment, Cpl. Vasquez is a fitting recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Cpl. Vasquez's seven years of honorable service in the Marines from 1983–89 reinforced his innate drive to not quit until the job is done and done right. He leaves every situation better than he found it and has made permanent and positive impacts on his beloved Hutto, TX.

Whether it's teaching, working with at-risk kids, or coaching football, Cpl. Vasquez communicates the importance of self-respect to young people. His honors as an educator and his achievements as a school administrator are testimonies to his skill and devotion to ensuring students receive the education and guidance they deserve.

Yet Cpl. Vasquez's commitment to community doesn't stop at the schoolhouse gate. He's active in Cub Scouts, feeding the hungry, and is a devout member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. As Commander of American Legion Post 302 in Hutto, TX, Cpl. Vasquez has seen the membership of this proud organization devoted to the family of veterans grow under his leadership. Most important, he's never forgotten those who served but did not return.

Corporal Roberto Vasquez's motto is "other first." These stirring words aren't a meaningless expression but a deep and lasting creed that is the guiding force of his life. It's the work of selfless citizens like Cpl. Vasquez that keep our country safe and make cities like Hutto, TX wonderful places to live. I commend his commitment to his Corps, his nation, and his community and am honored to award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

**OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT**

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,871,327,867,180.13. We've added \$9,244,450,818,267.05 to our debt in 7 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

**BROOKE BOTKIN FINISHES AN IN-
CREDIBLE HIGH SCHOOL
VOLLEYBALL CAREER**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pearland's Brooke Botkin for her outstanding volleyball career at Pearland High School.

The 6-foot, 3½ inch senior is preparing to complete her fourth year starting for the Lady Oilers. Brooke's impressive career has included being named as a Wendy's 2016 High School Heisman candidate, a three-time all-state selection and two-time Greater Houston Volleyball Preseason Player of the Year, not to mention numerous national honors. Her coach, John Turner, said she was the best six-rotation player the school has ever had, surpassing everyone with her blocking ability,

digging, aces, setting and "of course, the kills." On top of her near perfect grade point average, Brooke spends her spare time helping with clothing drives, food drives, beach cleanup in Galveston and working youth volleyball clinics. She will attend and play volleyball for the University of Southern California in early 2017.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again on her exceptional volleyball career at Pearland High School. We know she will represent Pearland well in California

HONORING ENGINEERING AIDE
CHIEF TROY R. COLE, SR., U.S.
NAVY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Engineering Aide Chief Troy R. Cole Sr., U.S. Navy, Retired, of Cedar Park, Texas. A World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran, EAC Cole served as a guardian of our great nation against countless enemies. A true patriot and exceptional citizen, EAC Cole is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

An intrinsic sense of adventure inspired EAC Cole to begin his naval career at age 17, shortly after World War II began. With a career spanning over three decades, EAC Cole saw much combat, and received numerous commendations, medals, and awards as testament to his exemplary service. Yet even upon retirement, the call to serve his beloved country continued to burn inside. EAC Cole returned to the Navy he loves, spending the next decade teaching, training, and mentoring the next generation of service men and women.

EAC Cole's love of country is matched only by his commitment to his fellow service members. Today, EAC Cole remains devoted to celebrating the life, and honoring the memory, of his brothers and sisters in arms. Each year, EAC Cole invests countless hours in orchestrating many of Cedar Park's veteran memorials, parades, and ceremonies. He is beloved by the Cedar Park community for his leadership and passion.

EAC Cole serves his fellow men with the same dedication, honor, and humility with which he defended his country. He exemplifies what it means to be an American, consistently placing his country and fellow men before himself. May we all follow the example of great men such as EAC Cole, and live a life of passion, loyalty, and selflessness.

RECOGNIZING KENN TUCKEY AS
THE CENTRAL PENN BUSINESS
JOURNAL'S 2016 HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, it's my honor to recognize Kenn Tuckey as the Central Penn Business Journal's 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee. Each year, the Central Penn Business Journal honors top companies and individual leaders for their outstanding contributions to Central Pennsylvania's business community. Kenn's businesses have been in my district for almost five decades, and his commitment to customer service and community engagement have been essential to his continued success.

The Tuckey Companies include Tuckey Metal Fabricators, Tuckey Mechanical Services, and Tuckey Restoration. Established in 1968 as Frank Black Mechanical Services and with a focus on residential services, Kenn's father, Denver, purchased the company in 1981 and renamed it Tuckey Mechanical Services. Kenn founded Tuckey Metal Fabricators in 1978, and after purchasing the mechanical services business from his father in 1984, he was approached by local community leaders who identified a need for an emergency repair company that would specialize in fire and water damaged property. With the creation of Tuckey Restoration in 1992, Kenn used his years of experience to meet this need, and eventually brought all three companies under one umbrella. He has grown the companies into leaders in the industrial and commercial sectors, and has been recognized with the prestigious Chrysler Award for Remodeling Excellence and an "Impeccable Workmanship" citation from the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Although three generations of Tuckeys still work within the organization, Kenn has always understood the value in engaging the community at large. Giving back to the community has always been a top priority for Kenn. He and his employees have volunteered for organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Carlisle YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, and Hospice of Central PA. Kenn's reputation in Carlisle is nothing short of exceptional, and this has allowed him to engage in various other ventures that benefit the region. The Tuckeys have made a commitment to spurring growth in Central Pennsylvania by purchasing old, rundown buildings, such as St. Paul Lutheran Church in Newville, and renovating them into state of the art housing communities. Hard work and quality service do not go unnoticed, and Kenn's impact on the region has afforded him a reputation that will inspire business leaders across the Commonwealth for generations.

Mr. Speaker, with decades of success in my district and a commitment to giving back to the broader community, it's my honor to recognize Kenn Tuckey as the Central Penn Business Journal's 2016 Hall of Fame Inductee. Kenn's work, through the Tuckey Companies, has created countless jobs for my constituents and

spurred economic growth in the region. On behalf of my constituents, I congratulate Kenn for this induction and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors

TRIBUTE TO JOANN AND TOM
TEWS

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate JoAnn and Tom Tews of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on August 28, 2016.

JoAnn and Tom's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING ALBERT CAMPOS ON
HIS RETIREMENT FROM LAPD

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Police Service Representative Albert Campos for his 34 years of dedicated service to the Los Angeles Police Department.

Albert Campos began his career at Communications Division on May 24, 1982, as a Police Service Representative and is the last remaining member of his class.

Immediately after joining Communications, Albert began receiving commendations for his professionalism and excellent work ethic. He was commended by Captain Harrison, Newton FSD for an outstanding job on a Newton Task Force on March 7, 1983.

On October 31, 1988, Albert was commended for "Bringing Home the Gold" as a member of the United States Para-Olympics Wheelchair Basketball team in Seoul, Korea. The team was victorious as they had defeated six other teams. He was honored that November by the Mayor, The Police Commission, the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors for his participation.

Throughout his career Albert has been consistently recognized for his commitment to excellence and outstanding support of the officers in the field especially during emergencies and tactical situations. His stellar performance made him a pleasure to work with. Albert's professionalism, expertise and friendship were and are appreciated by his peers and co-workers, who describe him as a quiet professional.

For his many contributions to our community and for his dedication and commitment to the

Division, the Department and the citizens of Los Angeles, I would like to recognize Albert Campos here on the House floor today.

**DONNA COLE RECEIVES 2016
WOMEN IN ENERGY LEADERSHIP'S
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Houston's Donna Cole for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, part of the Houston Business Journal's 2016 Women in Energy Leadership awards.

Donna was selected for her successful leadership and the significant strides she has made in the energy industry. As a 27-year-old single mother, she founded Cole Chemical Distributing Inc. with only \$5,000. Since then, her company has grown and expanded, providing a range of products and services, from fuel and chemicals to supply chain management for the aerospace, automotive, refineries, petrochemical, specialty chemical plants, personal care, and electricity utility industries. In 2010, Donna was recognized at a Breakfast of Champions by the Harris County Education Department and was named one of Houston's 50 Most Influential Woman of the Year by Houston Woman Magazine.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Donna Cole for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. We are proud of her and thank her for all she has done for the energy industry.

**HONORING CAPTAIN GEORGE
WHITE, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED**

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain George White, U.S. Army, Retired, a decorated soldier and distinguished citizen of Round Rock, TX. In all aspects of life, CPT White goes above and beyond the call of duty. It is my honor to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Upon his enlistment in the Army in 1968, CPT White volunteered for a tour of duty in Vietnam, eager to serve his beloved country. As testament to the quality of his service, CPT White received numerous medals including the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, and the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. A true patriot, CPT White continued to honorably answer the call to serve even following his discharge from active duty. For seven more years, CPT White volunteered in an Army Reserve battalion, where he commanded every firing battery in the battalion. Under his leadership, his unit was named Best Firing Battery in the battalion each year.

In civilian life, CPT White has served those around him with boundless altruism and exemplary leadership. A profound and respected pillar in the Round Rock community, CPT White has served on numerous committees and boards, volunteered countless hours in community service, and has consistently placed his neighbors' needs before his own. He served on the city council for eight years, the last two as Mayor Pro Tem. For these reasons and many more, his community came to-

gether in 2005 to honor CPT White as Round Rock Citizen of the Year.

A reflection of the very best values of Central Texas and America, CPT White's service to his community and country has made a resounding impact on those around him. I thank and commend CPT White, a passionate leader with a servant's heart, for his dedication and service.

**TRIBUTE TO JANICE AND LARRY
BROWN**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Janice and Larry Brown of Atlantic, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 6, 1966 at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Janice and Larry's lifelong commitment to each other and their children truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.